

**TRANSPORTATION & REGULATORY SUBCOMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2022-23
TO THE PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE**

SECTION 72 - R040 - PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

72.scf **ADD** (PSC: Santee Cooper Funds Held by Public Service Commission) **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to allow funds transferred to the commission from DOA to remain available for the continued reformation of Santee Cooper. Authorizes PSC to hire consultants and experts and exempt the commission from complying with the State Procurement Code in the hiring process. Requested by the Public Service Commission.

72.scf. (PSC: Santee Cooper Funds Held by Public Service Commission) The balance of the funds transferred to the Public Service Commission by the Department of Administration, for the purpose of reforming Santee Cooper, shall remain available to the Public Service Commission for its continued reformation of Santee Cooper. The Public Service Commission is authorized to employ, through contract or otherwise, third-party consultants and experts in carrying out its duties for purposes of reforming Santee Cooper. The Public Service Commission is exempt from complying with the State Procurement Code in the selection and hiring of third-party consultants or experts authorized by this provision.

72.is **ADD** (PSC: South Carolina Integration Study) **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to authorize the commission to initiate a study to evaluate the integration of renewable energy and emerging energy technology into the electric grid. Provides justification for approval of expenditure to the Public Utilities Review Committee for consultant engagement. Report results of the study to the Governor and General Assembly. Requested by the Public Service Commission.

72.is. (PSC: South Carolina Integration Study) The Public Service Commission is authorized to initiate an independent study to evaluate the integration of renewable energy and emerging energy technology into the electric grid for the public interest pursuant to Section 58-37-60 of the 1976 Code. Prior to expending funds related to consultant engagement, the Public Service Commission will provide the Public Utilities Review Committee with justification for approval of expenditure. The results of the independent study shall be reported to Governor and the General Assembly.

SECTION 73 - R060 - OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

73.5 **DELETE** (ORS: Energy Efficient Manufactured Homes) Extends the Energy Efficient Manufactured Homes Incentive Program into the current fiscal year and directs that it be administered by ORS in the same manner as the prior fiscal year.
SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: DELETE proviso.

~~*73.5. (ORS: Energy Efficient Manufactured Homes) The Energy Efficient Manufactured Homes Incentive Program shall be extended into the current fiscal year and the Office of Regulatory Staff Energy Office shall administer the program, including incentives for qualifying taxpayers, in the same manner as it was administered in the prior fiscal year.*~~

73.9 **DELETE** (ORS: Natural Gas Rate Stabilization Act Study) Directs ORS to study the Natural Gas Rate Stabilization Act of 2005 and make recommendations to the General Assembly by December 31, 2021.
SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: DELETE proviso.

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~~73.9. (ORS: Natural Gas Rate Stabilization Act Study) From the funds appropriated and/or authorized to the Office of Regulatory Staff in the current fiscal year, the office shall study the Natural Gas Rate Stabilization Act of 2005 and make recommendations to the General Assembly by December 31, 2021. The study shall include, but is not limited to, examining and recommending any changes to the Natural Gas Rate Stabilization Act of 2005 and determining if the provisions of the Act are in the best interests of the ratepayers and support the provision of safe, reliable, high quality utility service.~~

73.scb ADD (ORS: Santee Cooper Billing) SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADD new proviso to authorize ORS to bill Santee Cooper for oversight costs performed pursuant to Act 90 of 2021. Requested by the Office of Regulatory Staff.

73.scb. (ORS: Santee Cooper Billing) The Office of Regulatory Staff is authorized, subject to the Public Utilities Review Committee's approval of the Office of Regulatory Staff's annual budget, to bill Santee Cooper for costs associated with its oversight of Santee Cooper performed pursuant to Act 90 of 2021 and any other relevant legislation, statute, or provision, provided such costs do not exceed the amounts authorized for the oversight of Santee Cooper in this act.

SECTION 75 - R120 - STATE ACCIDENT FUND

75.2 DELETE (SAF: Military Disability) Establishes a military disability program within the State Accident Fund for members of the National Guard that became permanently disabled while serving during the catastrophic weather event in October 2015. Authorizes the director of the SAF to offer a onetime lump sum settlement to members of the military disability program, subject to eligibility. Allows participation in this program for National Guard members who permanently waive any right to claim benefits pursuant to Section 25-1-100 [PENSION OF MEMBERS OF NATIONAL GUARD WOUNDED OR DISABLED WHILE IN SERVICE OF STATE]. **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** DELETE proviso.

~~75.2. (SAF: Military Disability) (A) From the funds credited to the State Accident Fund in the current fiscal year, there is established within the State Accident Fund a military disability program that provides a settlement for any such member of the National Guard that became permanently disabled while serving during the catastrophic weather event in October 2015. The settlement must be based upon that which persons under similar circumstances in the military service of the United States receive from the United States. The director may seek assistance in establishing the program from the Adjutant General or any other agency or entity with such expertise.~~

~~(B) A National Guard member may only participate in this program if the member permanently waives any right to claim benefits pursuant to Section 25-1-100 and releases the State from any potential liability pursuant to Section 25-1-100, and further agrees that any amounts due under this proviso are subject to appropriate offsets to avoid compensation in excess of what the member would have received from the federal government if permanently disabled while performing federally paid duty. Offsets include benefits received, or to be received, under Title 42 of the 1976 Code as a result of these injuries (State Workers' Compensation), benefits received, or to be received, pursuant to Chapter 10 of Title 9 of the 1976 Code (SC National Guard Retirement System), as well as any benefits received, or to be received, from the federal government such as severance pay, military retirement pay, or VA benefits relating to the same disabilities at issue in the State military disability claim.~~

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~~(C) From the funds credited and authorized to the State Accident Fund in the current fiscal year, the director of the State Accident Fund is authorized to offer a onetime lump sum settlement to members of the military disability program, subject to eligibility and the other requirements set forth in the proviso.~~

SECTION 81 - R360 - DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION

81.3 **AMEND** (LLR: POLA - Ten Percent, Other Funds) Remits an amount equal to 10% of Professional and Occupational Licensing expenditures and all Contractor's Licensing revenue remaining at year-end to the general fund.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to exempt Professional and Occupational Offices with negative ending cash balances from the current and prior fiscal year from the requirements of this provision. Requested by the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

81.3. (LLR: POLA - Ten Percent, Other Funds) The Professional and Occupational Offices in Program II.F. Professional and Occupational Licensing must remit annually an amount equal to ten percent of the expenditures to the general fund. The Contractor's Licensing Board must remit all revenues above their expenditures to the general fund. The revenue remitted by the Contractor's Licensing Board to the general fund includes the ten percent. Professional and Occupational Offices with an overall negative ending cash balance for the current and prior completed fiscal years will be exempt from these requirements.

81.15 **DELETE** (LLR: Mobile Optometry Units) Directs that location and site restrictions on services provided by mobile units for optometry in Section 40-37-320(B) [PUBLICIZING OFFICE HOURS; MOBILE UNITS; PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO OPTOMETRY OFFICES.] shall be suspended for FY 2021-22. Directs the department and board to process and issue registrations for mobile units to provide services by a South Carolina licensed optometrist through a not-for-profit program on the site of a Title I public school for students attending the school. Directs the board to issue the registration within 10 days of receiving the request and \$10 registration fee.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: DELETE proviso.

~~**81.15.** (LLR: Mobile Optometry Units) In furtherance of expanding access to health care in unserved and underserved populations, the location and site restriction on services provided by mobile units for optometry in Section 40-37-320(B) of the 1976 Code shall be suspended for Fiscal Year 2021-22. The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the Board of Examiners in Optometry are directed to process and issue registrations for mobile units that apply to provide optometry services on the site of a Title I public school to students attending the school, provided that the services are rendered as part of a not for profit program and are provided by an optometrist licensed to practice in South Carolina. The registration shall be administratively issued by the Board of Examiners in Optometry within ten days after receipt of a registration request and following payment of a ten dollar registration fee to cover administrative costs.~~

81.icw **ADD** (LLR: Indirect Cost Waiver OSHA) **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to allow the department to retain indirect cost recoveries relating to federal OSHA grants and used for the operation of the agency. Requested by the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

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81.icw. (LLR: Indirect Cost Waiver OSHA) The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation shall retain indirect cost recoveries relating to federal OSHA grants in this act. Recoveries retained by the agency will be used for operations of the agency. All other federal grants within the agency will remit indirect cost recoveries pursuant to Section 2-65-70 of the 1976 Code.

SECTION 82 - R400 - DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

82.2 **AMEND** (DMV: Cost Recovery Fee/Sale of Photos or Digitized Images) Authorizes DMV to collect and retain fees, not to exceed rates charged as of February 1, 2001, to recover the costs of producing, purchasing, handling and mailing information and/or documents. Allows the department to collect and retain fees to defray costs associated with fulfilling FOIA requests. Prohibits the sale of photographs taken for driver's licenses or personal identification cards.
SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to direct that revenue generated by fees, with an exception to FOIA requests, be placed into the State Highway Fund. Requested by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

82.2. (DMV: Cost Recovery Fee/Sale of Photos or Digitized Images) The Department of Motor Vehicles may collect processing fees and fees to recover the costs of the production, purchase, handling and mailing of documents, publications, records and data sets. The department may collect and retain fees to defray the cost associated with fulfilling a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. The amount charged by the Department of Motor Vehicles for any fees collected pursuant to this proviso may not exceed the rates that the department charged as of February 1, 2001. The Department of Motor Vehicles may not sell, provide or otherwise furnish to private parties, copies of photographs, whether digitized or not, taken for the purpose of a driver's license or personal identification card. Photographs and digitized images from a driver's license or personal identification card are not considered public records. ~~Funds derived from these sources shall be retained by the department.~~ With the exception of the cost associated with fulfilling a FOIA request, revenue generated by the fees imposed by this provision must be placed into the State Highway Fund as established by Section 57-11-20 of the 1976 Code and be distributed as provided in Section 11-43-167.

82.6 **AMEND** (DMV: Fund Balance Carry Forward) Authorizes DMV to carry forward unexpended general funds and expend those funds in the current fiscal year. Directs that the first \$3,567,925 of carry forward funds go toward Act 37 of 2021.
SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to delete reference to Phoenix III and allow carry forward of any unexpended funds not designated for non-recurring expense in Act 37 of 2021. Deletes the carry forward of \$3,567,925 to Act 37 of 2021. Requested by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

82.6. (DMV: Fund Balance Carry Forward) The Department of Motor Vehicles may carry forward any unexpended general fund balance or other funds not designated for REAL ID and/or ~~Phoenix III~~ non-recurring expense in Act 37 of 2021 from the prior fiscal year and expend those funds in the current fiscal year for expenditures as needed. ~~The first \$3,567,925 of carry forward funds shall go towards Act 37 of 2021.~~

82.7 **AMEND** (DMV: Real ID) Authorizes DMV to spend any available earmarked cash reserves to implement Real ID.

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SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to update the fiscal year reference. Requested by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

82.7. (DMV: Real ID) For Fiscal Year ~~2021-22~~ 2022-23, the Department of Motor Vehicles may expend any available earmarked cash reserves on the implementation of Real ID.

82.cdl **ADD** (DMV: Commercial Driver's License Skills Test Fee) **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to direct the department to charge a \$25 skills test fee for a commercial driver's license and provide guidelines for refunds and retention of the fee by the department. Requested by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

82.cdl. (DMV: Commercial Driver's License Skills Test Fee) In the current fiscal year, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall charge twenty-five dollars for all commercial driver's license (CDL) applicants who schedule a skills test with the agency. Applicants who schedule a CDL skills test with the department, but cancel at least two business days before the appointment, shall be refunded this fee from the department. Monies from first-time skills test attempts where the applicant does not appear for the skills test shall be retained by the department and used for advancement of the CDL and commercial motor vehicle programs of the State. All other monies for CDL skills test shall be distributed in accordance with Section 56-1-2080(A)(1) of the 1976 Code. In instances where the applicant appears for the scheduled appointment and passes the skills test, the department shall credit this fee towards the applicant's CDL and CDL application. In instances where the applicant appears for the scheduled appointment but does not pass the skills test on the first attempt, the department shall credit this fee towards the applicant's subsequent skills test attempts in accordance with Section 56-1-2080(A)(1).

82.mdl **ADD** (DMV: Mobile Driver's License Study Committee) **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to direct the DMV to lead a study committee to make recommendations on the implementation and acceptance of mobile identities. Provides guidelines and composition of the committee.

82.mdl. (DMV: Mobile Driver's License Study Committee) In the current fiscal year, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall lead a study committee with the purpose of making recommendations on the implementation and acceptance of mobile identities in South Carolina. The committee shall meet at least quarterly throughout the fiscal year, and the DMV shall author recommendations on adopting mobile identities by the end of the fiscal year. The recommendations shall be addressed to the Chairmen of Senate Finance, Senate Transportation, House Ways and Means, and House Education and Public Works. In addition to the Department of Motor Vehicles, the committee shall consist of at least one member from the following entities:

- (1) the Department of Public Safety;*
- (2) the Department of Revenue;*
- (3) the Department of Administration;*
- (4) the Department of Employment and Workforce;*
- (5) the State Election Commission;*
- (6) the South Carolina Retail Association;*
- (7) the South Carolina Bankers Association;*
- (8) the South Carolina Sheriffs' Association;*
- (9) the South Carolina Police Chiefs Association;*
- (10) the South Carolina Medical Association;*
- (11) the South Carolina Pharmacy Association; and*

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(12) the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center or a similar organization that represents indigent persons.

The Department of Motor Vehicles, in its discretion, and other committee members may recommend additional participants that support the mission of the committee, to include a staff member from the Senate Transportation and House Education and Public Works Committees.

Entities listed above must submit the name and contact information of their committee member to the DMV no later than August 1, 2022.

82.qsm **ADD** (DMV: Fees for Qualified Service Members) **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to direct the department to waive fees for an applicant who qualifies for a commercial learner’s permit or license pursuant to 49 CFR Section 383.77.

82.qsm. (DMV: Fees for Qualified Service Members) In the current fiscal year, the Department of Motor Vehicles must waive the application, learner’s permit, and driver’s license fee, and, when applicable, the knowledge test fee for any applicant who qualifies for commercial learner’s permits or commercial driver’s licenses under the provisions of 49 CFR Section 383.77.

82.bp **ADD** (DMV: Biennial Plates Commercial Motor Vehicles) **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to allow the department to issue biennial plates to large commercial vehicles until the provisions of Act 37 of 2021 are enacted.

82.bp. (DMV: Biennial Plates Commercial Motor Vehicles) The department may issue biennial plates to large commercial motor vehicles until all provisions of Act 37 of 2021 are enacted.

SECTION 83 - R600 - DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE

83.5 **AMEND** (DEW: UI Tax System Modernization) Authorizes DEW to spend up to \$1,158,150 of funds made available to the State under Section 903 of the U.S. Social Security Act. Directs the funds be used to replace the agency’s unemployment tax information system with a modern technology solution. Prohibits the funds from being obligated after a 2-year period beginning July 1, 2021.
SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to change “\$1,158,150” to “\$2,230,756” and update calendar year reference from “2021” to “2022.” Requested by the Department of Employment and Workforce.

83.5. (DEW: UI Tax System Modernization) The Department of Employment and Workforce is authorized to expend up to ~~\$1,158,150~~ \$2,230,756 of funds made available to the State under Section 903 of the United States Social Security Act, as amended. The funds must be used under the direction of the Department of Employment and Workforce, for the purpose of acquiring software, equipment, and necessary services to replace the agency’s unemployment tax information system with a modern technology solution. No part of the funds herein authorized may be obligated after a two-year period beginning on July 1, ~~2021~~ 2022. The amount obligated pursuant to this provision shall not at any time exceed the amount by which (a) the aggregate of amounts transferred to the accounts of the State pursuant to Section 903 of the Social Security Act exceeds (b) the aggregate of the amounts obligated for administration and paid out for administration and paid out for benefits and required by law to be charged against the amounts transferred to the account of this State.

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- 83.7** **AMEND** (DEW: GED Incentive Program) Directs that \$1,500,000 of funds allocated to the department from the Department of Education GED Incentive Program be used as an incentive for individuals drawing unemployment benefits to obtain their GED or high school diploma. Provides eligibility requirements for individuals and the manner in which the department shall issue incentive payments. Directs that unexpended funds must be remitted to the General Fund at the end of the current fiscal year.
- SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** AMEND proviso to allow DEW to carry forward unexpended funds allocated for the GED Incentive Program. Deletes the directive that unexpended funds be remitted to the General Fund.

83.7. (DEW: GED Incentive Program) The Department of Employment and Workforce may carry forward unexpended funds allocated for the GED Incentive Program from the prior fiscal year to the current fiscal year. For ~~Fiscal Year 2021-22~~, of the funds allocated and carried forward to the Department of Employment and Workforce from the Department of Education GED Incentive Program, \$1,500,000 shall be utilized as an incentive for individuals currently drawing unemployment benefits to obtain their GED or high school diploma. In order to be eligible, the individual must have an active claim from any of the state or federal unemployment insurance programs and be a South Carolina resident who is at least nineteen years of age. The individual must certify to the department that they do not currently hold a GED or high school diploma from any state. They must also enroll in and complete the GED or high school diploma course work prior to June 1, ~~2022~~ 2023. The Department of Employment and Workforce shall enter into a data-sharing agreement with the Department of Education to cross match eligibility to ensure that participants do not currently hold a GED or high school diploma and to confirm that the individual enrolled in and completed the diploma process to obtain the GED or high school diploma. The Department of Employment and Workforce shall issue a one-time payment in the amount of \$500 to the individual upon confirmation from the Department of Education that the individual has successfully received the GED or diploma. These incentive payments shall be issued on a first come first served basis based on completion date, until the funds from this program have been exhausted. Funds allocated for this incentive program shall not be transferred or utilized for any other purpose. ~~Unexpended funds shall be remitted to the General Fund at the end of the current fiscal year.~~

SECTION 84 - U120 - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- 84.1** **AMEND** (DOT: Expenditure Authority Limitation) Authorizes DOT to carry forward and expend cash balances in the State Highway Fund from year to year.
- SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** AMEND proviso to authorize the department to carry forward unexpended general funds and unexpended proceeds from bond sales or loans and to expend for activities to be reimbursed from federal funds from the previous fiscal year. Authorizes the department to expend federal or contracted activities and project funds during the current fiscal year. Directs the department to provide a listing to EBO of items not expended in the previous fiscal year and also of funds approved during the current fiscal year. Directs EBO to establish the expenditure authorization based on the listings. Requested by the Department of Transportation.

84.1. (DOT: Expenditure Authority Limitation) The Department of Transportation is hereby authorized to expend all cash balances, unexpended general funds, and unexpended proceeds from bond sales or loans accruing to the department brought forward from the previous

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~~year and all income including all. The department is also authorized to expend for activities and projects to be reimbursed in part or whole from federal funds, unexpended general funds and proceeds from bond sales accruing to the Department of Transportation, but in no case shall the expenditures of the Department of Transportation exceed the amount of cash balances brought forward from the preceding year plus the amount of all income including federal funds, general funds and proceeds from bond sales from the United States Department of Transportation or other agencies that were obligated, but not expended in a prior fiscal year; and all income for funding for contracted activities and projects funded by another entity not expended in a previous fiscal year. The Department of Transportation shall provide the Executive Budget Office a listing of cash balances; unexpended general funds; unexpended proceeds from bond sales or loans accruing to the department; activities and projects funded from previously obligated federal funds not expended in the previous fiscal year; and income from contracted activities and projects not expended in the prior fiscal year. The Executive Budget Office shall establish the expenditure authorization upon review of the listing provided by the department. The Department of Transportation is authorized to expend from federal funds or for funding for contracted activities and projects funded by another entity approved during the current fiscal year. The Department of Transportation shall provide a listing of federal funds or other sources approved during the current fiscal year. The Executive Budget Office shall establish the expenditure authorization upon review of the listing provided by the department.~~

84.6 **AMEND** (DOT: Meals in Emergency Operations) Allows the department to provide meals to employees who are not permitted to leave their stations during actual emergencies, emergency simulation exercises, or when the Governor declares a state of emergency.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to also allow the department to provide meals in an event requiring the use of authority provided to the Secretary of Transportation pursuant to Section 57-5-1620 [ADVERTISEMENT AND AWARD OF CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS; EMERGENCY CONSTRUCTION, REPAIRS, OR PURCHASES]. Requested by the Department of Transportation.

84.6. (DOT: Meals in Emergency Operations) In the event a State of Emergency is declared by the Governor or in the event of a situation requiring the use of the Secretary of Transportation's authorities under Section 57-5-1620 of the 1976 Code, the Department of Transportation may provide meals to employees of the department who are not permitted to leave assigned duty stations ~~and are required to work during~~ to include deployment; and emergency simulation exercises; ~~and when the Governor declares a state of emergency.~~

SECTION 86 - U200 - COUNTY TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

86.eal **ADD** (CTC: Expenditure Authority Limitation) **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to authorize CTC to expend all cash balances brought forward from the previous fiscal year and provide EBO with a listing of the balances for expenditure authorization. Requested by County Transportation Funds.

86.eal. (CTC: Expenditure Authority Limitation) County Transportation Funds are authorized to expend all cash balances brought forward from the previous fiscal year. A listing of cash balances shall be provided to the Executive Budget Office which shall establish the expenditure authorization upon review of the listing provided.

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SECTION 87 - U300 - DIVISION OF AERONAUTICS

87.fat ADD (AERO: Federal Asset Transfer Aircraft) **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to allow the division to participate in the Federal Asset Transfer program and use funds up to \$50,000, with approval from the SC Aeronautics Commission, to secure aircraft for state business.

87.fat. (AERO: Federal Asset Transfer Aircraft) The Division of Aeronautics may participate in the Federal Asset Transfer program to secure aircraft for use in official state business by utilizing appropriated general funds not to exceed \$50,000 and after approval by the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission.

SECTION 117 - X900 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

117.151 DELETE (GP: Funds Transferred to Santee Cooper) Directs the transfer of funds held by the Department of Administration from the implementation of Act 95 of 2019 for the purposes of reforming Santee Cooper. Authorizes the Public Service Commission and Office of Regulatory Staff to employ third-party consultants and experts to assist with reforming Santee Cooper and direct that the two agencies are exempt from the state procurement code for the purpose of hiring these consultants or experts.
SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: DELETE proviso.

~~117.151. (GP: Funds Transferred to Santee Cooper) The funds held by the Department of Administration, related to the implementation of Act 95 of 2019, shall be transferred as follows and for the purposes of reforming Santee Cooper: \$2,000,000 to the Office of Regulatory Staff; \$1,000,000 to the Public Service Commission; and the balance to Santee Cooper. The Public Service Commission and the Office of Regulatory Staff are authorized to employ, through contract or otherwise, third party consultants and experts in carrying out their duties for purposes of reforming Santee Cooper. The Public Service Commission and Office of Regulatory Staff are exempt from complying with the State Procurement Code in the selection and hiring of third party consultants or experts authorized by this provision.~~

117.157 DELETE (GP: Electricity Market Reform) Directs that the Electricity Market Reform Measures Study Committee shall request an opinion to be issued no later than March 1, 2022 from any consultant to advise the committee on which market reform measures benefit consumers. Directs the committee to issue a report on its findings no later than June 30, 2022. Directs that the committee may continue to meet past that date and issue additional reports.
SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: DELETE proviso.

~~117.157. (GP: Electricity Market Reform) The Electricity Market Reform Measures Study Committee shall request for an opinion to be issued no later than March 1, 2022 from any consultant or consultants retained to advise the committee as to which market reform measures studied, if any, benefit South Carolina consumers. The committee shall issue a report on its work no later than June 30, 2022; however, nothing in this provision prohibits the committee from continuing to meet past June 30, 2022 and issue additional reports pursuant to Act 187 of 2020.~~