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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Baddour Approves Funding for Infrastructure Improvements at Public Colleges and Universities**

(Boston, MA) – Senator Baddour voted today to approve a \$2 billion higher education bond bill that will allow the Commonwealth’s public colleges and universities to make capital improvements and invest in infrastructure development on campuses across Massachusetts.

“There is not one public higher education campus in this state that does not need capital funding for improvements. In fact, many of these campuses need the funding to fix the crumbling infrastructure they already have,” Senator Steven A. Baddour (D-Methuen) said. “If we want Massachusetts to be known for our world-class public institutions of higher learning, then we must invest in our colleges and universities to ensure the facilities are first-rate. This legislation will help us reach that goal.”

Specifically, the legislation includes \$1 billion for state and community colleges, including \$21,718,123 earmarked for a new allied health building at Northern Essex Community College in the city of Lawrence and for the renovation of the Spurr Building at Northern Essex Community College in the city of Haverhill; and \$1 billion for the University of Massachusetts system.

“Over the past few decades many of our public campuses have been forced to divert operating funds needed to teach students into building repairs due to a lack of adequate state funding.

Passage of this bill will help relieve pressure on student fees and operating budgets, making higher education more affordable and frankly more attractive”, continued Senator Baddour.

In addition to the bond funding authorization, the legislation:

- Amends and updates the law that established the Massachusetts State College Building Authority;
- Requires the use of photo luminescent system to delineate egress routes for any structure that is built, renovates rehabilitates or repainted as a result of this funding;
- Requires the Secretary of Administration and Finance to submit a report on the progress and all expenditures related to projects resulting from this legislation twice each year for six years.
- Ensures that laws relating to health, workers compensation and unemployment insurance are adhered to.

This bill now goes to the House of Representatives for further action.

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