

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact:** John Sewell

601-359-2916

## **Governor Musgrove Signs Legislation Providing Budget Flexibility For Bureau of Narcotics**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove signed House Bill 1294 today, removing restrictions on the ability of the director of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics to transfer funds within the department’s budget. Musgrove has said taxpayer dollars could be better managed if agency heads had more flexibility to manage their budgets.

“With greater flexibility in our state agencies, we are better able to serve the people of Mississippi during this time of national recession,” Musgrove said. “I appreciate the Legislature’s support of our efforts to help this happen by giving agency directors the authority to make budget decisions.”

On February 26, Musgrove signed three other bills (House Bills 1290, 1291, and 1292) providing greater flexibility for the directors of the State Tax Commission, the Veterans Affairs Board, and the Public Employees’ Retirement System.

“The best way we can meet our fiscal responsibility to the people of Mississippi is by giving fiscal responsibility to our own agency heads,” said Musgrove.

Frank Melton is director of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics. He was confirmed by the Senate on February 28, 2003.

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