

For Immediate Release

April 9, 2003

Contact: John Sewell

601-359-2916

Governor Musgrove Signs “Do Not Call” Bill

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove signed Senate Bill 2445 this morning, offering Mississippians a means by which they can block telemarketing calls by registering with the Public Service Commission.

“This is a consumer-friendly, and a consumer-driven, piece of legislation,” Musgrove said. “The issue of telemarketers and their aggressive tactics has come up before, and I’m pleased that we have been able to work together to find a solution.”

Under the legislation, consumers can contact the Public Service Commission and place their names in a database to prevent calls from telemarketers. The information contained in the database will be held in confidentiality, and telemarketers will be required to register with the Public Service Commission before they can do business in the state. Civil penalties are also provided for violations of the legislation.

“The people of Mississippi are hard-working people. At the end of the day, they want to come home and spend time with their families,” said Musgrove. “They don’t want their phone ringing with a telemarketer selling the latest in vacation packages.”

Senate Bill 2445 becomes effective July 1, 2003.

###