

## Information from Department of Employment and Workforce for Indigency Screening

The Committee asks the Commission on Indigent Defense to communicate with the Department of Employment and Workforce to determine the following: (a) information that may be utilized during indigency screening; (b) methods by which the information may be accessed; and (c) cost to access the information. The agency provides the response below in its September 7, 2018 letter to the Committee.<sup>1</sup>

The **Department of Employment and Workforce** (DEW) indicated that they have data that can (1) verify employment, (2) verify reported wages and (3) verify application and receipt of unemployment benefits. This information is accessible as it is web-based. The cost for access will basically be the technology cost on the screener end. No cost to or charge by them to access the data. The hurdle is they are a state agency regulated by federal regulations regarding confidentiality and disclosure of the information. Unless there is an appropriate exception, clearance must be obtained to access the information. There may be a way for the applicant to waive privacy or give consent to access to the information. It must be noted that DEW's database is current up to the previous quarter because employers report quarterly 30 days after the last day of the quarter.

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<sup>1</sup> S.C. House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, "Letter from SCCID to Oversight Subcommittee with attachments (Sept. 7, 2018), Agency's Response to Oversight Subcommittee's August 17, 2018 Letter, Questions #20," under "Committee Postings and Reports," under "House Legislative Oversight Committee," under "Indigent Defense, Commission on," and under "Correspondence," [https://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/AgencyWebpages/IndigentDefense/Letter%20from%20SCCID%20to%20Oversight%20Subcommittee%20with%20attachments%20\(Sept.%207,%202018\).pdf](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/AgencyWebpages/IndigentDefense/Letter%20from%20SCCID%20to%20Oversight%20Subcommittee%20with%20attachments%20(Sept.%207,%202018).pdf) (accessed October 12, 2018).