

For Immediate Release

October 3, 2001

Contact: John Sewell

601-359-2916

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove announced today he is making a change in the position of executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). J. C. Burns, who has held the position since January 2000, is leaving MDA effective immediately.

“I appreciate the service J. C. has given to the state over the past 20 months,” Musgrove said. “At this time, however, I believe a change is necessary. It is important for the citizens and business community of the state to have full confidence in our economic development efforts.”

During Burns’ tenure at MDA, the agency underwent a reorganization that included changing the title of the agency previously known as the Department of Economic and Community Development. In a special legislative session last year, the Advantage Mississippi initiative, which revamped incentives and business assistance programs under the agency, was enacted into law.

Steve Hale, senior policy advisor for economic development on Musgrove’s staff, will serve as interim director of MDA until a new executive director has been named.