

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 28, 2011

Contact: Scott Kjellberg
Office of Representative Kate Hogan
(617) 722-2637
Scott.Kjellberg@MAHouse.gov

House Passes Sales Tax Holiday Legislation *Sets Tax-Free Weekend in August to Boost Local Business*

BOSTON – State Representative Kate Hogan (D-Stow) today joined her colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in approving legislation that would allow a state sales tax holiday on August 13th and 14th of this year to encourage consumers to shop at local businesses across the state.

“The sales tax holiday is a win-win for consumers and business owners in the Commonwealth. It encourages consumers to buy locally and receive a break on prices, while also creating revenue for businesses,” said Representative Hogan. “Working families need a break and this gives them an opportunity to purchase some items that they would otherwise not be able to purchase.”

The sales tax holiday applies to retail sales excluding items priced higher than \$2,500. It does not apply to telecommunications or tobacco products as well as gas, steam, electricity, motor vehicles, motorboats or meals.

The legislation requires that the commissioner of revenue certify the amount of sales tax forgone as well as the amount of revenue lost from specific government funds into which the weekend’s sales tax revenue would have been deposited.

The commissioner must also certify the amount of new revenue raised from personal and corporate income taxes and other sources as a result of the sales tax holiday. These certifications must come by the end of this calendar year.

###