

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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PRESS RELEASE

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Gobi, Senate Colleagues Pass Paint Recycling Bill

BOSTON – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) and her Senate colleagues voted to pass legislation establishing a comprehensive and convenient statewide paint collection and recycling program for all of Massachusetts. A nominal assessment will be added to each can of paint (quart, gallon and 5 gallon cans) to cover the costs of the program. Each manufacturer must pay the assessment to the nonprofit organization, and the fee is assessed to the consumer at the retail level.

“This bill will relieve the financial burden and costs our cities and towns currently incur for the collecting and disposal of used paint,” said Senator Gobi. “The transparency of this program will benefit both the consumers and the municipalities that are currently bearing the burden of the environmental cleanup costs of paint disposal.”

“The Environmental League of Massachusetts supports this legislation, which will make it easier for people to properly dispose of paint. We congratulate Senator Gobi for her leadership on an initiative that’s a win for the environment, local government, and small businesses,” said Environmental League Legislative Director, Erica Mattison, MPA, JD.

Modeled after successful programs in other states who struggled with paint recycling, this legislation aims to increase program participation while also lowering government costs. Currently only 26% of municipalities collect latex paint and even when paint collection programs are available, most residents do not participate. 83% of municipalities think a paint stewardship program would increase paint collection and 95% support a statewide program.

The intent of this program is to reduce or eliminate any costs at the municipal level associated with disposing of used paint. By placing recovery and recycling efforts in the hands of manufacturers and the nonprofit organization, a municipality no longer has the burden or financial cost of collecting and disposing of used

paint. The bill has widespread support from municipalities and from the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

For more information contact Senator Anne Gobi at Anne.Gobi@masenate.gov or 617-722-1540.

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