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Healthcare Subcommittee

August 25, 2016

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 Healthcare Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Chair Nathan Ballentine on Thursday, August 25, 2016, in Room 108 of the Blatt Building. Chair Ballentine, Representative Mia S. McLeod, and Representative Bill Taylor were present at the beginning of the meeting. Representative Walton J. McLeod arrived later.
- II. Representative Taylor offered an opening prayer.

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 Taylor moved to approve the minutes from the Subcommittee's meeting on July 19, 2016. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. Taylor's motion to approve the minutes from July 19, 2016:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Ballentine	✓		
Rep. M. McLeod	✓		
Rep. W. McLeod	✓		
Rep. Taylor	✓		

Study of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind

- I. Chair Ballentine said that the purpose of the meeting was to allow the Subcommittee to ask questions of the staff of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind and to form recommendations concerning the agency.
- II. Representative M. McLeod moved that the Subcommittee recommend the continuation of the Commission's vocational rehabilitation program, subject to any recommendations for program revision considered later in the meeting. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. M. McLeod's motion that the Subcommittee recommend the continuation of the Commission for the Blind's vocational rehabilitation program, subject to any recommendations for program revisions considered later in the meeting:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Ballentine	✓		
Rep. M. McLeod	✓		
Rep. W. McLeod	✓		
Rep. Taylor	✓		

- IV. Representative Taylor moved that the Subcommittee recommend the continuation of the Commission's older blind program, subject to any recommendations for program revision considered later in the meeting. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. Taylor's motion that the Subcommittee recommend the continuation of the Commission for the Blind's older blind program, subject to any recommendations for program revisions considered later in the meeting:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Ballentine	✓		
Rep. M. McLeod	✓		
Rep. W. McLeod	✓		
Rep. Taylor	✓		

- V. Representative W. McLeod moved that the Subcommittee recommend the continuation of the Commission's children's services program, subject to any recommendations for program revision considered later in the meeting. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. W. McLeod's motion that the Subcommittee recommend the continuation of the Commission for the Blind's children's services program, subject to any recommendations for program revisions considered later in the meeting:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Ballentine	✓		
Rep. M. McLeod	✓		
Rep. W. McLeod	✓		
Rep. Taylor	✓		

- VI. Representative W. McLeod asked for the name of the program that was the subject of budget cuts around the year 2008.

Representative W. McLeod asked for more information about the Commission's prevention program, which was eliminated due to budget cuts but had recently been partially funded again by the General Assembly.

Representative W. McLeod moved that the Subcommittee recommend that the agency's budget in the ensuing fiscal year be increased to bring the funding for the prevention program up to what it was prior to budget curtailments in 2008 and 2009 in present value, which would require an additional \$650,000. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. W. McLeod's motion that the Subcommittee recommend that the agency's budget in the ensuing fiscal year be increased to bring the funding for the prevention program up to what it was prior to budget curtailments in 2008 and 2009 in present value, which would require an additional \$650,000:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Ballentine	✓		
Rep. M. McLeod	✓		
Rep. W. McLeod	✓		
Rep. Taylor	✓		

- VII. Chair Ballentine asked whether the Commission had ever asked in budget requests for the items specified in the "wish list" provided to the Subcommittee by the Commission.

Chair Ballentine and Representative Taylor encouraged the Commission to ask for more funding in budget meetings if the Commission's budgetary needs were genuine.

Representative W. McLeod expressed his dismay that he did not hear any discussion of the needs of the disabled at the recent Democratic National Convention, and he asked Commissioner Kirby to work with national disabled advocacy organizations to bring more attention to the needs of the disabled community. Representative W. McLeod also asked for the names of the disabled advocacy organizations with which the Commission was affiliated.

Chair Ballentine asked whether the Commission partnered with county and local organizations in order to help the visually impaired find employment.

Chair Ballentine asked Ed Bible whether he had worked with the state's Office of Human Resources in order to update the job descriptions of certain government jobs so as to remove outdated requirements for the vision of applicants.

Chair Ballentine moved that the Subcommittee recommend that the Commission work to develop relationships with state and local government human resource agencies regarding connecting clients to positions and assisting government employers with methods of retaining employees with declining vision.

Representative Taylor said that he felt that the Subcommittee should also consider a recommendation that state agencies be required to revise job descriptions so as to make more positions available to visually impaired people. Chair Ballentine said that he agreed with Representative Taylor's concern, but felt that the Subcommittee could address the concern at a later time.

A roll call vote was held on Chair Ballentine's motion, and the motion passed.

Chair Ballentine's motion for a recommendation that South Carolina Commission for the Blind develop relationships with state and local government human resources agencies, regarding both connecting clients to positions and assisting government employers with methods for retaining employees with declining vision:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Ballentine	✓		
Rep. M. McLeod	✓		
Rep. W. McLeod	✓		
Rep. Taylor	✓		

Chair Ballentine asked whether the Commission had developed a presentation for county and local governments about the unnecessariness of sighted requirements in many job descriptions.

VIII. Committee staff explained potential recommendations for the Subcommittee to consider. Those potential recommendations were:

- 1) Amending SC Code § 43-25-10, so as to update the definition of visual impairment that applies to members of the Board of the Commission for the Blind;
- 2) Amending SC Code § 43-25-30, so as to remove references to repealed statutes; and
- 3) Amending SC Code § 43-25-60, so as to replace references to "itinerant teachers" with references to "itinerant counselors."

- IX. Representative M. McLeod moved that the Subcommittee recommend the amendment of SC Code § 43-25-10, so as to update the definition of visual impairment that applies to members of the Board of the Commission for the Blind. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. M. McLeod's motion for a recommendation that the visual acuity required for the Commissioners in § 43-25-10 be amended to replace "shall have a visual acuity not to exceed 20/200" with "meet the legal definition of blindness as defined in § 43-25-20:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Ballentine	✓		
Rep. M. McLeod	✓		
Rep. W. McLeod			✓
Rep. Taylor	✓		

Representative M. McLeod moved that the Subcommittee recommend the amendment of SC Code § 43-25-30, so as to remove references to repealed statutes. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. M. McLeod's motion for a recommendation that § 43-25-30(12) be amended to delete the Commission's responsibility to assist in the furtherance of the purpose of deleted sections 44-43-110 to 44-43-160:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Ballentine	✓		
Rep. M. McLeod	✓		
Rep. W. McLeod			✓
Rep. Taylor	✓		

Representative Taylor moved that the Subcommittee recommend the amendment of SC Code § 43-25-60, so as to replace references to "itinerant teachers" with references to "itinerant counselors." A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. Taylor's motion to recommend that references to the phrase "itinerant teacher" in § 43-25-60 be amended to "itinerant counselor" to better reflect the role of the Commission for the Blind in serving the state's visually impaired students:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Ballentine	✓		
Rep. M. McLeod	✓		
Rep. W. McLeod			✓
Rep. Taylor	✓		

- X. Representative M. McLeod moved that Committee staff draft the Subcommittee Study of the Commission, and provide a copy to each Subcommittee member by Friday, September 1, 2016. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. M. McLeod's motion to instruct staff to draft a report and provide a copy to all Subcommittee members by Friday, September 2, 2016:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Ballentine	✓		
Rep. M. McLeod	✓		
Rep. W. McLeod			✓
Rep. Taylor	✓		

Representative M. McLeod moved that any written statement meant to be included with the Subcommittee Study of the Commission by a Subcommittee member provided to Committee staff by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 9, 2016. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. M. McLeod's motion that written statements be provided to staff by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 9, 2016:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Ballentine	✓		
Rep. M. McLeod	✓		
Rep. W. McLeod			✓
Rep. Taylor	✓		

Representative M. McLeod moved that, with the exception of a follow-up meeting, that the meeting be the final meeting of the Subcommittee with the Commission unless, after a review of the written study, a Subcommittee member requests in writing to Chair Ballentine by the close of business on

Friday, September 9, 2016, another meeting to discuss any issues of concern within the written study. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. M. McLeod's motion that, with the exception of a follow-up meeting, that the meeting be the final meeting of the Subcommittee to study the Commission for the Blind unless, after a review of the written study, a Subcommittee member requests in writing to the chair by the close of business on Friday, September 9, 2016, another meeting to discuss any issues of concern within the written study:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Ballentine	✓		
Rep. M. McLeod	✓		
Rep. W. McLeod			✓
Rep. Taylor	✓		

XI. The meeting was adjourned.