

For Immediate Release
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State Budget Cuts Required; Education Spared

(Jackson, MS) –Gary Anderson, executive director of the Department of Finance and Administration, released the following statement today:

“As State Fiscal Officer, I am asking general fund agencies to reduce their FY2003 budgets by a total of 0.8 percent, or nearly \$11 million. State collections continue to lag behind estimates, and state law requires the governor to balance the budget when collections do not meet the estimate.

“As Governor Musgrove has said before, we are in a national recession, and the situation demands that we establish priorities and use real numbers.

“Governor Musgrove has continued to demonstrate sound fiscal management by requesting agencies to hold back five percent of their appropriated budgets in anticipation of possible cuts. That action will certainly make this cut easier to absorb.”

As of October 31, revenue collections were \$35.3 million below the estimate of 3.5 percent for the 2003 fiscal year.

Areas spared from the cut include: General Education, Uniform Millage, Vocational Education, Chickasaw Interest, Adequate Education, Schools for the Blind & Deaf, Educational Television Authority, Library Commission, Bee Barnard Trust, IHL Support & Subsidiary, Student Financial Aid, University Research Center, University Medical Center, Alcorn Agriculture, MSU Agriculture & Forestry Experiment State, MSU Cooperative Extension Service, MSU Forest and Wildlife Research Center, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, and Community & Junior Colleges Board and Support.