



SR0231

LRB099 11430 MST 32395 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Smartphone device sales are on the rise with almost 1 billion units sold in the world in 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Smartphone theft has increased in Illinois and the United States; in 2013, 3.1 million American consumers were victims of smartphone theft, according to Consumer Reports Magazine (double the number reported in 2012); and

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WHEREAS, 113 smartphones are stolen every minute in the United States; in New York City, those thefts account for 14% of all crime; the Federal Trade Commission cites one out of 3 robberies nationwide involves the theft of a mobile phone; and

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WHEREAS, Secure Our Smartphones (SOS), an initiative spearheaded by a coalition of law enforcement officials co-chaired by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon, is comprised of consumer groups, law enforcement agencies, and elected leaders from across the country, including Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan; SOS advocates a "kill switch", such as featured on the latest iPhone operating system, that allows the rightful owner to wipe all data from a stolen phone, thus rendering any stolen smartphone inoperable on any network, anywhere in the world, eliminating the incentive to steal smartphones; and

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1 WHEREAS, This issue is a national problem in all 50 states
2 and should not be dealt with on a state by state basis; and

3 WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon this legislative body to add
4 its support to such a commonsense solution for all 50 states,
5 especially in the face of mounting evidence that such incidents
6 of smartphone thefts are becoming increasingly violent;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we call upon the
10 Federal Communications Commission to expeditiously promulgate
11 such rules and regulations in the interest of public safety
12 that will mandate the installation of software in smartphones
13 that would render them inoperable if they have been stolen; and
14 be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
16 prepared and presented to the members of the Illinois
17 Congressional Delegation, the Chairman of the Federal
18 Communications Commission Tom Wheeler, and the other members of
19 the Federal Communications Commission.