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### **Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee**

Monday, September 18, 2017

10:00 am

Blatt Room 108

#### **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 Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Laurie Slade Funderburk on Monday, September 18, 2017, in Room 108 of the Blatt Building. The following members of the Subcommittee were present for either all or a portion of the meeting: Representative Neal Collins and Representative Robert L. Ridgeway.

#### **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. It is the practice of the Legislative Oversight Committee to provide minutes for its subcommittee meetings.

- II. Representative Ridgeway makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the prior Subcommittee meeting. A roll call vote is held, and the motion passes.

Rep. Ridgeway’s motion to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2017 meeting:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Collins	✓		
Rep. Norrell			Not Present
Rep. Ridgeway	✓		
Rep. Funderburk	✓		

**Discussion of the Human Affairs Commission**

- I. Vice-Chair Funderburk provides an update on the Subcommittee’s work related to the Human Affairs Commission. She explains that the purpose of this meeting is to further discuss the agency’s strategic plan, in particular its resources available (employees and funds); methodology utilized to allocate resources to objectives; agency personnel responsible for each objective; and performance measures.
- II. Vice-Chair Funderburk swears in the following representative of the agency present at the meeting: Ms. Christina Jordan, Administrative Manager.  
  
Vice-Chair Funderburk also reminds agency personnel who were sworn in during prior meetings that they remain under oath.
- III. Commissioner Raymond Buxton II introduces the agency’s goals and objectives and presents information about agency turnover. Subcommittee members ask questions, which Commissioner Buxton answers.
- IV. Ms. Lee Ann Rice, Staff Counsel, presents information about the importance of case processing time and the agency’s Law Recommendation #3, which is to change the timeframe in which a civil suit may be brought by a complainant (see p. 12 of Program Evaluation Report).
- V. Mr. Marvin Caldwell, Director of Fair Housing, presents information about the agency’s goal two - prevent and eliminate housing discrimination. Subcommittee members ask questions, which Mr. Caldwell and Commissioner Buxton answer.

- VI. Ms. Lee Ann Rice, Staff Counsel, presents information about the agency's goal three - educate citizens about the use of legal remedies to achieve justice and fairness - and the following law recommendations:
- a. Law Recommendation #5: Require state agencies to engage in preliminary mediation at the agency when complaints are filed against them (see p. 13 of Program Evaluation Report);
  - b. Law Recommendation #1: Clarify that the agency has the power to subpoena non-state agency employers (see p. 11 of Program Evaluation Report);
  - c. Law Recommendation #2: Broaden the damages that may be awarded to aggrieved parties in employment discrimination litigation (see pp. 11-12 of Program Evaluation Report);
  - d. Law Recommendation #4: Limit the relief that may be awarded under the Human Affairs Law (see p. 13 of Program Evaluation Report).

VII. Mr. Dan Koon, Deputy Commissioner, presents information about the agency's goal four - foster culturally sensitive and social inclusive communities statewide - as well as the following law recommendations:

- a. Law Recommendation #8: Prohibit discrimination in public accommodations on the basis of sex (see p. 20 of Program Evaluation Report);
- b. Law Recommendation #9: Empower the agency to process complaints for which the Attorney General and SLED currently have legal responsibility (see p. 21 of Program Evaluation Report);
- c. Law Recommendation #10: Clarify the relief that may be granted to aggrieved parties under the Public Accommodations Law (see pp. 22-23 of Program Evaluation Report);
- d. Law Recommendation #11: Empower the agency to process complaints for which the Attorney General and SLED currently have legal responsibility (see p. 23 of Program Evaluation Report).

Subcommittee members ask questions, which Mr. Koon and other agency representatives answer.

VIII. Ms. Stephanie Price, Technical Services Supervisor, presents information about the agency's goal five - advocate the compliance of Agency Affirmative Action Policies within all State Agencies. Subcommittee members ask questions, which Ms. Price and other agency representatives answer.

- IX. Subcommittee members ask various questions about salaries, investigations, community relations councils, and training, which different agency representatives answered.
- X. The meeting is adjourned.