

## WBBM 780 - Chicago's #1 source for local news, traffic and weather

---

Posted: Thursday, 17 July 2008 12:27PM

### Lawmaker Aims To Toughen Up Gas Theft Penalties

---

CHICAGO (WBBM) -- An Illinois Representative wants a radical boost in penalties for stealing gas from a car.

State Representative John Fritchey introduced the legislation after his Chief of Staff told how a thief overnight drained 16 gallons from his truck parked behind the house.

Chief of Staff Less Kniskern said he'd just filled up his silver pick-up and came out the next morning to find the car wouldn't start with the gas gauge reading empty. He estimated the missing gas was worth something over \$70.

Fritchey said any theft from a car is bad enough but the idea of leaving a car with little or no gas in it could leave the motorist stranded in a dangerous situation.

Fritchey says present law treats theft of gas like theft of a book or pair of sun glasses from the vehicle: a Class D Misdemeanor whose theoretical maximum penalty might be one year confinement and a \$2,500 fine.

Rep. Fritchey has introduced legislation in Springfield to would classify gas theft as a felony carrying a maximum penalty of 3 year and a \$25,000 fine.

Fritchey says he doubts the legislation will go anywhere until late this year or early next so he's recommending in the meantime -- motorists buy locking gas caps.

Contents of this site are Copyright 2008 by WBBM.

[Print Current Page](#)