

**ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT  
OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008**

**Accountability Report Transmittal Form**

<b>Agency Name</b>	<b>Legislative Council of the South Carolina General Assembly</b>
<b>Date of Submission</b>	<b>September 8, 2008</b>
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## **Section I. Executive Summary**

### **1. Organization's stated purpose, mission, vision, and values:**

#### **(a) The Legislative Council's purpose and mission is fourfold:**

First, it provides research, reference, and bill drafting services to the General Assembly.

Second, it codifies the statutory laws of this State into various publications mandated by state law.

Third, it establishes and implements all procedures for carrying out the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act relating to the General Assembly review of regulations and the publication of the State Register.

Fourth, it maintains a legislative library which distributes over one thousand annual code of laws supplements to various public sector recipients upon their subscription and where the United States Code, and the acts and joint resolutions, Senate and House Journals, and various other books, publications, and documents are maintained.

(b) The mission statement of the Legislative Council is as follows: "To provide high quality bill drafting and legal services to the General Assembly and others on a timely basis in compliance with the highest ethical standards and to accurately publish enactments of the General Assembly in codified form for use by government, the courts, and general public."

#### **(c) The values of the Legislative Council include the following:**

(1) compliance with the highest ethical standards required by rule and by law and the performance of our duties with integrity and confidentiality;

(2) use of the highest degree of legal skill and professionalism combined with innovative ideas and solutions to members' requests and problems;

(3) respect for all employees in our office, and the members and staffs we serve, and respect for the institutions of which we are a part;

(4) performance of our work with pride where employees are justly rewarded for their efforts through material and nonmaterial means.

### **2. Major achievements from past year: The following are some major achievements from the past year.**

(a) Completion of major drafting assignments involving immigration, reform, PACT Test changes, and other matters that were the basis of proposals debated during the 2008 session of the General Assembly.

(b) Revision and update of a new State Register Drafting Manual as a result of changes to the State Administrative Procedures Act as contained in Act 104 of 2007. As a result of this effort and other outstanding efforts, the associate editor of the State Register, Ms. Deidre Smith, was honored as "State Employee of the Year" by the South Carolina State Employees Association.

(c) The employment of another editorial writer to help process the resolution requests of members of the General Assembly during the 2008 session to take this burden off our lawyers. This new editorial writer prepared and processed 335 resolutions during the 2008 session.

(d) The continuation of the project began six years ago when two volumes a year of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, were replaced with new volumes thereby reducing the lengthy cumulative supplements of those volumes resulting in a reduction in the annual code supplement cost.

(e) A substantial redirection of and training in areas of specialty for the professional staff of the Legislative Council to compensate for the activation of one attorney for the military operations in Iraq. This employee, however, will return in the fall of 2008. For example, law clerks and support staff have been given larger responsibilities to help meet bill drafting requirements. Also a doubling up of some staff assignments and a recruitment of retired employees to fill in during the legislative session has also helped keep production output on schedule.

(f) Joint efforts to streamline procedures have also been a major emphasis for the Legislative Council and other legislative entities serving the General Assembly this past year. Several examples of this include sharing scarce statehouse office space, joint coordination of required duties including proofreading and development of committee amendments and development of procedures where amendments and documents produced by this office or the Senate desk could be immediately accessed and modified if necessary when not produced by that entity. Previously, hard copies first had to be obtained and internal transfers then made while at the same time preserving confidentiality. Sometimes accessing these documents took too much time.

(g) Conduct of joint staff training with the staffs of the Senate and House of Representatives.

**3. Key strategic objectives for the present and future years:**

(1) to provide timely and quality research and bill drafting services to the members of the General Assembly and its standing committees;

(2) to timely compile and cause to have published and distributed the public statutes of the State of South Carolina including the South Carolina Code of Laws, annual cumulative supplements to the Code, revised volumes of the Code, annual advance sheets of statutes, and the annual Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly; and

(3) to timely and accurately receive, print, and distribute the regulations of state agencies required to be submitted to the General Assembly for its review under the Administrative Procedures Act and incorporate them in the State Register and the Code of State Regulations after they are adopted or take effect.

**4. Key strategic challenges:**

There are seven key strategic challenges for present and future years as follows:

(a) higher utilization of technology to offset personnel losses;

(b) complete accuracy in all print publications and legislative drafting;

(c) timely responses to all legislative requests;

(d) higher visibility in the community consistent with confidentiality rules;

(e) effective coordination with other parties with whom we work with particular emphasis on committee staffs;

- (f) comprehensive development of younger staff;
- (g) achievement of sufficient funding for the agency's mission.

5. **How the accountability report is used to improve organizational performance.**

The accountability report is used to improve organizational performance in a number of ways. For example, it is distributed or made available to all employees whose input is solicited regarding all duties and functions of the agency. A number of worthwhile suggestions have resulted from this practice. Secondly, the accountability report and especially the strategic goals stated therein are compared by the senior leaders of the agency against actual performance to determine where the agency succeeded or did not in all cases meet stated expectations. Improvements or corrective action are then made. Lastly, through the use of the Baldrige Criteria, input from our customers and stakeholders has been solicited (most recently through a survey asking if public sector recipients wanted to continue receiving annual code supplements) thereby improving the overall performance of the agency and a lowering of costs.

**SECTION II. Organizational Profile**

1. **Organization's main products and services and the primary methods by which these are delivered:**

The Legislative Council provides research, reference, library, and bill drafting services to the General Assembly and related public entities, codifies the statutory laws of this State into various publications mandated by state law and distributes these publications where required, and receives, prints, distributes, and publishes regulations of state agencies.

2. **Key customers groups and their and their key requirements/expectations:**

(a) Members and staffs of the General Assembly and other agencies of state government in the executive and judicial branches requiring bill drafting services upon referral by members of the General Assembly.

(b) Public sector and private sector recipients of the 1976 Code and State Register publications.

3. **Key stakeholder groups:** None other than customers referred to in item (2).

4. **Key suppliers and partners:**

Thomson West Publishing Company  
Xerox and Lanier Corporations  
State Budget and Control Board  
Legislative Printing, Information and Technology Systems (LPITS)

5. **Operation locations.** Suite 434 Dennis Building,  
1000 Assembly Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201  
and  
First and Second Floor, State House  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
6. **Number of Employees.** 38 (all unclassified)
7. **Regulatory environment.** Not applicable
8. **Performance improvement systems:**
- (1) Redesigning our bill drafting procedures to allocate more responsibility to support staff including law clerks, thereby saving attorney time due to not having a full staff of attorneys (one staff attorney is still activated for the Iraq conflict).
- (2) Working with other legislative agencies to consolidate certain functions we do jointly with them.
- (3) Writing each recipient of 1976 Code supplements, pursuant to authorization of the General Assembly, to inform them that they would now be required to reimburse us for our cost of securing these code supplements. This has substantially reduced our cost of the annual cumulative supplement and has eliminated the distribution of unnecessary supplement sets.
- (4) Continuing of the project began six years ago when two volumes a year of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, were replaced with new volumes thereby reducing the lengthy cumulative supplements of those volumes resulting in a reduction in the annual code supplement cost.
- (5) Discontinuance of the hard copy printed format of the South Carolina State Register to members of the General Assembly, officers, and employees of the State or state agencies, clerks of court, and county libraries. Instead, it became available electronically.
- (6) The conduct of joint staff training and continuing education projects with the staffs of the Senate and House of Representatives.
9. **Organizational Structure.** see attached.
10. **Appropriations/Expenditures Chart.** see attached
11. **Major Program Area Chart.** see attached

Section III. **Elements of Malcolm Baldrige Award Criteria**

Category 1. **Senior Leadership, Governance, and Social Responsibility:**

**The Leadership Category describes how your organization's senior leaders guide and sustain your organizational. It describes how senior leaders set direction, performance expectations and address values, as well as how they focus on measures and responsibilities to their community.**

**1. How do senior leaders set, deploy, and ensure two-way communication for: a) short and long term direction and organizational priorities, b) performance expectations, c) organizational values, d) empowerment and innovation, e) organizational and employee learning, and f) ethical behavior?**

**The direction of this agency is set by its five person governing board which consists of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary of State, and the Chairmen of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees. The Director of the Legislative Council executes the policies of the governing board in addition to supervising those functions required to be performed by state law. On a day-to-day basis during the legislative session, the agency rotates into its State House offices on a weekly basis alternate teams headed by the deputy director and chief counsel, respectively, who are empowered to make all necessary decisions, as would the director. The agency also has adopted a number of different procedures to ensure the timeliness and accuracy of its legislative drafting work product. These procedures reinforce the understanding of each employee as it relates to his role in this process. Each employee is authorized and expected to take whatever actions may be necessary on his own to correct any problems identified. As a small agency, communication is done through e-mails following through on the direction set.**

**2. How do senior leaders establish and promote a focus on customers and other stakeholders?**

**Senior leaders meet weekly on Monday during the legislative session to establish goals and work requirements for that week taking into account the needs and requests of the General Assembly to date. These are then reduced to writing and communicated to each employee on that Monday by e-mail.**

**3. How does the organization address the current and potential impact on the public of its products, programs, services, facilities, and operations, including associated risks?**

**Under our mandate we work only for the General Assembly and do not directly serve the general public.**

**4. How do senior leaders maintain fiscal, legal, and regulatory accountability?**

**Fiscal accountability is maintained through weekly and monthly reviews of expenditures and receipts to ensure accuracy and compliance with existing appropriations. Also, strong internal fiscal controls have been put into place to ensure proper accountability. Legal responsibility is met both by following and implementing outside communications received from the Human Resources Division of the Budget and Control Board and from other entities such as the standing committees and the Attorney General. We also develop our own procedures as**

required. For example, we modified a number of internal documents to reflect the new at-will employment provisions. This office does not have regulatory responsibilities.

5. What performance measures are regularly reviewed by your senior leaders?

Weekly bill introductions, internal work assignments per attorney and the age of each assignment, and weekly act ratifications. In the Code codification area, the number of errata sheets necessary per year to correct acts or printing mistakes. We also monitor the number and length of acts forwarded to the print publisher of the code since the annual Code supplement cost is determined in part by the number of pages in the supplement.

6. How do senior leaders use organizational performance, review findings and employee feedback to improve their own leadership effectiveness and the effectiveness of management throughout the organization? How do their personal actions reflect a commitment to the organizational values?

We get a lot of employee feedback and outside suggestions. Responses are given immediately and implemented where possible. These are then communicated throughout the agency. Hopefully senior leaders by their actions embody the organization's values.

7. How do senior leaders promote and personally participate in succession planning and the development of future organizational leaders?

Succession planning is not a matter for this agency but is a prerogative of the governing body of the Legislative Council consisting of five elected public officials. Development of future organizational leaders is a function of the agency and this development is done by identifying those future leaders and providing them with training and responsibilities suitable for their present assignments which will benefit them in future assignments.

8. How do senior leaders create an environment for performance improvement, accomplishment of strategic objectives and innovation?

Through employee communications and communications to our legislative leaders through procedures outlined above.

9. How do senior leaders create an environment for organizational and workforce learning?

Senior leaders communicate with, engage, and motivate our workforce in a number of ways. First, senior leaders lead by example. All senior leaders perform the same functions within their assigned areas as do other similarly situated employees. An example of this is senior leaders/attorneys perform daily and sessional bill drafting assignments as do other drafting attorneys. Secondly, through hands-on training and coordination sessions with all staff on a weekly basis during the annual sessions of the General Assembly and at other times when needed, an environment for workforce learning is achieved. Lastly, because of the joint participation in training and continuing education with the employees and

staff of the Senate and House of Representatives, workforce learning with our employees and for other employees is achieved.

10. How do senior leaders communicate with, engage, empower, and motivate the entire workforce throughout the organization? How do senior leaders take an active role in reward and recognition processes to reinforce high performance throughout the organization?

See answer to Question #9 above. In addition, senior leaders take an active role in reward and recognition processes to reinforce high performance. For example, our associate editor of the State Register was honored this year as State Employee of the Year and our deputy director attended the award functions and ceremony on a Saturday and made appropriate and highly complimentary remarks at this function to further recognize this employee.

11. How do senior leaders actively support and strengthen the communities in which your organization operates?

We are active in the community in a number of ways. By attendance of senior leaders at annual bar meetings, we have identified a desire on the part of a number of members of the bar for a new Code of Laws. Also, senior leaders participate in local and state meetings and conferences through service on panels, etc., where a lot of feedback is obtained. We have attorneys participating with joint committees of the House and Senate, and this assists in the development of new proposals. This is how we determine areas of emphasis.

## Category 2. Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Category describes your organization's strategy development process and how strategy and plans are deployed and performance is tracked.

1. What is your Strategic Planning process, including key participants:

(a) Organization's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats:

Our strategic planning process is developed annually by the Director and key staff and is submitted annually to the Chairman of the Legislative Council for his review and approval. It accounts for customer needs and expectations through oral and written interaction with and visits to members of the General Assembly and the staffs of the standing committees of the General Assembly. It addresses strengths and weaknesses identified by them.

(b) Financial, regulatory, societal and other potential risks?

Financial areas are monitored through close review of the monthly reports of the Board of Economic Advisors and what guidance is given to state agencies from the Budget Division of the State Budget and Control Board as well as other applicable entities. Societal concerns are monitored by the Director and senior leaders and communicated to staff. We have no regulatory responsibilities.

(c) Shifts in technology or the regulatory, societal, and other potential risks and customer preferences:



The regulatory environment is not applicable to this agency and shifts in technology are the responsibility of the agency providing our computer and information technology needs; specifically LPITS.

(d) **Workforce capabilities and needs:**

Human resource capabilities and needs are planned annually by the Director and key staff within the needs of the agency and within the appropriations made to the agency by the General Assembly.

(e) **Organizational continuity in emergencies.**

As a staff support agency to the General Assembly our business continuity in emergencies is a part of the overall emergency planning done by the General Assembly which we follow.

(f) **Ability to execute the strategic plan.**

Our strategic planning process affects the agency's ability to execute our strategic plan by allocating resources and management attention to the relevant data and information identified as important in the strategic plan.

(g) **Strategic Planning Chart - see attached**

**2. How do your strategic objectives address the strategic challenges identified in Executive Summary:**

Our strategic objectives address our strategic challenges in a number of ways. First, we are constantly coordinating with Legislative Printing, Information and Technology Systems (LPITS) to coordinate and upgrade our technology capabilities. For example, in the fall our computer system software will be upgraded to another system to improve efficiency and capability. Accuracy in our drafting and publication work continues to be improved through constant contact with our print vendors and with colleagues in other states to identify best practices. We just completed comparing print publications output with counterparts in the State of Indiana and further feedback from them will be obtained later this year. Timely responses to drafting requests is maintained through constant modifications of our BRASS system which is our database of all drafting requests. We keep high visibility in our areas of operation through the involvement or membership of various senior staff in organizations such as the Uniform Law Commission, the Deferred Compensation Commission, and the Constitutional Ballot Commission. Development of younger staff is ongoing but somewhat slowed by difficulties with the slowdown in state revenue collections; however, ongoing efforts to hire and train younger staff are being made.

**3. How do you develop and track action plans that address key strategic objectives and how do you allocate resources to ensure the accomplishment of your action plans?**

We develop plans to address our strategic objectives by a tracking system where we know at any one time how many bill requests we have pending for members of the General Assembly and then on a weekly basis we reallocate drafting assignments to meet these requests. In our code codification responsibilities, we determine on an annual basis the code subscriptions we have and our cost of

providing these subscriptions and adjust our inventory accordingly and our pricing to meet this demand within the funds we have available.

4. How do you communicate and deploy your strategic objectives, action plans, and related performance measures?

Our strategic objectives, action plans, and related performance measures are communicated within the agency to employees in a series of weekly and monthly meetings to review this progress and make necessary adjustments. Externally, the agency's strategic objectives and plans are available through the General Assembly's Internet homepage ([www.scstatehouse.net](http://www.scstatehouse.net))

5. How do you measure progress on your action plans?

Progress is measured on the action plans by the number of days it takes to process bill requests and whether or not we have sufficient staff to meet these requests. If we do not have sufficient staff during a particular session or for a particular request (like property tax reform), we attempt internally through reallocation of funds or externally through requesting additional appropriations to generate additional resources the next session to handle these problems.

6. How do you evaluate and improve your strategic planning process?

As stated in item 5 above, our strategic planning process is evaluated and improved by senior management during and after the legislative session to meet the difficulties encountered during that session. In addition, the five members of the Legislative Council provide constant input as to the process and procedures we need to follow to meet these challenges.

7. If the agency's strategic plan is available to the public through the agency's Internet homepage, please provide a website address for that plan. The agency's action plans are not on the Internet because we do not have a homepage but are shown here as follows:

**Strategic Objective (1)**

Provide qualify research, reference, and bill drafting services to the General Assembly.

**Action Plan**

(1) In November of each year, including those years in which a new General Assembly is elected in even-numbered years, prepare files for each member and solicit their bill drafting requests.

(2) Prepare and prefile if requested bill requests of members of the General Assembly until January.

(3) Begin annual legislative session on second Tuesday in January of each year.

(4) Perform research, reference, and bill drafting services for General Assembly until its sine die adjournment date which generally occurs in June of that year.

(5) After the end of the fiscal year on June 30, determine staffing and financial needs to accomplish this strategic objective for the next annual session.

(6) Submit beginning in August next budget and other requests and reports based on needs for the next annual session and fiscal year.

(7) Perform research and bill drafting requests as required during the legislative interim until the next prefilng period beginning November.

(8) Begin prefilng process again in November for the next session's bill requirements (the General Assembly at this point is a continuing body with no intervening elections if it is an odd-numbered year).

(9) Begin next legislative session the following January.

#### Strategic Objective (2)

Timely edit, publish, and distribute annual supplement to the Code of laws of South Carolina, 1976, and related publications.

#### Action Plan

(1) Annually negotiate and renew printing contract for code supplement with the third party publisher of the code supplement, Thomson-West Publishing Company, by December thirty-first of each year.

(2) Transmit to Thomson-West beginning in January of each year on an approximately monthly or bimonthly basis advance sheets (copies) of acts enacted by the General Assembly during that legislative session.

(3) The code supplement team of our office headed by the code codification editor coordinates with her counterpart editor at Thomson-West (also an attorney) to resolve all editorial conflicts in the acts of the General Assembly for that session by September of each year.

(4) Receive CD in December of each year from Thomson-West containing all acts since 1976 merged into one tape from which Legislative Printing, Information and Technology Systems (LPITS) prepares the computer database of the current version of the Code of Laws for placement on the legislative website and for use by the legislative branch during the next session of the General Assembly.

(5) Receive and distribute annual code supplements to public sector recipients entitled to or requesting them from the agency librarian beginning in January of the following year.

(6) Billing by librarian of those public sector recipients receiving supplements of their cost of the supplements based on contractual charges to Thomson-West required to be paid.

(7) Deposit billing receipts in special restricted account which together with appropriated state general funds will be used to pay Thomson-West the required contractual price.

(8) Begin process again for the next year's acts and code supplement.

#### Strategic Objective (3)

Timely and accurately prepare the monthly edition of the State Register and monitor and submit regulations to the General Assembly as required by the Administrative Procedures Act.

### **Action Plan**

(1) Publish the South Carolina State Register on a monthly basis on the fourth Friday of each month.

(2) Changes in regulations, whether by adoption, amendment, repeal or an emergency action must be published in the State Register pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act. All documents published in the State Register are drafted by state agencies.

(3) Publishing the State Register includes compiling, editing and formatting the following documents:

(a) Notices are considered by the agency to have general public interest.

(b) Notices of drafting regulations allow the public an opportunity to comment on agency proposals during the initial drafting period before regulations are submitted as proposed. These regulations must include a statutory authority, notice of drafting, and synopsis.

(c) Proposed regulations are those regulations pending permanent adoption by an agency. These regulations must include a statutory authority, preamble, notice of public hearing and opportunity for public comment, preliminary fiscal impact statement, statement of need and reasonableness, statement of rationale, summary of preliminary assessment report (only if an assessment report was requested by two members of the General Assembly during the drafting comment period), and full text.

(d) Pending regulations submitted to the General Assembly are regulations adopted by the agency pending approval by the General Assembly. These regulations must include a statutory authority, synopsis, instructions, full text, fiscal impact statement, statement of rationale, and a final assessment summary report (only if an assessment report was requested by two members of the General Assembly during the drafting comment period).

(e) Final regulations are regulations adopted by the agency and approved by the General Assembly, or by the one hundred-twenty day automatic approval process. These regulations must include the same items as the pending regulations submitted to the General Assembly.

(f) Final regulations exempt from General Assembly review are adopted by the agency to comply with federal law and are exempt from legislative review. These regulations must include a statutory authority, synopsis, instructions, and full text.

(g) Emergency regulations are adopted on an emergency basis by the agency and effective upon filing for ninety days. They are renewable for an additional ninety days if the original filing begins and ends during the legislative interim. These regulations must include a statutory authority, emergency situation and full text. If the agency refiles a regulation for an additional ninety days, it must include a statutory authority, emergency situation, final assessment report summary (only if an assessment report was requested by two members of the General Assembly), full text, and a statement of need and reasonableness.

(h) Executive Orders are actions issued and taken by the Governor.

(4) After monthly publication, State Register file copies must be prepared for South Carolina Department of Archives and History and South Carolina Legislative Council.

(5) During the General Assembly's legislative session, the following actions must also be taken as required:

(a) Maintaining the pending list for regulations submitted to the general assembly and the committee list of regulations submitted to the General Assembly;

(b) Preparing joint resolutions to approve and disapprove a regulation.

(6) Lastly, preparing the billing for State Register subscriptions and maintaining and updating the subscription database is required to be performed as needed, generally on a quarterly basis.

### Category 3. Customer Focus

The Customer Focus Category describes how your organization identifies its customers and their requirements and the continued relevance of these requirements. Also examined is how your organization builds relationships with customers and determines their satisfaction.

1. How do you determine who your customers are and what are their key requirements?

Our customers are determined by the statutory provisions of law and our customers' key requirements are determined through daily and session interaction with them.

2. How do you keep your listening and learning methods current with changing customer/business needs and expectations?

Our listening and learning methods are kept current with changing customer and business needs through a monitoring of these needs through electronic, written correspondence, and face-to-face means. Generally, this happens face to face with members of the General Assembly.

3. What are your key customer access mechanisms, and how do these access mechanisms enable customers to seek information, conduct business, and make complaints?

Our customers are members of the General Assembly and their staffs and we are readily available to them in person at the State House, by phone, and also electronically. The provisions of information to them and feedback and occasional complaints from them is not a problem because we get this feedback daily during the legislative session.

**4. How do you measure customer/stakeholder satisfaction and dissatisfaction, and use this information to improve?**

**Customer/stakeholder satisfaction and dissatisfaction is measured through solicited comments and surveys and is gauged accordingly.**

**5. How do you use information and feedback from customers/stakeholders to keep services or programs relevant and provide for continuous improvement?**

**Information to customers and stakeholders to improve services or programs is incorporated into the agency's procedures, products, or services to provide the best possible legal products and services. We meet at least monthly with Thomson West representative for South Carolina to go over needs, requirements, and results.**

**Additionally, we receive a number of inquiries from the bench and bar and constituent groups regarding various questions about the provisions of South Carolina law. As a result of some of these inquiries, we developed and made available on the Internet the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, for general public use. Finally, we interact daily with members of the General Assembly and this helps us keep in touch with their needs.**

**6. How do you build positive relationships with customers and stakeholders? Indicate any key distinctions between different customer groups.**

**Positive relationships with customers and stakeholders are built through daily and session interaction with them in the case of the General Assembly, and by written and electronic correspondence with public sector and private sector publication recipients. The agency has two state customer groups broadly grouped as the General Assembly and secondly public sector publication recipients.**

#### **Category 4. Measurement, Analysis, and Knowledge Management**

**The Measurement, Analysis, and Knowledge Management category describes your organization's performance measurement system and how your organization selects, aggregates, and analyzes performance data and information. It also describes how the organization manages, transfers, and maintains the accumulated knowledge possessed by its employees in the form of information, ideas, learning, and understanding, memory, insights, work skills, and capabilities.**

**1. How do you decide which operations, processes and systems to measure for tracking financial and operational performance, including progress relative to strategic objectives and action plans?**

**As agency operations, processes, and systems are limited to providing legal and research services for the General Assembly and the dissemination of publications, all operations, processes, and systems are measured, and it is not necessary to decide which to measure.**

**2. How do you select, collect, align, and integrate data/information for analysis to provide effective support for decision and innovation throughout your organization?**

**Data/information analysis is used to provide effective support for decision-making primarily in the areas of business and finance management through comparative analysis with internal and external sources. Data is generally not relevant in bill drafting other than for staffing needs. We are the lawyers for the General Assembly along with others and not basically managers of data or programs.**

**3. What are your key measures, how do you review them, and how do you keep them current with organizational needs and direction? Our key measures are:**

- (a) number of bills drafted and introduced;**
- (b) backlog of requests;**
- (c) corrections required;**
- (d) staff required to produce bills;**
- (e) ratifications enacted**
- (f) length of publications required containing laws enacted.**

**They are revised daily and at the end of the session to ensure timeliness.**

**4. How do you select and use key comparative data and information to support operational and strategic decision-making and innovation?**

**Comparative data and information are selected and used essentially through the acquisition of comparative data and information from other sources in the agency's bill drafting operations (from what other states have done or model legislation) and then used to develop appropriate legislative proposals for South Carolina.**

**5. How do you ensure data integrity, timeliness, accuracy, security, and availability for decision-making?**

**Data integrity, reliability, completeness, and availability for decision-making is ensured through development of trained personnel, review by supervisory personnel, and through checks against outside sources. Our computer system may only be accessed through special procedures and all our records and files are secured.**

**6. How do you translate organizational performance review findings into priorities for continuous improvement? This is accomplished through after session or after project analysis to determine what worked and what did not.**

**7. How do you collect, transfer, and maintain organizational and employee knowledge (your knowledge assets)? How do you identify and share best practices?**

**This is done through systems in place to preserve and commit to paper organizational knowledge of our staff. For example, we recently committed to paper a legislative process training and instructional manual which contains substantial institutional knowledge developed by this office over the years and**

which is used not only by us but by legislative leaders, committees, and the courts. We also do continuing education training sessions within and without the agency to improve employee knowledge.

**Category 5. Workforce Focus**

**This Category describes how your organization’s work systems and your employee learning and motivation enable employees to develop and utilize their full potential in alignment with your organization’s overall objectives, strategies, and action plans. It also describes your organization’s efforts to build and maintain a work environment and employee support climate conducive to performance excellence and to personal and organizational growth.**

**1. How do you organize and manage work: to enable employees to develop and utilize their full potential, aligned with the organization’s objectives, strategies, and action plans; and to promote cooperation, initiative, empowerment, innovation and your desired organizational culture?**

**This agency is a small agency that provides legal services and research to the General Assembly. Employees are encouraged and motivated through annual reviews and compensation increases based on individual performances and through formal and informal recognition for their performances. Drafting work is assigned by and monitored by senior leaders to ensure an even workload to be performed by employees knowledgeable in that area.**

**2. How do you achieve effective communication and knowledge/skill/best practice sharing across departments, jobs, and locations? Give examples.**

**We do not have departments because we’re a very small agency but we do work both in the State House and the Dennis Building during the session. We’re a small enough agency that when we need to communicate to the staff one email can be sent to all employees or a meeting will include all employees. Knowledge, skills, and best practices are shared this way.**

**3. How does management recruit, hire, place, and retain new employees? Describe any barriers that you may encounter.**

**We hire and recruit both through standard means (the state employment website, etc.) as well as word of mouth and recommendations from both within and without the agency. Retention is accomplished through training, recognition, and pay for performance. The greatest barrier we face is twofold. First, during the legislative session the workload is fast with a number of bill requests going on at the same time. An employee must be able to juggle a lot of balls at the same time. Some employees can’t or don’t like to do this. Secondly, as legislative branch employees, all our employees are unclassified and we have tried to recruit several employees over the years who wanted the protection of being classified.**



**4. How do you assess your workforce capability and capacity needs, including skills, competencies, and staffing levels?**

All employees when hired are assigned a mentor to whom they can go to on a daily basis with any problems. We also check on an employee's technical skills (the ability to operate our computers with our software) very thoroughly during the interview process. We require writing samples from all prospective attorneys. All employees are also told that their first year (session) is a probationary time after which we will evaluate their performance to see if it meets our standards. Sometimes it does not and at that point they will be asked to make other arrangements. (We are all unclassified). We very seldom have the money to be at full staffing levels but we staff up with session and permanent employees as best we can.

**5. How does your employee performance management system, including feedback to and from employees, support high performance and contribute to the achievement of your action plans?**

We have one employee who functions as a combination business manager, account and payroll clerk, and human resource coordinator. Therefore, as a small agency, it is possible and encouraged for all individual employees to provide immediate feedback to this business manager or to the Director in order to support high performance.

**6. How does your development and learning system for leaders address the following:**

(a) development of personal leadership attributes;

We develop personal leadership attributes by putting employees in leadership positions on a trail basis to see how they perform. We also take advantage of leadership programs offered by the state to develop our leaders.

(b) development of organizational knowledge;

With a number of very senior people still employed by our agency, we are fortunate to have a lot of institutional and organizational knowledge on our staff. To preserve this, we have tried to reduce this information to paper through our training manual and in other ways like CLE programs to preserve and pass down this knowledge.

(c) ethical practices;

Our attorneys and other staff are subject to the rules of both houses and the laws of this state in regard to ethical conduct and our attorneys in addition must comply with the codes of professional conduct for lawyers required by the canons of ethics. We also reinforce this once a year with written instructions at a joint meeting regarding such things as sexual harassment. Our employees in this regard are top drawer.

(d) your core competencies, strategic challenges, and accomplishment of action plans.

Our core competency in one sentence is to be able to produce legislative drafting requests for members of the General Assembly that are acceptable to them and in addition which meets constitutional, statutory, and precedents and rules of

the General Assembly. To do this requires a team of skilled lawyers and support staff and we constantly work to train, track, and fund this mission. Although the subjects of bills and their emphasis do change every year (last year was property tax reform; this year it was immigration reform) the process we follow from year to year is basically the same and we construct our action plans accordingly.

7. How do you identify and address key developmental and training needs, including job skills training, performance excellence training, diversity training, management/leadership development, new employee orientation and safety training? How do you evaluate the effectiveness of this education and training? How do you encourage on the job use of the new knowledge and skills?

This agency has invested considerable resources, effort, and expense to develop a training and drafting manual developed by our training coordinator that is used by us and which has been requested by many outside agencies including standing committees of the General Assembly and members of the court system. A strong effort to achieve diversity has been undertaken in hiring and new employees are given a sponsor to whom they may go to with questions or problems. Lastly, safety training is accomplished through an annual review of safety inspections including procedures and routes required in the case of fire or other evacuation.

In addition, due to the expected retirement over the next two to four years of several senior level attorneys and other personnel, we have actively recruited and phased-in younger attorneys and other staff to train with them and take their place as their time with the state comes to a close.

8. How do you encourage on the job use of new knowledge and skills?

If an employee has new knowledge or skills we try to put them in a job position to use them. We also encourage all employees to share tips on better ideas about how to do something and we get many during each week of the legislative session. Collaboration is a real key for us.

9. How does employee training contribute to the achievement of your action plan?

Employee training contributes to the achievement of our action plan by bringing all employees information about the contents of the action plan and through training the tools to accomplish it. This employee training includes individual training to new employees each fall (this is when we bring new employees in) as well as continuing legal education training to our lawyers and other lawyers in the General Assembly at continuing education seminars we put on in the fall.

10. How do you evaluate the effectiveness of your workforce and leader training and development systems?

Evaluation of the effectiveness of our workforce and leader training is done by our senior leadership together with key members of the General Assembly including those on the Legislative Council.

**11. How do you motivate your employees to develop and utilize their full potential?**

**Our employees are motivated to develop their full potential through merit based compensation adjustments, nonmonetary recognition, and reviews done at least annually to identify the employees strengths in those areas which need improvement.**

**12. What formal and/or informal assessment methods and measures do you use to determine employee well being, satisfaction, and motivation? How do you use other measures such as employee retention and grievances? How do you determine priorities for improvement?**

**A number of formal and informal assessments and measures are used to ensure employee well-being, satisfaction, and motivation. These include a procedure for employee suggestions as well as a procedure for appropriate supervisors to brief all employees on key activities of the agency. For example, as a result of an employee's suggestion that a way be found to become more familiar with local government issues since we work primarily with state government, a plan was developed to bring local officials before the entire agency to share the requirements of their office. We have had various local government and state officials address our staff describing their duties and functions.**

**13. How do you manage effective career progression and effective succession planning for your entire workforce throughout the organization?**

**This agency again performs legislative drafting and legal work for the General Assembly and what is required to do this is a skilled group of lawyers and support staff. We really don't have any "managers" or "programs". However, the principles are the same and we try to identify and promote these employees to supervisory positions who have shown excellent talents and abilities and also reward them financially for accepting added responsibility.**

**14. How do you maintain a safe, secure, and healthy work environment? (Include your workplace preparedness for emergencies and disasters.)**

**We maintain a safe and healthy work environment through constant inspections and improvements to ensure employee safety in many areas. In regard to employee physical safety, mechanisms have been developed in consultation with House and Senate Security to ensure the safety of all employees and their property while working at any hour. A healthy work environment is ensured through similar procedures including the monitoring of radon levels in the State House in areas where employees are located in spaces with large granite blocks. Preparedness for emergencies and disasters is accomplished through such things as fire drills and emergency procedures to ensure employees are knowledgeable in these areas.**

**Category 6. Process Management**

**This Category describes key aspects of your organization's process management, including key product, service, organizational, and support processes (as it encompasses the design process and all work units).**

**1. How do you determine, and what are your organization's core competencies, and how do they relate to your mission, competitive environment, and action plans?**

**We don't determine our core competencies, rather they are determined for us by the requirements of state law setting out what we must do. See also answer to Category 5, Question (6)(d).**

**2. How do you determine and what are your key processes for produce, create, or add value for your customers and your organization? How do you ensure that these processes are used?**

**We have designed our bill drafting procedures to ensure timeliness and accuracy. First, an attorney takes the request and develops a draft. It is then checked by a supervising attorney and then edited for grammar and content. After a bill has gone through the General Assembly, the review process is again completed before ratification.**

**The technology of this agency is provided not by the agency but by a separate agency known as Legislative Printing and Information Technology Systems (LPITS). Therefore, the improvements to the technology delivery system of this agency are handled by LPITS.**

**3. How do you incorporate organizational knowledge, new technology, changing customer and mission-related requirements, cost controls, and other efficiency and effectiveness factors such as cycle time into process design and delivery?**

**Our mission does not generally change because it is set by statute and not by policy determinations of a decision-maker. With this said, some requirements of our mission may have modified by the General Assembly by law. For example, new requirements for impact statements were recently added to the process under which state agency regulations are approved. Using our institutional knowledge, we incorporated these changes into the drafting manual for regulations that we publish and disseminated this to our subscribers electronically so that it could be used by them most effectively.**

**We also from time to time are required to modify some policies or processes as a result of court decisions. These decisions are incorporated into our processes as required.**

**4. How does your day-to-day operation of these processes ensure meeting key performance requirements?**

**The day-to-day operation of key production/delivery processes ensuring the meeting key performances requirements are essentially monitored through the bill introduction sheets of both the House and the Senate to ensure accuracy and correctness of all documents produced not only by this agency but by both the House and Senate as well. Indexing is done on a daily basis by our indexing**

department and provided to LPITS which prints the *Legislative Digest* as an aid to drafting legislation.

5. How do you systematically evaluate and improve your key product and service related processes?

The products and services this agency produces are bill drafting services for the General Assembly and related matters and these are evaluated by internally and externally through peer review and by review of appropriate members of the General Assembly.

6. What are your key support processes, and how do you improve and update these processes to achieve better performance?

Key support processes to achieve and ensure better performance are updated daily and periodically through such things as constant updating of House and Senate rosters and addresses, constant updating and modification of publication recipients, and close review of applicable court decisions.

We have several key support processes in our bill drafting procedures. We developed and use a computer tracking system for all our bills keyed to the names of individual members of the General Assembly so we can access this information immediately. Secondly, we maintain cross-indexed files to provide accurate references to all work products. Also, we have at least three different checks that a bill goes through in our system to ensure accuracy and correctness.

Key supplier interactions to improve performance are managed through constant verbal, electronic, and written contact through the personnel in this agency assigned such duties and the supplier involved in the performance of those duties.

Each fall after the General Assembly has adjourned, the print publisher of the 1976 Code transmits to us computer data known as grid sheets from which we with them make editorial decisions determining the content of the annual cumulative supplement to be distributed that December. This also helps ensure the accuracy and correctness of our publication.

7. How does your organization determine the resources needed to meet current and projected budget and financial obligations?

These needs are determined by the senior leadership annually (See Category 2(7); Strategic Objective Action Plan #1 Item (5)). Thereafter, these fiscal need are communicated to our governing body members in the General Assembly and to the Governor and appropriate committees through the requisite procedures.

#### Category 7. Results

This category describes your organization's performance and improvements in: mission accomplishment and organizational performance and effectiveness, customer satisfaction financial performance, human resource results, regulatory/legal compliance and community support. Information is typically displayed by the use of performance measures.

1. What are your performance levels and trends for the key measures of mission accomplishment and organizational effectiveness?

Performance levels and trends for customer satisfaction are difficult to quantitatively measure because of the nature of what we do and whom we serve (the General Assembly and not the general public). We receive many letters of thanks from General Assembly members each year and from time to time do get a complaint or concern which we handle immediately. Each year we go over our operations with our chairman, the director or senior leaders call on each committee chairman to go over future intentions and comments, and each of our attorneys calls on his/her counterparts at the various standing committees for coordination. Finally, we of course each year communicate with the members of the General Assembly to solicit their work and ideas for the upcoming session.

In our code codification work, we have written the public sector recipients of the code identifying their code publication needs and this has resulted in substantial savings in code supplement costs as evidenced by chart contained in Category 7(B)(2).

There are no comparable organizations in this State but we constantly compare our systems and procedures at summer meetings and by direct contact throughout the year to ensure we are using best practices.

2. What are your performance levels and trends for the key measures of customer satisfaction and dissatisfaction? The performance levels, trends, and results for each mission as enumerated in Section I, Item (1) are as follows:

(A) Research, Reference, and Bill Drafting

(1) (a) This office during fiscal year 2007-2008, including the 2008 Session of the General Assembly, produced several thousand documents, including bills, amendments, and resolutions, which resulted in 849 bills and joint resolutions being introduced and 252 acts being ratified and enrolled during the 2008 session. The 2008 session being a carryover year where generally less introductions are made. In addition, 778 House, Senate, or concurrent resolutions were introduced.

(b) For comparison purposes, the following chart indicates the number of bills and resolutions introduced and ratified over the past five years.

<u>Bills and Resolutions</u>		
	<u>Introduced</u>	<u>Ratified</u>
2008	1627	252
2007	1425	177
2006	1549	247
2005	1518	209
2004	1,558	257

(2) (a) The legislative research section during fiscal year 2007-2008 handled 1,554 research requests. These research requests came from members,

their staffs, agencies with whom they were working, and constituents and were questions concerning the laws of this State or what the General Assembly has done in the past on certain issues. These requests were responded to both verbally and in writing on a timely basis.

(b) For comparison purposes, the following chart indicates the number of research requests over the past five years. The number of research requests has been decreasing because this is an area where we have reduced personnel and reassigned other personnel to drafting responsibilities. We handle all those we can on a priority basis.

<u>Research Requests</u>	
2008	1554
2007	2035
2006	2115
2005	1847
2004	1,767

(3) The Index clerk of the research section also prepares an index of the bills and resolutions introduced during a particular session of the General Assembly. This index is updated daily during the session to reflect introductions of the previous day. This index is the basis for the *Legislative Digest* prepared by LPITS as well as all other indices reflecting the legislative actions of the General Assembly during a particular session. The index for the 2008 session of the General Assembly contained in the latest 2008 *Legislative Digest* consists of 939 pages.

(B) Code Codification

(1) Quantifiable performance measures of this mission include the timely meeting of all deadlines set by contract and by statute, high editorial quality of the compilation of the public statutes, and a low cost of accomplishing this objective. For example, beginning several years ago and continuing into the current fiscal year, the Council in conjunction with the print publisher of the 1976 Code began a process to provide replacement volumes for the largest volumes in the Code with a goal of reducing the cost of the annual cumulative supplements. As noted under the Legislative Library, this year over one thousand copies of the annual cumulative Code supplement are distributed to the public sector recipients. Approximately 750 copies of the annual Acts and Joint Resolutions and Advance Sheets of statutes are also distributed to these recipients.

(2) The following chart indicates the agency's expenses with regard to the preparation of the annual code supplement over the past five years. We have reduced these expenses substantially during this period.

<u>Code Supplement Expenses</u>	
2008	\$309,053
2007	\$336,106
2006	\$287,291
2005	\$294,861
2004	\$367,754

(C) The State Register:

(1) (a) The *State Register* was established in 1977 when the Administrative Procedures Act was enacted.

(b) The work of this office involves the establishment and implementation of procedures for carrying out the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act relating to the publication and distribution of the *State Register*. Twelve issues and an annual index are published each fiscal year. The total number of pages published for FY 2007-2008 was 1,749. Electronic on-line subscriptions are available free of charge to clerks of court, county libraries, state agencies, members of the General Assembly, and state libraries. The annual subscription fee for all hardcopy or private electronic subscriptions is \$100.00 with 326 subscribers.

(c) The work of this office also involves the establishment and implementation of procedures for carrying out the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act relating to the submission of regulations to the General Assembly. The *State Register* editor prepares indices of approved regulations of the Acts and Joint Resolutions; edits the *Standards Manual for Drafting and Filing Regulations*, and maintains a database.

(d) The number of documents processed by the *State Register* during fiscal year 2007-2008 are:

Proposed regulations	78
Emergency regulations	12
General Assembly review	77
Approved	57
Disapproved	0
Withdrawn	2
Pending	18
Other:Executive Orders, etc.	<u>167</u>
Total	<u>334</u>

(e) In an effort to reduce the costs of paper, printing, and postage to the State, the *South Carolina State Register* is no longer available to members of the General Assembly, officers, and employees of the State or state agencies, clerks of court, and county libraries in a hard copy printed format. These nonpaying subscribers are given on-line access via an access code to the *State Register* through the South Carolina Legislature Online website. In addition, paying subscribers are offered electronic subscriptions in addition to, or in lieu of, the printed format.

(2) The following chart indicates the number of state agency regulations filed and approved by the General Assembly over the past five years. Excluded from this are emergency regulations and regulations required for federal compliance which do not follow the normal approval process. The number of state agency regulations from year to year remains fairly constant.



	<u>Regulations Filed</u>	<u>Regulations Approved</u>
2008	77	57
2007	49	36
2006	73	62
2005	62	42
2004	54	39

**(D) Legislative Library:**

**(1) The Legislative Library maintains a comprehensive legislative library for use by the General Assembly. In addition, the Acts and Joint Resolutions, the House and Senate Journals, legislative digests, and other historic and legislative publications for each session of the General Assembly dating back to the early 1800's are maintained. The United States Code Annotated as well as other state and federal publications also are maintained.**

**(2) This year the Legislative Library distributed over one thousand copies of the annual cumulative supplement to the public sector recipients. Also, the Legislative Library distributed approximately 750 copies of the annual Acts and Joint Resolutions and Advance Sheets of statutes to the recipients.**

**3. What are your performance levels for the key measures of financial performance, including measures of cost containment as appropriate?**

**If the agency can perform its assigned missions within the funds the General Assembly provides each year in the general appropriations act, the financial performance of this agency in any year should be considered successful. This agency has been able to do this even with fewer personnel than five years ago. The general fund appropriation level for fiscal year 2007-2008 is \$2,919,026.**

**4. What are your performance levels and trends for the key measures of workforce engagement, workforce satisfaction, the development of your workforce, including leaders, workforce retention, workforce climate including workplace health, safety, and security?**

**Performance levels and trends for the key measures of workforce engagement, satisfaction, involvement and development are measured through increases in employee compensation and in employee retention. Employee compensation trends based on a review of the July 2003 compensation manual published by the Office of Human Resources of the State Budget and Control Board and the opinions of our employees indicate that they are comparably compensated with employees of other agencies. Employee retention is also good as evidenced by the fact that several retired employees have applied to continue to work for the agency after retirement. The recent fiscal downturn in state revenue collection has naturally concerned agency employees but with a process to involve them in all decision concerning employee matters has somewhat softened this concern. Workplace health, safety, and security are provided by the sergeant at arms and nurses staff of the General Assembly.**

**5. What are your performance levels and trends for your key measures of organizational effectiveness/operational efficiency, and work system performance (these could include measures related to the following: product, service, and work system innovation rates and improvement results; improvements to cycle time; supplier and partner performance; and results related to emergency drills or exercises?)**

**See answers to questions in Categories 4(3), 6(6), and 7(1). However, regarding specific points of the question not otherwise covered we do have periodic fire drills where the response time has been decreased, our supplier performance in the area of copying requirements has been reduced to a period not exceeding twenty-four hours but our legislative and publication outputs each year remain fairly constant because the timeframes and services are set by the General Assembly or by law which we are expected to comply with.**

**6. What are your performance levels and trends for the key measures of regulatory/legal compliance and community support?**

**This agency has little regulatory or legal compliance issues. Community support is at a good performance level and is rising as previously explained in Category 5.**

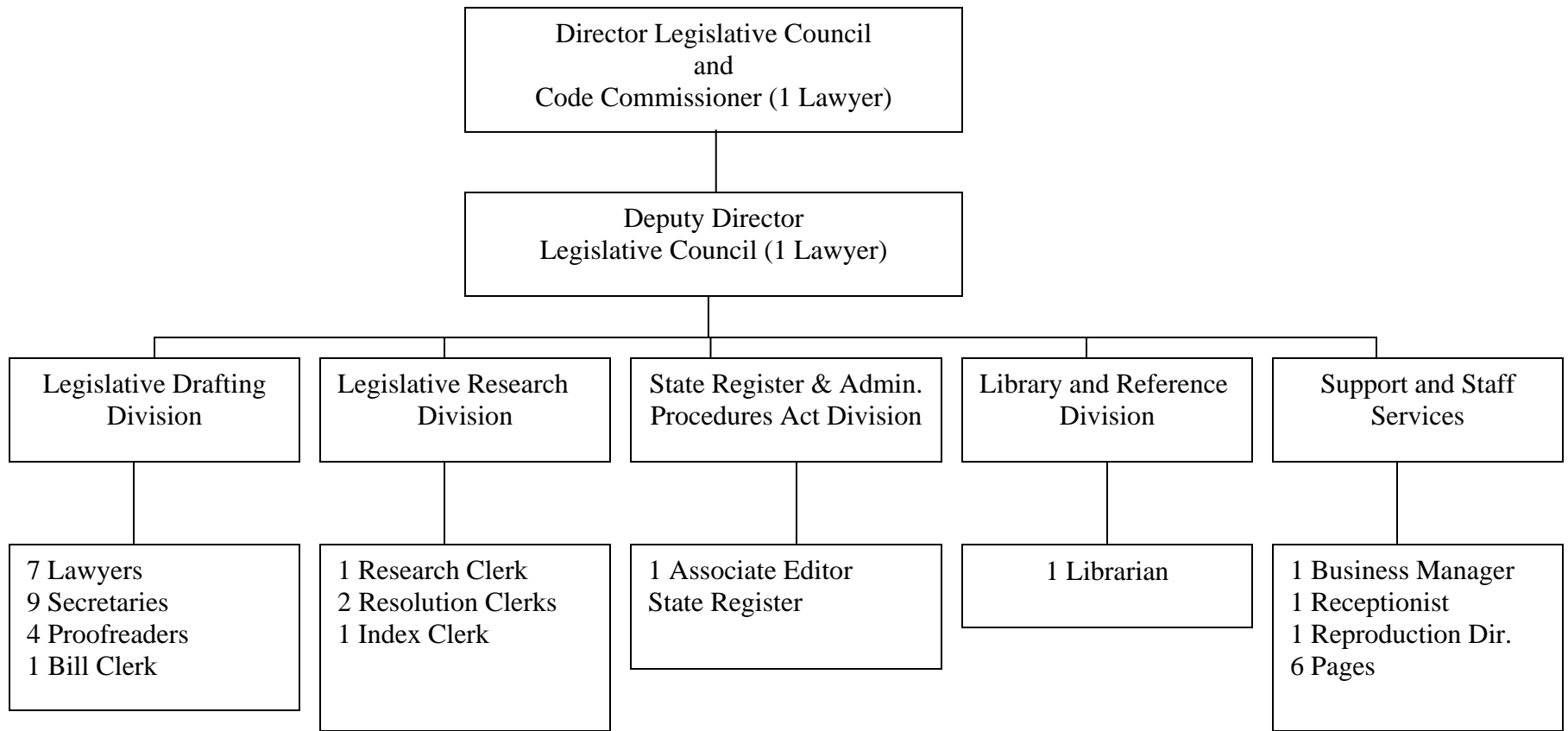
## Accountability Report Appropriations/Expenditures Chart

### Base Budget Expenditures and Appropriations

Major Budget Categories	FY 06-07 Actual Expenditures		FY 07-08 Actual Expenditures		FY 08-09 Appropriations Act	
	Total Funds	General Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Total Funds	General Funds
Personal Service	\$ 1,994,510	\$ 1,994,510	\$ 2,117,905	\$ 2,117,905	\$ 2,044,991	\$ 2,044,991
Other Operating	\$ 565,994	\$ 315,994	\$ 533,120	\$ 327,771	\$ 728,510	\$ 378,510
Special Items						
Permanent Improvements						
Case Services						
Distributions to Subdivisions						
Fringe Benefits	\$ 457,484	\$ 457,484	\$ 560,970	\$ 560,970	\$ 514,719	\$ 514,719
Non-recurring						
<b>Total</b>	\$ 3,017,988	\$ 2,767,988	\$ 3,211,995	\$ 3,006,646	\$ 3,288,220	\$ 2,938,220

### Other Expenditures

Sources of Funds	FY 06-07 Actual Expenditures	FY 07-08 Actual Expenditures
Supplemental Bills		
Capital Reserve Funds		
Bonds		



In the above organization chart all positions are unclassified, no salary ranges apply because the salary for each position is shown as a line item in our section of the appropriations bill. The source of funding for each of these positions is from state appropriated funds.