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## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**Thursday, November 12, 2015**

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### **Gobi, Berthiaume File Protective Language for Brookfield State Police Barracks**

**BOSTON** – In response to news that the Executive Office of Public Safety plans to close State Police Station C-3, located in the Town of Brookfield, **Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** and **Representative Donald R. Berthiaume (R-Spencer)** have filed legislation establishing criteria for any possible closure.

The bill calls for a number of assessments to be conducted including: a study on the public safety impacts of the closing, a cost analysis of the closing, including financial impacts on the served communities, and a thorough appraisal of the building, land and structures on the property, including the yearly maintenance costs of each. A report of each study must be submitted to the Senate President, Speaker of the House and the Senators and Representatives that serve the member communities.

The legislation also requires a public hearing be held in Barre, Brookfield and Paxton, chosen because of their geographic locations relative to the other member communities. The hope is that residents of the communities will be able to have a voice in the fate of the barracks.

“This bill hopes to put into effect transparency for this process. It is absolutely critical that the communities most affected, especially Brookfield, have an opportunity to weigh in on a closing proposal,” said Senator Gobi. “In addition the taxpayers will have information on the financial impacts to the communities this closing would have and what exactly the benefits or drawbacks may be for any closing.”

"This proposed legislation will ensure that all mitigating factors are considered before there are any thoughts of closing a public safety facility such as the Brookfield Barracks," said Representative Berthiaume. "Senator Gobi and I, along with all other affected legislators, have a responsibility to our constituents to ensure that all information regarding a decision like this is considered before any action is taken. None of us have received

any data whatsoever from the Secretary of Public Safety on the impact that this will have on the affected communities."

The Brookfield State Police Barracks was built in 1930 and covers 334 square miles. The barracks also assists local part-time and pull-time area police departments needing services.

For more information contact Senator Anne Gobi at [Anne.Gobi@masenate.gov](mailto:Anne.Gobi@masenate.gov) or 617-722-1540.

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