South Carolina Administrative Law Court



FY 2021-2022 Budget Plans House Ways and Means Constitutional Subcommittee

South Carolina Administrative Law Court

House Ways and Means Constitutional Subcommittee 2021-2022 Budget Hearing Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Key Officials Attending Meeting

- Ralph K. Anderson, III, Chief Judge 803.734.6409
- Jana Shealy, Clerk of Court <u>ishealy@scalc.net</u> 803.734.6411

The Court's mission is to provide a neutral forum for fair, prompt and objective hearings for any person(s) affected by an action or proposed action of certain State agencies or departments.

The South Carolina Administrative Law Court (ALC) Overview

- The ALC is a court of record and agency in the Executive Branch
- The mission is to provide a neutral forum for fair, prompt and objective hearings for any person(s) affected by an action or proposed action of certain state agencies or departments
- The ALC is comprised of the ALC and Office of Motor Vehicle Hearings (OMVH)
 - o ALC has 6 judges and 20 support staff
 - o OMVH has 5 hearing officers and 4 support staff (Chief Judge is Director)
 - o The support staff for the ALC also includes staff that supports the OMVH
 - o Total of 44 FTES, 13 are currently vacant

FY 21-22 Budget Plan (Four Priorities)

- **Priority 1:** FTE Transfer and Funding This is a request to transfer 3 staff attorney FTEs from Other Funds to State and for the funding. The salaries of these three positions combined are approximately \$195,000 with \$72,150 in fringe for a total request of \$267,150.
- **Priority 2: Other Funds** This is a request to increase our authorization in Other Funds by \$100,000. This request is needed to compensate for the 2% Pay Plan, SCRS 1% rate increase, and Health Insurance increase.
- **Priority 3:** E-filing Non-recurring request in the amount of \$175,000 for funding the development and implementation of an e-filing system
- **Priority 4: Renovation** Non-recurring request in the amount of \$38,390 for funding to address renovation of public areas of the court

Current Budget (FY 20-21)

State (with allocations): \$3,157,701.00

*Other: \$1,555,986.00

Total: \$4,713,687.00

Expenditures:

Salaries and Benefits: \$3,813,014.00

Remaining for Operating: \$ 900,673.00

(Operating includes, but is not limited to: Rent, WestLaw, Court Reporting, Computer licensing, Postage, Equipment, Supplies, etc.)

^{*}Other funds: revenue pursuant to SC Code Section 1-23-670, 56-5-2952 and Proviso 58.1

AGENCY NAME:	NCY NAME: South Carolina Administrative Law Court		Law Court	
AGENCY CODE:	C05	SECTION:	58	

Fiscal Year 2019–2020 Accountability Report

SUBMISSION FORM

AGENCY MISSION CO

The Court's mission is to provide a neutral forum for fair, prompt and objective hearings for any person(s) affected by an action or proposed action of certain State agencies or departments. The purpose of an administrative court such as the ALC is to separate the adjudicatory proceedings from the investigative and policy-making functions of the agency. Prior to the creation of the Court, citizens who had a dispute with a state agency and wanted to challenge any action related to the dispute had to appear before hearing officers employed or contracted by that particular agency. The creation of this Court provided a forum separate from the agency whose decision was in dispute. The Court places a very high value on its ability to be fair and neutral to all of the litigants that appear before the Court and on continuing efforts to improve its results.

The Office of Motor Vehicle Hearings (OMVH) was created in 2005 as an office within the ALC and its mission is to provide a neutral forum for fair, prompt, and objective hearings for persons affected by certain actions or proposed actions of the SC Department of Motor Vehicles, ensuring due process and respecting the dignity of all.

The Court's vision, including the OMVH, is to provide a technologically advanced court, easily accessible by all customers and stakeholders, to ensure the fair, prompt and objective resolution of all cases.

AGENCY VISION

Does the agency have any major or minor recommendations (internal or external) that would allow the agency to operate more effectively and efficiently?

Yes	No
	\bowtie
	Yes

Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 2-1-230, which requires submission of certain reports to the Legislative Services Agency for publication online and to the State Library? See also S.C. Code Ann. § 60-2-30.

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	Yes	No
REPORT SUBMISSION		
COMPLIANCE:		

Is the agency in compliance with various requirements to transfer its records, including electronic ones, to the Department of Archives and History? See the Public Records Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 30-1-10 through 30-1-180) and the South Carolina Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 26-6-10 through 26-10-210).

	Yes	No
RECORDS		
MANAGEMENT	\boxtimes	
COMPLIANCE:		

Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-120(J), which requires an agency to conduct a formal review of its regulations every five years?

	Yes	No	
REGULATION			
REVIEW:			

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's accountability report.

	<u>Name</u>	Phone	Email	
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Jana Shealy	803.734.6411	jshealy@scalc.net	
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Margaret Sanders	803.734.6414	msanders@scalc.net	

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2019–2020 Accountability Report, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

AGENCY DIRECTOR (SIGN AND DATE):		
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):	Ralph King Anderson, III, Chief Judge	
BOARD/CMSN CHAIR (SIGN AND DATE):		
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):		

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AGENCY'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The Administrative Law Court (ALC) is an independent agency and court of record in the Executive Branch. The ALC has six (6) Administrative Law Judges (ALJ), each of whom is elected to a specific seat by the South Carolina General Assembly and may employ other staff as authorized by the General Assembly to hear and dispose of its statutorily mandated jurisdiction. The Office of Motor Vehicle Hearings (OMVH), is a division of the ALC and has five (5) hearings officers and staff, appointed and hired by the Chief Judge, who serves as the Director of the Office. The Court hears certain case types involving all state agencies except those arising under the Consolidated Procurement Code, the Public Service Commission and the Workers' Compensation Commission. (See Age of Disposed Cases below for specific case types filed with the Court). The OMVH conducts contested cases regarding certain decisions issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

There are currently no plans in development to change the structure or organizational framework and procedures of the Court or to recommend that the General Assembly make any statutory changes. However, we continue to closely monitor our results and performance measures to determine if any future changes would be necessary.

The Court is always improving upon how we protect data and Information Technology assets against increasing cyber threats and vulnerabilities. The Court depends heavily on network and information systems for essential operations and data security. A culture of awareness regarding security risks is our standard at the Court and we accomplish that with a multi-layered security and defense approach focusing on sophisticated and blended cyberattacks. The Court places extremely high importance on the cyber security education of all agency employees making sure users stay informed. We recognize that the first line of defense in maintaining the security and integrity of our IT assets and networks starts with informed IT personnel and network users.

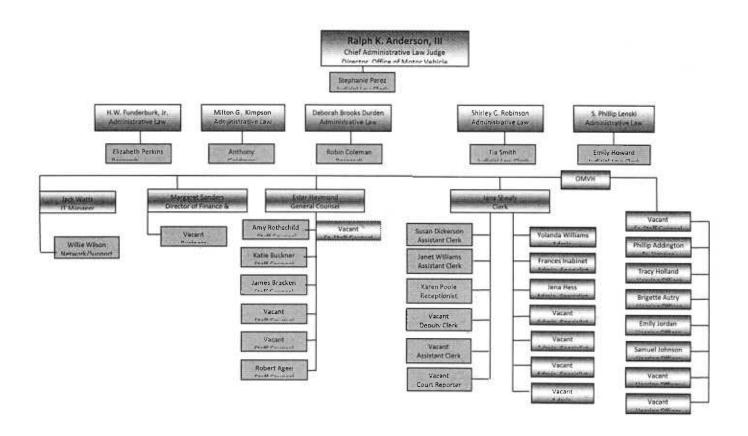
RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

The Chief Judge is statutorily responsible for assigning a specific Administrative Law Judge (ALI) to each case filed with the Court. At the OMVH, the cases are automatically assigned to a hearing officer based on specific geographic regions. The Chief Judge is also responsible for the administration of the Court and OMVH, including budgetary matters and supervision of the support staff. The other ALIs have supervision of their administrative assistant/law clerk.

Each AU is individually responsible for ensuring the fair and prompt disposition of the cases assigned to his or her office. If the Court is unable to accomplish its goals and objectives of the timely disposal of cases, the greatest risk of a negative impact on the public would be for a determination of the case to be delayed or denied. If a case becomes moot due to lack of a timely decision, this could potentially have a negative impact on the parties involved. Although the litigants often ask for continuances due to discovery and scheduling issues, the Court seeks to balance those requests to ensure a court system that is fair and prompt for all litigants. The primary support for a court to efficiently dispose of its docket timely is to have adequate resources to do so. This may be in the form of additional judges, staff or to be fully funded without reliance on fees.

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SC ADMINISTRATIVE LAW COURT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2020



AGE OF DISPOSED CASES REPORT

Total Average Age % Meeting Disposed at Disposal Objective

			at Disposal	Objective
Agency	I. Contested Cases Objective = 90 Days	116	109	67
DNR	Hunting/Fishing Violations [ALC CC 90]	4	148	25
DOR	ABC Applications/Renewals [ALC CC 90]	40	111	50
LLR	Wage Disputes [ALC CC 90]	1	44	100
LLR	OSHA Violations [ALC CC 90]	6	286	33
ANY	Injunctive Relief Hearings [ALC IJ 90]	18	100	78
ANY	Public Hearings for Proposed Regulations [ALC RH 90]	32	64	97
ANY	Subpoenas	5	32	100
ANY	Miscellaneous	10	180	40
Agency	II. Contested Cases Objective = 120 Days	19	136	53
DCA	Applications/Violations [ALC CC 120]	1	94	100
DNR	Coastal Fisheries Violations [ALC CC 120]	2	96	50
DOI	Insurance Agent Applications [ALC CC 120]		**	
DOI	Insurance Rate Cases [ALC CC 120]		744	
				17500

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DOR	ABC violations [ALC CC 120]	16	144	50
SLED	CWP/PI/Security License [ALC CC 120]	555(77.5
Agency	III. Contested Cases Objective = 180 Days	56	134	79
ANY	Setoff Debt Collection [ALC CC 180]	1	140	100
ANY	Tourism Expenditure Review [ALC CC 180]	**	**	***
DHEC	Health Licensing Cases [ALC CC 180]	2	101	100
ONR	Boating Under the Influence [ALC CC 180]	7	74	100
001	Insurance Agent Violations [ALC CC 180]	2	116	100
OOR	Bingo Violations [ALC CC 180]	3	90	100
OOR	County Property Tax [ALC CC 180]	33	167	67
TOC	Outdoor Advertisements/DBE/Displacement	**		_
PEBA	State Retirement Systems [ALC CC 180]	3	152	67
os	Charities [ALC CC 180]	5	31	100
Agency	IV. Contested Cases Objective = 300 Days	70	448	46
DHEC	Certificate of Need [ALC CC 300]	13	353	62
DHEC	Environmental Permitting [ALC CC 300]	12	404	58
OHEC	Ocean and Coastal Resource Management [ALC CC 300]	22	677	5
DOR	State Tax Cases [ALC CC 300]	23	306	70
Agency	V. Appeals Objective = 120	54	138	43
DEW	Employment and Workforce Appeals [Appeals from DEW]	54	138	43
Agency	VI. Appeals (all other non-inmate) Objective = 180	77	203	61
HHS	Medicaid and Provider Appeals [Appeals (all others) 180]	***	220	
OOA	Employee Grievance Appeals [Appeals (all others) 180]	3	170	67
Any	Charter School Appeals (Appeals (all others) 180]	5	205	40
AL	Criminal Justice Academy Appeals (Appeals (all others) 180)	7	128	100
HVMC	Administrative License Revocations/Ignition Interlock Appeals	20	189	63
LR.	Professional Licensing Board Appeals (Appeals (all others) 180]	8	238	50
OSS	Daycare/Fostercare Appeals, SNAP (FI) [DSS]	12	219	17
PEBA	PEBA Employee Insurance Program Appeals	22	203	61
ategory	/ IV Case Types: Objective = 120 days	673	105	90
00C	Inmate grievances [DOC & PPPS]	673	105	90
ALL CASI		1065	138	78
ALL CASE TYPES excluding inmate grievances			196	58

NOTE: DOI: Dept. of Insurance; LLR: Dept. of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; DNR: Dept. of Natural Resources; DOR: Dept. of Revenue; DHEC: Dept. of Health and Environmental Control; HHS: Dept. of Health and Human Services; DSS: Dept. of Social Services; SLED: South Carolina Law Enforcement Division; DOC: Dept. of Corrections; PPPS, Dept. of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; PEBA: Public Employee Benefit; OMVH: Office of Motor Vehicle Hearings; CA: Dept. of Consumer Affairs; DEW: Dept. of Employment and Workforce; CJA: Criminal Justice Academy; SOS: Secretary of State; DOA: Dept. of Administration; DOT: Dept. of Transportation

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COMBINED COURT AND OMVH WORKLOAD SINCE 2013

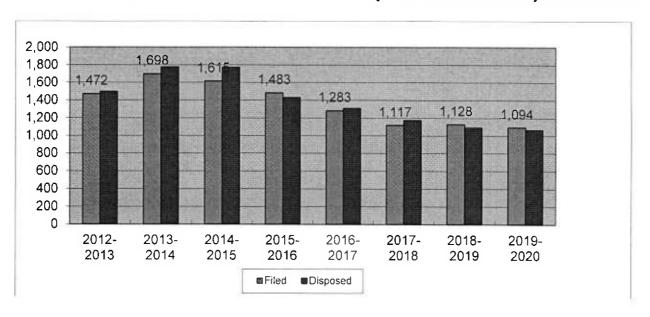
FISCAL YEAR	COURT	OMVH	TOTAL CASES FILED	COURT	омун	TOTAL CASES DISPOSED
FY 12-13	1472	6776	8,248	1497	6678	8,175
FY 13-14	1698	6863	8,561	1776	6777	8,553
FY 14-15	1615	6796	8,411	1771	6627	8,398
FY 15-16	1483	6385	7,868	1430	6568	7,998
FY 16-17	1283	6240	7,523	1310	6314	7,624
FY 17-18	1117	6089	7,206	1175	6309	7,426
FY 18-19	1128	6514	7,642	1092	6532	7,624
FY 19-20	1094	5942	7036	1065	5647	6,712

COURT'S WORKLOAD REPORT SINCE 2013

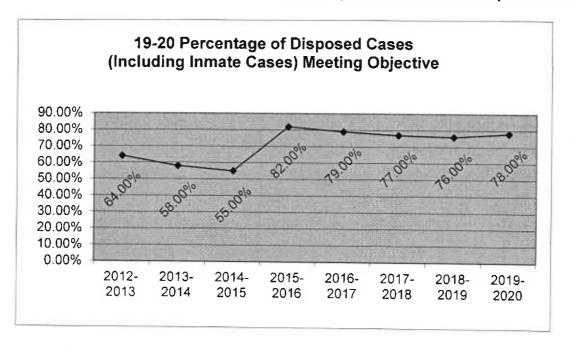
	*CCs, RHs,	Al-		*CCs, RHs,	<u>-1A</u>	
	IJs, and &	Shabazz/		IJs, and &	Shabazz/	
FISCAL	other	<u>Furtick</u>	TOTAL	other	<u>Furtick</u>	TOTAL CASES
YEAR	appeals	Appeals	FILED	appeals	Appeals	DISPOSED
FY 12-13	567	905	1,472	559	938	1,497
FY 13-14	636	1,062	1,698	670	1106	1,776
FY 15-16	506	977	1,483	543	887	1,483
FY 16-17	492	791	1,283	534	776	1,310
FY 17-18	483	634	1,117	536	639	1,175
FY 18-19	445	683	1,128	458	634	1,092
FY 19-20	413	681	1,094	392	673	1,065

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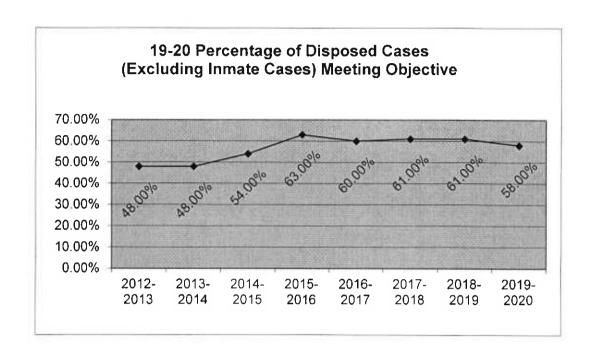
FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS FOR THE COURT (EXCLUDING OMVH) SINCE 2013



DISPOSITION PERCENTAGES FOR THE COURT (EXCLUDING OMVH) SINCE 2013



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OMVH WORKLOAD REPORT FOR CURRENT YEAR 2019-2020

Case Type #	Description	CASES FILED	CASES DISPOSED
01	Implied Consent or BAC	5783	5459
02	Habitual Offender 1st Declared	24	38
03	Habitual Offender Reduction	37	40
04	Financial Responsibility	53	57
05	Dealer Licensing	2	3
06	Physical Disqualification	11	12
07	IFTA	1	3
08	Self-Insured		
09	Driver Training School		1
10	IRP	1	2
11	Miscellaneous	***	
12	Points Suspension	5	4
13	HOR 2	4	6
14	IID (Ignition Interlock)	21	22
TOTAL		5942	5647

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OMVH WORKLOAD REPORT FOR CURRENT YEAR 2018-2019

Case Type #	Description	CASES FILED	CASES DISPOSED
01	Implied Consent or BAC	6329	6326
02	Habitual Offender 1st Declared	35	35
03	Habitual Offender Reduction	33	41
04	Financial Responsibility	67	78
05	Dealer Licensing	9	13
06	Physical Disqualification	12	11
07	IFTA	5	4
80	Self-Insured	0	0
09	Driver Training School	1	0
10	IRP	1	0
11	Miscellaneous	0	0
12	Points Suspension	6	6
13	HOR 2	1	5
14	IID (Ignition Interlock)	15	13
TOTAL		6514	6532

OMVH WORKLOAD REPORT FOR CURRENT YEAR 2017-2018

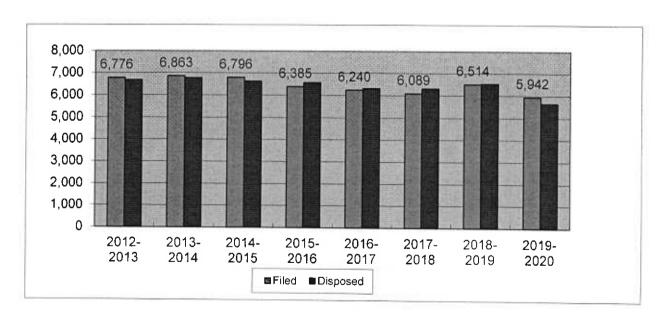
Case Type #	Description	CASES FILED	CASES DISPOSED
01	Implied Consent or BAC	5887	6096
02	Habitual Offender 1st Declared	38	56
03	Habitual Offender Reduction	32	41
04	Financial Responsibility	67	44
05	Dealer Licensing	9	8
06	Physical Disqualification	15	11
07	IFTA	6	6
80	Self-Insured	0	0
09	Driver Training School	0	0
10	IRP	0	0
11	Miscellaneous	4	6
12	Points Suspension	4	6
13	HOR 2	4	2
14	IID (Ignition Interlock)	23	33
TOTAL		6089	6309

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OMVH WORKLOAD REPORT FOR 2016-2017

Case Type #	Description	CASES FILED	CASES DISPOSED
01	Implied Consent or BAC	5991	6117
02	Habitual Offender 1st Declared	53	41
03	Habitual Offender Reduction	51	47
04	Financial Responsibility	53	40
05	Dealer Licensing	16	9
06	Physical Disqualification	8	8
07	IFTA	6	5
08	Self-Insured	0	0
09	Driver Training School	0	0
10	IRP	2	0
11	Miscellaneous	5	3
12	Points Suspension	8	6
13	HOR 2	9	10
14	IID (Ignition Interlock)	38	28
TOTAL		6240	6314

FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS FOR THE OMVH SINCE 2013



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Fiscal Year 2021-2022 **Agency Budget Plan**

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING	For FY 2021-22, my agency is (mark "X"):
REQUESTS	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	x Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
(FORM B1)	Not requesting any changes
Non-Recurring	For FY 2021-22, my agency is (mark "X"):
	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
REQUESTS (Form P2)	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization
(FORM B2)	Not requesting any changes.
CAPITAL	For FY 2021-22, my agency is (mark "X"):
REQUESTS	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
(FORM C)	Not requesting any changes.
	For FY 2021-22, my agency is (mark "X"):
Provisos	For FY 2021-22, my agency is (mark "X"): Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos
PROVISOS (FORM D)	For FY 2021-22, my agency is (mark "X"): Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos. Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).

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734-6414	msanders@scale.net
	734-6414

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2021-22 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

SHE CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF THE	Agency Director	Board or Commission Chair
SIGN/DATE;	Rals C. X. Andrews	N/A
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Ralph K. Anderson, III	N/A
This form must be signed b	ny tha against head and I I	

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

		Fi	Y 21-22 Budget Prio								
et Priorities			Agency N	ame							
- I I		1	Funding					FTEs		_	_
Priority Type (recurring/noi recurring/oth funds adjustme: federal funds adjustment)	n- er nt/	Priority Description	Recurring	Non - Recurring	Other	Federal	Total	State	Other	Federal	To
		Request to move 3 staff attorneys from								w = -x	
	ETE For diagram	Other Funds to State Funds. Currently									
1 Recurring	FTE Funding and Transfer	19 FTEs are paid out of State and 16 FTEs are paid out of Other	\$267,150,00	1			\$267,150.00	3			
		Request to increase authorization in Other Funds to compensate for	\$207,130,00				\$207,130.00	3			
2 Recurring	Authorization Increase	increases in fringe for FTEs paid out of									
2 Neconnig	mcrease	Other Funds Develop and implement e-filing system			\$100,000,00		\$100,000.00				
2.41		with current Case Management System									
3 Non-recurring	E-filing module	Vendor Public area (reception area and		\$175,000.00			\$175,000.00				
	Public Area	hallways) worn and stained carpet and									
4 Non-recurring	Renovations	wallpapers needs replacing		\$38,390.00			\$38,390.00				

Not applicable

Proviso # in FY 19-20 Act	Renumbered FY 21-22 Proviso #	Proviso Title	Short Summary	Recommended Action (keep, change
11 13-20 ACC	710VI30 #	Proviso ricie	Retain and Expend revenue for	delete, add)
58.1		Copying Costs Revenue Deposit	copying documents and rules Counties to provide office space for	Keep
58.2		County Office Space for Judges	residing ALJ if available	Keep
58.3		ALJ Travel	Subsistence for ALJs traveling	Keep

South Carolina Legislature

administrative law found 6 times.

Part 1B SECTION 58 - C050 - ADMINISTRATIVE LAW COURT 2020-2021 As passed by the House

SECTION 58 - C050 - ADMINISTRATIVE LAWS COURT

- **58.1.** (ALC: Copying Costs Revenue Deposit) The **@Administrative Law®** Court shall retain and expend, for the same purpose for which it is generated, all revenue received during the current fiscal year as payment for printing and distributing copies of court rules and other agency documents.
- **58.2.** (ALC: County Office Space for Judges) Every county shall provide for each **Administrative** Law Judge residing therein, upon their request, an office within the existing physical facilities if space is available, to include all utilities and a private telephone. The request shall only be made provided that the judges residence is not within fifty miles of the official headquarters of the agency by which the **Administrative Law** Judge is employed.
- **58.3.** (ALC: ALJ Travel) While holding court or on other official business outside the county in which he resides, within fifty miles of his residence, an **Administrative Laws** Judge is entitled to a subsistence allowance in the amount of \$35 per day plus such mileage allowance for travel as is provided for other employees of the State. While holding court or on other official business at a location fifty miles or more from his residence, an **Administrative Law** Judge is entitled to a subsistence allowance in the amount as provided in this act for members of the General Assembly plus such mileage allowance for travel as is provided for other employees of the State. However, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the allowance as provided shall not exceed \$8,000 per judge in a fiscal year.

Legislative Services Agency http://www.scstatehouse_gov

Administrative Law Court Carry Forward:

- \$ 263,698.71 Carry Forward of State Funds from FY2020 into FY2021
- \$ 1,467,489.54 Earmark Funds Brought Forward from FY2020 into FY2021

FTE Breakdown:

FTEs:	
State FTEs	20
Other FTEs	24
Total FTEs	44
FTEs Filled:	
State FTEs	19
3	
Other FTEs	<u>13</u>
Total Filled	32
Vacancies (Other)	12

Final Concerns for current FY and for FY 21-22

The ALC is funded in part by the revenue from filing fees and any reduction in this unstable funding can cause a significant hardship. Due to revenue loss attributable to COVID-19 we are unfortunately seeing this come to fruition. Fiscal Year 19-20 ended with a \$121,600 shortfall compared to FY 18-19 and we already have a shortfall of \$64,800 for the first quarter of the current FY 20-21

We have had to place a freeze on filling 3 recent vacancies due to this shortfall, which brings us to a 28% vacancy rate (12 vacancies out of 44 FTEs)

Due to the above, it is imperative our FTE transfer and funding request be approved as it was in last year's House version of the FY 20-21 appropriations bill