

NEWS

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

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May Introduces Legislation Requiring Political Calls **to Identify Their Source**

Proposal Garners Strong Bipartisan Support

SPRINGFIELD – In an effort to bring greater honesty and accountability to the political process, state Rep. Karen May, D-Highland Park, introduced legislation this week requiring political committees of a state party or legislative caucus to identify themselves when making telephone calls, including controversial “robo-calls,” and other communications to voters.

“I understand that sometimes the electoral process can get a little ugly but people are tired of the nastiness in our political process,” May said. “I think we owe it to our constituents and fellow citizens to make sure they know who paid for the message. By requiring political callers to identify themselves, it will demand more accountability and make sure that the public gets the most accurate information possible on their elected officials and candidates.”

House Bill 1969, introduced by May with wide bipartisan support, requires any telephone call, pamphlet, or mailing paid for, partially or totally, by one of the state’s political parties or organizations to include who is paid for the message. Current Illinois law requires any communication regarding an election or candidate to contain this information. May’s legislation would expand this law to include communications dealing with policy issues as well.

May introduced her legislation partially in response to a series of anonymous and misleading automated telephone calls played to thousands of Illinois residents, including in her district. Though the party behind the calls claims they were legal, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan stated that current law required that the calls should have included who paid for them and is currently reviewing the matter.

“The intention of this bill is not to block anyone’s ability to express their opinion on legislation or elected officials,” May said. “I, along with several of my Democratic and Republican colleagues, just want to make sure that the political process stays as open and honest as possible.”

May serves the 58th District, which includes all or portions of Deerfield, Highwood, Lake Forest, Highland Park, Riverwoods, Glencoe, Northbrook and Lake Bluff.

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