

**A 6468-C** Schimel (MS) Same as [S 6005-A](#)  
SCHNEIDERMAN

Penal Law

TITLE....Requires semiautomatic pistols manufactured or delivered to any licensed dealer in this state to be capable of microstamping ammunition

03/04/09 referred to codes

04/21/09 reported

04/23/09 advanced to third reading cal.402

04/28/09 passed assembly

04/28/09 delivered to senate

04/28/09 REFERRED TO CODES

06/03/09 recalled from senate

06/03/09 RETURNED TO ASSEMBLY

06/04/09 vote reconsidered - restored to third reading

06/04/09 amended on third reading 6468a

06/08/09 amended on third reading 6468b

01/06/10 referred to codes

04/26/10 amend and recommit to codes

04/26/10 print number 6468c

05/03/10 reported

05/06/10 advanced to third reading cal.837

05/12/10 passed assembly

05/12/10 delivered to senate

05/12/10 REFERRED TO CODES

**S6005-A** SCHNEIDERMAN Same as [A 6468-C](#) Schimel (MS)

ON FILE: 04/29/10 Penal Law

TITLE....Requires semiautomatic pistols manufactured or delivered to any licensed dealer in this state to be capable of microstamping ammunition

06/19/09 REFERRED TO RULES

01/06/10 REFERRED TO CODES

04/28/10 AMEND AND RECOMMIT TO CODES

04/28/10 PRINT NUMBER 6005A

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SCHIMEL, ENGLEBRIGHT, PAULIN, BENEDETTO, DINOWITZ, LANCMAN, HOYT, CLARK, BOYLAND, JAFFEE, KELLNER, CARROZZA, BROOK-KRASNY, ROSENTHAL, O'DONNELL, ALESSI, ESPAILLAT, LAVINE, KAVANAGH, LIFTON, AUBRY, ALFANO; M-S: Bing, Colton, Cook, Glick, Gottfried, Heastie, Hooper, Jacobs, Jeffries, Maisel, McEneny, McKeVitt, Nolan, Peoples-Stokes, Perry, Pheffer, Robinson, Saladino, Scarborough, Towns, Weisenberg

Amd SS265.00, 265.10 & 265.15, add SS265.38 & 265.39, Pen L

Requires semiautomatic pistols manufactured or delivered to any licensed dealer in this state to be capable of microstamping ammunition; establishes fines for violations of this requirement.

CRIMINAL SANCTION IMPACT.

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## STATE OF NEW YORK

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6468--C

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

### IN ASSEMBLY

March 4, 2009

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Introduced by M. of A. SCHIMEL, ENGLEBRIGHT, PAULIN, BENEDETTO, DINOWITZ, LANCMAN, HOYT, CLARK, BOYLAND, JAFFEE, KELLNER, CARROZZA, BROOK-KRASNY, ROSENTHAL, O'DONNELL, ALESSI, ESPAILLAT, LAVINE, KAVANAGH, LIFTON, AUBRY, ALFANO -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BING, COLTON, COOK, GLICK, GOTTFRIED, HEASTIE, HOOPER, JACOBS, JEFFRIES, MAISEL, McENENY, McKEVITT, NOLAN, PEOPLES-STOKES, PHEFFER, ROBINSON, SALADINO,

SCARBOROUGH, TOWNS, WEISENBERG -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes -- passed by Assembly and delivered to the Senate, recalled from the Senate, vote reconsidered, bill amended, ordered reprinted, retaining its place on the order of third reading -- passed by Assembly and delivered to the Senate, recalled from the Senate, vote reconsidered, bill amended, ordered reprinted, retaining its place on the order of third reading -- reported and referred to the Committee on Codes -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to requiring semiautomatic pistols manufactured or delivered to any licensed dealer in this state to be capable of microstamping ammunition

**The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:**

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "crime gun identification act of 2010".  
3 § 2. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature finds that in  
4 2005, the national clearance rate for homicide cases was approximately  
5 60% and over 3,000 gun homicide cases went unsolved; that in approxi-  
6 mately half of gun homicide investigations a spent cartridge casing, but  
7 not a firearm, is recovered at the crime scene; that currently deployed  
8 national ballistic identification systems cannot identify the serial  
9 number of a gun unless the gun itself has been recovered; that firearm  
10 microstamping is a revolutionary forensic technology that produces an  
11 identifiable alpha-numeric and geometric code onto the rear of the

EXPLANATION--Matter in **italics** (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 cartridge casing each time a semiautomatic pistol is fired; that the  
2 alpha-numeric and geometric code on an expended cartridge casing will  
3 provide an initial lead for law enforcement by enabling law enforcement  
4 to match the cartridge casing found at a crime to the original owner of  
5 the firearm; that information from completed crime gun tracing is an  
6 important element utilized by COMPSTAT and other crime analysis systems  
7 to target illegal firearms trafficking; that microstamping technology  
8 continues to produce identifiable markings onto expended cartridge  
9 casings even after thousands of rounds of testing; that this additional  
10 tool will help law enforcement investigate illegal gun trafficking,  
11 close firearm-related criminal cases and protect the public; and that  
12 legislative action is necessary to require all new semiautomatic pistols  
13 sold after January 1, 2012 to be microstamp-ready.

14 § 3. Section 265.00 of the penal law is amended by adding two new  
15 subdivisions 24 and 25 to read as follows:

16 **24. "Microstamp-ready," when used with reference to a semiautomatic**  
17 **pistol, means that such pistol is manufactured to produce a unique**  
18 **alpha-numeric or geometric code on at least two locations on each**  
19 **expended cartridge case that identifies the make, model, and serial**  
20 **number of the pistol.**

21 **25. "Microstamping component or mechanism," when used with reference**  
22 **to a semiautomatic pistol, means a component or mechanism of such pistol**  
23 **designed and intended to produce a unique alpha-numeric or geometric**  
24 **code on an expended cartridge that identifies the make, model, and seri-**

25 al number of the pistol.

26 § 4. Subdivision 6 of section 265.10 of the penal law, as amended by  
27 chapter 189 of the laws of 2000, is amended to read as follows:

28 6. (a) Any person who wilfully defaces any machine-gun, large capacity  
29 ammunition feeding device or firearm, including defacing a microstamping  
30 component or mechanism of a semiautomatic pistol as described in subdi-  
31 vision twenty-five of section 265.00 of this article, is guilty of a  
32 class D felony. (b) Any dealer in firearms licensed under section 400.00  
33 of this chapter who sells, offers for sale, exchanges, gives, transfers  
34 or delivers a semiautomatic pistol, knowing that a microstamping compo-  
35 nent or mechanism of such pistol as described in subdivision twenty-five  
36 of section 265.00 of this article has been defaced, is guilty of a class  
37 A misdemeanor. For purposes of this subdivision, defacing a semiautomat-  
38 ic pistol does not include (1) modifying a semiautomatic pistol to  
39 render it microstamp-ready in accordance with the provisions of subdivi-  
40 sion twenty-four of section 265.00 of this article or (2) replacing the  
41 firing pin of a semiautomatic pistol that is microstamp-ready when such  
42 pin is damaged or in need of replacement for the safe use of such  
43 pistol, or replacing such pin for a legitimate sporting purpose.

44 § 5. The penal law is amended by adding two new sections 265.38 and  
45 265.39 to read as follows:

46 § 265.38 Microstamping of semiautomatic pistols; penalties.

47 It shall be unlawful:

48 1. for any dealer in firearms licensed under section 400.00 of this  
49 chapter, to sell, offer for sale, exchange, give, transfer or deliver a  
50 semiautomatic pistol manufactured on or after January first, two thou-  
51 sand twelve to any person other than a dealer in firearms, unless such  
52 pistol is microstamp-ready; or

53 2. for any manufacturer or wholesale dealer to deliver or cause to be  
54 delivered to any person in this state, a semiautomatic pistol manufac-  
55 tured after January first, two thousand twelve, unless the manufacturer  
56 certifies to such person at the time of such delivery, in accordance

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1 with rules and regulations promulgated by the division of state police,  
2 that such pistol is microstamp-ready. Such rules and regulations shall  
3 include a requirement that, as part of the certification, the manufac-  
4 turer shall provide the make, model and serial number of the pistol.

5 A violation of any provision of this section is a class B misdemeanor;  
6 provided, however, that a person, including a dealer in firearms, whole-  
7 sale dealer or a manufacturer, who violates any provision of this  
8 section after having previously been convicted of violating any  
9 provision of this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

10 § 265.39 Microstamping of semiautomatic pistols; affirmative defense.

11 In any prosecution under subdivision one of section 265.38 of this  
12 article, it is an affirmative defense that the dealer in firearms, at  
13 the time of sale, offer for sale, exchange, giving, transfer or delivery  
14 of the semiautomatic pistol, was in possession of:

15 1. a certification from the manufacturer of such pistol delivered  
16 pursuant to subdivision two of section 265.38 of this article, that such  
17 pistol is microstamp-ready; or

18 2. an exact copy of such certification obtained by the dealer in  
19 firearms from such manufacturer in accordance with applicable rules and  
20 regulations promulgated by the division of state police.

21 The division of state police shall promulgate rules and regulations  
22 governing procedures and standards for exact copies of certifications  
23 and the obtaining of such copies by a dealer in firearms from a manufac-  
24 turer for purposes of this section.

25 § 6. Subdivision 5 of section 265.15 of the penal law, as amended by  
26 chapter 695 of the laws of 1987, is amended to read as follows:  
27 5. The possession by any person of a defaced machine-gun, firearm,  
28 rifle or shotgun is presumptive evidence that such person defaced the  
29 same, provided, however, that this subdivision shall not apply to  
30 possession of a semi-automatic pistol where the defacement alleged  
31 consists of defacing a microstamping component or mechanism of such  
32 pistol.  
33 § 7. This act shall take effect January 1, 2012, or at such time that  
34 the superintendent of the state police has received written notice from  
35 one or more microstamp job shops that such shop or shops are willing and  
36 prepared to produce microstamp structures on two internal surfaces of a  
37 semiautomatic pistol in accordance with subdivision 24 of section 265.00  
38 of the penal law for a price of twelve dollars or less at a production  
39 level of one thousand semiautomatic pistols per batch, whichever occurs  
40 first; provided that the division of state police shall notify the  
41 legislative bill drafting commission upon the occurrence of the receipt  
42 of the written notice provided for in this section in order that the  
43 commission may maintain an accurate and timely effective data base of  
44 the official text of the laws of the state of New York in furtherance of  
45 effectuating the provisions of this act, and provided further, that  
46 effective immediately the superintendent of the state police shall  
47 promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of  
48 this act.

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**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY  
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION  
submitted in accordance with Assembly Rule III, Sec 1(f)**

**BILL NUMBER:** A6468C

**SPONSOR:** Schimel (MS)

**TITLE OF BILL:**

An act to amend the penal law, in relation to requiring semiautomatic pistols manufactured or delivered to any licensed dealer in this state to be capable of microstamping ammunition

**PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:**

Requires all semiautomatic pistols manufactured on or after January 1, 2012 to be capable of producing a unique alpha-numeric or geometric code on at least two locations on each cartridge case expended from such pistol which can be used to identify the make, model, and serial number of the pistol.

**SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:**

Section 1 contains the short title of the act, the "Crime Gun Identification Act of 2010."

Section 2 of the bill contains the Legislative Findings and intent.

Section 3 of the bill adds two new subdivisions 24 and 25 to section 265.00 of the penal law to define the terms "microstamp-ready" and "microstamping component or mechanism."

Section 4 of the bill amends subdivision 6 of section 265.10 of the penal law to clarify that the existing class D felony offense of defacing a firearm includes the defacement of a microstamping component or mechanism of a semiautomatic pistol. This section also creates a new class A misdemeanor offense when a dealer in firearms sells, offers for sale, exchanges, gives, transfers or delivers a semiautomatic pistol knowing that the microstamping component or mechanism of such pistol has been defaced. Section 6 expressly excludes from defacing a semiautomatic pistol (1) modifications made to such pistol to render it microstamping-ready, or (2) replacing a firing pin of a microstamping ready semiautomatic pistol when the pin is damaged or in need of replacement for the safe use of the pistol, or replacing such pin for a legitimate sporting purpose.

Section 5 of the bill adds two new sections 265.38 and 265.39 to the penal law. Section 265.38 would prohibit (1) the sale, offer for sale, exchange, giving, transfer or delivery of a semiautomatic pistol manufactured after January 1, 2011 by a dealer in firearms to any person other than a dealer in firearms, unless such pistol is microstamping ready and (2) any manufacturer or wholesale dealer from delivering a semiautomatic pistol manufactured after January 1, 2012 to any person in this state, unless the pistol is certified by the manufacturer as microstamping ready in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the division of state police. A violation of Section 265.38 is a class B misdemeanor; a second or subsequent violation of any of these provisions is a class A misdemeanor. Section 265.39 provides dealers in firearms charged under subdivision 2 of section 265.38 with an affirmative defense. The affirmative defense is available to those dealers who, at the time of the sale, offer for sale, exchange, giving, transfer or delivery of a semi-automatic pistol manufactured after January 1, 2012, are in possession of the manufacturer's certification that such pistol is microstamping-ready, or an exact copy of such certification.

Section 6 of the bill amends subdivision 5 of section 265.16 of the penal law to make the presumption that applies to possession of defaced guns inapplicable to semi-automatic pistols where the sole defacement consists of defacing a microstamping component or mechanism of such pistol.

Section 7 of the bill contains the effective date.

#### **JUSTIFICATION:**

Microstamping technology utilizes lasers to make precise, microscopic engravings on the internal mechanisms of a gun, such as the breech face and firing pin. As the gun is fired, information identifying the make, model and serial number of the gun can be stamped onto the cartridge as numbers and letters. The technology is designed to aid law enforcement officials investigating homicides and other crimes by allowing them to trace firearms through cartridge cases found at crime scenes.

Microstamping represents a significant advancement over existing ballistic identification technology. Because the technology of microstamping stamps the identifying characteristics of a firearm onto every cartridge ejected from the gun, investigators need only recover the cartridges at a crime scene to be able to identify the actual crime gun. Current ballistics identification technology is much more limited. While it can

be used to compare ballistic evidence recovered at crime scenes, it cannot lead investigators directly to a specific firearm that produced the ballistic fingerprint, unless that firearm is recovered.

On October 13, 2007, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law the "Crime Gun Identification Act of 2007, mandating manufacturer "microstamping" of all new models of semiautomatic handgun models sold in California starting in 2010. Numerous other states are also considering microstamping legislation.

**PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

2008: A.9819-A Passed Assembly

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

This legislation will not impose new costs on the state of New York. No new database is required. The certification process contained in the bill is entirely industry based. Manufacturers will incur minimal costs to adopt the new technology.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

The act would take effect January 1, 2012, or at such time that the division of state police receive written notice from a microstamp job shop that such shop can produce microstamp structures on two internal surfaces of a semiautomatic pistol for a price of twelve dollars or less at a production level of one thousand semiautomatic pistols per batch. The division of state police is authorized to promulgate necessary rules and regulations upon passage of the act.

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