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PRESS RELEASE

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Protective Language for State Police Barracks Closings Passes Senate

BOSTON – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) has announced that the Senate passed legislation that would add protections for state police barracks tapped to close. The bill was originally filed by Senator Gobi in response to news that the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) planned to close State Police Station C-3, located in Brookfield.

In response to Senator Gobi's bill, EOPSS decided to keep the barracks open. After hearing similar concerns from Senate colleagues, Senator Gobi worked with the Senate Ways and Means Committee to adjust the bill to apply to all potential closures of state police barracks.

"I appreciate the quick action and support of my Senate colleagues in passing this important bill," said Senator Gobi. "Public safety is of paramount importance and this bill will add an important level of transparency and opportunities for input from the communities most affected by a proposal to close a barracks."

The re-drafted bill establishes multiple criteria that must be completed before a barracks can be closed. EOPSS would be required to provide written notice to the legislature of a potential closure 120 days prior to the closing. They would also be required to conduct public hearings in two or more impacted communities before any closure and subsequently file a report including: an examination of the public safety impacts of a closing, a cost analysis of closing (including the financial impact on communities) and an appraisal of the building and land. The report must be filed with the legislature no later than 60 days after original notice.

The bill now moves to the House of Representative for consideration.

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