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## **Georgia Public Service Commission**

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### **News Release**

#### **PSC Approves New Audible Universal Information Access Service Provider**

Atlanta, March 24, 2006 – The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) has approved a provider for the Audible Universal Information Access Service (AUIAS) which will be operational on June 1, 2006. The AUIAS is an automated service that allows blind and “print disabled” persons, through the use of the telephone, to access a range of print media. Selected print media is then ready to the caller by synthetic speech, over which the caller has a range of control.

The Commission selected the National Federation of the Blind as the AUIAS provider for the three-year period June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2009.

The Georgia General Assembly approved House Bill 669 in the 2005 session which gives the Commission the responsibility for establishing, implementing, administering and promoting a state-wide Audible Universal Information Access Service. HB 669 required the AUIAS to be operational no later than July 1, 2006.

HB 669 also provides that the AUIAS will be funded by the Telecommunications Relay Service monthly surcharge on local telephone company subscribers' monthly bills. This surcharge is presently \$0.10 per access line per month. Creation of the AUIAS will not require this surcharge to be increased.

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