

For Immediate Release

March 5, 2003

Contact: John Sewell

601-359-2916

Governor Musgrove Signs Legislation Authorizing Transfer of Delta Correctional Facility

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove signed House Bill 1415 today, officially authorizing the transfer of a portion of the Delta Correctional Facility to Leflore County. The legislation provides the county with space to house prisoners, and saves the county approximately \$5 million that would have been spent on the construction of a new facility. The Delta Correctional Facility was closed last fall as part of a cost-savings effort.

“The decision to close the Delta Correctional Facility was a tough one, but leadership is action, not position,” said Musgrove. “Part of leadership is making tough decisions, and I believe the right one was made in this case.”

Musgrove said the decision to close the prison was done to ensure the Department of Corrections was operated in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible, and stressed again the importance of budget flexibility for an agency head.

After the closure of the facility, Musgrove proposed the county use part of the facility for their own needs, rather than build a new jail. The conversion of the facility is expected to cost approximately \$1.6 million, as opposed to the estimated cost of \$6.5 million for a new facility.

“This issue demonstrates the good results that come with cooperation,” Musgrove said. “We succeed through cooperation, not conflict.”

###