



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

For Immediate Release:
November 19, 2009

Contact: Jason Palitsch
(617) 722-1485

**SEN. MOORE VOTES FOR COMPREHENSIVE SENTENCING REFORM, SUCCESSFULLY
AMENDS LEGISLATION**

BOSTON – Looking to reduce the recidivism rate, relieve overcrowded prisons and improve access to criminal history records, the Senate on Wednesday passed an omnibus crime package that has support from the law enforcement community. Sen. Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) voted for this legislation, which included several amendments he filed. Amongst those were language to protect nurses and other health care providers from assault, review the bail process to allow prosecutors to present relevant evidence for consideration before bail is set, and allow pre-trial detainees to cover the costs of their own electronic monitoring.

“This legislation will be a tremendous step towards protecting the public safety in the Commonwealth,” said Sen. Moore. “I was pleased to be able to pass through the Senate language that will improve this bill by protecting our nurses, study our bail system, and better enable law enforcement to use electronic monitoring and save money.”

In a letter issued before the final vote, Public Safety Secretary Kevin M. Burke wrote: “I firmly believe [this bill] will enhance, rather than jeopardize, public safety by facilitating the appropriate re-entry of ex-offenders into the community.”

The legislation places a premium on unprecedented mandatory post-release supervision, as well as electronic monitoring programs, all of which are proven to reduce recidivism. It gives sheriffs statutory authority to move eligible offenders into day reporting programs which have been operating successfully for years.

“The Massachusetts Nurses Association is so grateful to Senator Moore for successfully including the nurse assault provision in the crime bill passed by the Senate yesterday,” said Donna Kelly-Williams, RN, President of the Massachusetts Nurses Association. “This bill would increase the penalties for those who assault nurses while they’re providing health care services. It will help protect nurses and patients, and it is clear to us that Sen. Moore understands the urgency of providing these protections. We look forward to continuing to work with Senator Moore and with the House of Representatives to making sure this provision is passed into law as early in 2010 as possible.”

The sentencing and supervision improvements will produce short- and long-term savings by reducing costs associated with incarceration. The annual average cost in Massachusetts to supervise a person is \$2,500 while the annual average cost to incarcerate is \$43,000.

This legislation also increases access to the CORI system, allowing employers and landlords to request records on felony convictions for 10 years after an inmate's release and on misdemeanor convictions for 5 years after release, as well as all pending charges.

Also, information on all convictions for sex offenses, murder and manslaughter will be available for life. Law enforcement continues to have full access to CORI. Improved accuracy and faster response times are achieved through a new Internet-based system required by the legislation.

Other CORI reforms include:

- Allowing individuals to access their own CORI information and providing for a self-audit process at no fee;
- Increasing sanctions for the knowing misuse or communication of CORI information;
- Creating a new offense for using CORI to commit a crime against an individual or engage in harassment of an individual, punishable by imprisonment in jail or house of correction for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$5,000 or both;
- Providing liability protection for employers who use the CORI system if the decision is made within 90 days of obtaining the report and providing law enforcement with increased protections from allegations of improper use of CORI; and
- Requiring agencies and employers relying on criminal histories from the CORI system to provide copies to the individual.

The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for further action.

###