STATE'S
EXHIBIT NO. 71
Hamilton says state's voter ID law justified

Star report

Former U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., says Indiana was right to adopt a voter ID law last year, but needs to balance that with aggressive efforts to encourage voter participation.

Hamilton was a member of a national bipartisan panel that recently recommended, among other reforms, that all states adopt laws requiring people to show identification before being allowed to vote.

He will lead a discussion by lawmakers and election officials of that issue and other election reforms Dec. 7 at Franklin College.

Speaking to reporters Tuesday, Hamilton said the national panel, led by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James Baker, decided that it wasn't enough just to issue their 41 recommendations; they also needed to push for those reforms in their home states.

One reform Hamilton would like Indiana to consider is removing the oversight of elections from partisan control. In Indiana, as in many states, the chief election officer is the elected secretary of state, currently Republican Todd Rokita.