COMMITTEE REPORT

March 22, 2017

**H. 3428**

Introduced by Rep. J.E. Smith

S. Printed 3/22/17--H.

Read the first time January 11, 2017.

**THE COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL,**

**MILITARY, PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 3428) to amend the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Section 25‑11‑65 so as to provide that the Director of the Division of Veterans’ Affairs, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

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

LEON HOWARD for Committee.

**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**Introduced on January 11, 2017**

**State Expenditure**

This bill adds Section 25-11-65 to require the Director of the Division of Veterans’ Affairs to receive and respond to veterans’ complaints regarding county veterans’ affairs officers. The director shall forward the complaint along with his recommendation for discipline, including the possible removal of the county veterans’ affairs officer in question, to the appropriate legislative delegation for its consideration and final determination.

**Department of Administration.** The department indicates that current administration practices for complaints regarding county veterans’ affairs offices is to contact the county veterans’ affairs offices to relay the veterans’ complaint. The division will develop operational procedures for forwarding the complaint and the division’s recommendations for discipline to the appropriate legislative delegation. These new procedures are a minimal extension of the normal activities of the division. As a result, this bill would have no expenditure impact on the general fund, federal funds, or other funds.

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director

Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 25‑11‑65 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF VETERANS’ AFFAIRS SHALL RECEIVE AND RESPOND TO COMPLAINTS FROM VETERANS REGARDING COUNTY VETERANS’ AFFAIRS OFFICERS.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 11, Title 25 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 25‑11‑65. Notwithstanding another provision of law, the Director of the Division of Veterans’ Affairs shall receive and respond to veterans’ complaints regarding county veterans’ affairs officers. The Director of the Division of Veterans’ Affairs shall forward the complaint along with his recommendation for discipline, including the possible removal of the county veterans’ affairs officer in question, to the appropriate legislative delegation for its consideration and final determination.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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