

Chair Wm. Weston J. Newton

*First Vice-Chair:
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.*

Legislative Oversight Committee



South Carolina House of Representatives

*Kambrell H. Garvin
Rosalyn D. Henderson-Myers
Jeffrey E. "Jeff" Johnson
John R. McCravy, III
Adam M. Morgan
Melissa Lackey Oremus
Marvin R. Pendarvis
Tommy M. Stringer
Chris Wooten*

*Gil Gatch
William M. "Bill" Hixon
Kimberly O. Johnson
Josiah Magnuson
Timothy A. "Tim" McGinnis
Travis A. Moore
Russell L. Ott
Michael F. Rivers, Sr.
John Taliaferro (Jay) West, IV*

*Jennifer L. Dobson
Research Director*

*Cathy A. Greer
Administration Coordinator*

**Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
Telephone: (803) 212-6810 • Fax: (803) 212-6811
Room 228 Blatt Building**

*Charles L. Appleby, IV
Legal Counsel*

*Lewis Carter
Research Analyst/Auditor*

*Riley E. McCullough
Research Analyst*

May 6, 2021

Director Freddie Pough
Department of Juvenile Justice
Post Office Box 21069
Columbia, South Carolina 29221-1069

Via Email: FBPoug@scdj.net

RE: Legislative Oversight Study of the Legislative Audit Council's April 2021 follow up audit of the Department of Juvenile Justice

Dear Director Pough:

As Chairman of the House Legislative Oversight Committee, I have tasked the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee to review the Legislative Audit Council's April 2021 follow up audit of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

In conducting studies, including an issue study like this one, it is the Legislative Oversight Committee's goal to partner with the agency to help it identify areas in which it can continue to improve upon the positive results it has generated for the people of South Carolina.

Click [here](#) to review information about the Committee's process, including the Committee's Rules and Standard Practices (please note these may be modified). Please do not hesitate to contact Committee staff at any time with questions; however, please do not contact Committee members directly about any study related matters as the Committee strives to receive information about study related matters in manners accessible to the general public (e.g., Committee meetings and through correspondence that can be posted online). Also, on the next page is a brief summary of the Committee's expectations.

The Committee expects the following of each agency under study:

- Respond in a concise, complete, and timely manner.
- Be candid and promptly discuss with the Committee any concerns or questions the agency may have related to a request, including, but not limited to, any concerns the agency may have that the Committee has drawn an incorrect conclusion; or about the time or resources required to respond to a Committee request.
- Understand all testimony given to the Committee is under oath, as required by S.C. Code Section 2-2-70. Anyone knowingly furnishing false information will be subject to the penalties provided by law. Testimony may be corrected via written correspondence pursuant to Committee Rule 7.6.
- Realize formal written responses provided to the Committee are considered sworn testimony.
- Inform the Committee, prior to responding, of any information requested by the Committee that cannot be published online due to provisions in contract or law.

The agency may expect the Committee to:

- Obtain evidence or information by any lawful means as permitted by S.C. Code Section 2-2-50. Examples of means through which the Committee has, or may obtain information are included in the Committee's Standard Practices, and below.
 - Testimony during meetings with a subcommittee, ad hoc committee, or full committee;
 - Written correspondence;
 - On-site tours;
 - Deposing witnesses pursuant to Section 2-2-50(B) and Committee Rule 8.2; and
 - Issuing subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum (production of documents) pursuant to Section 2-2-50(C) and Committee Rule 8.2;

Enclosed please find information to share with agency employees, in the manner in which the agency regularly communicates with its employees, about providing testimony to the Committee and other opportunities to provide input to the Committee.

I hope the information above and enclosed is helpful to you and your agency in understanding the process the Committee intends to following in conducting its study and investigation process.

Sincerely,



Wm. Weston J. Newton
Chairman, House Legislative Oversight Committee

Enclosures

cc: Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee

Providing Testimony to the House Legislative Oversight Committee

The House Legislative Oversight Committee conducts studies and investigations of state agencies in order to determine if agency laws and programs are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly and whether those programs should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated. It also works to inform the public about the agencies it studies.

Public input is a cornerstone of the oversight process. Input from people who interact with state agencies may help direct the Committee to potential areas for improvement.

Opportunities to provide testimony to the Committee

The Committee periodically holds public input meetings to hear testimony on agencies that are under study. The bulk of each study takes place at the Subcommittee level. Public testimony may be allowed at Subcommittee meetings, with permission of the Subcommittee chair. To see scheduled meetings, sign up for Committee updates, or contact the Committee, please visit <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee.php>.

If you choose to testify before the Committee or one of its Subcommittees, please bear the following in mind:

1. All Committee and Subcommittee meetings are open to the public, and whenever technologically feasible, a video of each meeting is made available online.
2. To allow for safe and accessible public participation during the COVID-19 pandemic, persons interested in providing testimony may choose to participate virtually using Microsoft Teams.
3. You may be asked to keep testimony within a certain timeframe, often between three and five minutes.
4. You may provide written materials to supplement oral testimony.
5. Committee members may ask questions during testimony.
6. All testimony must be given under oath.
7. While the Committee cannot intervene in any individual's ongoing matter with an agency, the following are examples of topics that may be particularly helpful to the Committee:
 - The agency's communication of information to the public;
 - Experiences with the agency that reflect on its overall ability to fulfill its mission;
 - Multiple similar experiences with the agency that may indicate a pattern;
 - Specific concerns about actions of agency leadership; and
 - Ideas about ways in which an agency could better (i.e., more effectively or efficiently) fulfill its mission.

Other opportunities to provide input to the Committee

Providing public testimony under oath is not the only way to contribute to the oversight process. Other options include:

- Providing input by way of online public surveys;
- Emailing the Committee at HCommLegOv@schouse.gov; and
- Calling or meeting with Committee staff, who will provide a summary of your comments to the Committee.

If you have any questions about providing input to the House Legislative Oversight Committee, please contact the Committee by telephone at (803) 212-6810 or by email at HCommLegOv@schouse.gov.