



SCCID

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE

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MEMORANDUM TO:

The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor of South Carolina
The Honorable Harvey S. Peeler, Jr, Chm. Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Bruce W. Bannister, Chm. House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense

DATE: 11 August 2025

RE: Proviso 117.161

The Commission on Indigent Defense provided an initial report on 15 July 2023, outlining the information required in accordance with Proviso 117.170 of the FY 23-24 General Appropriations Act (H 4300).

The proviso was continued in the current budget (FY25-26) and re-numbered 117.161. The proviso requires that the Agency report warrants pending on July 1st of the preceding FY and current FY

The warrants pending as of July 1, 2025, are as follows:

1. Warrants pending/disposed as of 7/1/2023, 7/1/2024 and 7/1/2025 Circuit/ County Public Defender Offices. (Exhibit 1)

The data reflects the steady progress in reducing the number of pending warrants in matters handled by PD Offices from 110,244 in FY 24 to currently 97,748.

2. Statewide pending warrant totals (Private Bar and Public Defenders) FY24 and FY25. (Exhibit 2)
3. Exhibit 3 and 4 reflects the distribution of funds amongst the 16 Circuit PD Offices.
4. Statewide recruitment and retention data reflecting Public Defender Office hires and other personnel data. (Exhibit 5).

Statewide Pending General Sessions Warrants as of July 1, 2025
Public Defender Data ¹
Pursuant to Proviso 117.161, 2025-2026 SC Appropriations Act, Part 1B

Circuit/County	FY 24 Pending Warrants July 1, 2023	FY 25 Pending Warrants July 1, 2024	FY 26 Pending Warrants as of July 1, 2025				Warrants Disposed of FY 26 as of July 1, 2025
			FY 26 Pending Warrants	FY 26 Warrants Pending Aged 365 or Less	FY 26 Warrants Pending Aged 366-544 Days	FY 26 Warrants Pending Aged 545 Days or More	
1st Circuit							
Calhoun	215	236	211	149	28	34	347
Dorchester	2,581	1,611	1,541	939	207	395	1,895
Orangeburg	1,681	1,943	1,650	842	199	609	2,088
Circuit Totals	4,477	3,790	3,402	1,930	434	1,038	4,330
2nd Circuit							
Aiken	2,926	3,723	3,525	1,520	551	1,454	3,369
Bamberg	373	407	431	202	91	138	418
Barnwell	674	899	660	317	109	234	839
Circuit Totals	3,973	5,029	4,616	2,039	751	1,826	4,626
3rd Circuit							
Clarendon	468	442	476	292	61	123	484
Lee	270	283	361	160	67	134	171
Sumter	2,982	3,336	3,621	1,445	361	1,815	1,877
Williamsburg	515	530	707	328	115	264	314
Circuit Totals	4,235	4,591	5,165	2,225	604	2,336	2,846
4th Circuit							
Chesterfield	2,767	1,251	1,052	573	110	369	1,568
Darlington	1,941	1,888	1,705	754	191	760	2,057
Dillon	598	364	604	396	65	143	519
Marlboro	813	469	426	252	56	118	463
Circuit Totals	6,119	3,972	3,787	1,975	422	1,390	4,607
5th Circuit							
Kershaw	2,022	2,440	1,908	690	251	967	1,819
Richland	10,326	11,749	10,115	5,314	1,346	3,455	10,014
Circuit Totals	12,348	14,189	12,023	6,004	1,597	4,422	11,833

Exhibit 1

1) Data reflects warrants handled by Public Defender offices,
as compiled by SCCID Defender Data System (Case Management).

Statewide Pending General Sessions Warrants as of July 1, 2025
Public Defender Data ¹
Pursuant to Proviso 117.161, 2025-2026 SC Appropriations Act, Part 1B

Circuit/County	FY 24 Pending Warrants July 1, 2023	FY 25 Pending Warrants July 1, 2024	FY 26 Pending Warrants as of July 1, 2025				Warrants Disposed of FY 26 as of July 1, 2025
			FY 26 Pending Warrants	FY 26 Warrants Pending Aged 365 or Less	FY 26 Warrants Pending Aged 366-544 Days	FY 26 Warrants Pending Aged 545 Days or More	
6th Circuit							
Chester	796	820	712	340	78	294	812
Fairfield	494	431	448	194	69	185	378
Lancaster	3,079	4,226	4,244	1,469	574	2,201	2,322
Circuit Totals	4,369	5,477	5,404	2,003	721	2,680	3,512
7th Circuit							
Cherokee	1,619	1,547	1,187	623	164	400	1,749
Spartanburg	5,970	5,288	5,000	2,657	721	1,622	5,850
Circuit Totals	7,589	6,835	6,187	3,280	885	2,022	7,599
8th Circuit							
Abbeville	787	543	284	165	41	78	669
Greenwood	2,836	2,523	2,314	965	381	968	2,059
Laurens	3,102	2,793	2,362	889	324	1,149	2,431
Newberry	773	718	716	349	97	270	784
Circuit Totals	7,498	6,577	5,676	2,368	843	2,465	5,943
9th Circuit							
Berkeley	2,631	3,317	3,230	1,519	449	1,262	2,636
Charleston	13,359	7,973	8,405	4,083	1,301	3,021	5,410
Circuit Totals	15,990	11,290	11,635	5,602	1,750	4,283	8,046
10th Circuit							
Anderson	1,723	2,221	2,531	1,785	263	483	3,129
Oconee	1,852	1,667	1,486	1,000	119	367	2,397
Circuit Totals	3,575	3,888	4,017	2,785	382	850	5,526
11th Circuit							
Edgefield	816	374	261	172	45	44	524
Lexington	3,586	3,519	3,233	1,950	402	881	4,227
McCormick	450	112	122	96	10	16	184
Saluda	415	132	84	62	8	14	203
Circuit Totals	5,267	4,137	3,700	2,280	465	955	5,138

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Statewide Pending General Sessions Warrants as of July 1, 2025
Public Defender Data ¹
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			FY 26 Pending Warrants	FY 26 Warrants Pending Aged 365 or Less	FY 26 Warrants Pending Aged 366-544 Days	FY 26 Warrants Pending Aged 545 Days or More	
12th Circuit							
Florence	4,120	4,087	4,861	2,662	688	1,511	3,649
Marion	615	734	776	360	116	300	546
Circuit Totals	4,735	4,821	5,637	3,022	804	1,811	4,195
13th Circuit							
Greenville	9,137	9,652	10,052	6,265	1,633	2,154	11,592
Pickens	2,073	2,485	2,494	1,625	370	499	3,000
Circuit Totals	11,210	12,137	12,546	7,890	2,003	2,653	14,592
14th Circuit							
Allendale	329	151	71	43		28	213
Beaufort	3,620	3,877	2,835	814	307	1,714	2,541
Colleton	1,352	1,086	599	223	95	281	1,164
Hampton	646	552	317	181	31	105	652
Jasper	959	1,089	753	321	126	306	1,064
Circuit Totals	6,906	6,755	4,575	1,582	559	2,434	5,634
15th Circuit							
Georgetown	918	645	777	566	120	91	1,092
Horry	6,359	6,075	4,987	3,057	804	1,126	8,644
Circuit Totals	7,277	6,720	5,764	3,623	924	1,217	9,736
16th Circuit							
Union	905	925	972	472	196	304	848
York	3,771	3,475	2,642	2,103	271	268	5,390
Circuit Totals	4,676	4,400	3,614	2,575	467	572	6,238
Statewide Total	110,244	104,608	97,748	51,183	13,611	32,954	104,401

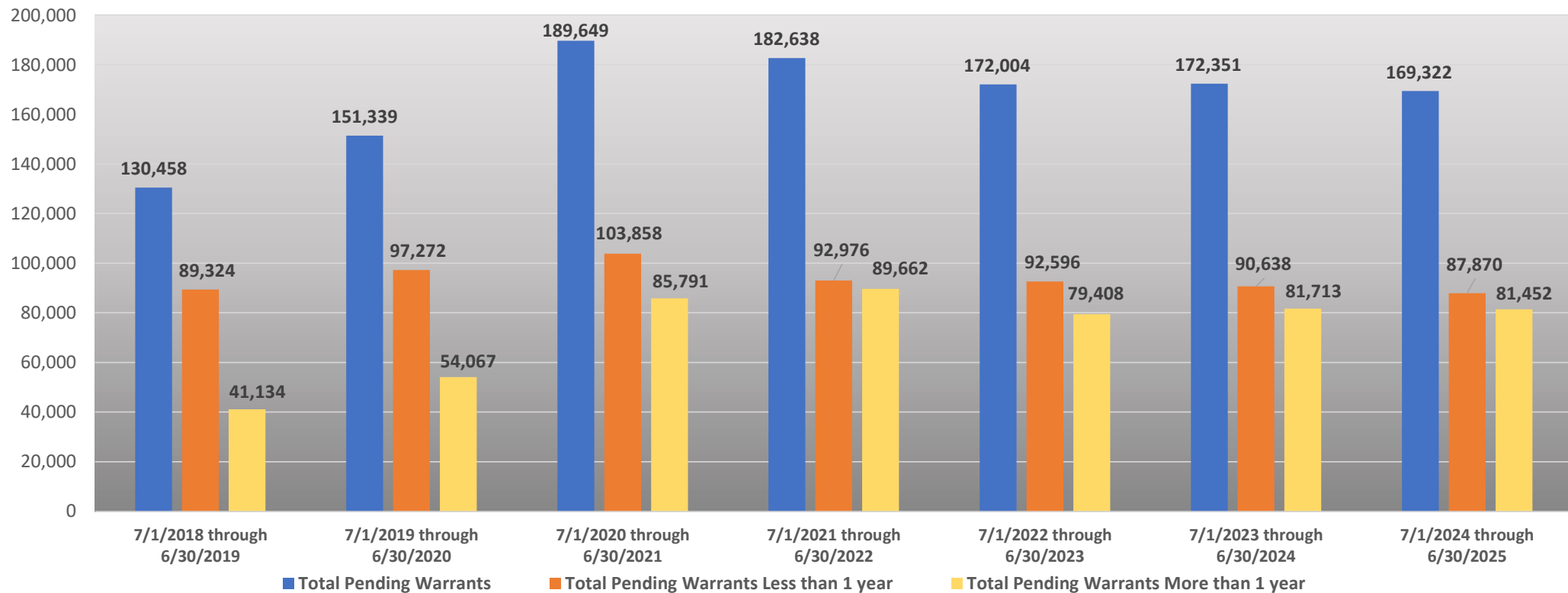
Exhibit 1

1) Data reflects warrants handled by Public Defender offices,
as compiled by SCCID Defender Data System (Case Management).



COURT ADMINISTRATION GENERAL SESSIONS WARRANT BACKLOG

SC Court Administration's Backlog of Warrants for FY2019 (Pre Pandemic); FY2020 (Partial Pandemic); FY2021 (Full Pandemic); FY2022 (Post Pandemic); FY2023; FY2024 and FY2025



CIRCUIT	COUNTY NAME	POPULATION 2020 CENSUS	Distribution	Circuit Totals
1	CALHOUN	14,119	\$ 15,044.10	
1	DORCHESTER	161,540	\$ 172,124.25	
1	ORANGEBURG	84,223	\$ 89,741.37	\$ 276,909.72
2	AIKEN	168,808	\$ 179,868.46	
2	BAMBERG	13,311	\$ 14,183.15	
2	BARNWELL	20,589	\$ 21,938.01	\$ 215,989.62
3	CLARENDON	31,144	\$ 33,184.58	
3	LEE	16,531	\$ 17,614.13	
3	SUMTER	105,556	\$ 112,472.13	
3	WILLIAMSBURG	31,026	\$ 33,058.85	\$ 196,329.69
4	CHESTERFIELD	43,273	\$ 46,108.29	
4	DARLINGTON	62,905	\$ 67,026.59	
4	DILLON	28,292	\$ 30,145.72	
4	MARLBORO	26,667	\$ 28,414.25	\$ 171,694.85
5	KERSHAW	65,403	\$ 69,688.27	
5	RICHLAND	416,147	\$ 443,413.33	\$ 513,101.60
6	CHESTER	32,294	\$ 34,409.93	
6	FAIRFIELD	20,948	\$ 22,320.53	
6	LANCASTER	96,016	\$ 102,307.06	\$ 159,037.52
7	CHEROKEE	56,216	\$ 59,899.32	
7	SPARTANBURG	327,997	\$ 349,487.68	\$ 409,387.00
8	ABBEVILLE	24,295	\$ 25,886.83	
8	GREENWOOD	69,351	\$ 73,894.95	
8	LAURENS	67,539	\$ 71,964.22	
8	NEWBERRY	37,719	\$ 40,190.38	\$ 211,936.38
9	BERKELEY	229,861	\$ 244,921.71	
9	CHARLESTON	408,235	\$ 434,982.93	\$ 679,904.64
10	ANDERSON	203,718	\$ 217,065.79	
10	OCONEE	78,607	\$ 83,757.42	\$ 300,823.21
11	EDGEFIELD	25,657	\$ 27,338.07	
11	LEXINGTON	293,991	\$ 313,253.56	
11	McCORMICK	9,526	\$ 10,150.15	
11	SALUDA	18,862	\$ 20,097.86	\$ 370,839.64
12	FLORENCE	137,059	\$ 146,039.23	
12	MARION	29,183	\$ 31,095.10	\$ 177,134.33
13	GREENVILLE	525,534	\$ 559,967.47	
13	PICKENS	131,404	\$ 140,013.71	\$ 699,981.18
14	ALLENDALE	8,039	\$ 8,565.73	
14	BEAUFORT	187,117	\$ 199,377.08	
14	COLLETON	38,604	\$ 41,133.37	
14	HAMPTON	18,561	\$ 19,777.13	
14	JASPER	28,791	\$ 30,677.42	\$ 299,530.73
15	GEORGETOWN	63,404	\$ 67,558.29	
15	HORRY	351,029	\$ 374,028.75	\$ 441,587.04
16	UNION	27,244	\$ 29,029.05	
16	YORK	282,090	\$ 300,572.80	\$ 329,601.85
	TOTAL	5,118,425	\$ 5,453,789.00	\$ 5,453,789.00

Recruitment Funding Assistant Public Defenders Pro Rata
(3 new Attorney Positions plus operating per Circuit)

CIRCUIT	COUNTY NAME	POPULATION 2020 CENSUS	Distribution	Circuit Totals	Quarterly Circuit Totals
1	CALHOUN	14,119			
1	DORCHESTER	161,540			
1	ORANGEBURG	84,223		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
2	AIKEN	168,808			
2	BAMBERG	13,311			
2	BARNWELL	20,589		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
3	CLARENDON	31,144			
3	LEE	16,531			
3	SUMTER	105,556			
3	WILLIAMSBURG	31,026		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
4	CHESTERFIELD	43,273			
4	DARLINGTON	62,905			
4	DILLON	28,292			
4	MARLBORO	26,667		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
5	KERSHAW	65,403			
5	RICHLAND	416,147		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
6	CHESTER	32,294			
6	FAIRFIELD	20,948			
6	LANCASTER	96,016		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
7	CHEROKEE	56,216			
7	SPARTANBURG	327,997		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
8	ABBEVILLE	24,295			
8	GREENWOOD	69,351			
8	LAURENS	67,539			
8	NEWBERRY	37,719		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
9	BERKELEY	229,861			
9	CHARLESTON	408,235		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
10	ANDERSON	203,718			
10	OCONEE	78,607		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
11	EDGEFIELD	25,657			
11	LEXINGTON	293,991			
11	McCORMICK	9,526			
11	SALUDA	18,862		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
12	FLORENCE	137,059			
12	MARION	29,183		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
13	GREENVILLE	525,534			
13	PICKENS	131,404		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
14	ALLENDALE	8,039			
14	BEAUFORT	187,117			
14	COLLETON	38,604			
14	HAMPTON	18,561			
14	JASPER	28,791		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
15	GEORGETOWN	63,404			
15	HORRY	351,029		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
16	UNION	27,244			
16	YORK	282,090		\$ 359,184.00	\$ 89,796.00
	TOTAL	5,118,425	\$ 5,746,944.00	\$ 5,746,944.00	\$ 1,436,736.00
	Total Funds:	\$5,746,944			
	Per Capita:	1.122795391			

Public Defender Status Update as of 7/1/2025

Circuit	County	Position	PD Totals as of June 30, 2024				PD Totals as of July 1, 2025			
			FTE	PTE	CONTRACT	Grand Totals	FTE	PTE	CONTRACT	Grand Totals
1	Calhoun	Public Defender	0	1	2	2.5	0	0	2	2
	Dorchester	Public Defender	7	1	1	8.5	8	0	2	10
	Orangeburg	Public Defender	4	1	4	8.5	5	1	4	9.5
		Totals	11	1.5	7	19.5	13	0.5	8	21.5
2	Aiken	Public Defender	12	0	6	18	12	0	4	16
	Bamberg	Public Defender	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
	Barnwell	Public Defender	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
		Totals	14	0	6	20	14	0	4	18
3	Clarendon	Public Defender	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2
	Lee	Public Defender	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
	Sumter	Public Defender	7	0	3	10	7	0	2	9
	Williamsburg	Public Defender	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
		Totals	9	0	5	14	9	0	5	14
4	Chesterfield	Public Defender	2	0	1	3	2	0	1	3
	Darlington	Public Defender	2	0	2	4	2	0	3	5
	Dillon	Public Defender	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	3
	Marlboro	Public Defender	1	0	1	2	2	0	2	4
		Totals	6	0	4	10	7	0	8	15
5	Kershaw	Public Defender	5	0	1	6	6	0	0	6
	Richland	Public Defender	26	0	7	33	38	1	7	45.5
		Totals	31	0	8	39	44	0.5	7	51.5
6	Chester	Public Defender	1	0	3	4	2	0	3	5
	Fairfield	Public Defender	1	0	2	3	1	0	4	5
	Lancaster	Public Defender	4	0	3	7	3	0	4	7
		Totals	6	0	8	14	6	0	11	17
7	Cherokee	Public Defender	2	0	2	4	4	0	2	6
	Spartanburg	Public Defender	9	0	6	15	15	5	1	18.5
		Totals	11	0	8	19	19	2.5	3	24.5
8	Abbeville	Public Defender	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
	Greenwood	Public Defender	4	0	1	5	3	0	2	5
	Laurens	Public Defender	4	0	1	5	3	0	1	4
	Newberry	Public Defender	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
		Totals	9	0	3	12	7	0	4	11
9	Berkeley	Public Defender	9	0	1	10	10	0	1	11
	Charleston	Public Defender	28	4	0	30	36	2	0	37
		Totals	37	2	1	40	46	1	1	48
10	Anderson	Public Defender	9	0	4	13	9	0	3	12
	Oconee	Public Defender	4	0	3	7	5	0	3	8
		Totals	13	0	7	20	14	0	6	20
11	Edgefield	Public Defender	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
	Lexington	Public Defender	9	0	0	9	19	0	0	19
	McCormick	Public Defender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Saluda	Public Defender	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
		Totals	10	0	0	10	21	0	0	21
12	Florence	Public Defender	9	3	2	12.5	10	3	0	11.5
	Marion	Public Defender	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
		Totals	10	1.5	2	13.5	11	1.5	0	12.5
13	Greenville	Public Defender	22	0	4	26	27	0	4	31
	Pickens	Public Defender	6	0	2	8	6	0	3	9
		Totals	28	0	6	34	33	0	7	40

Public Defender Status Update as of 7/1/2025

			PD Totals as of June 30, 2024				PD Totals as of July 1, 2025			
Circuit	County	Position	FTE	PTE	CONTRACT	Grand Totals	FTE	PTE	CONTRACT	Grand Totals
14	Allendale	Public Defender	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
	Beaufort	Public Defender	11	0	4	15	13	0	4	17
	Colleton	Public Defender	3	0	1	4	4	0	2	6
	Hampton	Public Defender	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
	Jasper	Public Defender	3	0	2	5	5	0	1	6
		Totals	19	0	8	27	23	0	7	30
15	Georgetown	Public Defender	3	0	2	5	2	0	2	4
	Horry	Public Defender	8	0	4	12	13	0	2	15
			Totals	11	0	6	17	15	0	4
16	Union	Public Defender	3	0	0	3	3	0	0	3
	York	Public Defender	18	0	0	18	22	0	0	22
			Totals	21	0	0	21	25	0	0
Grand Total			FTE	PTE	CONTRACT		FTE	PTE	CONTRACT	
			246	5	79	330	307	6	75	388
Total Filled Positions					330		388			