

Lacon Police Department Responds To Burglary At RP Lumber On December 22

The Lacon Police Department responded to RP Lumber on December 22, 2025, at 2:34 a.m. to investigate a Burglary alarm.

Upon arrival at 2:36 a.m., Law Enforcement located what appeared to be forced entry into the business and an audible alarm going off. Law enforcement entered and searched the business and no suspects were located. A multitude of evidence was located and secured until Illinois State Police Crime Scene services arrived and processed the scene.

Downtown area was searched and no other businesses were burglarized, and no other criminal damage was located.

The investigation is ongoing and the Lacon Police are still gathering information and evidence. Assisting agencies were Marshall County Sheriff's Department, Henry Police Department, Marshall County States Attorney Office, and the State of Illinois Crime Scene unit.

The Lacon Police urge residents to review their video surveillance footage on December 22, around 1:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. and share any video that can assist in the investigation.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to call the Lacon Police Department at: (309) 246-2325.

New laws: Gun Storage, Police Background Check Changes In 2026

by Ben Szalinski

Several new public safety laws will take effect Jan. 1.

Gun owners in Illinois must take new steps in 2026 to secure their firearms in their homes, particularly when children are present.

Gov. JB Pritzker signed Senate Bill 8, known as the Safe Gun Storage Act, in late July, which prohibits gun owners from storing their weapons in an unsecured way at any location where they know that the gun could be accessed by a minor, a person at risk of harming themselves or others, or by a person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm.

Under the law, gun owners will be required to keep them in a locked container so that they are inaccessible or unusable by anyone other than the owner. Owners who violate the law could be subject to fines as high as \$10,000.

Read more: Pritzker signs bill addressing gun storage, tracing of firearms

Gun owners must also report lost or stolen firearms to police within 48 hours of discovering a gun missing. That's down from the previous 72-hour requirement.

Background checks for police officers
State lawmakers passed a bill in

response to the murder of Springfield resident Sonya Massey in 2024. Massey, a Black woman, was killed when former Sangamon County Sheriff's Deputy Sean Grayson, a white man, shot her in her kitchen while investigating a reported prowler. Grayson was convicted of second-degree murder in October.

Capitol News Illinois reporting in 2024 revealed that Grayson had a history of reprimands and disobeying superiors at departments that previously employed him. Read more: Pritzker signs police background check expansion in

Under Senate Bill 1953, a police department or sheriff's office making a hire would be required to request employment personnel files from the applicant's previous employers, including other law enforcement agencies. The previous employer would be required to share the information within 14 days.

Law enforcement applicants would be required to sign a document authorizing the release of information, including military service records, police discipline databases, employment and criminal history, driving records, academic credentials, a credit check, and more.

"I feel confident that going for-
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New Laws In Illinois Set To Take Effect January 1

Illinois' statewide 1% grocery tax will go away on Jan. 1, though many people will continue to pay it at the local level.

Data compiled by the Illinois Municipal League shows that 656 municipalities - a little more than half of the state's municipalities - have passed an ordinance establishing their own grocery tax. Those communities are home to 7.2 million people, or 56.5% of the state's population. Three counties - Washington, Wabash and Moultrie - have also approved county-wide grocery taxes.

Gov. JB Pritzker signed a bill in 2024 eliminating the 1% statewide grocery tax, which he touted as a measure to ease residents' tax burden. But because the revenue from the state grocery tax went to municipal governments, rather than state coffers, the measure allowed local governments to levy their own 1% tax via ordinance, rather than a referendum to voters.

Here are some other laws that will take effect in the new year:

Hotel soaps phased out
The phase-out of small, sin-

gle-use plastic bottles in Illinois hotel rooms continues.

Senate Bill 2960, passed and signed into law in 2024, bars hotels from providing toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner and bath soap in less than six-ounce plastic containers unless specifically requested by the hotel guest.

The ban took effect in hotels with 50 or more rooms on July 1 and takes effect for all hotels starting in 2026. Hotels in violation will receive a written warning for the first offense and be subject to fines of up to \$1,500 for each subsequent violation.

The legislation is intended to spur the state's hospitality industry to reduce its plastic footprint by shifting to either refillable toiletry containers or larger plastic bottles.

Similar laws have been enacted in states like California, New York and Washington.

Squatter removal
Senate Bill 1563 will make it easier for authorities to remove squatters who are illegally staying at someone else's residence.

The law clarifies that a court-ordered eviction is not required for police to remove squatters from a person's home, and police can enforce criminal trespassing charges against a squatter.

Pritzker signed the bill in July after squatters moved into a home next door to Rep. Marcus Evans in Chicago. According to ABC-7, Chicago Police told homeowners they couldn't remove the squatters from the home and the homeowners would have to go through the eviction process in Cook County court, which can take months.

Drinking water protections
Senate Bill 1723 bans carbon sequestration - the process of capturing and storing carbon by injecting it underground - within an area that "overlies, underlies, or passes through" a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-designated sole-source aquifer.

The new law applies to the footprint of the Mahomet Aquifer, which is the main source of drinking water for more than 500,000 people across a 15-county area in central Illinois.





NOTE TO THE SOUTH BROAD STREET BOMBER

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