

**PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION & REGULATORY
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2026-27
TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

SECTION 72 - R040 - PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

72.4 **AMEND** (PSC: Avoided Cost Experts) Authorizes the commission to repurpose funds authorized in the General Appropriations Act of 2023 for expenses incurred for third-party consultants and experts.

PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to add carry forward authority for unexpended funds allocated for avoided cost experts. Requested by the Public Service Commission.

72.4. (PSC: Avoided Cost Experts) The Public Service Commission is authorized to use and expend funds appropriated in Act 84 of 2023, Proviso 118.19(52) for the South Carolina Integration Study, for expenses incurred for third-party avoided cost consultants and experts employed through contract or otherwise and retained pursuant to Section 58-41-20(I). The appropriation is redirected for the Public Service Commission to utilize these funds to pay for the third-party avoided cost consultants and experts employed through contract or otherwise. The Commission is authorized to carry forward unexpended funds allocated for avoided cost experts into the current fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.

SECTION 82 - R400 - DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

82.elt **CONFORM TO FUNDING / ADD** (DMV: Electronic Titling) **PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** CONFORM TO FUNDING / ADD proviso to direct the department to utilize up to one million dollars to hire contract computer programmers for the creation of an Electronic Titling Program and provides the description of the program services. Directs the department to select and contract a third-party vendor to create and implement the program and allows the use of programming resources if offered by the vendor. Requires the program to be operational by June 30, 2027.

82.elt. (DMV: Electronic Titling) Up to \$1,000,000 shall be appropriated to the Department of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of hiring contract computer programmers for the creation of an Electronic Titling Program to provide electronic vehicle title processing services to include the transfer of vehicle ownership and the placement and release of liens for automotive dealers, lenders, and auctioneers, and comparable electronic titling services for vehicle owners and other customers. The department shall select and contract with a third-party vendor to create and implement the program and the department is allowed to utilize programming resources if offered by the Electronic Titling vendor. Electronic titling services for automotive dealers, lenders, and auctioneers must be operational no later than June 30, 2027.

SECTION 83 - R600 - DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE

83.5 **AMEND** (DEW: REED Act Spending Authority) Authorizes DEW to spend up to \$2,375,072 of funds made available to the State under Section 903 of the U.S. Social Security Act. Directs the funds be used to for UI, WIOA, and Employment Services Programs. Prohibits the funds from being obligated after a 2-year period beginning July 1.

PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to update calendar year reference. Requested by the Department of Employment and Workforce.

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83.5. (DEW: REED Act Spending Authority) The Department of Employment and Workforce is authorized to expend up to \$2,375,072 of funds made available to the State under Section 903 of the United States Social Security Act, as amended. The funds must be used under the direction of the Department of Employment and Workforce, for the purpose of funding Unemployment Insurance, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and Employment Services Programs. No part of the funds herein authorized may be obligated after a two-year period beginning on July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026. The amount obligated pursuant to this provision shall not at any time exceed the amount by which (a) the aggregate of amounts transferred to the accounts of the State pursuant to Section 903 of the Social Security Act exceeds (b) the aggregate of the amounts obligated for administration and paid out for administration and paid out for benefits and as required by law to be charged against the amounts transferred to the account of this State.

SECTION 84 - U120 - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

84.17 **AMEND** (DOT: Waiver Valuations) Directs for federally appropriated funds, cost estimates under \$20,000 for simple real property acquisitions are classified as waiver valuations per Federal Highway Administration guidelines and appraisers licensed in South Carolina are exempt from certain Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice rules when handling these. Directs that the Department must report details of such valuations to the Senate Transportation and House Education and Public Works Committees by June 30, 2026.

PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to update the calendar year reference.

84.17. (DOT: Waiver Valuations) For federal funds appropriated to the department, cost estimates of twenty thousand dollars or less for uncomplicated acquisitions of real property, defined as those involving unimproved strips of land with no damages, no changes in highest and best use, or no significant costs to cure, are considered waiver valuations as defined by the Federal Highway Administration. Licensed or certified appraisers, licensed pursuant to S.C. Code Title 40, Chapter 60, preparing or reviewing a waiver valuation are precluded from complying with Standards Rules 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the "Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice," as promulgated by the Appraisals Standards Board of the Appraisal Foundation. The department shall submit a detailed report on the waiver valuations to the Senate Transportation Committee and the House Education and Public Works Committee by June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

84.rbp **CONFORM TO FUNDING / ADD** (DOT: Road Buyback Program) **PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** CONFORM TO FUNDING / ADD proviso to direct the department to identify and create a list of roads potentially eligible for transfer according to Section 57-5-80 and determine if they are more properly maintained by a county, municipality, or political subdivision. Provides the factors and criteria the department shall consider in making these determinations. Allows the department to negotiate with the governing recipient of the roads for the maintenance responsibilities, and directs the utilization of the Road Buyback Program funds. Requires the department to submit the list of identified roads, criteria used, and recommendations to the Chairmen of SFC and WMC and the Governor by February 28, 2027. Requested by the Department of Transportation.

84.rbp. (DOT: Road Buyback Program) From the funds appropriated to the Department of Transportation for the Road Buyback Program, the department shall be directed to identify and

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compile a list of roads on the state highway system that may be eligible for transfer in accordance with Section 57-5-80. The department shall evaluate roads that may no longer serve a statewide purpose and determine whether such roads are more properly maintained by a county, municipality, or other appropriate political subdivision. In making this determination, the department shall consider functional classification, traffic volume, connectivity, and consistency with the statewide transportation plan. In accordance with Section 57-5-80, roads deemed eligible for transfer shall be those which, in the opinion of the department, are no longer needed to serve the purpose of the state highway system. The department may negotiate with the governing bodies of the appropriate political subdivisions for the transfer of maintenance responsibilities for such roads. Road Buyback Program funds shall be used to assist with costs related to the transfer of roads from the state highway system including, but not limited to, resurfacing, design improvements, documentation, and transition-related expenses agreed upon by the department and political subdivision. The department shall submit the list of identified roads, along with criteria used for selection and any recommendations regarding the transfer process, to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Governor by February 28, 2027.

SECTION 117 - X900 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

117.110 AMEND (GP: Retail Facilities Revitalization Act Repeal Suspension) Suspends the repeal of Chapter 34 of Title 6, relating to the Retail Facilities Act, as specified in Act 285 of 2006 for sites that provided DOR written notification of election of mode of credit before 7/1/16 and for which a building permit was issued prior to 7/1/16.

PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to update the fiscal year reference.

117.110. (GP: Retail Facilities Revitalization Act Repeal Suspension) The repeal of Chapter 34, Title 6 of the 1976 Code as specified in Act 285 of 2006 as to sites for which written notification of election of mode of credit has been provided to the Department of Revenue prior to July 1, 2016 and for which a building permit has been issued prior to July 1, 2016, is suspended for Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27

117.143 AMEND (GP: Electricity Market Reform) Directs that the Electricity Market Reform Measures Study Committee issue a report on its findings no later than January 31, 2026. Directs that the committee may continue to meet past that date and issue additional reports.

PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to update the calendar year reference.

117.143. (GP: Electricity Market Reform) The Electricity Market Reform Measures Study Committee shall issue a report on its work to the General Assembly no later than January 31, ~~2026~~ 2027; however, nothing in this provision prohibits the committee from continuing to meet past January 31, ~~2026~~ 2027 and issue additional reports pursuant to Act 187 of 2020.

117.188 AMEND (GP: Safe Home Program) Directs the Department of Insurance to collaborate with the Office of Resilience to evaluate the Safe Homes Program. Directs that a report with findings and recommendations, including potential statutory changes or funding needs, shall be provided to the General Assembly by June 30, 2026.

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PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to update the calendar year reference.

117.188. (GP: Safe Homes Program) (A) The Department of Insurance shall collaborate with the Office of Resilience to evaluate the operation of the Safe Homes Program and determine if all available funds are being fully accessed and made available for grants and used appropriately based on the current and projected needs of the State regarding home weatherization. The department shall submit a report to the General Assembly by June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027, detailing the evaluation's findings and providing recommendations to enhance the program's effectiveness. The recommendations may include, but are not limited to, proposed statutory changes and additional funding requirements as deemed necessary.

(B) For the current fiscal year, any funds appropriated for the Safe Homes Program shall be supplemental to the program's existing funding sources.