

# **Governor Ronnie Musgrove's Agenda**

## **January 4, 2001**

### **Education**

- ❑ Provide funding for teacher pay raise, Mississippi Adequate Education Program, and Critical Teacher Shortage Act;
- ❑ Eliminate the 5% growth rate requirement for teacher pay raise;
- ❑ Secure funding for continued implementation of Classroom Technology Project;
- ❑ Require appointed local Superintendents of Education;
- ❑ Authorize leave for parents participating in parent-teacher conferences; and
- ❑ Settle the Ayers Case.

### **Economic Development**

- ❑ Maintain funding for Mississippi Development Authority economic and expansion efforts;
- ❑ Establish a Mississippi Technology Center, a tier-one commercial data center for e-businesses start-ups and transactions;
- ❑ Establish an e-Government Advisory Board\*;
- ❑ Authorize appropriations for e-Government implementation;
- ❑ Announce appointments of the Land, Water, and Timber Resources Board\*;
- ❑ Acquire World Trade Center status\*; and
- ❑ Host Governor's Trade Conference\*.

### **Health Care**

- ❑ Reauthorize Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) until 2004;
- ❑ Secure additional funding for state health insurance and improve the options for our employees;
- ❑ Secure funding for breast and cervical cancer research;
- ❑ Reauthorize the Infant Mortality Task Force;
- ❑ Continue funding for Medical Education Scholarships; and
- ❑ Enhance Mississippi Patient Protection Act of 1995.

### **Conservation & Environment**

- ❑ Strengthen and reauthorize the "Mississippi Individual On-Site Wastewater Disposal System Law"; and
- ❑ Establish "Smart Growth" Commission to review growth issues for rural and urban Mississippi\*.

### **Public Safety**

- ❑ Reduce the blood alcohol limit to .08 BAC;
- ❑ Make seat belt violation a primary offense
- ❑ Obtain funding for the Municipal Crime Prevention Program; and
- ❑ Expand Mississippi Emergency Management Agency's funding for civil defense.

## **Housing**

- ❑ Seek feasibility study for Governor's "Homes for Seniors" Program\*.

## **Other**

- ❑ Establish Community Service Leave for public employees; and
- ❑ Open Mississippi's Washington D.C. office\*.

\*Does not require legislative action.

# Mississippi's Achievements in 2000

## Education

- ✓ Raised teacher pay in Mississippi to the Southeastern average;
- ✓ Established Classroom Technology Task Force;
- ✓ Launched Fast Forward Mississippi ([www.fastforwardms.com](http://www.fastforwardms.com)) website; and
- ✓ Improved school accountability.

## Economic Development

- ✓ Authorized multi-year workforce training;
- ✓ Created the Advantage Mississippi Initiative (Mississippi's new economic development strategy);
- ✓ Recruited Nissan North America, Inc., to Mississippi;
- ✓ Selected as one of ten states to participate in the National Governors Association's Entrepreneurial Policy Academy; and
- ✓ Established e-Government Commission and plan for implementation.

## Health Care

- ✓ Increased enrollment in Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) from 500 to more than 24,000;
- ✓ Created Medical Education Scholarship Program; and
- ✓ Approved licensing of Physicians Assistants.

## Public Safety

- ✓ Revised Schedules II, III and IV for controlled substances;
- ✓ Enhanced the penalty for methamphetamine precursor violation when in possession of a weapon;
- ✓ Strengthened the Mississippi National Guard and stabilized membership, focusing on recruitment, retention, and preparation;
- ✓ Brought the Department of Corrections into compliance with prison overcrowding court order;
- ✓ Established 11 new county emergency management agencies to ensure that our communities are prepared for disasters;
- ✓ Launched a Department of Public Safety web site to provide information about individuals convicted of sex crimes in Mississippi;
- ✓ Took 25 drug "king pins" off of Mississippi streets and out of local communities by Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics and local law enforcement;

- ✓ Graduated 52 new Correctional Officers; and
- ✓ Graduated 57 new Mississippi Highway Patrol Officers.

## **Housing**

- ✓ Reorganized Mississippi Home Corporation; and
- ✓ Refocused Mississippi HOME Program.