

Title: The Illinois Bankers Association Works to Tackle Growing Check Fraud Threat

As check fraud cases continue to rise across the nation, the Illinois Bankers Association (IBA) has announced the formation of the IBA Fraud Task Force to take action to combat this concerning trend. This task force will work to combat the growing threat of check fraud and help Illinois banks better protect themselves and their customers against fraudulent activities.

According to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, a unit of the U.S. Treasury, banks reported an 84 percent increase in check fraud from 2021 to 2022. In Illinois, reports of check fraud have increased by nearly 70 percent in 2022. The banking industry is increasingly concerned about the rising incidence of check fraud, which not only imposes significant financial costs on financial institutions but also undermines customer trust.

The Illinois Bankers Association has taken a proactive approach to tackle the issue of check fraud by forming the IBA Fraud Task Force. The task force will be comprised of industry members and led by Tyler Rouse, the Executive Vice President of First Federal Savings Bank of Champaign-Urbana. The members of the task force have been charged with devising strategies and solutions to help banks in the state of Illinois prevent and mitigate the risks of check fraud.

“The formation of the IBA Fraud Task Force underscores the Illinois Bankers Association's commitment to addressing the growing threat of check fraud in the state,” said Randy Hultgren, CEO and President of the IBA. “By pooling the collective experience of industry professionals, the task force aims to develop practical solutions to mitigate the risks of check fraud and safeguard the interests of banks and their customers.”

The newly established Task Force will primarily focus on enhancing collaboration among Illinois banks by sharing information on the latest fraud threats and criminal tactics, working together to prevent check fraud throughout the state. The task force will also focus on improving bank-to-bank processes for addressing fraud incidents, work to educate Illinois consumers on the dangers of check fraud and engage law enforcement agencies to identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination.

The next meeting for members of the Task Force is set for later this year.