



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE SENATOR
MICHAEL O. MOORE
SECOND WORCESTER DISTRICT
State House, Room 518, Boston, MA 02133 (617) 722-1485

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Contact: Sen. Moore
(508) 277-4117

MOORE VOTES AGAINST CHANGE IN SENATE SUCCESSION LAW

Boston - Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) today voted against a change in election laws that would have allowed the Governor to appoint a temporary U.S. Senator in the event of a vacancy caused by the death or resignation of the incumbent. The measure passed both the House and the Senate, and is expected to be signed into law by Governor Patrick. Sen. Moore was one of 16 Senators to vote “no” on the measure.

“The people of Massachusetts should decide who represents them in the United States Senate, not any one individual,” said Sen. Moore. “I have a great deal of respect for the legacy of Senator Kennedy, as well as his wishes, however I was elected to represent the wishes of my constituents. Massachusetts voters very clearly want this decision to remain in their hands.”

Currently, Massachusetts' Class I U.S. Senate seat, which had been occupied by the late Edward M. Kennedy since 1963, is vacant.

The bill would have allowed the Governor to appoint an interim U.S. Senator for Massachusetts, in the event of the sitting Senator's death or resignation. The interim Senator would serve until a special election could be held to select a permanent replacement, which under current law must take place within 145 to 160 days after the vacancy occurs.

The law was changed in 2004 to create a special election to fill a vacant Senate seat. Previously, the Governor had the power to appoint a Senator to fill the remainder of the term. At the time, U.S. Senator John F. Kerry was the Democratic nominee for President, and Republican Mitt Romney was serving as Governor.

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