

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE CANDIDATES FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE

Introduction to the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce

The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce administers the unemployment benefits program for the State and works to match the unemployed with employment opportunities. Section 41-29-40 of the South Carolina Code divides the department into two divisions: (1) the South Carolina State Employment Service Division and (2) the Unemployment Compensation Division.

On its website, the Department identifies the Employment Services Division as being “responsible for the administration of federal programs which provide funding and services to help businesses meet their need for skilled workers and individuals secure training to prepare for work.” The Unemployment Compensation Division administers the Unemployment Insurance program which the Department describes as “a nationwide program created to financially help eligible individuals, who are unemployed through no fault of their own, while they actively search for new work.”

The Department is moving through a transitional phase following a restructuring in 2010. There are still a number of fiscal and procedural challenges facing the Department that must be resolved to place it on the sound footing expected by the General Assembly. Progress has been made in this regard, however there is still work to be done.

The Department is managed and operated by an Executive Director who is nominated by the State Department of Employment and Workforce Review Committee and appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Executive Director serves a term that is coterminous with the Governor and may be removed by the Governor at-will. Compensation for the Executive Director is set by the Agency Head Salary Commission.