

For Immediate Release

April 23, 2003

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Governor Musgrove Vetoes Bill Removing Education Board's Salary Authority

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has vetoed House Bill 773, legislation which would have removed the authority of the State Board of Education to manage the Department of Education. The veto was widely supported by business leaders and educators throughout the state.

“Removing the statutory authority of the State Board of Education serves no useful purpose in our efforts to improve education across Mississippi,” said Musgrove. “This bill unfairly singles out the board, and removes it from the level playing field shared with the boards of the Institutions of Higher Learning and Community and Junior Colleges.”

The State Board of Education was created by the Education Reform Act of 1982.

“We’ve made great progress in public education over the past 20 years, especially during the 2003 session with the early and full investment of education,” Musgrove said. “By working together, we’ve taken so many steps forward; we can’t afford to take a step back.”

Under Musgrove’s leadership, teacher pay in Mississippi is rising from 49th to 19th in the nation, the state ranks 6th in the nation in the number of Nationally Board Certified Teachers, and Mississippi is the first state in the nation to place an Internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom.

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