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News Release

Public Service Commission Assumes New Responsibilities from Department of Motor Vehicle Safety

Atlanta, June 27, 2005 – Effective July 1, 2005, The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) will assume responsibility for certification and enforcement of regulations for household goods movers, luxury limousine carriers, buses, motor carriers and non-consensual towing. House Bill 501, approved during the 2005 General Assembly, transfers several certification and enforcement functions performed by the current Department of Motor Vehicle Safety (DMVS) to other state agencies including the Public Service Commission. The legislation creates the Department of Driver's Services to handle the issuance of driver's licenses.

Under H.B. 501, the Commission will assume the following regulatory activities in connection with household goods movers, limousine carriers, bus carriers, motor carriers and non-consensual towing:

- Issue permits and certificates
- Investigate consumer complaints.
- Conduct audits to ensure compliance and quality.
- Provide tariff training.
- Take action against illegal operators.
- Provide the public with information via telephone or website, (example Consumer Service Report Card).
- Ensure that carriers maintain proper insurance coverage.

Under current Georgia law, all limousine companies are required to be registered and have proof of insurance on file with the Commission. Licensed limousine carriers operate under a maximum tariff and rates are negotiable. Chauffeurs who drive for licensed carriers are required to have permits which the Department of Driver's Services issues only after the successful completion of a criminal history investigation.

The legislation provides that the employees at DMVS currently handling these functions will be transferred to the Commission.

More information is available on the Commission website, www.psc.state.ga.us.