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NEWS RELEASE

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From the Office of Commissioner Tim Echols

Commissioner Tim Echols Announces Sting on “Rogue” Movers in Georgia

ATLANTA, March 11, 2011 –Commissioner Tim Echols said today marks the first day of what he hopes will be the first of many joint sting operations between the Georgia Public Service Commission and the Georgia Department of Public Safety. At approximately 10:30 a.m. today in the Polo Fields Subdivision in Cumming, Georgia, “Let’s Move It”, a “rogue” moving company unregistered with the Commission began loading the household goods of a local homeowner onto a rented cargo truck. State law and Commission rules require all household goods movers operating in Georgia to register with the Commission, provide cargo liability insurance, medical certificates for all drivers and to keep their rates within the confines of Commission approved tariffs.

After stopping the truck, Department of Public Safety officers discovered two moving helpers faced outstanding criminal warrants. Officers arrested these employees and took them to jail. They also cited driver of the vehicle cited for failure to have a medical certificate as required by law and cited a fourth employee for having a fraudulent Department of Driver’s Services identification card. Officers summoned the company owner to the scene and issued him a citation for failing to register his company with the Commission as required by law. He faces a possible \$1,000 fine and/or 12 months in jail on the criminal citation. In addition, the Commission may levy up to a \$5,000 fine for civil charges.

“Under no circumstances should Georgia consumers hire movers not registered with the Georgia Public Service Commission,” said Echols. “As the case today proves, you not only put your worldly possession at risk by using a rogue mover, but you put your family’s safety at risk by exposing them to the criminal elements thumbing their nose at the law.” Echols said he is putting all rogue household goods movers, limousine companies, and charter bus companies and non-consensual towing companies on notice that the Public Service Commission will not tolerate the unscrupulous exploitation of Georgia consumers. “Georgia consumers should always check the Public Service Commission web site before hiring a household goods moving company, a limousine company, a charter bus company or a non-consensual towing service,” said Echols.

Unfortunately for the family involved in today’s moving incident they were left to unload all of their possessions themselves from the cargo truck rented by the moving company following the arrest of all the company employees.

The specific violations include a criminal misdemeanor charge of O.C.G.A. § 46-7-3 and 46-7-39 for failure to have a Commission certificate. The company will also face civil violations before the

Commission under O.C.G.A. §46-2-90 and 46-2-91. The criminal charge will be in the form of a Uniform Traffic Citation in the State Court of Forsyth County and carries a maximum fine of \$1,000 and/or 12 months in jail.

For more information on the Commission, visit our web site at www.psc.state.ga.us.

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