

**PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2017-18
TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

SECTION 28 - H910 - ARTS COMMISSION

28.5 **AMEND** (Distribution to Subdivisions) Directs the Arts Commission to use appropriated and or authorized funds to distribute Distribution to Subdivision funds for specific purposes in the same manner they were distributed in the prior fiscal year, subject to requests received and availability of funds and designates funding.

PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to delete references to specific distribution amounts and instead direct the Arts Commission to report to the Chairmen of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees by December 1st, the amounts of allocations distributed to subdivisions for the prior fiscal year. *To provide actual amounts distributed versus an estimation based on total funds allocated.* Requested by Arts Commission.

~~**28.5.** (ARTS: Distribution to Subdivisions) Of the funds appropriated and/or authorized to the Arts Commission for Distribution to Subdivisions, the following amounts shall be distributed in the same manner as the funds were distributed in the prior fiscal year, subject to requests received and availability of funds: \$65,000 for Alloc Mun Restricted; \$34,012 for Alloc Cnty Restricted; \$928,569 for Alloc School Dist; \$40,000 for Alloc Other State Agencies; \$459,026 for Alloc Private Sector; \$42,750 for Alloc Private Sector; \$75,449 for Aid Mun Restricted; \$41,155 for Aid Cnty Restricted; \$243,241 for Aid School Districts; \$389,171 for Aid Other State Agencies; \$1,580,603 for Aid To Private Sector; \$45,221 for Aid To Private Sector Reportable; and 3,750 for Aid to County Libraries. No later than December 1st of the current fiscal year, the Arts Commission must report to the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee the amount of aid/allocations distributed to subdivisions during the most recently completed fiscal year, detailed by specific subdivisions.~~

SECTION 42 - L320 - HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

42.di **ADD** (Housing Trust Fund Disaster Initiative) **PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to exclude Housing Trust Fund Disaster Initiative funds from the calculation of the percentage of trust fund expenditures per county. Requested by Housing Finance and Development Authority.

~~**42.di.** (HFDA: Housing Trust Fund Disaster Initiative) Funds allocated, granted, or awarded under the Housing Trust Fund's Disaster Initiative shall not be included when calculating the percentage of trust fund expenditures per county.~~

SECTION 44 - P160 - DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

44.6 **DELETE** (Farmers Market Revenue) Requires revenues from the sale of the State Farmers Market be deposited into a separate restricted special account under the State Fiscal Accountability Authority; authorizes the funds and accrued interest to be used to relocate and reestablish the State Farmers Market after JBRC and SFAA approval.
PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: DELETE proviso. Requested by Department of Agriculture.

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~~44.6. (AGRI: Farmers Market Revenue) The revenues associated with the sale of the State Farmers Market shall be deposited into a separate restricted special account under the authority of the State Fiscal Accountability Authority. These funds and accrued interest may only be expended for relocating and reestablishing the State Farmers Market after approval by the Joint Bond Review Committee and the State Fiscal Accountability Authority.~~

SECTION 50 - P320 - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

50.13 AMEND (Regional Economic Development Organizations) Designates funding for Regional Economic Development Organizations and provides a mechanism by which the funds should be distributed.

PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference to 2017-18.

50.13. (CMRC: Regional Economic Development Organizations) The Department of Commerce shall utilize \$5,000,000 appropriated in Fiscal Year ~~2016-17~~ 2017-18 for Regional Economic Development Organizations to provide funds to the following economic development organizations and must be disbursed as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| (1) Upstate Alliance | \$ 750,000; |
| (2) Central SC Economic Development Alliance | \$ 750,000; |
| (3) North Eastern Strategic Alliance (NESAs) | \$ 745,000; |
| (4) Charleston Regional Development Alliance | \$ 660,000; |
| (5) I-77 Alliance | \$ 660,000; |
| (6) Economic Development Partnership | \$ 450,000; |
| (7) Southern Carolina Alliance | \$ 460,000; and |
| (8) The LINK Economic Alliance | \$ 385,000. |

Each dollar of state funds must be matched with one dollar of private funds. The organization receiving state funds must certify that the private funds are new dollars specifically designated for the purpose of matching state funds and have not been previously allocated or designated for economic development. No funds appropriated in this proviso may be used for routine operating costs of the organization as defined by the Department of Commerce.

The remaining \$140,000 shall be provided to Beaufort County, provided it meets the requirements established above.

Upon receipt of the request for the funds and certification of the matching funds, the Department of Commerce shall disburse the funds to the requesting organization.

Funds recipients shall provide an annual report by November first, to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee and the Secretary of Commerce on the expenditure of the funds and on the outcome measures.

Any unexpended, unallocated, or undistributed funds appropriated in prior fiscal years for Regional Economic Development Organizations shall first be made available to Regional Economic Development Organizations and any remainder shall be transferred to the Rural Infrastructure Fund at the Department of Commerce. If more than one alliance applies for the same funds, the funds will be distributed pro-rata.

50.19 DELETE (Water System Corrective Action Plan) Redirects the non-recurring \$500,000 appropriated in Act 91 of 2015 for the Hartsville Downtown Revitalization - Center Theater to the Town of Lamar for the Water System Corrective Action Plan.

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PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: DELETE proviso. *Funds were redirected in FY 2016-17. Requested by Department of Commerce.*

~~50.19. (CMRC: Water System Corrective Action Plan) The \$500,000 appropriated through the Department of Commerce for the Hartsville Downtown Revitalization — Center Theater (Requires 2:1 Match) in Act 91 of 2015 by proviso 118.14(B)(42)(i) shall be redirected to the Town of Lamar for the Water System Corrective Action Plan.~~

SECTION 88 - Y140 - STATE PORTS AUTHORITY

88.1 AMEND (Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project) Directs the State Ports Authority to pay the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank \$1,000,000 before June 30, 2017 to continue the Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project.

PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND original proviso to change July 1, “2016” to “2017” and June 30, and “2017” to “2018.” *Meets the obligations of the State Ports Authority and the State Infrastructure Bank’s financial agreement.* Fiscal Impact: No impact on the General Fund. The funds used to pay the Transportation Infrastructure Bank are operating funds of the Ports Authority, none of which are state appropriated funds. Generates \$1,000,000 for the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank. Per the Ports Authority, the commitment of the agency is to provide \$1,000,000 per year for 25 years, until 2027. Requested by State Ports Authority.

88.1. (SPA: Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project) The State Ports Authority shall, from other general fund or operating fund surplus available and any funds appropriated to the authority in prior fiscal years and left unexpended as of July 1, ~~2016~~ 2017, pay to the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank one million dollars before June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018, to continue the Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project.

88.5 AMEND (Jasper Ocean Terminal Permitting) Designates \$1,000,000 of the funds allocated for the Jasper Ocean Terminal Permitting for a contract for the permitting process that the Corps of Engineers were previously scheduled to handle. Prohibits the Ports Authority from spending these funds until a contract is executed. Requires funds not committed by the contract to be returned to the General Fund at the end of FY 2017-18.

PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: DELETE proviso. Requested by State Ports Authority.

~~88.5. (SPA: Jasper Ocean Terminal Permitting) Of the funds allocated to the Ports Authority for the Jasper Ocean Terminal Permitting, \$1,000,000 is designated for a contract for the permitting process that was previously scheduled to be handled by the Corps of Engineers. This funding may not be expended by the Ports Authority until a contract is executed. Additionally, any funds not committed by this contract must be returned to the General Fund at the end of Fiscal Year 2016-17.~~

SECTION 109 - R440 - DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

109.11 AMEND (Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children) Creates the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund and provides for scholarship funding organizations and

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individual tax credits for the amount a person contributes for an exceptional needs child within specific parameters.

PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso definition of “Eligible school” in (A)(1)(f) to require a school to also be in good standing with the “Palmetto Association of Independent Schools.” Amend definition of “Exceptional needs child” by adding (A)(2)(c) to include a child who has been identified by DSS as having special educational or developmental needs. Amend definition of “resident public school district” in (A)(6) to add “or in the case of dependents of active duty military personnel, the public school district which the student may attend.” Amend (E)(1) to provide guidelines to reapply and apply to the EOC in order to participate in the program in the current fiscal year; provide for removal from the program if certain information is not received by specific deadlines; provide for verification that a school is a member in good standing with certain associations and with the Diocese of Charleston and that the school continues to serve exceptional needs children. Amend (E)(1)(c) to direct that the application must contain a copy of a compilation, review, or compliance audit of the organization’s financial statement “as relating to the grants received” conducted by a cpa firm. Amend (E)(3)(a)(ii) to require an independent school’s compliance audit be posted on the EOC website. Delete (J) which required scholarship funding organizations organized for the purpose of providing grants to qualifying students with exceptional needs to attend an independent school, to deposit all remaining funds into the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund by August 1, 2016 and direct that these organizations shall cease to exist on August 1, 2016.

109.11. (DOR: Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children) (A) As used in this proviso:

(1) “Eligible school” means an independent school including those religious in nature, other than a public school, at which the compulsory attendance requirements of Section 59-65-10 may be met, that:

(a) offers a general education to primary or secondary school students;

(b) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin;

(c) is located in this State;

(d) has an educational curriculum that includes courses set forth in the state’s diploma requirements, graduation certificate requirements (for special needs children), and where the students attending are administered national achievement or state standardized tests, or both, at progressive grade levels to determine student progress;

(e) has school facilities that are subject to applicable federal, state, and local laws;

(f) is a member in good standing of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools, ~~or~~ the South Carolina Independent Schools Association, *or Palmetto Association of Independent Schools*; and

(g) provides a specially designed program or learning resource center to provide needed accommodations based on the needs of exceptional needs students or provides onsite educational services or supports to meet the needs of exceptional needs students, or is a school specifically existing to meet the needs of only exceptional needs students with documented disabilities.

(2) “Exceptional needs child” means a child:

(a) who has been evaluated in accordance with this state’s evaluation criteria, as set forth in S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-243.1, and determined eligible as a child with a disability who needs special education and related services, in accordance with the requirements of Section 300.8 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; or

(b) who has been diagnosed within the last three years by a licensed speech-language pathologist, psychiatrist, or medical, mental health, psychoeducational, or other comparable

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licensed health care provider as having a neurodevelopmental disorder, a substantial sensory or physical impairment such as deaf, blind, or orthopedic disability, or some other disability or acute or chronic condition that significantly impedes the student's ability to learn and succeed in school without specialized instructional and associated supports and services tailored to the child's unique needs; *or*

(c) who has been identified by the Department of Social Services as having special educational or developmental needs.

~~(4)~~ (3) 'Independent school' means a school, other than a public school, at which the compulsory attendance requirements of Section 59-65-10 may be met and that does not discriminate based on the grounds of race, color, religion, or national origin.

~~(5)~~ (4) 'Parent' means the natural or adoptive parent or legal guardian of a child.

~~(6)~~ (5) 'Qualifying student' means a student who is an exceptional needs child, a South Carolina resident, and who is eligible to be enrolled in a South Carolina secondary or elementary public school at the kindergarten or later year level for the applicable school year.

~~(7)~~ (6) 'Resident public school district' means the public school district in which a student resides, *or in the case of dependents of active military personnel, the public school district which the student may attend.*

~~(8)~~ (7) 'Transportation' means transportation to and from school only.

~~(9)~~ (8) 'Tuition' means the total amount of money charged for the cost of a qualifying student to attend an independent school including, but not limited to, fees for attending the school, textbook fees, and school-related transportation.

~~(10)~~ (9) 'Department' means the Department of Revenue.

(B) (1) There is created the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund that is separate and distinct from the State general fund. The fund shall be organized by the department as a public charity as defined by the Internal Revenue Code under sections 509(a)(1) through 509(a)(4) and consist solely of contributions made to the fund. The fund may not receive an appropriation of public funds. The fund shall receive and hold all contributions intended for it as well as all earnings until disbursed as provided in this chapter. Monies received in the fund shall be used to provide scholarships to exceptional needs children attending eligible schools.

(2) The amounts on deposit in the fund do not constitute public funds nor are the deposits property of the State. Amounts on deposit in the fund must not be commingled with public funds and the State shall have no claim to or interest in the amounts on deposit. Agreements or contracts entered into by or on behalf of the fund do not constitute a debt or obligation of the State.

(3) The fund shall be governed by five directors, two appointed by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, one of which is based upon the recommendation of the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools and one which is based upon the recommendation of the Diocese of Charleston, two appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee based upon the recommendations of the South Carolina Independent Schools Association and one appointed by the Governor based upon the recommendation of the Palmetto Association of Independent Schools. The directors of the fund, along with the Director of the Department of Revenue, shall designate an executive director of the fund.

(4) In concert with the fund directors, the Department of Revenue shall administer the fund, including, but not limited to, the keeping of records, the management of accounts, and disbursement of the grants awarded pursuant to this proviso. The ~~department~~ fund may expend up to two percent of the fund for administration and related costs. The department may not expend public funds to administer the program.

(5) By June thirtieth of the current fiscal year, the Department of Revenue must report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Governor:

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(a) the number and total amount of grants issued to eligible schools in the fiscal year;

(b) for each grant issued to an eligible school in the fiscal year, the identity of the school and the amount of the grant;

(c) an itemization and detailed explanation of any fees or other revenues obtained from or on behalf of any eligible schools;

(d) a copy of a compilation, review, or audit of the fund's financial statements, conducted by a certified public accounting firm and;

(e) the criteria and eligibility requirements for scholarship awards.

(C) (1) Grants may be awarded in an amount not exceeding eleven thousand dollars or the total annual cost of tuition, whichever is less, to a qualifying student at an eligible school.

(2) Before awarding any grant, the fund must receive written documentation from the qualifying student's parent or guardian documenting that the qualifying student is an exceptional needs child. Upon approving the application, the fund must issue a check to the eligible school in the name of the qualifying student within either thirty days upon approval of the application or thirty days of the start of the school's semester.

(3) In the event that the qualifying student leaves or withdraws from the school for any reason before the end of the semester or school year and does not reenroll within thirty days, then the eligible school must return a prorated amount of the grant to the fund based on the number of days the qualifying student was enrolled in the school during the semester or school year within sixty days of the qualifying student's departure.

(4) The ~~department~~ *fund* may not award grants solely for the benefit of one school.

(5) The department may not release any personally identifiable information pertaining to students or donors or use information collected about donors, students, or schools for financial gain.

(6) The ~~department~~ *fund* shall develop a process to prioritize the awarding of grants to eligible incumbent grant recipients at eligible schools.

(D) (1) (a) Tax credits authorized by subsection (H)(1) and subsection (I) of this proviso annually may not exceed cumulatively a total of ten million dollars for contributions to the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund.

(b) Tax credits authorized pursuant to subsection (H)(2) of this proviso annually may not exceed cumulatively a total of two million dollars for tuition payments made on behalf of qualifying students.

(c) If the department determines that the total of the credits claimed by all taxpayers exceeds either limit amount as contained in items (a) or (b), it shall allow credits only up to those amounts on a first come, first served basis.

(2) (a) The department shall establish an application process to determine the amount of credit available to be claimed. The receipt of the application by the department shall determine priority for the credit. Subject to the provisions of subitem (e), contributions must be made annually on or before June thirtieth, in order to claim the credit. The credit must be claimed on the return for the tax year that the contribution is made.

(b) A taxpayer may not claim more than sixty percent of his total tax liability for the year in contribution toward the tax credit authorized by subsection (H)(1) or subsection (I). This credit is not refundable.

(c) If a taxpayer deducts the amount of the contribution on his federal return and claims the credit allowed by subsection (H)(1) or subsection (I), then he must add back the amount of the deduction for purposes of South Carolina income taxes.

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(d) The department shall prescribe the form and manner of proof required to obtain the credit authorized by subsection (H)(1) or subsection (I). The department shall also develop a method of informing taxpayers if the credit limit is met at any time during the fiscal year.

(e) A taxpayer only may claim a credit pursuant to subsection (H)(1) and subsection (I) for contributions made during the fiscal year.

(3) A corporation or entity entitled to a credit under subsection (H)(1) and subsection (I) may not convey, assign, or transfer the credit authorized by this proviso to another entity unless all of the assets of the entity are conveyed, assigned, or transferred in the same transaction.

(E) (1) On or before August 1, ~~2016~~ of the current fiscal year an independent schools may apply to the Education Oversight Committee to be certified as an eligible institution school who participated in the program in the prior fiscal year and who desires to participate in the program in the current fiscal year must reapply to the Education Oversight Committee. The independent school must certify to the Education Oversight Committee that it continues to meet all program requirements and must provide to the committee student test score data from the prior school year by December 31. If student test score data are not submitted by December 31, then the Education Oversight Committee must remove the school from the program. The Education Oversight Committee must consult with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools, the South Carolina Independent Schools Association, Palmetto Association of Independent Schools, or the Diocese of Charleston to verify that the school is still a member in good standing and that the school continues to serve exceptional needs children. An independent school who did not participate in the program in the prior fiscal year but desires to participate in the program in the current fiscal year must apply to the Education Oversight Committee. The Education Oversight Committee shall develop an application to *be* completed by the independent schools which must contain at least:

(a) the number and total amount of grants received in the preceding fiscal year;

(b) student test scores, by category, on national achievement or state standardized tests, or both, for all grades tested and administered by the school receiving or entitled to receive scholarship grants pursuant to this chapter in the previous fiscal year;

(c) a copy of a compilation, review, or compliance audit of the organization's financial statements *as relating to the grants received*, conducted by a certified public accounting firm; and

(d) a certification by the independent school that it meets the definition of an eligible school as that term is defined in subsection (A)(1) and that the report is true, accurate, and complete under penalty of perjury in accordance with Section 16-9-10.

(2) (a) The Education Oversight Committee may waive the August first deadline contained in subsection (E) upon good cause shown by an independent school.

(b) The Education Oversight Committee may waive some or all of the curriculum requirements contained in subsection (A)(1)(d) following consultation with the advisory committee.

(3) (a) By September 1, 2016 the Education Oversight Committee shall publish on its website a comprehensive list of independent schools certified as eligible institutions. The list shall include for each eligible institution:

(i) the institution's name, addresses, telephone numbers, and, if available, website addresses; and

(ii) the score reports and *compliance* audits received by the committee pursuant to subsection (E)(1)(b) and (c).

(b) The Education Oversight Committee shall summarize or redact the score reports identified in item (3)(a)(ii) if necessary to prevent the disclosure of personally identifiable information.

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(4) An independent school that does not apply for certification pursuant to this subsection must not be included on the list of eligible schools and contributions to that school shall not be allowed for purposes of the tax credits permitted by this proviso.

(5) An independent school that is denied certification pursuant to this section may seek review by filing a request for a contested case hearing with the Administrative Law Court in accordance with the court's rules of procedure.

(F) (1) The Education Oversight Committee shall establish an advisory committee made up of not more than nine members, including parents, and representatives of independent schools and independent school associations.

(2) The advisory committee shall:

(a) consult with the Education Oversight Committee concerning requests for exemptions from curriculum requirements; and

(b) provide recommendations on other matters requested by the Education Oversight Committee.

(G) Except as otherwise provided, the Department of Education, the Education Oversight Committee, and the Department of Revenue, nor any other state agency may regulate the educational program of an independent school that accepts students receiving scholarship grants pursuant to this chapter.”

(H) (1) A taxpayer is entitled to a tax credit against income taxes imposed pursuant to Chapter 6, Title 12 for the amount of cash and the monetary value of any publicly traded securities the taxpayer contributes to the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund up to the limits contained in subsection (D)(1)(a) of this proviso if:

(a) the contribution is used to provide grants for tuition to exceptional needs children enrolled in eligible schools who qualify for these grants under the provisions of this proviso; and

(b) the taxpayer does not designate a specific child or school as the beneficiary of the contribution.

(2) (a) A taxpayer is entitled to a refundable tax credit against income taxes imposed pursuant to Chapter 6, Title 12 for the amount of cash and the monetary value of any publicly traded securities, not exceeding eleven thousand dollars per child, for tuition payments to an eligible school for an exceptional needs child within his custody or care who would be eligible for a grant pursuant to this proviso up to the limits contained in subsection (D)(1)(b) of this proviso.

(b) If a child within the care and custody of taxpayer claiming a tax credit pursuant to this item also receives a grant from the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund, then the taxpayer may only claim a credit equal to the difference of eleven thousand dollars or the cost of tuition, whichever is lower, and the amount of the grant.

(I) A taxpayer is entitled to a tax credit against income taxes imposed pursuant to Chapter 11, Title 12 for the amount of cash and the monetary value of any publicly traded securities the taxpayer contributes to the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund up to the limits contained in subsection (D)(1)(a) of this proviso if:

(1) the contribution is used to provide grants for tuition to exceptional needs children enrolled in eligible schools who qualify for these grants under the provisions of this proviso; and

(2) the taxpayer does not designate a specific child or school as the beneficiary of the contribution.

~~(J) On or before August 1, 2016, each scholarship funding organization organized and operating pursuant to SECTION 9 of H. 4230, R. 130, Act 92 of 2015 shall deposit with the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund all remaining funds on hand as of July 1, 2016. Scholarship funding organizations organized and operating pursuant to SECTION 9 shall remain in existence after the effective date of this act solely for the purpose of winding~~

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~~down operations and depositing remaining funds with the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund pursuant to this provision. On August 1, 2016 all scholarship funding organizations organized pursuant to SECTION 9 shall cease to exist.~~

SECTION 117 - X900 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

117.107 AMEND (State Ports Authority Property) Directs that if the Authority has not sold its real property on Daniel and Thomas Islands, with certain exceptions, by June 30, 2017, it must transfer the property to the Department of Administration.

PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to change “2017” to “2018.” Requested by State Ports Authority.

117.107. (GP: State Ports Authority Property) If the State Ports Authority has not completed the sale of its real property on Daniel Island and Thomas (St. Thomas) Island, except for the dredge disposal cells that are needed in connection with the construction of the North Charleston terminal on the Charleston Naval Complex and for harbor deepening and for channel and berth maintenance, by June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018, the authority must transfer the property to the Department of Administration. The authority shall sell the real property under terms and conditions it considers most advantageous to the authority and the State of South Carolina.

117.125 DELETE (Endowed Chairs Funding) Directs CHE to transfer the Endowed Chairs Program funds set aside for “Commerce Awards” to the Department of Commerce’s Applied Research Centers by August 1, 2016.

PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: DELETE proviso. *Funds were transferred in FY 2016-17.* Requested by Department of Commerce.

117.125. (GP: Endowed Chairs Funding) ~~The Endowed Chairs Program funds that have been set aside for “Commeree Awards” shall be transferred by the Commission on Higher Education to the Department of Commeree’s Applied Research Centers by August 1, 2016.~~

117.df ADD (Distribution Facility) **PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to direct the State Ports Authority to be considered a distribution facility for the purpose of sales tax exemptions for equipment and construction materials purchases.

117.df. (GP: Distribution Facility) The State Ports Authority shall be considered a distribution facility for the purpose of sales tax exemptions associated with the purchase of equipment and construction materials.

117.cwe ADD (Catastrophic Weather Event) **PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to direct (A) that improvements to real or personal property used as a residence, such as a mobile home or manufactured housing unit, as a result of damage from the catastrophic weather event in October 2015, made after the event and before July 1, 2018, is not considered an improvement and does not require an appraisal if it was funded through the US HUD Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program, or if at the discretion of individual counties, improvements were made with the assistance of volunteer organizations; and (B) direct property tax assessors to conform the values of eligible parcels which were improved before July 1, 2017, to the property tax value as that value may have been adjusted to reflect the provisions contained in (A).

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117.cwe. (GP: Catastrophic Weather Event) (A) Any improvements made to real property or personal property used as a residence, such as a mobile home or manufactured housing unit, damaged during the catastrophic weather event in October 2015, after the event and before July 1, 2018, is not considered an improvement and does not require an appraisal. This provision only applies if as a result of the catastrophic weather event, the improvements made to the property were funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery program. This provision also applies if, at the discretion of the county and using qualifications determined by the county, the improvements were made with the assistance of a volunteer organization active in disaster, or a similar volunteer organization.

(B) Property tax assessors shall conform the values of eligible parcels of real property which were improved before July 1, 2017, to the property tax value of these parcels as that value may have been adjusted to reflect the above provisions of section (A). No refund is allowed on account of values adjusted as provided in this provision.