

123rd South Carolina General Assembly

2019 - 2020



**House Legislative
Oversight Committee**



**Transparency
Report**



123rd General Assembly 2019 - 2020 House Legislative Oversight Committee



Micajah P. "Micah" Caskey, IV



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Chair



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Vice-Chair

Subcommittee Chairs



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Edward R. "Eddie" Tallon, Sr.



John Taliaferro "Jay" West, IV



Patricia Moore "Pat" Henegan



Lee Hewitt



Jeffrey E. "Jeff" Johnson



Mandy Powers Norrell



Marvin R. Pendarvis



Robert L. Ridgeway, III



Tommy M. Stringer



Bill Taylor



Robert Q. Williams



Chris Wooten

It is the proper duty of a representative body to look diligently into every affair of government and to ***talk much about what it sees.***



**Purpose of the Transparency Report
Talk About Committee's Work With Agencies**



**Woodrow Wilson
Congressional Government, 1885**



How the Committee's Work Serves the Public

MEMBER DRIVEN LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT PROCESS

Accountability



Agency leaders answer questions about outcomes and performance

Transparency



Study documentation posted online, including live streamed and archived meeting videos

237

Number of Hours in Meetings Devoted to Oversight of Agencies by Committee Members in 2019 - 2020



How the Committee's Work Serves the Public

MEMBER DRIVEN LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT PROCESS

Effectiveness



Promote and facilitate cooperation among agencies and program improvements

Efficiency



Identify outdated or duplicative services, waste, or deficiencies



Public Participation Opportunities 2019 - 2020

MEMBER DRIVEN LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT PROCESS



Testifying during meetings that are live streamed



Participating in surveys online open for 30 days each time the Committee selects the next group of agencies to study



Submitting information to the Committee via traditional means of communicating with legislators - e.g., email, telephone, or in-person visits with legislators or Committee staff



Submitting information via the public input link on the Committee's website



Public Participation 2019 - 2020

MEMBER DRIVEN LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT PROCESS

741

Participated in the two month-long surveys about agencies under study in the 123rd General Assembly

121

Provided testimony during meetings that were live streamed

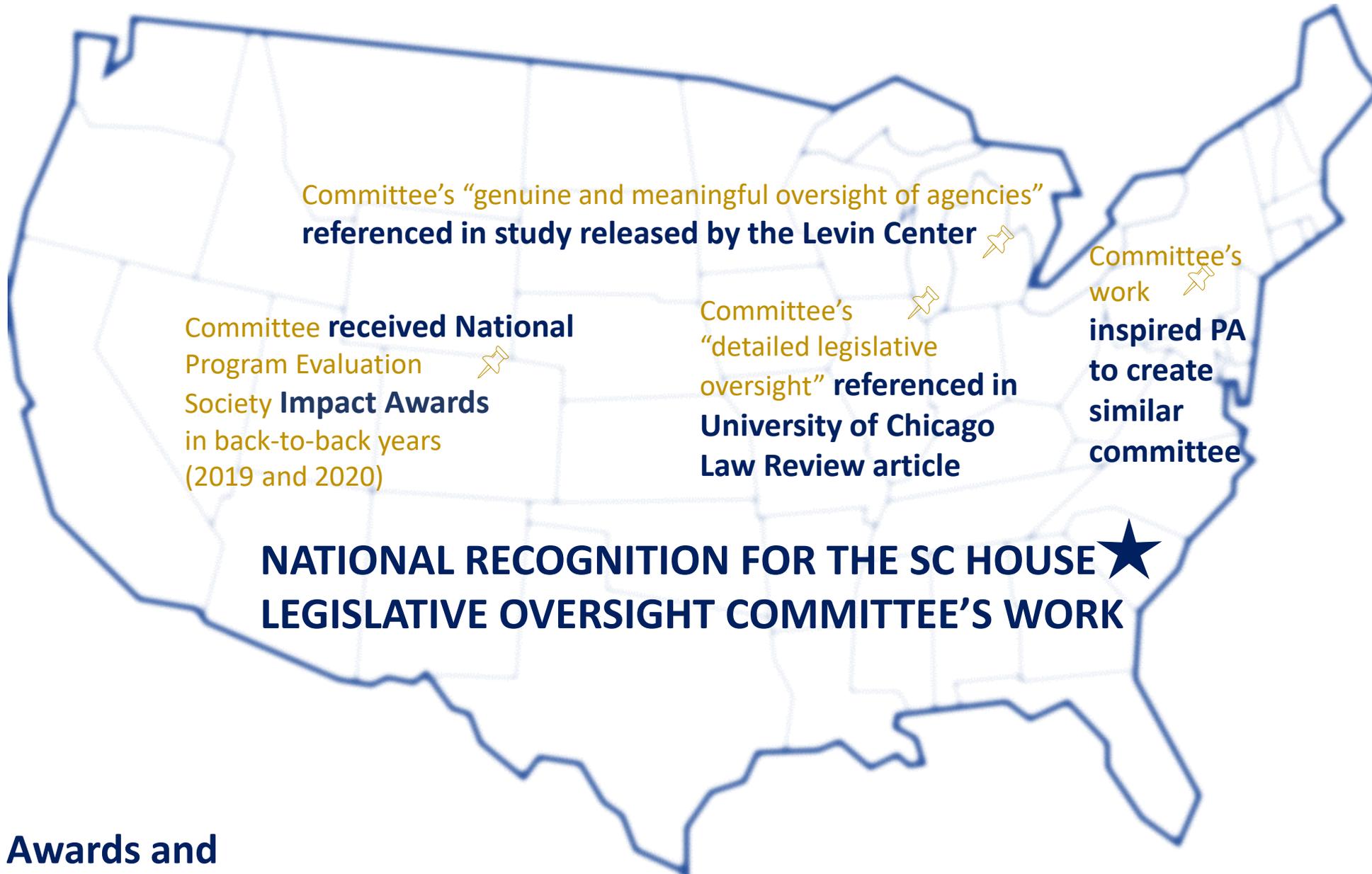
199

Submitted information via the public input link on the Committee's website



Public Input is a Cornerstone of the House Legislative Oversight Committee's Process

*Photos include sample of some that testify during the Study of the Department of Corrections



Committee's "genuine and meaningful oversight of agencies" referenced in study released by the Levin Center

Committee received National Program Evaluation Society Impact Awards in back-to-back years (2019 and 2020)

Committee's "detailed legislative oversight" referenced in University of Chicago Law Review article

Committee's work inspired PA to create similar committee

NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THE SC HOUSE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE'S WORK ★



Awards and Acknowledgements



House Legislative Oversight Committee's Study Reports Issue Recommendations & Findings About State Agencies



Number of Agency Study Reports Issued 2019 – 2020 SELECT THE AGENCY LOGO TO VIEW THE STUDY REPORT





Improving Effectiveness and Confidence in State Government



ACT 85 OF 2019 Clarifies agency priority for making health care decisions if a person is unable to consent



ACT 72 OF 2019 Removes maximum acreage limit for land acquired under the Heritage Trust Program

ACT 73 OF 2019 Enhances “Water Resource and Planning Coordination Act”

ACT 75 OF 2019 Requires more years of experience to serve as State Geologist



Legislative Implementation of the Committee’s Recommendations
CLICK ON AGENCY LOGO TO VIEW STUDY REPORT



Improving Effectiveness and Confidence in State Government

AS A RESULT OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE RESPECTIVE OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEES reviewing the Department of Corrections and Department of Mental Health, the agencies are working together to **improve the continuity of care for inmates under the care of a mental health professional upon release.**

For more information, see the discussion of recommendation 38 in the Department of Corrections Study and recommendation 26 in the Department of Mental Health Study.



Committee Action Facilitating Cooperation Among State Agencies
CLICK ON AGENCY LOGO TO VIEW STUDY REPORT



Improving Effectiveness and Confidence in State Government



ACT 21 OF 2019

Addresses tax collections on internet retail sales



ACT 172 OF 2020

Establishes a State Historic Preservation Grant Fund to be used for the rehabilitation of historic structures

Adds the agency to the list of check off options on the state income tax return that taxpayers use to make voluntary contributions



Legislative Implementation of the Committee's Recommendations
CLICK ON AGENCY LOGO TO VIEW STUDY REPORT



Improving Efficiency in State Government



ACT 13 OF 2019 Authorizes internet filing and indexing of tax liens



ACT 54 OF 2019 Expands pool of eligible poll works



Legislative Implementation of the Committee's Recommendations

CLICK ON AGENCY LOGO TO VIEW STUDY REPORT



Promoting Government Transparency



Posted online information about motor vehicle dealers, including a searchable list of licensed dealers and an indication of which dealers have been cited for licensure violations, to help inform consumers' purchasing decisions

Posted online information about the personal information the agency sells in accordance with state and federal law



Posted email addresses for board members on the agency's website



Agency Implementation of the Committee's Recommendations
CLICK ON AGENCY LOGO TO VIEW STUDY REPORT



Promoting Government Transparency



Began offering public input opportunity at board meetings

Provided quarterly statical overviews about the inpatient and veterans' nursing home populations, which are posted on the Committee's website



Agency Implementation of the Committee's Recommendations

CLICK ON AGENCY LOGO TO VIEW STUDY REPORT



Modernizing State Laws



ACT 74 OF 2019 Updates antiquated terminology and processes relating to the Land Resources and Conservation Division

ACT 75 OF 2019 Updates Geological Survey Division duties

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM

South Carolina
Just right. 

ACT 76 OF 2019 Updates community development duties

ACT 156 OF 2020 Updates statutes to reflect that state parks and facilities are open to all people

Legislative Implementation of the Committee's Recommendations

CLICK ON AGENCY LOGO TO VIEW STUDY REPORT





Modernizing State Laws



ACT 171 OF 2020

Codifies two budget provisos that have been in the annual appropriations multiple years

Moves an existing statute to a different place in the code of laws to clarify it applies to the whole agency



ACT 148 OF 2020

Reauthorizes non-profit raffles for charity purposes

Legislative Implementation of the Committee's Recommendations

CLICK ON AGENCY LOGO TO VIEW STUDY REPORT





Observation of Issues Affecting Multiple Agencies

Agency Redundant Data Entry



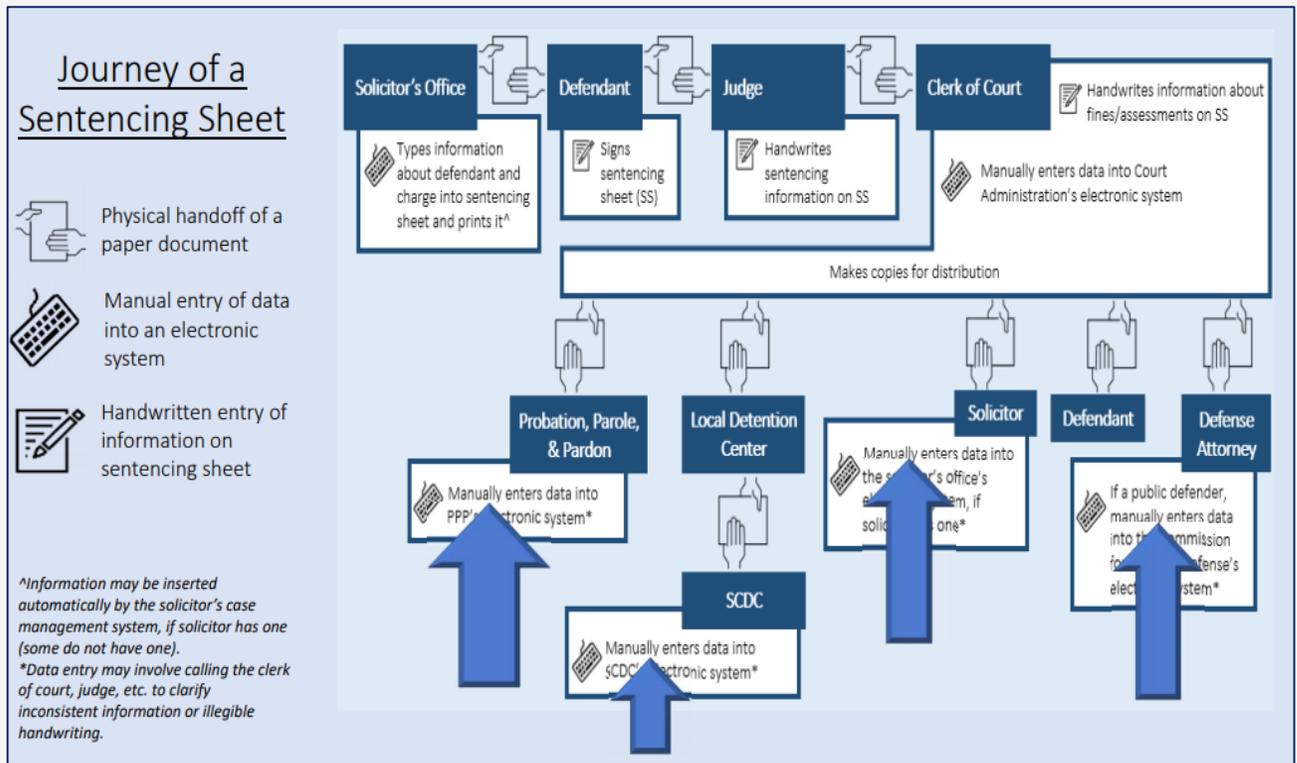
Initial inquiry notes more than 30 state agencies report some amount of redundant, manual entry of data from another state agency



Observation of Issues Affecting Multiple Agencies

FOR EXAMPLE, it costs the Commission on Indigent Defense almost \$2 million annually in employee time manually entering information, that may be available directly from Court Administration, into the statewide public defender case management system.

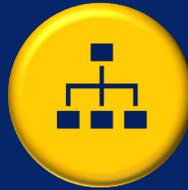
For more information and to view a larger version of the chart on the right, see recommendation 39 of the Committee's study of the Department of Corrections. Click on agency logo to view the study report.



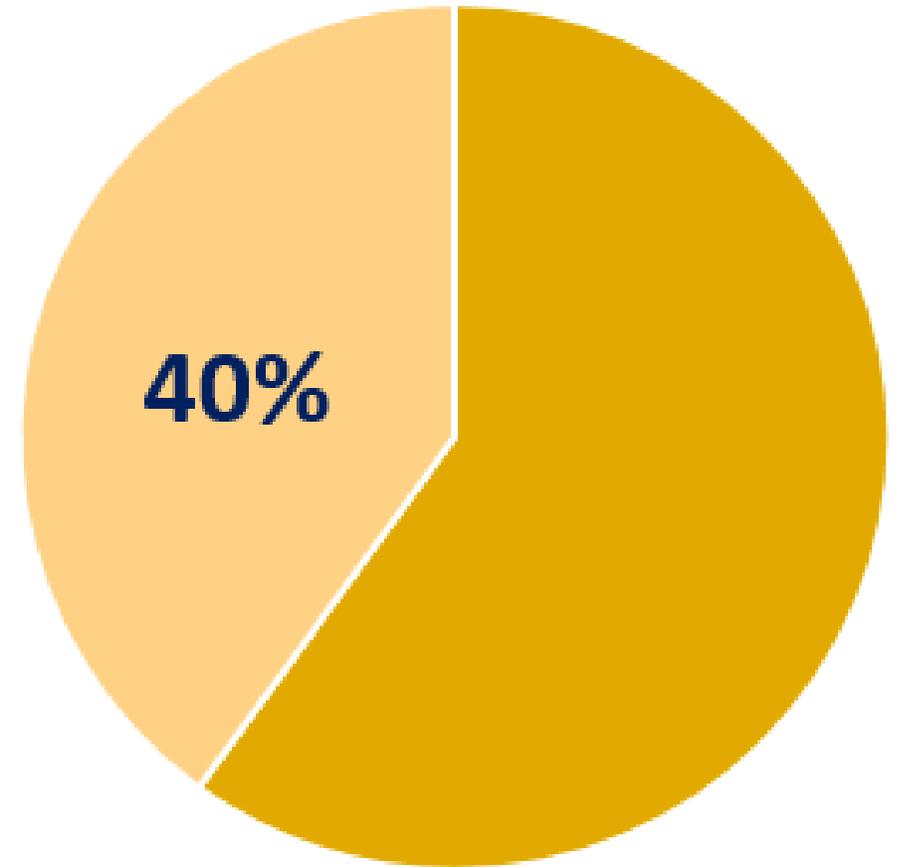


Observation of Issues Affecting Multiple Agencies

Questionable Validity of Available Data Pertaining to State Boards



Available data indicates 40% of all seats on the more than 150 boards monitored by the Secretary of State's Office were vacant or included people serving in a hold-over capacity





Observation of Issues Affecting Multiple Agencies

FOR EXAMPLE, there were 48 boards with no current appointments on file with the Secretary of State's Office, other than ex-officio or legislative members. **Mechanisms are lacking to ensure information is shared with the Secretary of State's Office.**

For more information, see findings 5 - 10 in the Committee's Study of the Secretary of State's Office. Click on the agency logo to view the study report.





Observation of Issues Affecting Single Agency Operations



During the study, there is **no minority representation on the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission** and has not been since at least 2005.

For more information, see finding 1 in the Committee's Study of the Aeronautics Commission.



Between May 2014 and January 2020, at least 40 inmates were detained past their release date due to inadvertent errors in calculation and data entry. This has resulted in the **agency holding inmates at least 7,549 additional days** or almost 20 and a half years, requiring **additional state expenditures of almost half a million dollars.**

For more information see finding 7 in Committee's Study of the Department of Corrections.



Number of Findings Issued 2019 - 2020
CLICK ON AGENCY LOGO TO VIEW STUDY REPORT

I have been through a lot of organizational change plans and none have helped the organization. This one did.

7.19.2019 Testimony to Committee

As a result of having to look at all of the specified tasks required of the agency, we were able to identify large gaps in legislation and responsibility which we were able to jointly work with the committee.

2019 Post Study Agency Feedback Survey

Oversight efforts stimulated the agency to critically re-examine its mission, strategies, and processes.

5.15.2019 Correspondence to Committee

If the process is designed to gather information, legislators should have more of a conversational type of questioning rather than a cross examination style.

2020 Post Study Agency Feedback Survey



**Committee Asks for Agency Comments,
Anonymous and Otherwise, to Improve Its Oversight Process**



Transition to Dashboard Presentation of Study Reports

House Legislative Oversight Committee - Study Dashboard

2020 Department of Corrections

Print

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations continue, curtail, and/or eliminate agency programs, and include areas for potential improvement. The Committee recognizes these recommendations will not satisfy everyone nor address every issue or potential area of improvement at the agency. These recommendations are based on the agency's self-analysis requested by the Committee, discussions with the agency during numerous meetings, and analysis of the information obtained by the Committee. This information, including, but not limited to, the Program Evaluation Report, Accountability Report, Restructuring Report and videos of meetings with the agency, is available on the Committee's website.

The Committee has 75 recommendations. The Committee's recommendations are to the following entities: (1) Department of Corrections, (2) Court Administration within the Judicial Branch, (3) Department of Administration's Division of State Human Resources, (4) Insurance Reserve Fund, (5) Law Enforcement Training Council, and (6) General Assembly.

Recommendations to the Department of Corrections

The Committee has 38 recommendations for the Department of Corrections. The Committee's recommendations to SCDC fall into five categories: (1) accountability, (2) effectiveness, (3) efficiency, (4) transparency, and (5) interagency collaboration. An overview of these recommendations is provided in the Executive Summary.

Accountability

The Committee makes eight recommendations to the Department of Corrections related to accountability, and a summary is in Table 10.

Table 10: Summary of recommendations to the Department of Corrections related to accountability.

Accountability	Recommendation
	1. Resume American Correctional Association accreditation or the management review program and complete internal reviews according to the schedule outlined in the agency policy
	2. Conduct regular audits of medical services provided by SCDC employees to inmates to determine: (a) quality of medical or mental health clinical assessments, and (b) adherence to general clinical and medical guidelines
	3. Obtain an external study to determine the following: (a) impact of the new inmate classification system on staffing; and (b) how other options for improving staff to inmate ratios may impact staffing needs on a regular basis (e.g., every three or five years)
	4. Provide a timeline for completion of SCDC's program audit and creation of its "SCDC Program Book" (i.e., list of programs offered to offenders)
	5. Determine a method by which the agency will evaluate success for each inmate program; utilize the method to regularly evaluate each program

32

House of Representatives South Carolina

Legislative Oversight Committee's Study of the Department of Corrections

00:02 / 29:12

Videos

- Presentation
- Meetings

Play from the start or hover over the video to see topics discussed and pick the part you wish to view.

Downloads

- Presentation
- Executive Summary
- Full Report
- Services, laws, and performance measures (January 2020)

Study Report Links

Findings about...

- Services required and outcomes expected
- Resources available
- Progress made, but more necessary

Recommendations to...

- SCDC
- Court Administration
- State Human Resources
- Insurance Reserve Fund
- Law Enforcement Training Council
- General Assembly

Changes

- Changes made by agencies during study
- Additional changes for future

Study Events

- Timeline of study events
- Meeting summaries and videos
- Agency presentations

Agency Background and Services

- History
- Organization chart
- Finances
- Employees and volunteers
- Buildings

Additional Agency Details

Select details...

Agency Study Page

Committee homepage

*Note: Full committee adopted the Subcommittee Report without revision on October 5, 2020.

CLICK ON IMAGE TO VIEW THE DASHBOARD FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
DASHBOARD FACILITATES FINDING INFORMATION OF INTEREST MORE QUICKLY IN STUDY REPORTS



123rd South Carolina General Assembly

2019 - 2020



**CLICK ON THE PHOTOGRAPH FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE
HOUSE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE'S WORK**

INCLUDING

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS

LINK TO SUBMIT ONLINE PUBLIC COMMENT

LINK TO SIGN UP FOR MEETING NOTIFICATIONS

South Carolina flag photograph courtesy of Sam Holland Photography
Sam Holland, Photographer



**House Legislative
Oversight Committee**



**Transparency
Report**