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**MOORE SIGNS ON TO BIPARTISAN PAROLE REFORM EFFORT**

**Boston** – A bipartisan coalition of Senators, including Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) announced the filing of comprehensive legislation reforming the state’s parole system. The bill, which has drawn strong support in the Senate, would create new minimum sentencing guidelines before individuals who are serving a life sentence can qualify for parole, while eliminating the prospect of parole for anyone serving more than one life sentence. It also establishes a process for removing parole board members and requires district attorneys, law enforcement, victims and the families of victims to receive advance notice of parole hearings so they can have an opportunity to testify before the parole board.

“I am pleased to see members of the Legislature setting aside partisanship to address this critical issue,” said Sen. Moore. “It has unfortunately become clear in recent weeks that our parole system is in need of a significant overhaul. It is inexcusable that major elements of the law enforcement community were not notified of the impending parole hearing of a violent offender; this oversight resulted in the death of a police officer. I am proud to be part of this bipartisan effort to fix the system, and bring all areas of the law enforcement community to the table.”

The reform package was filed in response to the December 26<sup>th</sup> shooting death of Woburn Police Officer John “Jack” Maguire, who was killed by parolee Dominic Cinelli, a violent career criminal who was serving three concurrent life sentences before he was released in 2008. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, the five board members who had voted in favor of paroling Cinelli submitted their resignations.

In addition to banning parole for individuals serving multiple life sentences, the bill would also require those individuals who receive one life sentence to serve a minimum of 25 years before becoming eligible for parole, rather than the current 15. A two-thirds vote of the seven-member parole board would be needed to grant parole to lifers, and those who are denied parole would need to wait a minimum of five years before they get another chance at parole, unless they can show a genuine change of circumstances.

The reform package also:

- Requires habitual offenders to serve the maximum sentence for their third felony, with no chance at parole (currently, those receiving a maximum sentence are eligible for parole after serving only half their sentence);
- Mandates that three members of the parole board have at least five years of state law enforcement experience within the previous 10 years (although one board member can have the equivalent amount of federal law enforcement experience instead);

- Establishes a procedure for removing parole board members for cause;
- Requires the outcome of parole hearings to be posted on the Internet;
- Allows for temporary moratoriums on the holding of parole hearings by providing the parole board with the flexibility to suspend the current requirement of holding a hearing within 60 days of eligibility; and
- Creates a commission to conduct a feasibility study and cost benefit analysis of adopting the federal system, which would eliminate parole and replace it with a system that provides a maximum sentence reduction of 15 percent for good behavior and other mitigating factors.

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