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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

Governor Proclaims September 12-18, 2010 as Lifeline/Linkup Week in Georgia

ATLANTA, August 23, 2010 – Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue has proclaimed September 12-18, 2010 as Lifeline/Linkup Week in Georgia. Lifeline provides a monthly credit of up to \$10 off your monthly local service telephone bill (AT&T gives a \$13.50 monthly credit) while Link-Up assists with paying up to 50% of installation costs, not to exceed \$30 (AT&T pays 100% of installation costs).

“I am pleased that the Governor recognizes the importance of all Georgians staying connected to local resources and emergency services that can improve and possibly save many lives,” said Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, Jr., Chairman of the Georgia Public Service Commission. “Access to local emergency services and community resources is vital to our low-income and elderly residents. The Commission wants residents to “stay connected” and is reaching out to those who need phone service but can’t afford it,” McDonald added.

“We know there are many consumers who qualify for this credit but who are not participating,” McDonald said. “We want to get the word out about this valuable program.”

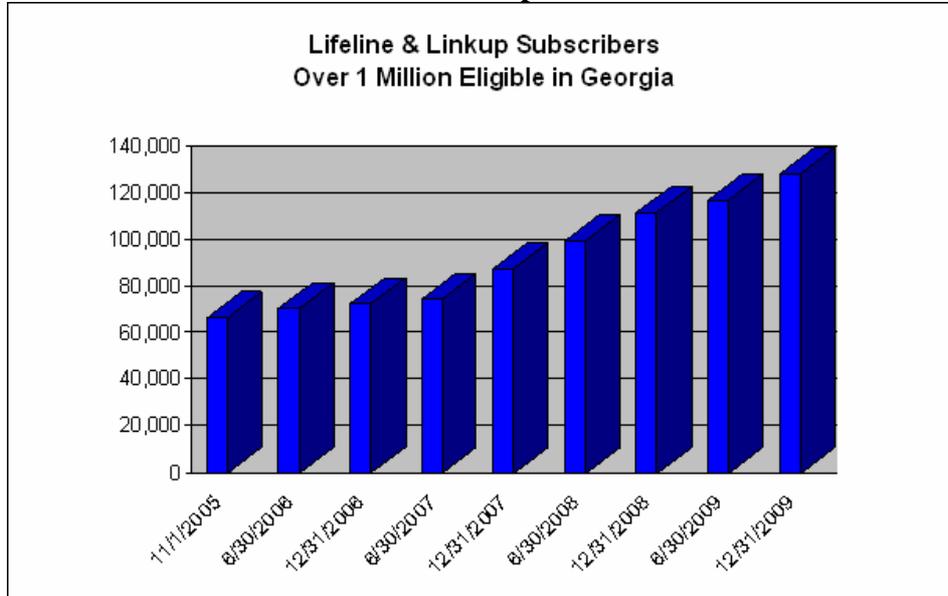
Joining the Governor for the proclamation signing ceremony in the Governor’s Office were Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner H. Doug Everett, Commission Consumer Affairs Director Mike Nantz, Commission Consumer Affairs Assistant to the Director for Education Claudette Willingham, Commission Public Information Officer Bill Edge and John Silk with the Georgia Telephone Association.

As of December 30, 2009, there are 128,259 Georgians who are receiving this credit. While this number represents a 28 percent increase over the past two years, there are thousands more who could qualify but are not signed up. In fact over one million Georgians may be eligible to take advantage of this benefit.

In order to qualify for these programs, one must be a participant in any one of the following programs: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TNAF), Food Stamps, senior citizens discount from power or gas company, SSI, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, or Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Consumers should contact their prospective or current telephone service provider to find out if they offer Lifeline/Link-up credits and if so, to file an application to receive Lifeline or Link-Up assistance. They may apply the discount towards either your home phone or your cell phone service.

Growth in Lifeline and Link-Up Subscribers since 2005



For more information, visit the Commission web site at www.psc.state.ga.us. The news release and photograph of the proclamation signing are available at <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/newsinfo/releases/release.asp>

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