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SUPREME COURT REVIEW

The court caught up with a large portion of society that accepts, however reluctantly, affirmative action and gay rights. And it moved the debate on both issues to another level. **Pullout section.**

Illinois to tape police questioning

It gets mostly good reviews in 2 states.

By Leonard Post
STAFF REPORTER

ILLINOIS HAS BECOME the third state in the nation to require the police to tape interrogations.

Starting in two years under a new state law, officers must tape interrogations of murder suspects or risk not being able to use their statements as evidence.

Alaska and Minnesota already have court-imposed rules that cover all crimes, not just murder. Their requirements get mixed reviews from police officers and prosecutors in Alaska but seem uncontroversial in Minnesota.

The two states require the recording of *Miranda* warnings, interrogation and confessions at places of detention, such as

police stations and jails, and at other locations when feasible. The penalty for failure to record is that the statements cannot be used as evidence. Suspects do not always know they are being recorded.

The Illinois statute, signed into law by Governor Rod Blagojevich on July 17, takes into account several of 85 reforms recommended last year by then-Governor George Ryan's Commission on Capital Cases.

The panel's report prompted Ryan to grant clemency to all 156 inmates on the state's death row and to suspend the death penalty.

The commission was formed after 13 condemned men had been exonerated, some because of alleged police misconduct including coerced confessions.

Major players in limiting the Illinois statute to homicides and adding 10 exceptions were the

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