

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives

State House, Boston 02133-1054

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--MEDIA ADVISORY—

Committee Approves E-Waste Recycling

***For Immediate Release***

**November 18, 2009**

**Boston – *Representative William M. Straus (D-Mattapoisett)*** today announced the Committee approval of legislation regulating electronic waste recycling in Massachusetts. The redraft was authored by the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, the Committee of which Rep. Straus co-chairs. Electronic or “e-waste” represents a source of toxic materials which threaten public health when disposed of improperly. In addition, a strong recycling program recaptures many materials for re-use.

“The favorable release of this bill represents months of research performed by the Committee to ensure a balanced, yet responsible approach is taken to address the growing concern over electronic waste reuse, recycling, and disposal. I hope that the House of Representatives gives this bill due consideration in the coming months. I’m fully confident that the passage of this legislation will place Massachusetts among other leading states on the subject of electronic waste and work to further ensure that these materials are collected and disposed of in the most environmentally-friendly manner” said Rep. Straus.

This bill will regulate discarded electronic waste products and facilitate their recycling through approved collection programs, which release municipalities and consumers of financing their own collection programs. The following electronic products are covered within the bill: desktop computers, notebook computers, monitors, televisions, printers, fax machines, video game consoles, VCRs, DVD players and DVRs, zip drives, external hard drives, netbooks, and scanners.

Any producer of the aforementioned electronic products may establish a collection program in Massachusetts. Each established collection program must have convenient, staffed collection sites in at least 8 counties, in every municipality over 50,000 people, and be open for collections for at least two weeks a year.

Producer collection programs will relieve municipalities of the burden of electronic recycling programs. Any municipality wishing to initiate or maintain its current collection program will be exempt from paying a registration fee.

The bill also defines the word “reuse” of electronic products, and ensures that products collected for reuse are recorded and authorizes the Department of Environment Protection (DEP) to inspect collectors and processors who return, sell, or donate electronic products for reuse.

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