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PRESS RELEASE

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Senate Passes Public Space Recycling Legislation

BOSTON – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) has announced that the Senate passed public space recycling legislation during Thursday’s formal session, taking another step towards meeting the targets set forth in the state’s Solid Waste Master Plan. Under the bill, starting in 2018, all state agencies, courts and general court buildings will be required to recycle the following materials: lead batteries, metal containers, single polymer plastics, recyclable paper, yard waste, tires, household appliances, fluorescent lamps, cathode ray tubes, carpets, and construction or demolition materials.

“Massachusetts continues to move forward to meet targets established in the state’s Solid Waste Master Plan,” said Senator Gobi. “In order to accomplish that, it is necessary for our legislature, state agencies and courts to be leaders in recycling. By establishing guidelines for public space recycling we can lead by example.”

The legislation directs the Leading by Example Program within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to oversee and coordinate efforts at state agencies to reduce their environmental impact. The Program will establish a reporting system, in which state agencies and courts with more than 50 employees will submit annual recycling reports to the program including tonnage of solid waste and recycled material disposed of.

“This bill takes an important step toward our goals to reduce waste and increase recycling. Residents across the state do their part to recycle materials from their homes and now we will include our public buildings,” said **Senate President Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst)**. “I thank Senator Gobi for her hard work on this important issue.”

The Solid Waste Master Plan outlines the Commonwealth’s vision of the future of solid waste reduction and management statewide. The Plan sets goals reducing solid waste disposal 30% by 2020 from 6,550,000 tons

of disposal in 2008 to 4,550,000 tons of disposal in 2020, while continuing to divert toxic substances from the solid waste stream. The Plan sets a longer term goal of reducing solid waste disposal by 80% by 2050.

The legislation was passed unanimously and now moves to the House for consideration.

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