

# LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, January 28, 2019

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South Carolina  
House of Representatives



Legislative Oversight Committee

*Monday, January 28, 2019*

*11:00 a.m.*

*Blatt Building - Room 110*

*Pursuant to Committee Rule 4.9, S.C. ETV shall be allowed access for internet streaming whenever technologically feasible.*

**AGENDA**

- I. Approval of minutes
- II. Committee administrative matters
- III. Opportunity for public input about the Aeronautics Commission and Department of Corrections.

For information about providing testimony to the House Legislative Oversight Committee click [here](#).

Individuals can sign up to testify by calling the House Legislative Oversight Committee at 803-212-6810, emailing the Committee at [hcommlegov@schouse.gov](mailto:hcommlegov@schouse.gov), or signing up in person a few minutes prior to the meeting. S.C. Code of Laws Section 2-2-70 provides that all testimony given to the investigating committee must be under oath.

An ongoing opportunity for public input is available on the Committee's website, which allows individuals to provide comments to the House Legislative Oversight Committee anonymously.

- IV. Adjournment

# Providing Testimony to the House Legislative Oversight Committee

The House Legislative Oversight Committee conducts studies and investigations of state agencies in order to determine if agency laws and programs are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly and whether those programs should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated. It also works to inform the public about the agencies it studies.

**Public input is a cornerstone of the oversight process.** Input from people who interact with state agencies may help direct the Committee to potential areas for improvement.

## Opportunities to provide testimony to the Committee

The Committee periodically holds public input meetings to hear testimony on agencies that are under study. The bulk of each study takes place at the Subcommittee level. Public testimony may be allowed at Subcommittee meetings, with permission of the Subcommittee chair. To see scheduled meetings, sign up for Committee updates, or contact the Committee, please visit <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee.php>.

If you choose to testify before the Committee or one of its Subcommittees, please bear the following in mind:

1. All Committee and Subcommittee meetings are open to the public, and whenever technologically feasible, a video of each meeting is made available online.
2. You may be asked to keep testimony within a certain timeframe, often between three and five minutes.
3. You may provide written materials to supplement oral testimony.
4. Committee members may ask questions during testimony.
5. All testimony must be given under oath.
6. While the Committee cannot intervene in any individual's ongoing matter with an agency, the following are examples of topics that may be particularly helpful to the Committee:
  - The agency's communication of information to the public;
  - Experiences with the agency that reflect on its overall ability to fulfill its mission;
  - Multiple similar experiences with the agency that may indicate a pattern;
  - Specific concerns about actions of agency leadership; and
  - Ideas about ways in which an agency could better (i.e., more effectively or efficiently) fulfill its mission.

## Other opportunities to provide input to the Committee

Providing public testimony under oath is not the only way to contribute to the oversight process. Other options include:

- Providing input by way of online public surveys;
- Emailing the Committee at [HCommLegOv@schouse.gov](mailto:HCommLegOv@schouse.gov); and
- Calling or meeting with Committee staff, who will provide a summary of your comments to the Committee.

**If you have any questions** about providing input to the House Legislative Oversight Committee, please contact the Committee by telephone at (803) 212-6810 or by email at [HCommLegOv@schouse.gov](mailto:HCommLegOv@schouse.gov).

# Aeronautics Commission

## History

- 1935 - The S.C. Aeronautics Commission (SCAC) was created by the legislature to foster air commerce in the state, supervise aeronautical activities and facilities, make and enforce rules and regulations regarding the licensing of airplanes and pilots, and cooperate in the establishment and operations of airports.
- 1993 – SCAC placed under the Department of Commerce.
- 2009 – SCAC moved under the State Budget and Control Board.
- 2015 – SCAC moved under S.C. State Fiscal Accountability Authority.

## Agency Mission

Fostering air and economic development by overseeing the safety and development of the state's public use airports, by providing safe and reliable air transportation for state government and business prospects, and by providing aviation education opportunities.

## Organizational Units

### Administration

- Provides management of budgets, human resources, legislative efforts, and the maintenance of state and federal grants.

### Airport Development

- Provides airports within S.C. safety inspections, engineering design and construction services, maintenance projects, and aerial photography and geographic information system (GIS) mapping.

### Flight Department

- Provide air transportation to the Governor, state legislators, and other governmental bodies for official state business.

## Resources (FY 18-19)

### Employees

11  
filled FTE positions  
at the start of the year

### Funding

\$10,981,660  
appropriated and authorized

## Successes

*Identified by the agency*

- Nationally recognized geographic information system (GIS) map service
- Unmanned aircraft system to evaluate runway approaches
- Compatible land use evaluation tool for land use review

## Challenges

*Identified by the agency*

### Current:

- Curbing grant delays and lack of support for all public use airports due to issues with state aviation fund cash flow
- Maintaining aging facilities
- Covering raising costs to maintain aging aircrafts

### Emerging:

- Airport capital improvements and maintenance
- Transition to web based airport information and financial aid requests
- Continued Aging Aircraft

Source: Agency Program Evaluation Report

# S.C. Department of Corrections

*In 1866, the South Carolina Legislature passed an act to transfer the control of convicted and sentenced felons from the counties to the State, and appropriated \$65,000 for construction and maintenance of a State Penitentiary.*

*Source: Agency's Program Evaluation Report  
Successes and Emerging Issues are as identified by the agency*

**Major Divisions**

- Legal Counsel & Compliance
- Administration
- Health Services
- Programs, Reentry, and Rehabilitative Services
- Operations
- Police Services

**Agency Mission**

The mission of the South Carolina Department of Corrections is:

- Safety--we will protect the public, our employees, and our inmates.
- Service--we will provide rehabilitation and self-improvement opportunities for inmates.
- Stewardship--we will promote professional excellence, fiscal responsibility, and self-sufficiency.

6,085 Available Positions (of which 4,775 are filled)

State Funding: \$419,880,106

**Fiscal Year 2017-18 Resources**

**Successes**

1. Settled decade old mental health lawsuit.
2. Increased salaries for correctional officers, food service and mental health staff.
3. Working with cell phone industry to minimize contraband cell phones in our prison.
4. Closed 5 prisons.
5. Centralized pre-release functions for male inmates and developed a pre-release center at Manning Pre-Prelease

**Emerging Issues**

1. Managing a more violent population due to security threat groups.
2. Prison population is aging and remaining incarcerated. The agency will be faced with a new management issue regarding how to care for the special requirements that the elderly have in a prison environment. We need to evaluate proper housing for the aging population as we currently have small units; however, it is anticipated that specialized facilities geared toward this population's special needs will have to be explored in the near future.
3. Aging buildings due to lack funds.

*Chair Wm. Weston J. Newton*

*First Vice-Chair:  
Laurie Slade Funderburk*

*Micajah P. (Micah) Caskey, IV  
Neal A. Collins  
Patricia Moore "Pat" Henegan  
William M. (Bill) Hixon  
Jeffrey E. (Jeff) Johnson  
Mandy Powers Norrell  
Tommy M. Stringer  
Bill Taylor  
Robert Q. Williams*

*Jennifer L. Dobson  
Research Director*

*Cathy A. Greer  
Administration Coordinator*

## **Legislative Oversight Committee**



**South Carolina House of Representatives**

**Post Office Box 11867  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211  
Telephone: (803) 212-6810 • Fax: (803) 212-6811**

**Room 228 Blatt Building**

*Gary E. Clary  
Chandra E. Dillard  
Lee Hewitt  
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.  
Marvin R. Pendarvis  
Robert L. Ridgeway, III  
Edward R. Tallon, Sr.  
John Taliaferro (Jay) West, IV  
Christopher Sloan (Chris) Wooten*

*Charles L. Appleby, IV  
Legal Counsel*

*Carmen J. McCutcheon Simon  
Research Analyst/Auditor*

*Kendra H. Wilkerson  
Fiscal/Research Analyst*

**Legislative Oversight Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, December 5, 2018  
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 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. Pursuant to Committee Rule 3.1, the organizational meeting of the House Legislative Oversight Committee was called to order by Chairman Wm. Weston Newton. All members of the Committee were present for all or a portion of the meeting, except Representative Jeffrey Johnson, Representative Mandy Powers Norrell, Representative Tommy Stringer and Representative Robert Williams.

### **Minutes**

- I. Representative Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr. moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on December 5, 2018. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

<b>Representative Jefferson’s motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on December 5, 2018:</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Not Voting: Present</b>	<b>Not Voting: Absent</b>
Micajah P. “Micah” Caskey, IV	✓			
Gary E. Clary	✓			
Neal A. Collins	✓			
Chandra E. Dillard	✓			
Patricia Moore “Pat” Henegan	✓			
Lee Hewitt	✓			
William M. “Bill” Hixon	✓			
Laurie Slade Funderburk	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Jeffrey E. Johnson				✓
Marvin R. Pendarivs	✓			
Mandy Powers Norrell				✓
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓			
Tommy M. Stringer				✓
Edward R. “Eddie” Tallon, Sr.	✓			
Bill Taylor	✓			
John T. West	✓			
Robert Q. Williams	✓			✓
Christopher Sloan “Chris” Wooten	✓			
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓			

**Public Input**

- I. Chairman Newton stated that the purpose of this meeting was to hear public testimony regarding the Department of Mental Health, Department of Motor Vehicles, and Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School.
  
- II. Members of the public provided testimony about the Department of Mental Health, Department of Motor Vehicles, and Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. Constituent testimony and Committee minutes summarizing testimony are not the comments or expression of the House Legislative Oversight Committee, any of its Subcommittees, the House of Representatives, or any of these entities staff.

Before each person testifies, Chairman Newton administered an oath to the person. Below are the names of each person who testified and the time in the archived video at which the testimony begins. The testimony is grouped by agency.

### **Department of Mental Health**

#### Mr. Bill Lindsey (10:30)

Mr. Lindsey testified that he resides in Richland County and is the Executive Director of the South Carolina Chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI). Mr. Lindsey testified about his involvement with NAMI and the Department of Mental Health as the parent of a child with mental illness.

Mr. Lindsey testified that, since 2006, the Department of Mental Health has made significant improvement. He specifically references increased resources for tele-psychiatry services, mental health services in schools, suicide prevention, and law enforcement officer training.

#### Ms. Helen Pridgen (34:01)

Ms. Pridgen testified that she resides in Lexington County and serves as the South Carolina Area Director of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Ms. Pridgen testified about the mission of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). She referred to statistics indicating the suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States.

Ms. Pridgen testified that the Department of Mental Health serves as a strong partner in the AFSP's mission to prevent suicide. She further testified that the Department of Mental Health should be commended for its work with limited resources.

### **Department of Motor Vehicles**

#### Mr. Oren L. Brady III (49:50)

Mr. Brady testified that he resides in Spartanburg County and is the County Treasurer. He testified that he has served in the position since 1978. He further testified that Spartanburg County participates in the Department of Motor Vehicles' County Issuance of Decals and Registration (CIDRS) program.

#### Mr. Darrell Hudson (1:04:17)

Mr. Hudson testified that he resides in Lexington County and is a member of the Lexington County Council. He testified regarding the South Carolina DMV's progress over the years. Mr. Hudson testified that he believes every county should have the treasurer's office and DMV office in the same location. In Lexington County, for example, traffic issues result from citizens going back forth between the DMV and the treasurer's office.



Mr. Ralph H. Bell, Jr. (1:18:42)

Mr. Bell testified that he resides in Richland County and is the Director of ABATE of South Carolina. ABATE is a motorcycle rights organization. The organization works with the Department of Motor Vehicles, as well as several other state agencies. He testified regarding the work ABATE has done, in coordination with the DMV, to pass legislation promoting safety for motorcyclists.

Mr. Bell testified that the DMV is a strong partner in ABATE's mission and is receptive to their ideas about potential legislation or policy changes to promote motorcycle safety.

Ms. Tracy Moore (1:28:15)

Ms. Moore testified that she resides in Greenville County and is the CEO and Executive Director of Donate Life SC. She testified that Donate Life SC has a strong partnership with the DMV. South Carolina launched its first-person consent organ donation registry. South Carolina now has more than 2.1 million donors registered. Ms. Moore testified that the donation registration has saved thousands of lives in South Carolina. In 2018, South Carolina finished in the top five in the country for organ donation.

### **Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School**

Ms. Laura Spears (1:45:04)

Ms. Spears testified that she resides in Florence County and is the transition services coordinator for the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. She testified that she has more than 26 years of experience in vocational rehabilitation services. She testified that Wil Lou Gray provides excellent opportunities to students that do not do well in an ordinary school setting.

Ms. Spears testified that Wil Lou Gray does an excellent job in connecting students with vocational rehabilitation services in their home counties after graduating from the school. She said that the staff at Wil Lou Gray are excellent in their jobs and serve as strong partners for the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Mr. Shawn Robey (1:54:20)

Mr. Robey testified that he resides in Lexington County and is a former student at Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. He testified that he attended the school at the age of 16. Mr. Robey stated that the school provided education and helped him learn to be a responsible adult. After graduating, Mr. Robey entered the U.S. Army and learned several trade skills. He was medically retired from the Army after being injured.

Mr. Robey testified that he was able to obtain his Bachelor's degree after being medically retired from the Army. He further testified that he believes that Wil Lou Gray saved his life and saves the lives of many troubled youths in South Carolina.

Ms. Christie Mendez (1:57:45)

Ms. Mendez testified that she resides in Richland County and is the mother of multiple former students at Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. She testified that she grew up in a high-risk environment and had several children at a young age. She testified that Wil Lou Gray provided an opportunity to her children that she could not provide. She further testified that her children have benefited immensely from their attendance at Wil Lou Gray.

Ms. Mendez testified that one of her children graduated from traditional high school and does not believe that traditional high school does a better job preparing young people for adulthood than Wil Lou Gray.

Ms. Kristina Duncan (2:04:50)

Ms. Duncan testified that she resides in Greenville County and is a critical care paramedic. She has a daughter who attended Wil Lou Gray. She testified that she firmly believes that the school saves lives and that her daughter benefited immensely from the structure and education that Wil Lou Gray provides. She testified that she believes that Wil Lou Gray helps prevent troubled youth from ending up in jail or a potentially worse situation.

Mr. James Miller (2:11:11)

Mr. Miller testified that he resides in Richland County and is the former JROTC instructor at Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. Mr. Miller testified that Wil Lou Gray helps instill discipline in at-risk youth and helps the youth channel their energy in a more productive way. He further testified that, while Wil Lou Gray does not succeed with every student, it has a very high success rate.

Mr. Miller testified that parents of former students tell him how important Wil Lou Gray was to their child. He also testified that the majority of students at Wil Lou Gray rise to the challenge presented to them.

Mr. Russell Hart (2:17:25)

Mr. Hart testified that he resides in Marlboro County and is the Chairman of the Board for Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. He testified that Wil Lou Gray provides an opportunity to troubled youth who have lost their way through bad decisions. Mr. Hart testified that the staff at Wil Lou Gray is loving and caring towards all of the students with an interest in helping their students change their life. Lastly, Mr. Hart further testified that students graduate from Wil Lou Gray with the ability to positively contribute to society.

- III. Members asked each constituent questions after their public testimony, which the different constituents answer.

### **Discussion of Department of Motor Vehicles**

- I. After placed under oath, Mr. Kevin Schwedo, Director of Department of Motor Vehicles, addressed the committee regarding the public input.
- II. Members asked the director questions regarding the public testimony, which the director answers.

### **Discussion of Department of Mental Health**

- I. After placed under oath, Mr. Mark Binkley, Interim Director of the Department of Mental Health, addressee the committee regarding the public input.
- II. Members asked the director questions regarding the public testimony, which the director answers.

### **Discussion of Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School**

- I. After placed under oath, Mr. Pat Smith, Director of Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, addressed the committee regarding the public input.
- II. Members asked the director questions regarding the public testimony, which the director answers.

### **Discussion of Committee Administrative Matters**

- I. Chairman Newton provided an overview of administrative matters regarding the legislative process.
- II. There being no further business; the meeting was adjourned.



## Committee Mission

Determine if agency laws and programs are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly and whether they should be continued, curtailed or eliminated. Inform the public about state agencies.

Website: <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee.php>

Phone Number: 803-212-6810

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Location: Blatt Building, Room 228