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Representative Smola Achieves Perfect Voting Record

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) has achieved a perfect voting record for the first half of the 2015-2016 legislative session. The Representative from the First Hampden District participated in all 179 roll call votes cast in the House of Representatives between January and November of 2015, a 100% voting record.

Representative Smola cast votes this session on a number of key policy issues including: a fentanyl trafficking bill that imposes a prison sentence of up to 20 years for manufacturing, distributing or dispensing more than 10 grams of fentanyl or any of its derivatives; a statewide “Stolen Valor Act” to prosecute individuals who falsely claim to be a veteran or recipient of a military honor in order to obtain money, property or other tangible benefits; legislation limiting the amount of time Level 2 and Level 3 sex offenders can secure a stay of final classification pending a court appeal, and mandating an expedited hearing process whenever a stay is granted; and legislation raising the private and public net metering cap to encourage more solar energy projects across the state.

Additionally, the Warren lawmaker registered votes on legislation regulating secondary metal dealings; clearing titles to foreclosed properties; and reforming the state’s public records law.

“Since first being elected to the House of Representatives in 2005, I have truly appreciated every day that I have had the privilege to represent the First Hampden District,” said Representative Smola.

Representative Smola further reinforced his commitment to the municipalities within the First Hampden District by voting in support of significant funding increases in local aid for cities and towns in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget. This year's budget includes:

- \$4.5 billion in Chapter 70 education aid, an increase of \$111.2 million;
- \$979.8 million in unrestricted general government aid, an increase of \$34 million;
- \$271.7 million for the special education Circuit Breaker, an increase of \$18.3 million, which funds the state's share of special education aid for local school districts at 75%;
- \$59 million for regional school transportation, an increase of \$7.5 million; and
- An additional \$80.5 million set aside for charter school reimbursements to cities and towns, an increase of \$3.6 million.

Representative Smola currently serves as the Ranking Member on the Ways & Means Committee.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.

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