COMMITTEE REPORT

February 25, 2015

**H. 3324**

Introduced by Reps. J.E. Smith, G.M. Smith, Yow, Hardee, Clemmons, Goldfinch, Hardwick, Johnson and Duckworth

S. Printed 2/25/15--H.

Read the first time January 15, 2015.

**THE COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL,**

**MILITARY, PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**

To whom was referred a Joint Resolution (H. 3324) to establish a committee to study state and local level veterans issues; to make appropriate legislative recommendations for improving the structure, delivery, and coordination, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass with amendment:

Amend the joint resolution, as and if amended, SECTION 2, pages 1 through 2, by striking SECTION 2 in its entirety and inserting:

/ SECTION 2. The committee shall study and evaluate the following:

(A) relationships between the county veterans affairs offices and the executive and legislative branches of state government;

(B) relationships between the county veterans affairs offices and the South Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs;

(C) relationships between the South Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

(D) level of responsiveness and accountability of the current state system for the delivery of services to South Carolina veterans;

(E) range of services the State of South Carolina directly offers state veterans and recommendations for enhancing South Carolina’s veteran‑friendly reputation; and

(F) current mission of the Joint Legislative Veterans Issues Study Committee and whether its functions should be expanded or codified.

When formulating its findings and recommendations, the committee shall consider information and recommendations from representatives of the veteran community. /

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

LEON HOWARD for Committee.

**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**

**Fiscal Impact Summary**

The Governor’s Office, the General Assembly, and the Adjutant General’s Office indicate this bill will have no expenditure impact on the general fund, federal funds, and other funds.

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

This bill would establish a committee to study state and local level veterans’ issues and make appropriate legislative recommendations for improving the structure, the delivery, and coordination of veterans’ services in South Carolina. The bill would also provide for the committee’s membership, duration, and staffing. Section 4 of the bill states that the members of the committee may not receive compensation and certain other expenses authorized by law for members of state boards and committees.

**State Expenditure**

The Governor’s Office, the General Assembly, and the Adjutant General’s Office indicate this bill will have no expenditure impact on the general fund, federal funds, and other funds.

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director

Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office

**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE TO STUDY STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL VETERANS ISSUES; TO MAKE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE STRUCTURE, DELIVERY, AND COORDINATION OF VETERANS SERVICES IN SOUTH CAROLINA; AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMMITTEE’S MEMBERSHIP, DURATION, AND STAFFING.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. (A) There is established a State and Local Level Veterans Issues Study Committee. The committee is comprised of:

(1) the members of the Joint Legislative Veterans Issues Study Committee created by Act 342 of 2010 or their successors;

(2) three members appointed by the Governor; and

(3) three members appointed by the Adjutant General.

(B) The members of the committee shall elect a chairman and a vice chairman and shall meet as often and at any location in the State as the committee considers necessary or expedient for the duration of the committee’s existence as provided by this joint resolution. A vacancy on the committee must be filled in the manner of original appointment.

SECTION 2. The committee shall study and evaluate the following:

(A) relationships between the county veterans affairs offices and the executive and legislative branches of state government;

(B) relationships between the county veterans affairs offices and the South Carolina Office of Veterans Affairs;

(C) relationships between the South Carolina Office of Veterans Affairs and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

(D) level of responsiveness and accountability of the current state system for the delivery of services to South Carolina veterans; and

(E) range of services the State of South Carolina directly offers state veterans and recommendations for enhancing South Carolina’s veteran‑friendly reputation; and

(F) current mission of the Joint Legislative Veterans Issues Study Committee and whether its functions should be expanded or codified.

When formulating its findings and recommendations, the committee shall consider information and recommendations from representatives of the veteran community.

SECTION 3. The committee shall render a written report of its findings and recommendations based upon its study conducted pursuant to SECTION 2. The report must be presented to both houses of the General Assembly and to the Governor by February 1, 2016. Upon submitting the written report in accordance with the provisions of this section, the committee must be dissolved and this joint resolution shall expire.

SECTION 4. The committee shall receive clerical and related assistance from the staff of the Military Department of South Carolina, as approved and designated by the Adjutant General. The members of the committee may not receive compensation and are not entitled to receive mileage, subsistence, and per diem authorized by law for members of state boards and committees.

SECTION 5. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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