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MEDIA RELEASE

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INVITATION FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY ABOUT THE SC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE SC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND AT HOUSE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE'S SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

Columbia, SC - The House Legislative Oversight Committee is currently conducting oversight studies on the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind. Subcommittee meetings will be held on the dates below for the purpose of receiving comments from the public about these agencies

[SC Department of Agriculture](#) - Wednesday, July 6, 2016 - 10:30 a.m. - Room 110, Blatt Building
[SC School for the Deaf and the Blind](#) - Wednesday, July 13, 2016 - 10:00 a.m. - Room 108, Blatt Building

During these times, Speaker Jay Lucas and the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee are pleased to invite the public to provide comments and recommendations about the agencies. Individuals can sign up to speak by calling the House Legislative Oversight Committee at 803-212-6810, emailing the Committee at hcommlegov@schouse.gov or signing up in person a few minutes prior to the meeting.

These meetings provide the opportunity to have an individual member of the public's face and voice connected with the comments while speaking directly to the Subcommittee members. Another ongoing opportunity is a public input link available on the Committee's website, which allows individuals to provide comments anonymously. A previous opportunity was an online public survey to provide comments anonymously, which was open for a month.

It is the Committee's practice to publish responses to online surveys verbatim as received by the Committee. To view responses, go to www.scstatehouse.gov, click on the "Citizens' Interest" tab on the top row, then on the "House Legislative Oversight" link and finally click on the agency for which you would like to view responses from the public.

The Committee's vision is for South Carolina agencies to become, and continuously remain, the most effective state agencies in the country through processes which eliminate waste and efficiently deploy resources thereby creating greater confidence in state government. Comments from those citizens who choose to provide input are important to the Members of the House Legislative Oversight Committee because they may help direct the Committee to additional potential areas for improvement with these agencies.

The specific task of the House Legislative Oversight Committee is to conduct legislative oversight studies on agencies at least once every seven years. The purpose of a legislative oversight study is to determine if agency laws and programs are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly and whether or not they should be continued, curtailed or even eliminated. Also, the Committee recognizes that an oversight study serves the purpose of informing the public about an agency. Any legislator may file legislation, which will go through the normal legislative process, to implement recommendations this Committee may have relating to the agencies.

Suggestions for additional ways to inform the public about this meeting and the House Legislative Oversight Committee's process are welcomed. ###