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## **Governor Musgrove Disappointed with Death of Domestic Preparedness Bill**

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove expressed his disappointment today at the failure of the House of Representatives to act on Senate Bill 2737. The legislation addressed the issues of terrorism and domestic preparedness.

“In the wake of the September 11 attacks and the current war in Afghanistan, it is unfortunate this legislation to help protect Mississippians has died,” Musgrove said. “There is no reason for it not to be sent to my desk.”

The bill, among other things, clarified the authority of the Governor to declare a state of alert; created the offense of a terrorist threat or act and provided penalties for the offense; established the illegality of making false threats regarding exposure to harmful biological or chemical substances; and revised the authority of the State Health Officer.

“We are faced with threats today that seemed unthinkable a year ago,” said Musgrove. “It is important for us to have every possible scenario covered. This legislation offered a cohesive plan for state agencies to ensure the safety and security of the people of Mississippi.”

The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 52-0 on February 13.

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