

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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**Ferrarese**

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### **Senator Gobi, Colleagues Adopt New Rules Increasing Transparency and Openness for 2015-2016 Session**

**(Boston)** – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) and her colleagues in the Senate approved new rules for the 2015-2016 legislative session on Wednesday, the earliest adoption of the Senate rules since the beginning of two year sessions in 1995. The new measures allow for more open debate, increased information, and access for both members and the general public in regards to the business of the Senate.

“The spirit of bi partisanship is a visible and important component of the rules that the Senate has adopted and one I expect will continue throughout the legislative session,” said Senator Gobi.

Through these changes each Senator will be more engaged, more informed and more involved in setting the agenda for the Senate and debate on issues. With the new rules, the Senate Agenda will be available 48 hours prior to formal session, and increase from 24 hours. Texts of further or redrafted budget amendments must now be distributed a reasonable time before Senators vote. All late-filed bills not yet admitted and numbered will be posted on the Internet by the Clerk.

Along with newly adopted rules, Senate President Rosenberg has assigned his leadership team and committee chairmen. Senator Gobi was selected to chair the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, as well as vice-chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

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