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Governor

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State of South Carolina

Department of Motor Vehicles

Friday, February 8, 2019

The Honorable William M. "Bill" Hixon
Post Office Box 11867
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Dear Representative Hixon,

Following the Wednesday, January 23, 2019, Legislative Oversight Subcommittee meeting, you and your fellow representatives asked three questions of the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV):

1. What is the fiscal impact of amending current SCDMV and State Election Commission (SEC) processes to allow for the automatic change of voter registration information when an elector changes his or her address online with the SCDMV?
2. How many SCDMV employees earn under the federal poverty limit?
3. Which courts do not comply with the electronic ticketing standards known as E-Citation?

Please allow this letter to answer each of your questions above.

Question 1

The SCDMV has been in communication with the SEC since the subcommittee asked this question. In order to link the SCDMV and SEC systems electronically, the SCDMV estimates four weeks of programming that affect the following items:

- Update webpage to allow the customer to opt-out of sending the address change to the SEC
- Web processing to set up the appropriate triggers to send the address change to the SEC
- Inquiry updates in Phoenix (SCDMV computer system) that shows the customer "opted out" of sending the address change to the SEC in order for the election poll workers to explain any discrepancies to the voter

The SCDMV programmers who would complete these changes are contractors making the direct cost to the agency \$14,400.

After a conversation with both agencies' General Counsel, and based on recent case law in other states, the SCDMV is required to transmit address changes to the SEC regardless of whether a customer makes that change online or in person. The SCDMV will begin working with the SEC to implement this in all of its required processes. The only exception to this requirement is if a customer chooses to opt out of the address transmission either on the paper application or via the online system.

With that said, the SCDMV is having continuous conceptual conversations with the SEC, so the end-to-end fiscal impact is yet to be fully calculated when including both SCDMV and potential SEC costs.

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Question 2

The US Department of Health and Human Services defines the 2019 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of four as a household earning \$25,750 or less a year. You can find this information here: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>.

The SCDMV has 451 current employees earning less than \$25,750. The General Assembly has authorized and funded an additional 36 positions at the same earnings level, but these are currently vacant. The SCDMV does not know how many of the 451 employees are the sole income earner in a household of at least four people.

The General Assembly has authorized the SCDMV 1,302 full-time positions but has funded 1,279. This means that 38% of the agency's funded positions earn below the \$25,750 threshold. According to the agency's Human Resources department, it would take at least \$785,000 (which includes fringe) to bring each of these positions up to \$25,750. This would equate to a 5.5% increase in funding. However, to ensure salary equity and prevent salary compression compared to other employees, the agency would likely need an additional \$200,000, bringing the total to \$985,000.

Question 3

The SCDMV's partnership with law enforcement and the judicial system has been an overarching success. The electronic submission of traffic tickets, or E-Citation, took effect January 1, 2018 and requires electronically reporting violations within five days of disposition to the SCDMV. The SCDMV then has five additional days to report the citation to jurisdictions outside of South Carolina. Since implementing E-Citation, the state has maintained a monthly compliance rate of between 68% and 92%. However, all parties can do more to ensure partner agencies are complying with the E-Citation requirement.

Since you posed this question, the SCDMV started investigating where lapses in E-Citation occur. Both court administration and law enforcement agencies can be better informed on the requirements set forth in state statute requiring them to dispose and submit traffic tickets electronically. The agency instructed courts to stop accepting tickets from law enforcement agencies written on paper versus electronically submitted. Courts should be pulling ticket information from SCUTTIES, or the South Carolina Uniform Traffic Ticket Information Exchange System, and then entering the disposition into a case management system. If courts are not receiving tickets via SCUTTIES, the court should contact the issuing law enforcement officer to tell him or her to electronically submit the ticket information for acceptance.

At the same time, the SCDMV will work with law enforcement agencies across the state that are not meeting compliance standards. The agency's plan is to contact each individual jurisdiction to let it know what citations have not been correctly entered into SCUTTIES, what resources are available to the jurisdiction to aid in the submission of tickets to SCUTTIES, and educate the jurisdiction on the importance of electronically submitting tickets.

Regards,


Kevin Shwedo

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