

## Tracking convicted meth makers

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**By Rodney Hart**

Herald-Whig Staff Writer

A bill headed to the governor's desk would require the Illinois State Police to create an Internet database to track convicted methamphetamine manufacturers.

The Methamphetamine Manufacturer Registry would include the convicted person's name, birth date, and the type of crime and the county where it was committed.

The information would be collected by local circuit court clerks and the Illinois Department of Corrections and would be available on the Internet to police and ordinary citizens.

The House passed the bill 110-0 last week and the Senate passed it 55-0 in February.

Adams County Sheriff Brent Fischer says he is in favor of the bill. Many convicted meth users will go back to their bad habits when released from prison, he said.

"With the laws we've passed in recent years, there's a better system to charge people and we are seeing more convictions and prison or jail time," Fischer said. "We get calls from people about activity at houses. If possible, we could check the Web site or citizens could check it if they have access."

The Illinois State Police has decided not to take a position on the bill, an agency spokesman said.

State Rep. Art Tenhouse, R-Liberty, said the bill would enable authorities to

keep track of offenders, much like the sex-offender registry.

"It's just educating folks so they know there is a convicted felon in the neighborhood, convicted of a meth offense," he said.

State Rep. Roger Eddy, R-Hutsonville, said he wants to see meth lab locations included in the database.

"If you're going in the housing market it would be worthwhile knowing if that home has been used to cook meth and whether or not it has been cleaned up," he said.

The bill is SB2915.

**On the Net:** <http://www.ilga.gov>

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