

Siegelman Signs Taxpayer Advocate Bill

Montgomery, April 18, 2000—Gov. Don Siegelman today signed the Taxpayer Advocate Bill (SB22), which will assign to each taxpayer an advocate, who will have the authority to set aside wrongfully assessed tax liability and to correct such errors without requiring the individual taxpayer to pay or do anything.

“As I said in my State of the State address, we’re going to hold state government accountable,” Siegelman said. “The people of Alabama expect and should demand that the services provided by their tax dollars are used effectively and efficiently.

“They also have a right to expect the state to respond as quickly to them as they are expected to respond to the state.

“Taxpayers also should expect and demand that the state agencies assist in correcting any problems or errors that impact them as tax paying citizens.”

The new law specifically gives the advocate the authority to waive a penalty for reasonable cause, issue taxpayer assistance, grant a refund that is due to the taxpayer but was denied in error and grant relief when a tax erroneously assessed or reported is determined not to be due.

The bill was sponsored by Sen. Tom Butler and Rep. Perry Hooper.

(Issued by Gov. Don Siegelman’s Press Office, April 18, 2000)