

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

SHNS VIDEO | TARR EXPECTS 'MOLLY'S BILL' LICENSE PLATE ACT BY END OF SESSION

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MAY 30, 2012.... Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr expects to have work finished on “Molly’s bill” by the end of formal sessions in July. The legislation would authorize the first step in a process to redesign the state’s auto license plates to make them more easily identifiable. The legislation would change Massachusetts license plates to feature four alphanumeric characters and one easily recognized symbol, such as a circle or star.

The bill is named in honor of Molly Bish, a 16-year-old lifeguard who was abducted in 2000. Bish’s parents Magi and John Bish have become prominent advocates for the families of missing children. Tarr said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Rachel Kaprielian and the Executive Office of Public Safety and the State Police have been actively involved in the discussions around the legislation. Tarr described several issues concerning interoperability and public safety that he said are now “80 to 90 percent” resolved and expects the remaining hang-ups to be resolved by a commission created by the bill that would be charged with establishing the new plate system.

“I’m hoping that the first part of the legislation that would create the capacity in the system and set up the commission to put the bill together - to put the plate system together, rather - will be done by the end of this legislative session,” Tarr told the News Service after receiving an award at the annual Missing Children’s Day event.

The tearful event, emceed by Magi Bish, featured music, memorials for victims and appreciation for volunteers’ work. Attorney General Martha Coakley, Senate President Therese Murray, Sen. Stephen Brewer, Rep. Anne Gobi, Rep. Todd Smola and others spoke at the twelfth annual event.