

**Chair Wm. Weston J. Newton**

*First Vice-Chair:*  
Laurie Slade Funderburk

## **Legislative Oversight Committee**

Nathan Ballentine  
Gary E. Clary  
Kirkman Finlay III  
Joseph H. Jefferson Jr.  
Walton J. McLeod  
Joshua Putnam  
Samuel Rivers Jr.  
Tommy M. Stringer  
Bill Taylor



**South Carolina House of Representatives**

William K. (Bill) Bowers  
Raye Felder  
Phyllis J. Henderson  
Mia S. McLeod  
Ralph W. Norman  
Robert L. Ridgeway III  
James E. Smith, Jr.  
Edward R. Tallon Sr.  
Robert Q. Williams

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### **Legislative Oversight Committee Meeting**

Monday, October 31, 2016  
Blatt Building Room 516

#### **Archived Video Available**

- I. Pursuant to House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 6.8, South Carolina ETV was allowed access for streaming the meeting. You may access an archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly's website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and clicking on *Committee Postings and Reports*, then under *House Standing Committees* click on *Legislative Oversight*. Then, click on *Video Archives* for a listing of archived videos for the Committee.

#### **Attendance**

- I. The House Legislative Oversight Committee was called to order by Chair Wm. Weston J. Newton on Monday, October 31, 2016, in Room 516 of the Blatt Building. All members of the Committee were present for all or a portion of the meeting, except: Representative Gary E. Clary; Representative Walton J. McLeod, III; Representative Samuel Rivers, Jr.; and Representative Bill Taylor.

## Minutes

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires standing committees to prepare and make available to the public the minutes of committee meetings, but the minutes do not have to be verbatim accounts of meetings.
- II. Representative Tallon moved to approve the minutes from the Committee's meeting on October 3, 2016. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

<b>Representative Tallon's motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on October 3, 2016:</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Not Voting: Present</b>	<b>Not Voting: Absent</b>
Nathan Ballentine				✓
William K. Bowers	✓			
Gary E. Clary				✓
Raye Felder	✓			
Kirkman Finlay, III	✓			
Laurie Slade Funderburk	✓			
Phyllis Henderson	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Mia S. McLeod				✓
Walton J. McLeod, III				✓
Ralph W. Norman	✓			
Joshua A. Putnam	✓			
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓			
Samuel Rivers, Jr.				✓
James E. Smith, Jr.	✓			
Tommy Stringer	✓			
Edward R. Tallon	✓			
Bill Taylor				✓
Robert Q. Williams	✓			
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓			

**Discussion of the School for the Deaf and the Blind**

- I. Representative Smith, the Chair of the Education and Cultural Subcommittee, provided the Committee with a brief overview of the Subcommittee’s study of the School for the Deaf and the Blind which was presented to the Committee on October 3, 2016. He also moved that the Committee approve the study. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

<b>Representative Smith’s motion to approve the Education and Cultural Subcommittee’s study of the School for the Deaf and the Blind:</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Not Voting: Present</b>	<b>Not Voting: Absent</b>
Nathan Ballentine				✓
William K. Bowers	✓			
Gary E. Clary				✓
Raye Felder	✓			
Kirkman Finlay, III	✓			
Laurie Slade Funderburk	✓			
Phyllis Henderson	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Mia S. McLeod				✓
Walton J. McLeod, III				✓
Ralph W. Norman	✓			
Joshua A. Putnam	✓			
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓			
Samuel Rivers, Jr.				✓
James E. Smith, Jr.	✓			
Tommy Stringer	✓			
Edward R. Tallon	✓			
Bill Taylor				✓
Robert Q. Williams	✓			
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓			

## **Administrative Matters**

- I. Chair Newton reminded the Committee of its task to recommend to the Speaker agencies for study in 2017, and he recapped for the Committee suggestions received on the topic from legislators and constituents.
- II. Chair Newton noted the Committee was some agencies short of meeting its goal for the year in the total number of studies completed. The Committee completed six studies of agencies, and its goal was 11 completion of 11 studies.
- III. Chair Newton provided an update on the status of agency submissions of the Annual Accountability Report, which fulfills an agency's responsibility to file an Annual Restructuring Report.
- IV. Chair Newton shared with the Committee that multiple agencies have expressed concern about the Committee's practice of accepting and anonymous communications from the public. Representative Finlay and Representative Norman expressed their opinions that the opportunity for the public to submit anonymous communications to the Committee about agencies was indispensable to the oversight process. Chair Newton noted the Committee would have a chance to revisit the issue and the Committee's standard practices in the new session. Representative Smith agreed that anonymous communications were indispensable, and he recommended the Committee examine ways in which the agencies notify their employees about the opportunity to submit anonymous communications to the Committee. Representative Tallon said that he believed agency employees who are afraid to come forward are emboldened to share what they know when they see that other employees' anonymous communications have been heard and published by the Committee. Representative Finlay said that the Committee should push agencies to employ professional, outside parties to survey agency employees for issues of concern and morale. Representative Williams said that he was surprised to learn that some agencies had expressed concern about anonymous communications to the Committee, and he felt the Committee should follow-up with contractors who had been used by agencies for various projects.
- V. Chair Newton thanked the Committee members for their hard work over the course of the last two years and for the privilege of allowing him to serve as Chairman. He gave a farewell to Representative Mia S. McLeod. Also, he thanked Committee staff for their hard work.
- VI. The meeting was adjourned.