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### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Chris Wooten, Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee (Subcommittee) Chair  
The Honorable Kimberly O. Johnson, Subcommittee Member  
The Honorable Josiah Magnuson, Subcommittee Member  
The Honorable John R. McCravy, III, Subcommittee Member

**FROM:** Wm. Weston J. Newton  
Chairman, House Legislative Oversight Committee

**RE:** Department of Juvenile Justice

**DATE:** April 29, 2021

In 2017, the House Legislative Oversight Committee issued its study of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). During the study, significant concerns were received from the public which put into question the life, health, and safety of juveniles and employees at DJJ. As part of the Committee's study, an audit of DJJ was performed by the Legislative Audit Council (LAC).

Recently, LAC released an alarming update to its 2017 audit stating, among numerous other things:

1. "DJJ does not maintain sufficient security staff to ensure safety for staff and juveniles." (See p. 1 of the Executive Summary.)
2. "In 2018, DJJ reported to members of the General Assembly that it had implemented 94% of our 74 recommendations. However, we . . . found that only 50% have actually been fully implemented." (See p. 4 of the Executive Summary.)

Given the serious nature of the findings from the LAC follow-up report, pursuant to the authority granted in Committee Rule 6.4, I am modifying the current assignment of the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee to include review of the LAC report on DJJ. In an effort to efficiently receive information from LAC and DJJ administration, I encourage exploration of the feasibility of holding joint meetings with the Senate Corrections and Penology Subcommittee reviewing the LAC report on DJJ. The Senate Corrections and Penology Subcommittee held an initial meeting with LAC on April 21, and the video is available online for review.

Thank you for your service to the people of South Carolina, including the juveniles entrusted in the care of DJJ and the more than 1,000 employees of DJJ. (See Department of Administration's Employees by Agency list, which was updated April 9, 2021).