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PRESS RELEASE

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Senate Passes FY15 Close Out Budget

BOSTON, MA— On Thursday **Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** and her Senate colleagues passed a \$341.7 million supplemental budget to address deficiencies and outstanding Fiscal Year 2015 obligations and fund new and ongoing initiatives. These initiatives include funds to support substance abuse prevention and treatment, criminal justice reform, homelessness prevention and services for children and families.

"The supplemental budget, which had complete bipartisan support, is an important step in meeting obligations," said Senator Gobi. "I am also pleased that the Senate has taken the bold step of placing funds in stabilization while still sustaining critical services."

"In its version of the supplemental budget approved during today's debate, the Senate made a clear priority of helping Massachusetts protect itself from future recessions by building up our Rainy Day Fund," said **Senate President Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst)**. "This fund has been our biggest insurance policy against downturns in the past. With the recession behind us, it's time to replenish the fund to guarantee it's there to protect us when we need it most."

The supplemental budget ends the fiscal year in balance and ensures a stable fiscal position for fiscal year 2016. The bill includes a \$120 million deposit to the state's Stabilization Fund, or "Rainy Day Fund," to begin rebuilding the balance of the fund.

Building on legislation the Senate passed last week to address the opiate crisis in Massachusetts, the supplemental budget includes a total of \$27.8 million for substance abuse treatment and prevention programs. This funding includes \$1.2 million for the SBIRT substance abuse screening program in schools and \$3.8 million for substance abuse counselors.

The bill also includes \$5.8 million to support a new program at Taunton State Hospital for civilly committed women who would otherwise receive treatment at MCI-Framingham and language to prohibit women from being committed to MCI-Framingham for rehabilitative services beginning January 1, 2017.

The bill includes \$250,000 for a grant program for municipal police departments to purchase body cameras and \$300,000 for a pilot program to identify and address gaps in the criminal justice system for individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorders.

In addition, the bill provides \$5 million for homelessness diversion, prevention and housing stabilization programs and supports the Department of Children and Families, including \$2.5 million to address immediate training and staffing needs and \$1 million for training for adoptive and foster families.

Last week, the House of Representatives passed a similar supplemental spending bill. The Senate and House will now produce a compromise bill for final passage and the Governor's signature.

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