

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Expands Special Session Call To Extend Effective Date of “First Responders” Bill

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today announced he is expanding the call for Friday’s special session on the Nissan expansion. Musgrove will ask lawmakers to extend the effective date of House Bill 1089 to July 1, 2003. The bill calls for certification of “first responders” to emergency scenes and is raising concerns among county emergency services.

“The intent behind this legislation was good, but the foundation for it just isn’t in place yet,” Musgrove said. “The State Department of Health needs time to get its certification process in place for first responders.”

At issue is a requirement for first responders to be certified by the Division of Emergency Medical Services within the Health Department. At the present time there is no certification process in place to meet this requirement, which means first responders would be in violation of the law until a process is created.

First responders are usually volunteers who received basic training to perform initial assessments and medical care at emergency scenes.

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