

**South Carolina House of Representatives  
COVID-19 Employment, Workforce, and Business Recovery  
Committee**



**Findings and Recommendations  
August 6, 2020**

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Introduction.....	3
Committee Membership.....	3
Committee Meetings.....	3
Findings and Recommendations.....	4
Signature page.....	6

# **INTRODUCTION**

The goal of the COVID-19 Employment, Workforce, and Business Recovery Committee is to review existing statutes and regulations that have been identified as barriers or hindrances to the reemergence and revitalization of businesses and the state of South Carolina's workforce. Below is the Committee Membership, timeline of the Committee's activities and the Committee's final recommendations.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Committee Chairman Kirkman Finlay III (District 75)

Representative Beth E. Bernstein (District 78)

Representative Bart T. Blackwell (District 81)

Representative Paula Rawl Calhoon (District 87)

Representative William Scott Cogswell, Jr. (District 110)

Representative JA Moore (District 15)

Representative Shannon Smith Erickson (District 124)

Representative Kambrell Houston Garvin (District 77)

Representative Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr. (District 102)

Representative Annie E. McDaniel (District 41)

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **Wednesday, June 17, 2020**

- Member discussion, committee plans, and expectations for future meetings.

### **Wednesday, July 1, 2020**

The committee received testimony from the:

- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)
- South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW)

- South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS)

#### Thursday, July 16, 2020

The committee received testimony from the:

- South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance
- South Carolina Retail Association
- South Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association

#### Thursday, August 6, 2020

- Adoption of the committee's final report.

## **Findings and Recommendations**

### **COVID-19 Employment, Workforce, and Business Recovery Committee Findings and Recommendations:**

- Create a grant program to support small minority-owned businesses negatively impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Over 40% of small minority-owned businesses are not expecting to survive the coronavirus pandemic. This small-business grant program will provide grants to qualifying businesses to cover business-related expenses and loss of revenue due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Support the work of the South Carolina House of Representative's Covid-19 Liability Protection Review Committee to protect businesses from liability when they operate pursuant to established guidelines.
- The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce warns of a potential 300% rise in unemployment insurance liability to business owners in the coming fiscal years. The committee supports continued funding to the state's Unemployment Trust Fund.
- The committee supports legislation recognizing Covid-19 as a potential compensable injury allowing employees to be eligible for benefits under SC's Workers' Compensation laws.
- Support continued funding and infrastructure efforts to provide broadband access to rural communities that do not have access to basic internet service.
- Expand efforts to make child care facilities aware of their ability to expand their capacity and/or establish temporary locations to provide options to children displaced from their usual childcare facilities. Support a streamlined and expedited process for current licensed childcare facilities to expand capacity without a burdensome and lengthy re-licensure process.
- Create a study to review relevant statutes and regulations for establishing childcare services in an effort to expand affordable childcare options throughout the state and, specifically, rural communities.

- Continue support for public private partnerships to provide businesses, schools and childcare facilities options to acquire personal protective equipment.
- Multiple over air and social media campaigns by state agencies and private partnerships have been utilized and proven effective during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee recommends continuing these efforts including, but not limited to, the necessity that the public wear masks pursuant to established guidelines, options to secure PPE, grant availability to essential workers to offset childcare costs, funding available so that childcare facilities can offset costs of sanitization efforts and support the South Carolina Department of Agriculture's "Buy Local" campaign.
- The Cares Act allows EBT participants to purchase grocery items online but limits the consumer options to two national retailers. The Committee supports efforts to inform EBT users of these online options and recommends examining a process in which local retailers can accept EBT funds online as well as assist local retailers in navigating the application process to become an authorized retail option.
- Examine efforts to secure funds for culinary schools across the state as well as other tech schools and adult education centers who offer programs to retrain employees who are unable to return to their previous profession.
- The Committee supports DSS authorizing SC Voucher funds for school-age children who are completing remote, virtual or online instruction or school work while in child care.
- Recognizing the positive economic impact of retailers, restaurants, local breweries and brewpubs to the state's economy, the Committee recommends examining the necessity of certain restrictions on the issuance of alcohol licenses. Further, the committee recommends support for pending legislation that would allow curbside pickup of unopened beer and wine as well as legislation that would allow licensed delivery services to transport unopened beer and wine to a person's residence.
- The Committee recommends that the appropriate state agency house a "Business- Central Repository" where local retailer can easily access the multitude of local ordinances that continuously change affecting the business community.
- Examine and potentially contract with non-profit organizations that offer resources to assist businesses and strive to improve the public's overall well-being.
- Provide assistance and technical support to South Carolina small business owners in navigating the Small Business Administration loan process.

**Rep. Kirkman Finlay, III  
Chairman**

Rep. Beth E. Bernstein  
Rep. Bart T. Blackwell  
Rep. Paula Rawl Calhoon  
Rep. William Scott Cogswell, Jr.

Rep. Shannon Smith Erickson  
Rep. Kambrell Houston Garvin  
Rep. Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.  
Rep. Annie E. McDaniel  
Rep. JA Moore

**HOUSE COVID-19 EMPLOYMENT, WORKFORCE AND  
BUSINESS RECOVERY COMMITTEE**



**August 6, 2020**

**We, the members of the House COVID-19 Employment, Workforce, and Business Recovery Committee, respectfully submit this report to the Speaker of South Carolina House of Representatives, James H. "Jay" Lucas.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kirkman Finlay, III, Chairman**

**Rep. Beth E. Bernstein  
Rep. Bart T. Blackwell  
Rep. Paula Rawl Calhoon  
Rep. William Scott Cogswell, Jr.  
Rep. Shannon Smith Erickson  
Rep. Kambrell Houston Garvin  
Rep. Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.  
Rep. Annie E. McDaniel  
Rep. JA Moore**