



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James S. Alesi

Senator Alesi: Landmark Anti-Crime Bill Signed Into Law / Senate, Assembly & Governor Join Forces to Expand Dna Databank

JAMES S. ALESI March 19, 2012

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All-Crimes DNA Law a Powerful Crimefighting Tool To Help Protect New Yorkers

Senator Alesi announced today that Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the DNA Databank Expansion legislation into law. Earlier this month, the Senate voted to approve the legislation that will implement the largest expansion of the State's DNA databank since it was first created in 1994.

The databank expansion will help close thousands of unsolved cases, bring justice to crime victims, and help prevent dangerous criminals from committing additional crimes.

"This is a huge victory for all New Yorkers concerned about protecting our communities and keeping our loved ones safe and free from harm," said Senator Alesi. "By dramatically expanding the DNA databank, we are providing police and district attorneys with a powerful tool to help protect our families and local communities from dangerous criminals."

The Senate previously approved a DNA databank expansion bill last year with the strong support of district attorneys and crime victims' advocates from throughout the state. Governor Andrew Cuomo also included a similar measure as part of his 2012 Executive Budget, and the Senate passed a bill in January that mirrored his proposal.

The new law requires anyone convicted of a felony or penal law misdemeanor to provide a DNA sample -- dramatically expanding the information pool used by law enforcement and prosecutors.

Since its inception, the State's DNA databank has transformed criminal investigations and prosecutions to make them more accurate and effective, in addition to helping exonerate the innocent. However, up to this point DNA has only been collected from fewer than half of convicted criminals because the previous law did not include certain crimes. This hampered the ability of law enforcement to solve crimes, and enabled some criminals to remain free to commit additional acts of violence.

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