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SENATE PASSES BUDGET AMENDMENT TO FIND COST-SAVINGS IN SHERIFFS' OFFICES

Boston – Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) today announced that the Massachusetts Senate has passed an amendment to its version of the Fiscal Year 2012 state budget to fund an independent evaluation to determine potential cost savings in Massachusetts Sheriffs' Offices.

A 2009 state law established a Special Commission to investigate and study the reorganization or consolidation of the Sheriffs' offices. To assist the Commission in its work, this amendment allows the commission to contract with an independent, outside organization - at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 - to conduct a fiscal analysis of the potential cost savings and other efficiencies that may be achieved by reorganization, consolidation, elimination or realignment of sheriffs' offices. The Commission will examine best management practices including, administrative procedures, payroll systems, software updates, the current use of civil process funds, including the amount of civil process funds collected by each county sheriff and the actual disposition and in the event of consolidation, realignment, elimination or reorganization, the collection and use of civil process fees in the future.

“This is an important investment as it will provide for an independent study to determine potential efficiencies which could lead to far greater savings for the Commonwealth down the road,” said Sen. Moore, who serves as Chair of the Commission. “It is critical for the legislature to continuously explore potential cost savings and reforms in state agencies, so that we can be absolutely certain that every taxpayer dollar is used as efficiently as possible.”

The Commission was organized for the purpose of making an investigation and study relative to the reorganization or consolidation of Sheriffs' Offices. The Commission is charged with making formal recommendations regarding reorganization or consolidation and to recommend any necessary legislation.

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