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As NATO, G8 summits loom, Ill. law that makes recording in public a felony is under scrutiny

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SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Illinois residents don't have the right to record audio of their conversations with police, a law that some state legislators say needs to be changed, especially with the likelihood of protests at this spring's NATO and G8 summits in Chicago.

Illinois' strict eavesdropping law requires all parties in a conversation to give consent in order for it to be audio-recorded. Rep. Elaine Nekritz, D-Northbrook, is sponsoring a bill that would allow for exceptions. She says she doesn't believe there is an expectation of privacy for public officials on public property doing public duties.

The current law faces multiple challenges in state and federal court. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan filed for the state Supreme Court to address the law after a Crawford County judge declared it unconstitutional last September.

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