

News From
State Representative Dennis Reboletti

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**Reboletti: Governor Signs Bill Mandating Prison
for Gun Carrying Gang Members**

Addison, IL ... Legislation, co-sponsored by State Representative Dennis Reboletti (R-Elmhurst), cracking down on gang members with guns was signed into law by Governor Quinn Thursday.

“The death of Officer Valadez is a reminder of the rampant gun violence that terrorizes families in communities all over the state. The new law will give police and prosecutors another tool to fight against gang crime. It will serve as a blue print of passing common sense legislation tackling gangs, guns, drugs and violence,” said Reboletti, who attended the bill signing ceremony.

The law is named in memory of Chicago Police Officer Alejandro “Alex” Valadez, who was shot and killed June 1 when he responded to a call of shots fired in Chicago’s Englewood community. One of the three men charged with the officer’s murder was on probation for aggravated unlawful use of a weapon.

House Bill 4124 creates the class two felony offense of unlawful possession of a firearm by a gang member. The offense occurs when gang members unlawfully possess a firearm and ammunition in the areas where gang violence is most likely to occur. The new law carries a mandatory prison time sentence of three to 10 years for gang members caught possessing a gun. Under previous law, such an offense was punishable by probation.

Those in attendance of the bill signing ceremony included Chicago Police Superintendent Jody Weis, Cook County State’s Attorney Anita Alvarez and Chicago Mayor Richard Daley who thanked the legislators from both sides of the aisle for passing the new law

“I want to thank the legislators who worked very hard” to pass the legislation, said Daley.

The bill signing ceremony was held Thursday at the Chicago Police Department's Seventh District Headquarters where Officer Valadez was based.

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Photo caption: State Representative Dennis Reboletti stood in support of legislation signed into law by Governor Quinn Dec. 3 that creates a mandatory prison sentence for a gang member charged with unlawful possession of a firearm. Reboletti co-sponsored the legislation that was named in memory of a Chicago police officer who was killed by gang members.