

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALABAMA JOINS IN NATIONAL INVESTOR EDUCATION INITIATIVE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (April 7, 2005) – Joseph Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission, announced today that representatives from the Securities Commission are taking part in a national grass-roots investor education campaign this month, to help provide investors with the information they need to make wise financial decisions and protect themselves from financial fraud.

The month-long investor education campaign, the Facts on Saving and Investing Campaign, began as a joint effort of state and Canadian provincial securities regulators about 7 years ago.

Borg said, “We are pleased once again to partner with the Alabama Jump\$tart Coalition to visit schools, participate in media events and to generate an awareness in all citizens of Alabama to learn and apply proven savings and investment strategies. Effective management of income and assets will have a major impact on the quality of life today and tomorrow. Also, the Commission and the Alabama Jump\$tart Coalition are proud to provide a vast array of professionally produced educational materials, all are free of charge.”

“With interest rates still low, a recovering stock market, longer life expectancies and the uncertain future of Social Security, smart planning for retirement is more vital than ever,” said Borg. “We are now a nation of over 85 million investors. Financial education has never been more important. Investors need to understand the basics of saving and investing, know how to check out an investment or salesperson and how to protect themselves against possible fraud.”

“It is never too early, or too late, to start saving and investing for your future” said Borg, whose staff is available to visit high schools, make presentations to all types of organizations representing a wide cross-section of Alabama citizens, and conduct news media interviews this April. All of these activities occur year round to educate Alabamians about topics like investing, credit and fraud prevention. “Making smart financial choices – from using credit wisely to saving for retirement and avoiding fraud – is the best way to ensure you can meet your financial goals,” says Borg.

On April 15th Hon. Governor Riley of Alabama will hold a proclamation signing ceremony to help promote the Facts on Saving and Investment Campaign. His approved proclamation reads as follows:

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Proclamation by the Governor of Alabama:

WHEREAS, saving and investing are essential to the financial stability of all the citizens of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's citizens should make well-informed, educated decisions about where and how they invest their personal income; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Securities Commission and the Alabama JumpStart Coalition seeks to heighten Alabama consumers' awareness of the basics of investing and the importance of investigating individual securities, and the companies and brokers who sell them, before investing; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Securities Commission and Alabama JumpStart Coalition will be encouraging and educating citizens of Alabama to become better informed investors, and save and invest to prepare toward retirement, along with the associated benefits and risks; and

WHEREAS, it is everyone's responsibility to learn the facts of investing, especially with easy access to investment opportunities including global markets and investments through the internet; take charge of their money; realize the importance of saving towards their family's future; and understand that it is never too late to invest; and

WHEREAS, during Facts on Saving and Investing Campaign Month, securities regulators, state and federal agencies, industry and consumer groups, the media, and the financial industry will join together to conduct educational events through the media and in communities and schools to illustrate the importance of personal financial ownership;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Riley, Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2005 as

Facts on Saving and Investing Campaign Month

For more information about the JumpStart Coalition contact the Commission's Education and Public Affairs Division or visit the ASC website at www.asc.state.al.us and check out the JumpStart site through the "Helpful Websites for Investors" section.

The Alabama Securities Commission enforces Alabama securities laws, licenses/registers brokers, firms, and securities products, provides background reports on financial professionals and promotes grass-roots investor education programs.

Potential investors can contact the Alabama Securities Commission for inquiries regarding securities broker-dealers, agents, investment advisors, investment advisor representatives, financial planners, the registration status of securities, to report suspected fraud, or obtain consumer information:

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If you have questions or require more information contact:

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