

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATE
STATE HOUSE BOSTON, MA 02133



October 5, 2011

For Immediate Release

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SouthCoast Legislators Meet with State Health Officials

Review Mosquito Control, Triple E Prevention

BOSTON – Bristol and Plymouth County members of the House of Representatives met Monday morning with senior administrators from the state’s Department of Public Health (DPH) to review that agency’s responsibilities concerning mosquito control efforts in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Coordinated by House Speaker Pro Tempore, Patricia A. Haddad (**D-Somerset**), Rep. Paul A. Schmid (**D-Westport**) and Sen. Michael J. Rodrigues (**D-Westport**), the meeting covered the agency’s current funding, recent budgetary cuts, areas of mosquito control responsibilities and a review of educational issues concerning public health aspects of mosquito control and Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

“I thought the meeting with DPH was a very frank discussion which covered a number of topics, stated House Speaker Pro Tem Haddad, “I feel the department clearly understands our concerns as well as the public’s concerns and expectations”.

“I’m pleased the department met with us,” said Sen. Rodrigues. “As legislators it’s important to understand the steps that are being taken to reduce risk factors and keep the public safe from mosquito borne illnesses.” Rep. Schmid agreed, stating “Education and awareness are essential to lessen the risk to the community. The meeting proved to be informative; I believe DPH is working hard to keep the Commonwealth safe.”

Joining the legislators at the meeting were Department of Public Health Commissioner John Auerbach, Kevin Cranston, DPH Bureau Director of Infectious Diseases, Dr. Sandra Smole, DPH Director of Virology at the Hinton State Laboratory and Dr. Catherine Brown, State Veterinarian.

The meeting was held in response to this season’s fatal ‘Triple E’ case and discussions surround area mosquito breeding grounds such as the Hockomock Swamp which traverses both Bristol and Plymouth Counties.

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