

Generic Press Release  
Racial Profiling  
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## **Assemblymember Passes Bill Banning Racial Profiling**

**Assemblymember (D-somewhere)** today announced that the Assembly passed legislation prohibiting racial profiling — the targeting of citizens by law enforcement based solely on their racial or ethnic status (**A.8897-A**).

“This practice is not only unconstitutional, it betrays the public’s trust,” said **Assemblymember**. “No one should feel unsafe in their own neighborhood because a few unscrupulous law enforcement officials have decided to put prejudice ahead of public protection.”

A 1999 national survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics revealed that people of color were more likely to be stopped by police, searched, handcuffed and arrested. In addition, they are also more likely to have force used against them.

“The most glaring statistic is that a majority of driver searches fail to produce contraband or evidence — indicating that racial profiling offers no crime fighting benefit,” said **Assemblymember**.

Under this measure, individuals and the attorney general have the right to seek damages from a law enforcement agency — as well as particular employees and their supervisors — as victims of racial or ethnic profiling. In addition, every law enforcement agency in New York State will be required to:

- develop a written policy prohibiting racial or ethnic profiling;
- announce procedures for reviewing allegations of racial or ethnic profiling incidents to those who make complaints;
- take corrective action against those who have committed such acts; and
- submit all complaints of racial profiling to the Division of Criminal Justice Services.

“It is important to remember that the majority of the men and women in blue are honorable protectors of our community,” **Assemblymember** noted. “This bill cracks down on the few whose racially motivated actions abuse the power the public entrusts in them.”