

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.
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Legislative Oversight Committee Meeting

Monday, September 19, 2016
Blatt Building Room 516

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 an 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. All members of the Committee were present for all or a portion of the meeting, except: Representative Raye Felder, Representative Walton J. McLeod, Representative Joshua A. Putnam, and Representative James E. Smith.

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 Clary moved that the Committee approve the minutes from its previous meeting on June 1, 2016. A roll call vote was held, and the motion was passed.

Rep. Clary’s motion that the Committee approve its June 1, 2016, minutes:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Nathan Ballentine	✓		
William K. “Bill” Bowers	✓		
Gary E. Clary	✓		
Raye Felder			✓ (Not Present)
Kirkman Finlay, III	✓		
Laurie Slade Funderburk	✓		
Phyllis Henderson	✓		
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓		
Mia S. McLeod	✓		
Walton J. McLeod			✓ (Not Present)
Ralph W. Norman	✓		
Joshua A. Putnam			✓ (Not Present)
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓		
Samuel Rivers, Jr.	✓		
James E. Smith, Jr.			✓ (Not Present)
Tommy M. Stringer	✓		
Edward R. “Eddie” Tallon	✓		
Bill Taylor	✓		
Robert Q. Williams	✓		
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓		

Discussion of scheduled agency oversight studies, including, but not limited to, an update on status of studies

- I. Representative Henderson provided a brief update on the activities of the Economic Development, Transportation, Natural Resources and

Regulatory Subcommittee with regards to the ongoing studies of the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank and Department of Agriculture. The full committee approved the subcommittee's study of the Department of Transportation on June 1, 2016, and left open an opportunity to follow up with the agency at the end of the year.

- II. Representative Clary provided a brief update on the activities of the Education and Cultural Subcommittee. He noted the subcommittee had recently completed its study of the School for the Deaf and the Blind, and the Department of Archives and History is the next agency to be studied. The full committee approved the subcommittee's study of First Steps for School Readiness on May 4, 2016, and left open an opportunity to follow up with the agency at the end of the year.
- III. Representative Funderburk provided a brief update on the activities of the Executive Subcommittee with regards to its ongoing studies of the Treasurer's Office and Retirement System Investment Commission. The full committee approved the subcommittee's study of the Comptroller General's Office on December 15, 2015.
- IV. Representative Finlay provided a brief update on the activities of the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee's ongoing studies of the Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Public Safety, and Law Enforcement Training Council and Criminal Justice Academy.
- V. Representative Ballentine provided a brief update on the activities of the Healthcare Subcommittee. The full committee approved the subcommittee's study of the Department of Social Services on April 13, 2016, and left open an opportunity to follow up with the agency at the end of the year. Representative Ballentine noted the subcommittee was in the beginning stage of its study of the Department of Health and Environmental Control.
- VI. Next, many Committee members expressed comments and concerns with regards to updates about the studies.

Representative Norman commented about the numerous concerns he has received from constituents about the Department of Public Safety. Representative Tallon made comments about the importance of the issues and the seriousness of the issues (e.g., retention) with the Department of Public Safety study.

Representative Henderson and Chairman Newton made brief comments about limitations of the committee's resources with regards to studies of agencies.

Representative Clary, Representative Finlay, Representative Jefferson, Representative Norman, Representative Tallon, and Representative Williams made comments about the timing of studies, and process, including challenges of obtaining information from agencies. Representative Jefferson noted the importance of sharing questions in advance with agencies. Representative Tallon noted that questions have been shared with Department of Public Safety officials in advance of the subcommittee meeting, but officials still struggle to provide responses during the meetings. Representative Finlay and Norman made comments about the quality of information received from agencies. Representative Williams noted that many issues discussed by the committee appear to be systemic to all agencies.

Representative Williams made inquiries about the study of the Department of Transportation and noted additional constituent concerns he has received about morale and efficiency of this particular agency. Representative Henderson responded to Representative Williams's inquiries about the study of the Department of Transportation.

Representative Mia McLeod inquired about concerns Representative Finlay expressed for an employee of the Department of Juvenile Justice that testified before the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee. Representative Finlay responded to Representative Mia McLeod's inquiries. Additionally, he noted the many comments he has received from various agency employees wishing to remain anonymous about the fear of possible retribution by their employer for expressing concerns.

Discussion of the Healthcare Subcommittee's Study of the Commission for the Blind

- I. Representative Ballentine, Chair of the Healthcare Subcommittee, provided a brief overview of the subcommittee's study of the Commission for the Blind. The Healthcare Subcommittee's study of the Commission for the Blind is available online for the public to view.
- II. Next, there was an opportunity for members of the Committee to ask questions about the study of the Commission for the Blind. Representative Funderburk inquired about how the Commission for the

Blind was appointed as Representative Ballentine had noted in his comments that there were three vacancies on a seven-person board.

- III. Chairman Newton noted that the Healthcare Subcommittee's study of the Commission for the Blind would be submitted for potential approval at the next full committee meeting and that Committee members had time to address any questions they may have about the study of the agency prior to a vote. He explained the Committee could refer the study back to the Healthcare Subcommittee, approve the study, or further evaluate the Commission for the Blind.

Administrative Matters

Recommendation to the Speaker for the next agencies to schedule for study in 2017

- I. Chairman Newton noted the Committee most likely would take up the issue of recommendations to the Speaker for the next agencies to schedule for study in the month of December. He noted that Committee members had an opportunity provide input, via a survey, about the next agencies to study; also, he noted that a similar opportunity to share input about the next agencies to study would be shared with all House members.

Next, there was an opportunity for Committee members to share input about the next agencies to schedule for study. Representative Mia McLeod noted the various constituent comments Committee members have received about the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and urged the Committee to consider that agency as the next one studied by the Healthcare Subcommittee. Representative Finlay questioned if the committee needed more staff to accomplish its task. Representative Henderson noted that a study of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation by the Economic Development, Transportation, Natural Resources and Regulatory Subcommittee may help complement the Healthcare Subcommittee's ongoing study of the Department of Health and Environmental Affairs. She also noted her interest for the Economic Development, Transportation, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Subcommittee to study the Human Affairs Commission.

Questions or issues the Committee may have for those agencies in which the full committee study includes a recommendation to follow up with the agency at the end of the calendar year (First Steps to School Readiness, Department of Social Services; and Department of Transportation)

II. Chairman Newton noted three of the Committee’s approved studies include a recommendation to follow up with the agency at the end of the calendar year; specifically, the studies of First Steps to School Readiness, Department of Social Services, and Department of Transportation. He explained this was an opportunity for additional questions to be identified. Comments from Representative Norman clarified that studies of the Department of Transportation and State Transportation Infrastructure Bank were two separate studies.

Representative Ballentine made a motion that all questions from Committee members be submitted to Committee staff by close of business on Friday, September 23, and then be forwarded to the agencies. A roll call vote was held, and the motion was passed.

Rep. Ballentine’s motion that all questions from Committee members be submitted to staff by close of business on Friday, September 23, and then be forwarded to the agencies:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Nathan Ballentine	✓		
William K. “Bill” Bowers	✓		
Gary E. Clary	✓		
Raye Felder			✓ (Not Present)
Kirkman Finlay, III	✓		
Laurie Slade Funderburk	✓		
Phyllis Henderson	✓		
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓		
Mia S. McLeod	✓		
Walton J. McLeod			✓ (Not Present)
Ralph W. Norman	✓		
Joshua A. Putnam			✓ (Not Present)
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓		
Samuel Rivers, Jr.	✓		
James E. Smith, Jr.			✓ (Not Present)
Tommy M. Stringer	✓		
Edward R. “Eddie” Tallon	✓		
Bill Taylor	✓		
Robert Q. Williams	✓		
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓		

Scrivener’s Error on the Study of the Comptroller General’s Office

III. Chairman Newton noted that in review of the study of the Comptroller General’s Office, it was noted there was a scrivener’s error on the cover sheet with regards to the date the study was approved. It was approved at the December 15, 2015, meeting; however, the cover reflects a date of December 18, 2015.

Representative Bowers made a motion to correct the scrivener’s error on the cover of the Study of the Comptroller General’s Office. A roll call vote was held, and the motion was passed.

Rep. Bower’s motion to correct the scrivener’s error on the Study of the Comptroller General’s Office:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Nathan Ballentine	✓		
William K. “Bill” Bowers	✓		
Gary E. Clary	✓		
Raye Felder			✓ (Not Present)
Kirkman Finlay, III	✓		
Laurie Slade Funderburk	✓		
Phyllis Henderson	✓		
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓		
Mia S. McLeod	✓		
Walton J. McLeod			✓ (Not Present)
Ralph W. Norman	✓		
Joshua A. Putnam			✓ (Not Present)
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓		
Samuel Rivers, Jr.	✓		
James E. Smith, Jr.			✓ (Not Present)
Tommy M. Stringer	✓		
Edward R. “Eddie” Tallon	✓		
Bill Taylor	✓		
Robert Q. Williams	✓		
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓		

Agency Reporting Requirements

- IV. As agencies allocate significant resources to fulfilling annual reporting requirements, Chairman Newton noted for fiscal year 2015-16 the House Oversight Committee and Department of Administration worked together to incorporate requirements of the annual restructuring report with the annual accountability report. Notably, integration of these reports was a frequent request in agency feedback to the committee about its process obtained last fall. Agencies submitted their Annual Accountably Report on September 15, 2016. Chairman Newton stated these will be posted with the study material of the agencies the committee has identified thus far it will review. Also, Standard Practice 4.4 provides that the Committee shall indicate online, via a list or other means, the agencies that did and did not provide restructuring recommendations. This year the list will be expanded to note those agencies which the Committee has identified it may review.

- V. The meeting was adjourned.