



**SOUTH CAROLINA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY &
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

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May 12, 2025

K. Earle Powell, Director
South Carolina Legislative Audit Council
1331 Elmwood Avenue, Suite 315
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Director Powell,

At its organizational meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2024, the House Government Efficiency and Legislative Oversight Committee (Committee) selected the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD) for study. The Committee has received concerns from stakeholders and members of the General Assembly regarding significant wait times associated with the disability determination process. Currently, the average processing time nationally for these services is 232 days, with South Carolina experiencing the highest processing time in the country at 376 days, according to the Social Security Administration.¹

Federal law mandates that states establish State Disability Determination Services for SSDI and SSI programs. While the Social Security Administration provides federal funding for these services, states are responsible for administering the disability determination process.

¹ <https://www.ssa.gov/ssa-performance/disability-processing-time>

In accordance with SC Code § 2-2-60 (D), the Committee requests that the South Carolina Legislative Audit Council conduct an audit of the State Disability Determination Services program administered by SCVRD. This audit would examine the leadership and operational management of the agency's disability determination services, identify factors contributing to the excessive processing times for SSI and SSDI claims, and present recommendations for resolving excessive processing times and claim backlogs.

Thank you for your continued dedication to addressing the critical issues facing the people of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff E. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rep. Jeffrey E. "Jeff" Johnson,
Chairman, House Legislative Oversight Committee

cc: Representative John R. McCravy, III