



South Carolina House of Representatives Legislative Oversight Committee

Chair Jeffrey E. “Jeff” Johnson

First Vice-Chair Chris Wooten

Lucas Atkinson
William H. Bailey
Phillip Bowers
Gary S. Brewer
Kambrell H. Garvin
Leon Douglas “Doug” Gilliam

Wendell Keith Jones
Kathy Landing
John R. McCravy, III
Annie E. McDaniel
Timothy A. “Tim” McGinnis
W. Scott Montgomery, IV

Travis A. Moore
Michael R. Rivers, Sr.
Richard B. “Blake” Sanders
Marvin “Mark” Smith
Paul B. Wickensimer
Robert Q. Williams

Charlie LaRosa
Research Analyst

Lewis Carter
Research Director

Roland Franklin
Counsel/Associate General Counsel for Litigation

Cathy A. Greer
Administration Coordinator

Riley E. McCullough
Research Analyst

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

January 14, 2024

Felicia Johnson, Commissioner
South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department
1410 Boston Avenue
West Columbia, SC 29171

RE: Legislative Oversight Study of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department

Dear Director Johnson:

On December 4, 2024, the House Legislative Oversight Committee approved the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department for study. In conducting studies, it is the 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.

Enclosed are copies of the Committee’s Rules and Standard Practices, which may be modified during the legislative oversight process. Notably, the Standard Practices include a flow chart with an overview of the process the Committee intends to follow and a diagram indicating how public input is received and disseminated. In the near future, if they have not already done so, the Committee staff will schedule a meeting with you to discuss preliminary matters relating to the study process. Please do not hesitate to contact Committee staff at any time with questions. Also, below is a brief summary of the Committee’s expectations.

The Committee expects the following of each agency under study:

- Inform its staff that the agency is undergoing the legislative oversight study process as well as the purpose of the study;
- Appoint a liaison to assist the Committee with all activities;
- Respond to Committee requests in a concise, complete and timely manner;

- Be candid with the Committee;
- Promptly discuss with the Committee any concerns or questions the agency may have related to the legislative oversight study process, including any concerns the agency may have that (a) the Committee has drawn an incorrect conclusion; or (b) time or resources required to respond to a Committee request are excessive;
- Realize written information provided to the Committee is considered sworn testimony pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §2-2-70; and
- Inform the Committee if any information requested by the Committee cannot be published online due to provisions in contract or law and refrain from providing such information to the Committee.

Enclosed please find information to share with agency employees.

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

Sincerely,

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

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

Enclosures

cc: Subcommittee Chair

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate are charged by Act 121 of 2014 with conducting legislative oversight studies and investigations of state agencies at least once every seven years. Information about the study process is accessible on the General Assembly's website, www.scstatehouse.gov, under "Citizens' Interest," and under "Agency Oversight by the House Legislative Oversight Committee."

Public input is a cornerstone of the Committee's process. Constituents, including employees and other stakeholders (e.g., partners, customers, vendors, etc.) may share comments and concerns with the Committee about state agencies. Information about opportunities to participate in the Committee's process is regularly posted on the Committee's webpage. Also, an ongoing opportunity to provide anonymous input to the Committee is available on the Committee's webpage.

See below for a few things the Committee advises to expect and not to expect with this study.

What to Expect:

- Oversight study by your elected representatives
- Ability for the public to be involved in the process
- Identification of areas for improvement and recommendations for agencies under study

What Not to Expect:

- Finding every issue or potential area of improvement at agencies
- Solving every issue at agencies
- Recommendations that satisfy everyone