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South Carolina House of Representatives

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Research Analyst/Auditor*

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Research Analyst*

Law Enforcement and Criminal Subcommittee

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Blatt Room 321

Archived Video Available

- I. Pursuant to House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 6.7, South Carolina ETV was allowed access for streaming the meeting. You may access an archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly's website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and clicking on *Committee Postings and Reports*, then under *House Standing Committees* click on *Legislative Oversight*. Then, click on *Video Archives* for a listing of archived videos for the Committee.

Attendance

- I. The Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Wooten on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, in Room 321 of the Blatt Building. All members are present for all or a portion of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires standing committees to prepare and make available to the public the minutes of committee meetings, but the minutes do not have to be verbatim accounts of meetings.
- II. Representative Magnuson makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the April 26, 2022, meeting. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. Magnuson's motion to approve the meeting minutes.	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. K. Johnson	✓		
Rep. McCravy	✓		
Rep. Magnuson	✓		
Rep. Wooten	✓		

Administration of Oath

- I. Chair Wooten reminds all others placed under oath at prior meetings that they remain under oath.
- II. Chair Wooten places the following agency personnel under oath:
 - a. David Jones, Assistant Attorney General (Opinions);
 - b. Dona Guffey, Assistant Deputy Attorney General (Tobacco); and
 - c. Keisha Brandyburg, Program Manager, Finance Department.

Discussion of Attorney General's Office

- I. Deputy Attorney General Barry Bernstein made brief remarks, including corrections to prior testimony about potential conflict of interest issues with the Crime Victim Services with Victim Advocacy Section.
- II. Assistant Attorney General Debbie Curtis made remarks about the Crime Victim Compensation Section.
- III. Assistant Attorney General David Jones made remarks about the Deputy Solicitor General Section.
- IV. Assistant Deputy Attorney General Dona Gufey made remarks about the Tobacco Section.

V. Subcommittee members ask questions relating to the following:

General

- a. Participation in legislative oversight process;

Crime Victim Compensation Section

- b. Vacancy in positions;
- c. Reimbursement for medical expenses to crime victims;
- d. Length of time to receive payment (including shortest and longest);
- e. Intake timeline;
- f. Review timeline;
- g. Number of review applications;
- h. Restitution process, notification, and stakeholder survey;
- i. Victim compensation online forms;
- j. Investment in technology;
- k. Garnishment of wages for restitution;

Solicitor General Section

- l. Indexing system for opinions;
- m. Public's access to opinions;
- n. "Requested by" section of each opinion on the websites;
- o. Topics on which opinions are requested;
- p. Agency's discretion not to answer requests for opinions;
- q. Unpublished advice;
- r. Speeches and press conferences about legal matters to help the public understand legal positions of the state;
- s. Examples of major litigation over the past five years;
- t. Discretion in filing amicus briefs;

Tobacco Section

- u. Enforcing provisions of the tobacco settlement agreement;
- v. National cigarette smoking rates;
- w. Restrictions on use of funds the state receives from settlement;
- x. Theory of liability in litigation;
- y. Agreement in perpetuity with state;
- z. Escrow accounts for non-participating cigarette manufacturers;
- aa. Associated criminal offenses;
- bb. Lawsuits filed in past five years;
- cc. Bankruptcy effects;
- dd. Vaping;

Adjournment

- I. There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned.