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*House of Representatives*  
*State House, Boston 02133-1054*

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## **Smola Bill on Gravestone Damage Passes House in Time for Veterans Day**

**BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren)** is pleased to announce the passage of *H1600 – An Act providing further penalties for intentional loss or damage to a gravestone or other grave marker*. The bill, filed by Representative Smola, was passed by the House of Representatives in recognition of Veterans Day.

“There is no excuse for the willful destruction of a gravestone or memorial,” said Representative Smola. “Our loved ones deserve respect in their final place of rest. This law will require any vandal to face criminal charges as well as pay restitution to the property owner. This will hopefully serve as a deterrent and ensure that victims are not paying for repairs to memorials out of their own pockets.”

Smola said that the motivating factor to file this legislation came as the result of discussions with veterans who called attention to the desecration of veterans’ graves.

“While this legislation applies to all gravestones and memorials, this legislation holds particular meaning with respect to the graves of our veterans,” said Smola. “Anyone that commits this terrible act should be held accountable. This law helps to do just that.”

The bill will move on to the Senate and the Governor where it is expected to pass and become law.

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

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