



Contact: Bill Edge
Phone 404-656-2316
Fax 404-656-3020
E-mail: bille@psc.state.ga.us

Georgia Public Service Commission

244 Washington St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Phone: 404-656-4501
Toll free: 800-282-5813

News Release

PSC Approves AT&T To Continue As Telecommunications Relay Service Provider

ATLANTA, October 1, 2002 – The Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC or Commission) today unanimously awarded AT&T a three-year renewal of its contract as the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) provider beginning April 1, 2003. The TRS allows deaf, hard of hearing or speech disabled Georgians to communicate by telephone using a text telephone (TDD/TTY). Commission Chairman David L. Burgess said, “AT&T has a good 12-year track record of providing this service to the citizens of Georgia. I am confident they will continue to provide this essential service to the hearing and speech impaired citizens of our state.”

The Commission considered bids from AT&T, Hamilton Telecommunications of Aurora, Nebraska, and Sprint. The current contract with AT&T expires on March 31, 2003. AT&T currently provides TRS services in 12 states.

The service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and enables people to place relay calls between Georgia and other locations anywhere in the United States and internationally to English-speaking persons.

The Commission administers the TRS that became operational in 1991. Pursuant to a Commission order, local telephone companies in Georgia collect a surcharge from their customers to fund the service. Currently, the surcharge amount is \$0.15 per access line per month.

Callers with regular hearing abilities who wish to reach people who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech disabled may dial 1-800-255-0135 to use TRS. Text telephone users may dial 1-800-255-0056 to use the service. In addition, a person may call the Georgia Relay Service from inside the state simply by dialing 7-1-1. There will be no charge for dialing 7-1-1, and all options available to Georgia TRS users through existing 800 numbers will be available to 7-1-1 users.

###
