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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

PSC Offers Advice for Hiring Limousines and Other Passenger Carriers

Atlanta, April 5, 2012 – Prom and graduation season is here again and the Georgia Public Service Commission offers some helpful advice for Georgians who may be hiring passenger carriers for these events.

Be aware of illegal companies. Under Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §§ 46-7-2, 46-7-3, 46-7-85.3, 46-7-85.4 and 46-7-12) all passenger carrier companies that fall under the Commission's authority and operate within the state are required to be registered and have proof of insurance on file with the Commission. A list of the licensed companies can be found on the Commission's website:

(For limo companies) <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/transportation/limodata.asp>

(For bus companies) <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/transportation/BusCompanyData.asp>

“We want to make sure parents and their children do not become victims of illegal and unscrupulous chauffeurs,” said Commission Chairman Tim Echols. “Check out our web site and make sure the company you are considering is listed as certified and vetted by the Commission.”

Chauffeurs who drive for licensed limousine carriers are required to have permits which are only issued to drivers that work for limousine companies approved by the Commission and who have successfully completed a criminal history investigation from the Georgia Department of Driver Services. All passenger carriers that fall under the Commission's authority are also required to obtain from the Georgia Department of Revenue an intrastate registration permit and vehicle ID stamps.

When making your reservations always get a written confirmation. As a reminder, contact the company a few days prior to the scheduled event to confirm the arrangements. Remember that the Commission no longer regulates the rates charged by limousine companies so shop around for the most competitive price and confirm that price to avoid last minute surprises.

Parents should be aware that under state law limousine companies are allowed to sell alcoholic beverages only if they have been issued a permit to sell alcoholic beverages from the Georgia Department of Revenue. However, limousine companies must obey all applicable local and state laws including prohibitions on serving alcoholic beverages to underage minors. Any violations should be reported to local police and the Georgia Department of Revenue.

If consumers need more information about passenger carriers or if you have a complaint about service issues, contact the Commission's Transportation Unit at 404-656-4501 or toll free outside metro Atlanta 1-800-282-5813.

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