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PRESS RELEASE

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Senate Passes Bill to Expand Take-Out and Delivery Options in Restaurants
Legislation will support Public Health and Economic Recovery

BOSTON (07/15/2020) – Last week, **Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer)** and the Massachusetts State Senate passed bipartisan legislation that gives restaurants more flexibility, and customers more choice, while the Commonwealth continues to confront the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bill, *An Act to Expand Take-out/Delivery Options in Response to COVID-19*, would allow restaurants to include mixed drinks with take-out and delivery orders. Restaurants were previously authorized by the legislature to sell beer and wine with take-out orders. The bill would authorize restaurants to serve mixed-drinks to-go until the Massachusetts’ state of emergency in response to COVID-19, declared by the Governor on March 10, 2020 is lifted.

“The Senate stands by our commitment to listen and adapt to the challenges small businesses are facing as they try to return to service and survive the long term impact of this pandemic,” stated Senator Gobi. “There is still a great deal of work to be done to assist these individuals and our communities, but this is a small step and an additional tool for our restaurant industry.”

Under the bill, restaurants would still be required to verify that customers are 21 or older and mixed drinks must be sold in sealed containers. The legislation requires that mixed drinks be sold exclusively with food, limited to two mixed drinks per entrée, and not more than 64 ounces in total.

The bill is the latest in a series of far-reaching actions by the Senate meant to support small businesses during the COVID-19 public health crisis. The bill now moves to the Massachusetts House of Representatives for consideration.

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