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MOORE VOTES FOR SALES TAX HOLIDAY

Boston – The Senate on Thursday approved a sales tax holiday weekend for August 13th and 14th, making it the sixth year the Commonwealth will provide a sales tax exemption for two days and the seventh year with at least one sales-tax-free day. The measure cleared the Senate on a vote of 28 to 9; Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) voted in favor of the legislation.

“It was important for us to pass the sales tax holiday,” said Sen. Moore. “Our economy continues to be in stronger shape here in Massachusetts than it is nationally. Revenues are up, and we owe it to residents and small businesses to do this: residents deserve the break, and small businesses deserve the spike in consumer spending.”

Tax collections for all of Fiscal Year 2011 were \$20.5 billion, which is \$2 billion more than the Fiscal Year 2010 collections and \$723 million above benchmark. Also, revenue for the month of June came in at \$2.1 billion – a 5.2 percent increase from June 2010 and \$48 million above the monthly benchmark.

The Senate has consistently supported a sales tax holiday since it began seven years ago. As in previous years, the sales tax holiday will apply to purchases under \$2,500. Additionally, it excludes vehicles, motorized boats, tobacco, meals and utilities.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, the sales tax holiday has saved consumers nearly \$100 million since 2004. The legislature has passed it every year since then, except in 2009, when the recession was at its worst.

The bill will go to the Governor for his signature after final enactment with the House on Friday.

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