MARCOS A. CRESPO
Assemblyman 85th District

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Assemblyman Crespo: Assembly measure requires gun manufacturers to use microstamping technology

Assemblyman Crespo (D-Bronx) announced Assembly passage of a bill he co-sponsored that would help law enforcement trace spent bullet cartridges to the guns that fired them, giving investigators critical information that they currently lack to track down criminals (A.1157-A). Dubbed the Crime Gun Identification Act 2011, the legislation would require that semiautomatic pistols manufactured or delivered to any licensed dealer in New York State after Jan. 1, 2013, to be capable of microstamping, this law would also establish fines for violations of the requirement.

"As it stands, when a ballistics expert wants to match up a bullet casing found at a crime scene to a particular gun, they need to have the gun in their possession, too- a relative rarity," Assemblyman Crespo said. "Microstamping technology eliminates the need for the gun. Instead, the imprinted cartridges would supply law enforcement key information to help investigate arrest and convict violent criminals."

Assemblyman Crespo explained that when a cartridge is microstamped, information identifying the make, model and serial number of the gun is stamped on the cartridge by laser-etched internal mechanisms. The markings would be made twice on each cartridge, leaving no mistake as to the fired bullet's origin.

If the legislation becomes law, New York would become the second state to adopt the measure, after California. Other states are considering similar legislation.

"Every homicide that goes unsolved is a tragedy," Assemblyman Crespo said. "This legislation has the potential to bring more criminals to justice."

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ALBANY OFFICE: Room 323, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-5514, FAX: 518-455-5827
DISTRICT OFFICE: 1163 Manor Avenue, Bronx, New York 10472 • 718-893-0202, FAX: 718-842-8731
E-mail: crespom@assembly.state.ny.us