

Chairman Wm. Weston J. Newton

First Vice-Chair:

Laurie Slade Funderburk

Legislative Oversight Committee



South Carolina House of Representatives

Nathan Ballentine
Gary E. Clary
Kirkman Finlay III
Joseph H. Jefferson Jr.
Walton J. McLeod
Joshua Putnam
Samuel Rivers Jr.
Tommy M. Stringer
Bill Taylor

William K. (Bill) Bowers
Raye Felder
Phyllis J. Henderson
Mia S. McLeod
Ralph W. Norman
Robert L. Ridgeway III
James E. Smith, Jr.
Edward R. Tallon Sr.
Robert Q. Williams

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Legislative Oversight Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 1, 2016
Blatt Building Room 110

Archived Video Available

- I. Pursuant to House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 6.8, South Carolina ETV was allowed access for streaming the meeting. You may access archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly's website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and clicking on *Committee Postings and Reports*, then under *House Standing Committees* click on *Legislative Oversight*. Then, click on *Video Archives* for a listing of archived videos for the Committee.

Attendance

- I. The House Legislative Oversight Committee was called to order by Chairman Wm. Weston J. Newton on Wednesday, June 1, 2016, in Room 110 of the Blatt Building. The following members of the Committee were not present: Representative Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr., Representative Mia S. McLeod, Representative Walton J. McLeod, Representative Tommy M. Stringer, and Representative Joshua A. Putnam.

Minutes

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires standing committees to prepare and make available to the public the minutes of committee meetings, but the minutes do not have to be verbatim accounts of meetings.
- II. Representative Norman moved that the Committee approve the minutes from its previous meeting on May 4, 2016. A roll call vote was held, and the motion was passed.

Rep. Norman’s motion that the Committee approve its May 4 minutes:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Nathan Ballentine	✓		
William K. “Bill” Bowers	✓		
Gary E. Clary	✓		
Raye Felder			✓
Kirkman Finlay, III			✓
Laurie Slade Funderburk			✓
Phyllis Henderson	✓		
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.			✓
Mia S. McLeod			✓
Walton J. McLeod			✓
Ralph W. Norman	✓		
Joshua A. Putnam			✓
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓		
Samuel Rivers, Jr.	✓		
James E. Smith, Jr.			✓
Tommy M. Stringer			✓
Edward R. “Eddie” Tallon	✓		
Bill Taylor	✓		
Robert Q. Williams	✓		
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓		

Further Discussion of the Economic Development, Transportation, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Subcommittee’s Study of the Department of Transportation

- I. As the Committee’s previous discussion of the Department of Transportation study was cut short when the House of Representatives went into session, Chairman Newton stated this meeting provided an

opportunity for the Committee to continue its discussion of the Department of Transportation study.

- II. Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall was present at the meeting and responded to various questions. Representative Williams had questions pertaining to a maintenance shops; promotion of frontline or maintenance workers; roadside grass mowing; and facility upkeep. Representative Finlay had questions pertaining to at-will employment and the length of time required for DOT to terminate the employment of an employee for poor work performance. Representative Bowers had questions about traffic signal locations in Jasper County and event along Interstate 95. Additionally, Representative Bowers made an observation that DOT disagreed with some of the Legislative Audit Council's recommendations and findings. Representative Norman had questions about DOT's drug-testing policy. Representative Felder had questions about the statewide implementation of a road maintenance model that had been pioneered in Rock Hill. Representative Taylor had questions about the ways in which the statewide budget troubles in 2010 and 2011 affected DOT's employment of engineers compared to its employment of maintenance workers. Chairman Newton asked how DOT ensured that its Act 114 maintenance prioritizations were based on up-to-date data. Representative Smith had questions about the status of the "Malfunction Junction" project and the road funding bills under debate in the General Assembly.

- III. Representative Henderson summarized and responded to member questions about the recommendations of the Economic Development, Transportation, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Subcommittee in the Subcommittee's Study of DOT. Several members made statements about the study process including: Representative Williams; Representative Henderson; Chairman Newton; Representative Finlay; and Representative Clary.

Representative Henderson moved that the Committee approve the Economic Development, Transportation, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Subcommittee's Study of DOT. A roll call vote was held, and the motion was passed.

Rep. Henderson’s motion to approve the Economic Development, Transportation, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Subcommittee’s Study of the Department of Transportation:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Nathan Ballentine	✓		
William K. “Bill” Bowers	✓		
Gary E. Clary	✓		
Raye Felder	✓		
Kirkman Finlay, III			✓
Laurie Slade Funderburk	✓		
Phyllis Henderson	✓		
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.			✓
Mia S. McLeod			✓
Walton J. McLeod			✓
Ralph W. Norman	✓		
Joshua A. Putnam			✓
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓		
Samuel Rivers, Jr.	✓		
James E. Smith, Jr.			✓
Tommy M. Stringer			✓
Edward R. “Eddie” Tallon	✓		
Bill Taylor	✓		
Robert Q. Williams			✓
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓		

Administrative Matters

- I. Chairman Newton introduced a proposed amendment to the Committee’s Standard Practices, and asked if there were any questions about the proposed amendment. There were no questions. Representative Clary moved that the Committee adopt the proposed amendment. A roll call vote was held, and the motion was passed.

Rep. Clary’s motion that the Committee adopt the proposed amendment to the Committee’s Standard Practices:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Nathan Ballentine	✓		
William K. “Bill” Bowers	✓		
Gary E. Clary	✓		
Raye Felder	✓		
Kirkman Finlay, III	✓		
Laurie Slade Funderburk	✓		
Phyllis Henderson	✓		
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.			✓
Mia S. McLeod			✓
Walton J. McLeod			✓
Ralph W. Norman	✓		
Joshua A. Putnam			✓
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓		
Samuel Rivers, Jr.	✓		
James E. Smith, Jr.			✓
Tommy M. Stringer			✓
Edward R. “Eddie” Tallon	✓		
Bill Taylor	✓		
Robert Q. Williams	✓		
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓		

II. The Committee discussed a request from the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee that the Committee refer a matter of alleged contempt of the General Assembly to the Attorney General for further action was addressed. The following members made comments or had questions about this issue: Representative Finlay; Representative Funderburk; and Chairman Newton.

Representative Tallon moved that the Committee refer the matter to the Attorney General for further action. A roll call vote was held, and the motion was passed.

Rep. Tallon’s motion that the Committee refer a matter of alleged contempt of the General Assembly to the Attorney General for further action:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Nathan Ballentine	✓		
William K. “Bill” Bowers			✓
Gary E. Clary	✓		
Raye Felder	✓		
Kirkman Finlay, III	✓		
Laurie Slade Funderburk	✓		
Phyllis Henderson			✓
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.			✓
Mia S. McLeod			✓
Walton J. McLeod			✓
Ralph W. Norman	✓		
Joshua A. Putnam			✓
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓		
Samuel Rivers, Jr.	✓		
James E. Smith, Jr.			✓
Tommy M. Stringer			✓
Edward R. “Eddie” Tallon	✓		
Bill Taylor	✓		
Robert Q. Williams			✓
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓		

III. Chairman Newton explained that public comments recently received by the Committee through its website suggested that Chairman Newton and Committee staff had conflicts of interest that would prevent their participation in oversight of the Retirement System Investment Commission. He said that he had requested an ethics opinion from the House Ethics Committee. Chairman Newton said that a process for recusal was being implemented to preserve the integrity of the oversight process, and Representative Finlay made brief comments about the issue.

IV. The meeting was adjourned.