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Contact: John Sewell
601-359-2916

Governor Musgrove Re-negotiates Contracts With Private Prisons

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove announced today the successful re-negotiation of contracts with the operators of private prisons in Mississippi. Management contracts at the five private prison facilities in the state were terminated effective July 1, 2002. The negotiations will save the state approximately \$9 million in operating expenses over the next two years (\$3.5 million for Fiscal Year 2003, \$5.5 million for FY04) and between \$2-4 million in capital expenses in the current fiscal year.

“These contracts are consistent with our goal of the best prison management and policies possible,” said Musgrove. “With these new contracts in place, we can focus on better meeting the needs of the entire corrections systems, especially with regards to mentally ill and youthful offenders.”

Musgrove has indicated he will call a special session to address the re-appropriation of the funds.

“We are committed to the very best use of our public dollars, and these savings should be directed to the critical needs we face in health care and education,” said Musgrove. “The cooperative spirit of the private prisons and members of the Legislature led to the result we have today.”

The five private prison facilities in the state are run by Wackenhut, the Corrections Corporation of America and Tuscolemeta, Inc.

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