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Rep. Smola Sponsored EZ-ID License Plate Amendment Included in House Budget

BOSTON – **State Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren)** is pleased to announce the passage of an amendment to the House version of the fiscal year 2015 budget to create an EZ-ID License Plate Task Force. Also known as Molly’s Bill, the proposal passed with the unanimous support of House members.

The amendment establishes a special task force to analyze the feasibility of a vehicle registration plate system that utilizes non-alphanumeric symbols as part of the registration identification for plates issued by the registrar of motor vehicles. Molly’s Bill is named in memory of Molly Bish, a 16 year old lifeguard from the town of Warren, who was abducted and murdered in 2000. EZ-ID is designed to make it easier for people, especially young children, to recognize, remember and report a license plate number.

“I am grateful to have the support of my colleagues in the House of Representatives for this study,” said Representative Smola. “This study will help to advance the discussion of EZ-ID in a positive direction. The Bish family has been an instrumental part of this initiative and their unwavering support for Molly’s Bill has been the driving force to make this study possible. I am optimistic that this proposal will have broad support as the budget bill advances through the legislative process.”

The task force members will include designees from the Registry of Motor Vehicles, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Molly Bish Center for Missing and Exploited Children, State Administration and Finance, the office of the Secretary of Transportation, and the office of the Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, among others. The task force will also include, as ex officio members, a representative from the United State Department of Transportation, a representative from the United States Department of Justice, a representative from United State Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and a representative from the United States Department of Homeland Security.

“The passage of the EZ-ID amendment (Molly’s Bill) will, with certainty, transform public safety. The modernization and simplification of vehicle identification will empower everyone, even children, to instantly identify, remember, and report a vehicle plate, allowing law enforcement to properly respond, apprehend, or rescue,” said Jay Gardiner the former director of the Molly Bish Center. “Having been the first state to issue license plates (1903), the passage of the EZ-ID amendment positions Massachusetts to once again lead the country in public safety.”

The EZ-ID License Plate Task Force study is now part of the House budget. The proposal will advance to a conference committee when the Senate concludes its budget proposal.

“This is the closest we have come toward advancing the EZ-ID initiative in a long time. I know we can make some huge steps towards improving child safety,” said Smola.

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