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Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee

Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

Blatt Room 110

### 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 Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Chairman Kirkman Finlay, III, on the afternoon of Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, in Room 110 of the Blatt Building. The following members of the Subcommittee were present for either all or part of the meeting: Chairman Finlay, Representative William K. "Bill" Bowers, Representative Raye Felder, and Representative Edward R. "Eddie" Tallon, Sr.

## 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 Felder moved to approve the minutes from the August 30<sup>th</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 Subcommittee meeting.

Rep. Felder's motion to approve the minutes from August 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2016:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Bowers			✓ (not present)
Rep. Felder	✓		
Rep. Finlay	✓		
Rep. Tallon	✓		
Rep. Felder's motion to approve the minutes from August 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2016:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Bowers			✓ (not present)
Rep. Felder	✓		
Rep. Finlay	✓		
Rep. Tallon	✓		

## Discussion of the Department of Public Safety

- I. Chairman Finlay allows the opportunity for questions of the agency by the subcommittee members. Members of the Subcommittee asked questions about the following topics:
  - Overtime during Hurricane Matthew and how personnel were being compensated;
  - Personnel including overtime, current numbers, allocation, and turnover;
  - Hiring process, including information available to personnel involved, and personnel who are allowed input;
  - Trooper Criminal Justice Academy graduation rates;
  - How the agency determines what actions are successful in recruiting new hires, retaining current employees, and bringing employees back to the agency;
  - Clarification on the man hours budget form the agency submitted to the Subcommittee and if the information is correct, including if there has been a comparison between expenditure versus retained officers;

- Traffic accident fatality numbers;
- Agency finances including carryforward, spending by category, agency strategic plan;
- Agency states it does not disagree with having specific line items in its budget for hard costs the agency incurs, such as for body armor; and
- Consistency in applying agency policies and discipline in different situations, including one situation where an entire Highway Patrol Troop falsified records relating to radar certification.

II. Multiple motions related to the Department of Public Safety were made at the meeting. The motions and their vote tallies are given below.

Rep. Felder's motion that the Subcommittee Study include a recommendation that the agency have troop commanders and supervisors in the Blythewood office, including the agency director, spend at least one day a month on the road to help increase morale with troopers and make sure they are staying in touch with what the troopers have to go through every day. In order to lead by example.	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Bowers	✓		
Rep. Felder	✓		
Rep. Finlay	✓		
Rep. Tallon	✓		

Rep. Felder's motion that the Subcommittee Study include a recommendation that the agency have the Office of Professional Responsibility and Human Resources Department report to the Legal Department, then the Director, to ensure the accuracy of information utilized and stored.	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Bowers			✓ (not present)
Rep. Felder	✓		
Rep. Finlay	✓		
Rep. Tallon	✓		

Rep. Felder’s motion that the Subcommittee Study include a recommendation that the agency research the specific costs and feasibility of implementing a career path. The Subcommittee will ask about the results of this research when it follows up with the agency next year.	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Bowers			✓ (not present)
Rep. Felder	✓		
Rep. Finlay	✓		
Rep. Tallon	✓		

Rep. Felder’s motion that the Subcommittee Study include a recommendation that the agency include a request to “restructure agency programs” to ensure there is a permanent line item which specifically identifies funding for each of the equipment replacement schedules. This will ensure the purpose of this funding is very clear for the General Assembly, public, and agency.	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Bowers			✓ (not present)
Rep. Felder	✓		
Rep. Finlay	✓		
Rep. Tallon	✓		

<p>Rep. Felder’s motion that the Subcommittee Study include a recommendation that the agency provide an update once a quarter during calendar year 2017, beginning on January 1, 2017, in a format approved by the Subcommittee. At the end of 2017, the Committee will determine whether the agency continues to provide quarterly updates during 2018. Information included in the quarterly updates will include, but not be limited to: (1) Updated strategic plan, in which each objective meets the S.M.A.R.T. criteria (as explained in the annual accountability report technical assistance guidelines); (2) After appropriate discussion among the agency director, finance department and division leaders, an updated strategic budget chart for 2016-17 and 2017-18 which has all current agency funding and all funds requested by the agency for next year, allocated to an objective; (3) Updated performance measures, with an eye towards focusing on measuring more outcomes, rather than outputs, for the citizens of South Carolina, including, but not limited to, one which seeks to increase retention of troopers between years four and seven of their employment with the agency since this appears to be a time period in which the agency loses a tremendous amount of troopers; (4) Status of OPR investigations to check if they are being handled in a timely manner and ensure the information the subcommittee requested be tracked is being tracked; (5) Update on requests to restructure agency programs in the General Appropriations Act to ensure there is a permanent line item which specifically identifies funding for each of the equipment replacement schedules; (6) Re-entrance interview forms which ask why employees are returning to the agency to determine whether changes at the agency, including, but not limited to, pay increases, are actually bringing troopers back to the force; and (7) Implementation status of other subcommittee recommendations.</p>	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Bowers			✓ (not present)
Rep. Felder	✓		
Rep. Finlay	✓		
Rep. Tallon	✓		

III. The meeting was adjourned.