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PRESS RELEASE

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Commissioner Stan Wise announced today that BellSouth and AT&T have reached an agreement that will result in long distance savings of \$19 million a year for Georgia consumers and businesses.

Under the agreement, BellSouth will reduce its "access charges," the fees it collects from AT&T and other companies for originating and completing long distance calls. The access charge reductions will result in lower long distance charges from long distance providers. This agreement covers access charges for calls made within the state of Georgia.

"I'm very pleased that BellSouth and AT&T have been willing to work with me to lower the phone bills of Georgia consumers and businesses," Wise said. "With the cooperation of BellSouth and AT&T, the PSC is working to make telephone service more affordable for every customer in Georgia."

As of July 1, 2001, Georgia will have among the lowest regional Bell operating company access rates in the nation.