



# Legislator Montano News



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## **MONTANO LEGISLATION TO PREVENT REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS FROM ACCESSING SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES IS APPROVED** *NEW GUIDELINES WILL BE ENFORCED BY THE COUNTY'S PROBATION DEPARTMENT*

**Central Islip, NY-** Suffolk County Legislator Ricardo Montano's (D-Brentwood) Introductory Resolution 1590-2009, preventing registered sex offenders from maintaining accounts on social networking websites, was unanimously approved during today's General Session Meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature.

The resolution authorizes, empowers and requires that the Suffolk County Probation Department recommend to sentencing judges that any person convicted of an offense which requires them to register under the New York State Sex Offender Registration Act (SORA), or any offense of endangering the welfare of a child, in which the crime was committed or assisted through the use of a computer be required as a condition of probation to:

- 1) Register with the Probation Department each computer that he/she uses for personal matters.
- 2) Consent to the installation of monitoring software on any such computer to track the online activity of such person.
- 3) Agree not to access social networking, gaming and internet dating websites, such as but not limited to: MySpace, Twitter, Facebook, Match.com and Xanga.

"The internet is a very powerful component of our daily lives. Consequently, our children are at an extremely high risk of being harmed or exploited by sexual predators." Montano said. "Many sex offenders rely on the websites' inability to verify the information they provide to create accounts to seek out potential victims."

"I am grateful that my colleagues acknowledged the impact that this legislation will have in preventing sex offenders from having access to children on social networking websites," Montano added.

The bill now goes to the County Executive for his signature.

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