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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**WHO:** Madison County State's Attorney Thomas D. Gibbons testifying before the Illinois House of Representatives Judiciary II Criminal Law Committee

**WHEN:** 8 a.m., Thursday, March 8, 2012

**WHERE:** Room 413 of the Stratton Building, Springfield, IL

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Madison County State's Attorney Thomas D. Gibbons is scheduled to testify before an Illinois House committee regarding several House bills, including one targeting copper, HVAC and catalytic converter thieves with tougher penalties.

The Judiciary II Criminal Law Committee convenes at 8 a.m. on Thursday, March 8, in Room 413 of the Stratton Building. Gibbons is expected to testify in support of three House bills sponsored by State Representative Dan Beiser (D-Alton): HB5121, HB5122 and HB4452.

"I would like to thank Representative Dan Beiser again for his hard work and continued commitment to the fight for tougher and better criminal laws," Gibbons said. "As a prosecuting attorney, the criminal statutes are the tools of my trade and I will always work to ensure my office has the right tools for the job. Our fight for justice for the people of Madison County requires us to use every resource available, and we are thankful to Representative Beiser for being a partner in this important work."

During his testimony before the Judiciary II Criminal Law Committee, Gibbons also plans to speak against HB 1205. The bill would allow judges to sentence a defendant convicted of residential burglary to probation, conditional discharge, or periodic imprisonment. The current law requires defendants to serve a term of imprisonment.

"I will fight against efforts to soften penalties for dangerous offenders," Gibbons said.

### **Bill Background:**

HB5121 amends the Unified Code of Corrections by adding attempt to commit terrorism to the group of offenses that does not allow prisoners to earn one day of good conduct credit for each day served; rather, the bill limits the good conduct credit to a maximum of 4.5 days per month. Additionally, the bill would make anyone convicted of attempting to commit terrorism be required to serve 85% of their sentence rather than the current 50%.

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HB5122 amends the Criminal Code by making it an offense to abuse a corpse. The act of abusing a corpse is defined in HB5122 as removing or carrying away a corpse when not authorized or engaging in sexual conduct with a corpse. Moving the corpse would be classified as a Class 4 Felony while sexually abusing a corpse would become a Class 2 Felony.

HB4452 amends the Criminal Code by criminalizing the possession of stolen metal infrastructure and/or damaging property while stealing the metal. The bill targets those who are caught stealing, but not limited to, copper, HVAC components and catalytic converters.

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