

**Legislative Oversight Committee**

South Carolina House of Representatives

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# Notification of Subcommittee Study

## SC First Steps to School Readiness

March 24, 2016

In accordance with Standard Practice 12.5, notice is hereby provided that the Education and Culture Subcommittee's oversight study of South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness is available for consideration by the full committee.

James E. Smith, Jr.  
Education and Cultural Subcommittee Chair

cc: The Honorable Gary E. Clary  
The Honorable Joseph H. Jefferson Jr.  
The Honorable Tommy M. Stringer

# Legislative Oversight Committee

## Subcommittee Study of SC First Steps to School Readiness *March 24, 2016*



FULL COMMITTEE OPTIONS STANDARD PRACTICE 13	FULL COMMITTEE ACTION(S)	DATE(S) OF FULL COMMITTEE ACTION(S)
(1) Refer the study and investigation back to the subcommittee or an ad hoc committee for further evaluation; (2) Approve the subcommittee’s study; or (3) further evaluate the agency as a full committee, utilizing any of the available tools of legislative oversight available		

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## *Purpose of Oversight Study*

As stated in SC Code of Laws § 2-2-20(B), “[t]he **purpose of these oversight studies** and investigations is to **determine if agency laws and programs** within the subject matter jurisdiction of a standing committee: (1) **are being implemented** and carried out **in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly**; and (2) **should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated.**” In making these determinations the **Subcommittee** evaluates (1) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of the agency’s laws and programs, (2) the organization and operation of the agency, and (3) any conditions or circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation pertaining to the agency.<sup>1</sup>

## *Study Process*

The **Education and Cultural (“Subcommittee”) of the House Legislative Oversight Committee conducted a study of the agency.** The chair of the Subcommittee is the Honorable James E. Smith Jr. Other members include: the Honorable Gary E. Clary, the Honorable Joseph H. Jefferson, and the Honorable Tommy M. Stringer.<sup>2</sup>

Figure 1. Summary of Key Dates and Actions of the Study Process, 2015-2016

### Legislative Oversight Committee Actions

- January 7 - Approves seven-year study recommendations for the Speaker
- January 13 - Speaker approves seven-year study recommendations, and recommendations are published in the House Journal
- February 5 - Approves the priority of the study of the agency
- February 10 - Provides agency with notification about the start of its oversight study

### Education and Cultural Subcommittee Actions

- February 24 - Holds introductory meeting with the agency and receives overview of the agency from the agency’s board chair and executive director
- May 12 - Holds meeting with the agency head to discuss the scope of the oversight study
- December 11 - Holds meeting with agency staff to discuss number of families served, the statewide readiness assessment, and program performance
- January 14 - Holds meeting with agency staff to discuss agency finances and 4K program performance
- February 10 - Holds meeting with agency staff to discuss agency recommendations for changes in the law
- March 1 - Holds meeting with agency staff to discuss program performance and receive responses to subcommittee inquiries over the course of the study
- March 10 - Holds meeting to receive testimony from the public

- March 15 - Holds meeting to formulate Subcommittee recommendations
- April 12 - Notifies Legislative Oversight Committee Chairman that the Subcommittee Study on South Carolina First Steps is ready for full Committee review

### SC First Steps Actions

- March 31 - Submits its Restructuring and Seven-Year Plan Report to the Committee
- June 19 - Submits its Program Evaluation Report to the Committee
- May - March - Meets with and responds to Subcommittee inquiries
- January 12 - Submits its 2016 Annual Restructuring Report

### Public's Actions

- May 1 - May 31 - Responds to survey about the agency
- March 10 - Provides testimony at a public input hearing
- Ongoing - Submits comments on the Oversight Committee's webpage on the General Assembly's website ([www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov))

## Recommendations

The following recommendations include areas identified for potential improvement by the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee recognizes these recommendations will not satisfy everyone nor address every issue or potential area of improvement at the agency. These recommendations are based on the agency's self-analysis requested by the full Committee, discussion with the agency during multiple meetings with the Subcommittee, and analysis of the information obtained by the Subcommittee. This information, including, but not limited to the Staff Study, Program Evaluation Report, Accountability Report, Restructuring Report and videos of meetings with the agency, can all be found on the Committee's website.

### Continue

The Subcommittee recommends South Carolina continue investment in a comprehensive, results-oriented initiative for improving early childhood development by providing, through local partnerships, public and private funds, and support for high-quality early childhood development and education services for children by providing support for their families' efforts toward enabling their children to reach school ready to succeed. The Subcommittee also recommends that SC First Steps continue to operate that initiative. Additionally, the Subcommittee recommends continuation of agency programs and laws relating to the agency which are not listed under Revise or Eliminate below.

### Curtail (i.e. Revise)

The Subcommittee recommends that the General Assembly make the following revisions to state law:

- Establish a common assessment tool for school readiness for use within the public and private sectors and commit to its use over a period of years;
- Appropriate resources to develop an interagency, early childhood data system;

- Appropriate all BabyNet funds to the BabyNet lead agency; and
- Take steps to ensure greater equity in 4K provider funding, to include teacher pay and the exploration of tax and other incentives to participating private providers.

The Subcommittee recommends that SC First Steps implement the following revisions in its internal operations:

- Determine the feasibility of instituting a sliding fee scale for BabyNet services;
- Work in collaboration with the SC Department of Education to study and depict the comprehensive costs of public and private sector 4K service provision;
- Develop a pilot project designed to provide startup funds for potential private 4K providers in underserved areas. The development of the pilot project should consider best practices in other states and nontraditional funding mechanisms (eg Social Impact Bonds); and
- Work with its local partnerships to establish 4K classrooms in communities where no other providers are available.

The Subcommittee will follow up on the agency's progress, via a Request for Information, six months after the date that the full Committee approves the study.

The Subcommittee also recommends including the below revisions to budget provisos in the Subcommittee Report for information purposes. The specific revised language for each are included in the Details - Recommendation Section of this Study. In summary, the revisions are as follows:

- Update Provisos 1.66 and 1A.31 to adjust the 4K tuition amount to match the law's requirement that the rate be inflation indexed and to support additional materials funding;
- Update Proviso 1.71 to update the type of assessment for which unspent funds can be used to purchase technology;
- Update Proviso 1A.67 to require provision of special education accommodations during the administration of readiness assessments;
- Update Proviso 1A.68 to modify the BabyNet autism therapy services rates;
- Add a proviso permitting 4K geographic expansion and/or extension of the school year for children with identified early literacy deficiencies; and
- Add a proviso reauthorizing SC First Steps for FY17 in the absence of standalone statutory reauthorization.

Lastly, the Subcommittee voted to reference the work of the First Steps Study Committee for information purposes. The Subcommittee published a report in October 2015.

### *Eliminate*

The Subcommittee did not recommend elimination of any laws or programs relating to the agency.

## DETAILS - STUDY PROCESS

### *House Oversight Committee's Actions*

On January 7, 2015, the House Legislative Oversight Committee approved a proposed seven-year study schedule for the Speaker of the House.<sup>3</sup> The Speaker approved the Committee's recommendations, which were then published in the House Journal on January 13, 2015.<sup>4</sup> South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness is an agency subject to legislative oversight.<sup>5</sup> The **Committee approved South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness ("agency") as the third state agency to be studied** on February 5, 2015.<sup>6</sup>

The **Committee notified the agency** about the study on February 10, 2015. As the Committee encourages **collaboration in its legislative oversight process**, the Speaker, standing committee chairs in the House, members of the House, Clerk of the Senate, and Governor were also notified about the agency study.

### *Subcommittee Studying the Agency*

The **Education and Cultural ("Subcommittee") of the House Legislative Oversight Committee conducted a study of the agency**. The chair of the Subcommittee is the Honorable James E. Smith Jr. Other members include: the Honorable Gary E. Clary, the Honorable Joseph H. Jefferson, and the Honorable Tommy M. Stringer.<sup>7</sup>

### *Meetings with the Agency*

The **Subcommittee met with the agency on eight occasions**. First Steps Board of Trustees Chairman Ken Wingate and Executive Director Susan DeVenny provided the Subcommittee with a brief overview of the agency during an introductory meeting on February 24, 2015.<sup>8</sup> On May 12, 2015, the Subcommittee met with the agency to discuss the scope of the study.<sup>9</sup> On December 11, 2015, the Subcommittee met with the agency and began going through the Staff Study and agency recommendations.<sup>10</sup> The Subcommittee met with the agency on February 10, 2016 to gain a better understanding of the agency's recommended changes to the law.<sup>11</sup> There was an opportunity for public input during the March 10, 2016 meeting.<sup>12</sup> The Subcommittee met with the agency on January 14, 2016, March 1, 2016, and March 15, 2016 to inquire about specific programs and formulate recommendations.<sup>13</sup><sup>14</sup><sup>15</sup> The agency's new Interim Executive Director, Julia-Ellen Davis was introduced in the January 14, 2016 meeting.

### *Information from the Public*

Members of the public had an opportunity to participate anonymously in a public survey, provide comments anonymously after the public survey was over via a link on the Committee website, and appear in person before the subcommittee. From May 1, 2015, until May 31, 2015, the Subcommittee posted an **online survey to solicit comments from the public about SC First Steps** and other agencies. Communication about this survey was sent to all House members to forward to their constituents. In an effort to communicate it throughout the state, it was also sent to media statewide via a press release. There were 1,788 responses to the survey, with at least one response coming from each of the 46 South Carolina counties.<sup>16</sup> These comments are not considered testimony.<sup>17</sup> As noted in the survey, "input and observations from those citizens who [chose] to provide responses are very important . . . because

they may help direct the Committee to potential areas for improvement with these agencies.”<sup>18</sup> The **public was informed they could continue to submit written comments about agencies online** after the public survey closed.<sup>19</sup> All meetings were open to the public and streamed live online; the videos are archived. **During the March 10, 2016, meeting the Subcommittee invited the public to provide comments and recommendations under oath about the agency directly to the Subcommittee.** Twenty-three constituents provided testimony under oath.

### *Information from the Agency*

The **Committee asked the agency to conduct a self-analysis** by requiring it to complete and submit a 2015 Restructuring Report, Seven-Year Plan for cost savings and increased efficiencies, and a Program Evaluation Report. The agency submitted its Restructuring Report and Seven-Year Plan, which were combined into a single report, on March 31, 2015.<sup>20</sup> The agency reported spending 40 hours to complete the combined report.<sup>21</sup> The agency submitted its Program Evaluation Report on June 19, 2015.<sup>22</sup> Both reports are available online. Committee staff provided the agency the draft Staff Study on September 1, 2015. The agency had ten business days to provide a response, if it wanted to provide a response. The agency provided a response on September 16. The Staff Study with the agency response is available online, and House Members were notified about the staff study with the agency response on September 25, 2015.<sup>23</sup>

### *Next Steps*

Pursuant to Committee Standard Practice 12.4, **individual members of this Subcommittee have the opportunity to provide a separate written statement for inclusion with the Subcommittee’s Study.** Once all individual members of the Subcommittee have provided their written statements, or indicated to the Subcommittee Chair that they will not provide a separate written statement, the Subcommittee Chair, pursuant to Committee Standard Practice 12.5, shall notify the Committee Chair in writing that a Subcommittee Study is available for consideration by the full Committee.

Once the Committee Chair receives written notice from the Subcommittee Chair, the Committee chair shall, pursuant to Committee Standard Practice 13.1, include the Subcommittee Study on the agenda for a full committee meeting. During the Committee meeting at which the Subcommittee Study is discussed, the Committee will vote, pursuant to Committee Standard Practice 13.2, to take one of the following three options: (1) Refer the study and investigation back to the Subcommittee or an ad hoc committee for further evaluation; (2) Approve the Subcommittee’s study; or (3) further evaluate the agency as a Committee, utilizing any of the available tools of legislative oversight available.

When the Committee approves a final study, any member of the Committee may provide a written statement for inclusion with the final study. The final study, and written statements, will be published online and the agency, as well as all House Standing Committees, will receive a copy.

Lastly, the Committee shall offer at least one briefing to Members of the House about the contents of the final oversight study approved by the Committee. The Committee Chair may provide briefings to the public about the final oversight study.



## DETAILS - RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations include areas identified for potential improvement by the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee recognizes these recommendations will not satisfy everyone nor address every issue or potential area of improvement at the agency. These recommendations are based on the agency's self-analysis requested by the full Committee, discussion with the agency during multiple meetings with the Subcommittee, and analysis of the information obtained by the Subcommittee. This information, including, but not limited to the Staff Study, Program Evaluation Report, Accountability Report, Restructuring Report and videos of meetings with the agency can all be found on the Committee's website.

### *Continue*<sup>24</sup>

The Subcommittee recommends South Carolina continue investment in a comprehensive, results-oriented initiative for improving early childhood development by providing, through local partnerships, public and private funds, and support for high-quality early childhood development and education services for children by providing support for their families' efforts toward enabling their children to reach school ready to succeed. The Subcommittee also recommends that SC First Steps continue to operate that initiative. The Subcommittee makes the following recommendations regarding programs currently operated by SC First Steps:

- Recommend that the 4K/Child Development Education Pilot Program continue in South Carolina;
- Recommend that Local Partnerships and Partnership Support continue in South Carolina; and
- Recommend that the state continue to be involved in Early Head Start and that First Steps continue to be an Early Head Start grantee.

The Subcommittee did not make a recommendation regarding BabyNet.

Additionally, the Subcommittee recommends continuation of programs and laws relating to the agency which are not listed under Revise or Eliminate below.

### *Curtail (i.e. Revise)*

The Subcommittee recommends that the General Assembly make the following revisions to state law:

- Establish a common assessment tool for school readiness for use within the public and private sectors and commit to its use over a period of years;
- Appropriate resources to develop an interagency, early childhood data system;
- Appropriate all BabyNet funds to the BabyNet lead agency; and
- Take steps to ensure greater equity in 4K provider funding, to include teacher pay and the exploration of tax and other incentives to participating private providers.<sup>25</sup>

The Subcommittee recommends that SC First Steps implement the following revisions in its internal operations:

- Determine the feasibility of instituting a sliding fee scale for BabyNet services;
- Work in collaboration with the SC Department of Education to study and depict the comprehensive costs of public and private sector 4K service provision;
- Develop a pilot project designed to provide startup funds for potential private 4K providers in underserved areas. The development of the pilot project should consider best practices in other states and nontraditional funding mechanisms (e.g. Social Impact Bonds); and
- Work with its local partnerships to establish 4K classrooms in communities where no other providers are available.

The Subcommittee will follow up on the agency’s progress, via a Request for Information, six months after the date that the full Committee approves the study.<sup>26</sup>

Also, the Subcommittee recommends including the below revisions to budget provisos in the Subcommittee Report for information purposes.<sup>27</sup> The revisions are as follows are detailed in the table below. Underlined bold language indicates an amendment. Words that are deleted are indicated by a line through the word.

Table 1. Revisions to Budget Provisions.

<b>FY 16 Proviso</b>	Proviso 1.66 (SDE: Full-Day 4K) and 1A.31 (SDE: Full-Day 4K)
<b>Explanation</b>	These provisos establishes the geography and tuition/transportation rates of the Child Early Reading and Development Education Program (previously known as the CDEPP 4K pilot program), codified within 2014’s Read to Succeed Act. First Steps contends that the tuition amount needs to match the law’s requirement that the rate be inflation indexed and to support additional materials funding.
<b>Agency Recommended Language</b>	1.66 and 1A.31 (SDE: Full-Day 4K) - For the current school year, eligible students residing in a school district with a poverty index of seventy percent or greater may participate in the South Carolina Early Reading Development and Education Program. Public and private providers will be reimbursed for instructional costs at a rate of <del>\$4,218</del> <b><u>\$4,323</u></b> per student enrolled. Eligible students enrolling during the school year or withdrawing during the school year shall be funded on a pro rata basis determined by the length of their enrollment. Private providers transporting eligible children to and from school shall also be eligible for a reimbursement of <del>\$550</del> <b><u>\$564</u></b> per eligible child transported. All providers who are reimbursed are required to retain records as required by their fiscal agent. New providers participating for the first time in the current fiscal year and enrolling between one and six eligible children shall be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 per child in materials and equipment funding, with providers enrolling seven or more such children eligible for funding not to exceed \$10,000. <b><u>Additionally, the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps to School Readiness are authorized to develop a grant application process designed to replace worn and/or consumable materials within existing classrooms in an annual amount not to exceed \$2,500 per classroom.</u></b> Providers receiving equipment funding are expected to participate in the program and provide high-quality, center-based programs as defined herein for a minimum of three years. Failure to participate for three years will require the provider to return a portion of the equipment allocation at a level determined by the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps to School

	<p>Readiness. Funding to providers is contingent upon receipt of data as requested by the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps.</p> <p>Of the funds appropriated, \$300,000 shall be allocated to the Education Oversight Committee to conduct an annual evaluation of the South Carolina Child Development Education Pilot Program and to issue findings in a report to the General Assembly by January fifteenth of each year. To aid in this evaluation, the Education Oversight Committee shall determine the data necessary and both public and private providers are required to submit the necessary data as a condition of continued participation in and funding of the program. This data shall include developmentally appropriate measures of student progress. Additionally, the Department of Education shall issue a unique student identifier for each child receiving services from a private provider. The Department of Education shall be responsible for the collection and maintenance of data on the public state funded full day and half-day four-year-old kindergarten programs. The Office of First Steps to School Readiness shall be responsible for the collection and maintenance of data on the state funded programs provided through private providers. The Education Oversight Committee shall use this data and all other collected and maintained data necessary to conduct a research based review of the program's implementation and assessment of student success in the early elementary grades.</p>
FY 16 Proviso	Proviso 1.84 (SDE: First Steps CDEPP Carry Forward and Other Funds)
Explanation	This proviso allows for unspent funds from the previous state fiscal year in the 4K Program to be used for specified information technology needs. First Steps would like the proviso to be updated to reflect the current assessment.
Agency Recommended Language	<p>1.84. (SDE: First Steps 4K Technology) During the current fiscal year, South Carolina Office of First Steps to School Readiness is authorized to expend up to \$75,000 <del>from the</del> <u>of</u> four-year-old kindergarten carry forward funds to purchase electronic devices for the administration of <del>early literacy and language development</del> <u>required school readiness assessments</u> to children enrolled in the full-day 4K program in private centers in the current fiscal year. The State Office of First Steps may purchase one device, which would be the property of the Office of First Steps, for every ten centers serving children in the program. The regional coordinators who provide support to the centers shall coordinate the usage of the devices among the centers. First Steps shall provide a report documenting its technology and materials expenditures to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee no later than January 15, <del>2016</del> <u>2017</u>.</p>
FY 16 Proviso	Proviso 1A.77 (SDE-EIA: Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Assessments)
Explanation	This proviso requires a readiness assessment for prekindergarten and kindergarten students funded with public funds within 45 days of the start of the school year. The Education Oversight Committee is required to develop a solicitation for the assessment. First Steps would like the proviso to require that accommodations,

	<p>consistent with a student’s Individualized Education Plan or 504 Plan be provided for the required assessments at the beginning and end of the school year.</p>
<p><b>Agency Recommended Language</b></p>	<p>1A.77 (SDE-EIA: 4K Early Literacy Competencies Assessments) Of the funds carried forward from the full-day 4K program from the previous fiscal year, the Department of Education is authorized to expend up to \$800,000 on assessments and professional development to analyze the early literacy competencies of children in publicly funded prekindergarten. The department, <del>in consultation with the Office of First Steps, will select up to three formative</del> <b><u>shall manage the administration of</u></b> assessments that analyze the early literacy and language development of children in publicly funded prekindergarten <b><u>as done in the prior fiscal year.</u></b> Each school district and private provider participating in a publicly funded prekindergarten program will administer one of the formative assessments selected by the department to each child eligible for and enrolled in a publicly funded prekindergarten program during the first forty-five days of the school year and during the last forty-five days of the school year. <b><u>Accommodations that do not invalidate the results of these assessments must be provided in the manner set forth by the student's Individualized Education Program or 504 Accommodations Plan.</u></b> School districts and private providers will be allocated \$15 per child assessed to cover the cost of the formative assessment. School districts and private providers are required to report electronically the results of each individual assessment to the department using a form that must include the unique student identifier and any other information prescribed by the department. <del>In turn, the</del> <b><u>The</u></b> department will provide the assessment data to the Education Oversight Committee. The results of the assessment and the developmental intervention strategies recommended or services needed to address the child's identified needs must also be provided, in writing, to the parent or guardian. The assessment may not be used to deny a student to admission to prekindergarten.</p> <p>Furthermore, \$2,000,000 of the funds appropriated for half-day programs for four-year-olds and funds carried forward from assessment must be expended by the Department of Education to administer the Developmental Reading Assessment(r) 2nd Edition PLUS to implement the progress monitoring system required by the Read to Succeed Act of 2014 and to evaluate the early literacy and language competencies of each child entering kindergarten in the public schools. The assessment of kindergarten students must be administered at a minimum of once during the first forty-five days of the school year and once during the last forty-five days of the school year with the results collected by the department. The results of the assessments and the developmental intervention strategies recommended or services needed to address each child's identified needs must also be provided, in writing, to the parent or guardian. The assessment may not be used to deny a student admission to kindergarten. <b><u>Accommodations that do not invalidate the results of these assessments must be provided in the manner set forth by the student's Individualized Education Program or 504 Accommodations Plan.</u></b> Districts are given the option of designating up to two days of the 180-day school calendar to administer the assessment to kindergarten students. The department will also provide the results of the assessment of kindergarten students to the Education Oversight Committee. With available funds, the department will also provide or secure training for appropriate educators in how to administer the assessment. In addition the department may pilot in kindergarten classes one or</p>

	more comprehensive readiness assessments that address the other domains in numeracy, approaches to learning, social and emotional development, and physical well-being in the current school year.
<b>FY 16 Proviso</b>	Proviso 1A.68 (SDE-EIA: BabyNet Early Intervention Autism Therapy)
<b>Explanation</b>	This proviso requires \$437,476 in autism funds to be used to pay the autism therapy providers \$13.58 per hour and \$10 per hour to individual line therapists. It also requires SC First Steps to School Readiness to submit a report on these expenditures as well as Medicaid revenue and expenses. First Steps would like to modify this rate to match the Medicaid Rate.
<b>Agency Recommended Language</b>	<b>1A.68.</b> (SDE-EIA: BabyNet Early Intervention Autism Therapy) The \$814,348 in funds appropriated in this act to the Office of First Steps to School Readiness for BabyNet Autism Therapy must be used only to increase the BabyNet autism therapy provider hourly rate and the individual hourly pay of line therapists during the current fiscal year. The Office of First Steps must consult with the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs regarding the implementation of these increases. The Office of First Steps must ensure that, prior to payment, these line therapists meet all current state requirements. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these monies be used solely for the purpose of increasing the BabyNet autism therapy provider rate to <b><u>\$13.58 per hour or the current Medicaid rate, whichever is higher</u></b> and the hourly pay to individual line therapists being increased to a minimum of \$10.00 per hour. Quarterly, the Office of First Steps must send a letter to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee reporting on their compliance with the requirements of this proviso. The report must include information regarding the expenditure of state funds as well as the receipt and expenditure of Federal Medicaid funds associated with the program.
<b>New Proviso</b>	
<b>Explanation</b>	Permits the expenditure of projected unspent 4K funds on eligible students in additional districts. Permits geographic expansion and/or extension of school year for children with identified early literacy deficiencies.
<b>Agency Recommended Language</b>	<b><u>(First Steps 4K) If by September 15 of the school year, South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness projects sufficient funding to expand student enrollment within private settings participating in the Child Early Reading Development and Education Programs, funds appropriated for this program may be used in the current fiscal year to enroll age-and income-eligible students from any SC school district and/or to provide extended school year services to children identified as possessing early literacy deficiencies.</u></b>
<b>New Proviso</b>	
<b>Explanation</b>	Reauthorizes First Steps for FY17 in the absence of stand-alone statutory reauthorization, preventing the elimination of statewide services on July 1, 2016. This proviso has been adopted by the W/M Public Education and Special Schools Subcommittee.
<b>Agency Recommended Language</b>	<b><u>South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness is reauthorized for the current fiscal year.</u></b>

Lastly, the Subcommittee voted to reference the work of the First Steps Study Committee for information purposes. The Subcommittee published a report in October 2015.<sup>28</sup>

### *Eliminate*

The Subcommittee does not recommend elimination of any laws or programs relating to the agency.

### *Follow Up*

The Subcommittee will seek an update from the agency on the programmatic revisions in a Request for Information, six months from the approval of the Full Committee Report.<sup>29</sup>

## SELECTED AGENCY INFORMATION

**SC First Steps to School Readiness. “Program Evaluation Report, 2015.”**

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/2015%20Program%20Evaluation%20Reports/First%20Steps%20Program%20Evaluation%20Report.PDF> (accessed March 21, 2016).

**SC First Steps to School Readiness. “Restructuring and Seven-Year Plan Report, 2015.”**

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/2015AgencyRestructuringandSevenYearPlanReports/2015%20First%20Steps%20to%20School%20Readiness.pdf> (accessed March 21, 2016)

**SC House of Representatives, Legislative Oversight Committee. “May 2015 Survey Results.”**

[http://www.scstatehouse.gov/committeeinfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/Survey/May%202015%20Survey%20Results%20\(CG,%20DOT,%20First%20Steps,%20DSS,%20and%20DJJ\).pdf](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/committeeinfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/Survey/May%202015%20Survey%20Results%20(CG,%20DOT,%20First%20Steps,%20DSS,%20and%20DJJ).pdf) (accessed July 6, 2015).

**SC House of Representatives, Legislative Oversight Committee. “September 1, 2015 Staff Study of the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness.”**

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/2015StaffStudyAndAgencyResponse/First%20Steps%20Staff%20Study%20and%20Agency%20Response.PDF> (accessed March 21, 2016)

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> *SC Code of Laws*, sec. 2-2-20(C).

<sup>2</sup> SC House of representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “Subcommittees -2016,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/S1.pdf> (accessed February 9, 2016).

<sup>3</sup> SC House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “January 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” and under “Full Committee Minutes,” <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/FullCommitteeMinutes/January072015.pdf> (accessed February 9, 2016). A video of the meeting is available at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/video/videofeed.php>.

<sup>4</sup> The committee’s recommendations, letters to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and House Clerk, and a direct link to the January 13, 2015, House Journal are available on the committee’s website under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee.php> (accessed February 9, 2016)

<sup>5</sup> *SC Code of Laws*, sec. 2-2-10(1).

<sup>6</sup> SC House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “February 5, 2015 Full Committee Minutes,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” and under “Full Committee Minutes,” <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/committeeinfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/FullCommitteeMinutes/February052015.pdf> (accessed August 5, 2015). A video of the meeting is available at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/video/videofeed.php>.

<sup>7</sup> SC House of representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “Subcommittees -2016,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/S1.pdf> (accessed February 9, 2016).

<sup>8</sup> SC House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “February 24, 2015 Education and Cultural Subcommittee Minutes,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” and under “Subcommittee Minutes” <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/SubcommitteeMinutes/EducationSub/February242015Minutes.pdf> (accessed March 24, 2016). A video of the meeting is available at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/video/videofeed.php>.

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- <sup>9</sup> SC House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “May 12, 2015 Education and Cultural Subcommittee Minutes,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” and under “Subcommittee Minutes” <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/SubcommitteeMinutes/EducationSub/May122015Minutes.pdf> (Last accessed March 24, 2016). A video of the meeting is available at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/video/videofeed.php>.
- <sup>10</sup> SC House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “Dec 11, 2015 Education and Cultural Subcommittee Minutes,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” and under “Subcommittee Minutes” <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/SubcommitteeMinutes/EducationSub/Dec112015MeetingMinutes.pdf> (Last accessed March 24, 2016). A video of the meeting is available at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/video/videofeed.php>.
- <sup>11</sup> SC House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “February 10, 2016 Education and Cultural Subcommittee Minutes,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” and under “Subcommittee Minutes” <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/SubcommitteeMinutes/EducationSub/February102016Minutes.pdf> (Last accessed March 24, 2016). A video of the meeting is available at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/video/videofeed.php>.
- <sup>12</sup> SC House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “March 10, 2016 Education and Cultural Subcommittee Minutes,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” and under “Subcommittee Minutes” <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/SubcommitteeMinutes/EducationSub/March102016Minutes.pdf> (Last accessed March 24, 2016). A video of the meeting is available at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/video/videofeed.php>.
- <sup>13</sup> SC House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “January 14, 2016 Education and Cultural Subcommittee Minutes,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” and under “Subcommittee Minutes” <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/SubcommitteeMinutes/EducationSub/January142016Minutes.pdf> (Last accessed March 24, 2016). A video of the meeting is available at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/video/videofeed.php>.
- <sup>14</sup> SC House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “March 1, 2016 Education and Cultural Subcommittee Minutes,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” and under “Subcommittee Minutes” <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/SubcommitteeMinutes/EducationSub/March012016Minutes.pdf> (Last accessed March 24, 2016). A video of the meeting is available at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/video/videofeed.php>.
- <sup>15</sup> Hold for posting
- <sup>16</sup> SC House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “May 2015 Survey Results,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” and under “Department of Social Services” [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/committeeinfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/Survey/May%202015%20Survey%20Results%20\(CG,%20DOT,%20First%20Steps,%20DSS,%20and%20DJJ\).pdf](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/committeeinfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/Survey/May%202015%20Survey%20Results%20(CG,%20DOT,%20First%20Steps,%20DSS,%20and%20DJJ).pdf), unnumbered page 1 and 133-135, (accessed February 9, 2016).
- <sup>17</sup> Standard practice 10.4.
- <sup>18</sup> SC House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “May 2015 Public Survey.” The survey is closed. The survey sought comments from the public about the Comptroller General’s Office; Department of Transportation; Department of Social Services; Department of Juvenile Justice; and First Steps to School Readiness. The 1,788 responses is inclusive of responses for all five agencies.
- <sup>19</sup> SC House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “Provide Input About Agencies,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee.”
- <sup>20</sup> SC First Steps to School Readiness, *Restructuring and Seven-Year Plan Report*. <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/2015AgencyRestructuringandSevenYearPlanReports/2015%20First%20Steps%20to%20School%20Readiness.pdf> (accessed March 21, 2016)
- <sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 16.
- <sup>22</sup> SC Department of Social Services, *Program Evaluation Report*. <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/2015%20Program%20Evaluation%20Reports/DSS%20Program%20Evaluation%20Report%20Complete%20RevOctober262015.PDF> (accessed February 9, 2016).
- <sup>23</sup> SC House of representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “2015 Summary - House Legislative Oversight Committee,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/2015SummaryHouseLegislativeOversightCommittee.pdf> (accessed March 24, 2016)
- <sup>24</sup> Hold for posting
- <sup>25</sup> Hold for posting
- <sup>26</sup> Hold for posting
- <sup>27</sup> SC House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “February 10, 2016 Education and Cultural Subcommittee Minutes,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” and under “Subcommittee Minutes” <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/SubcommitteeMinutes/EducationSub/February102016Minutes.pdf> (Last accessed March 24, 2016). A video of the meeting is available at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/video/videofeed.php>.
- <sup>28</sup> Hold for posting
- <sup>29</sup> Hold for posting



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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You may visit the South Carolina General Assembly Home Page (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and click on "Citizens' Interest" then click on "House Legislative Oversight Committee Postings and Reports". This will list the information posted online for the committee; click on the information you would like to review. Also, a direct link to committee information is <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee.php>.

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