COMMITTEE REPORT

April 23, 2015

**H. 3324**

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

S. Printed 4/23/15--S.

Read the first time March 5, 2015.

**THE GENERAL COMMITTEE**

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 of veterans services in South Carolina, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

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

WILLIAM H. O’DELL for Committee.

**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 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.

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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