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## **Georgia Public Service Commission**

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### **News Release**

#### **PSC Approves Waivers to Assist Hurricane Katrina Evacuees**

Atlanta, September 20, 2005 -- The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today approved two measures which will assist Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Georgia to establish telephone service and receive low-income discounts under the Lifeline Assistance and Link-Up Georgia programs.

The first measure will allow BellSouth to waive all installation charges for a 90-day period for evacuees of Hurricane Katrina who have settled in Georgia and want to establish telephone service.

The second measure amends the eligibility requirements for the Lifeline Assistance and the Link-Up program to include evacuees from the Gulf Region who received or are receiving assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the American Red Cross or the Salvation Army. Lifeline Assistance provides up to a \$13.50 credit (a federal credit of \$10 and an additional credit of \$3.50 from BellSouth) on qualified residential customers' bills in BellSouth's service area. Customers in other telephone companies' service areas receive the \$10 federal credit. Link-Up Georgia reduces the cost of having a telephone installed. You are eligible to receive one-half of the connection charge or \$30, whichever is lesser, off the cost of having a telephone installed. However, BellSouth credits 100% of the connection charges for its eligible Link-Up customers.

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