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January 31, 2020

Via Email

Col. Kevin A. Shwedo, Executive Director
South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles
Post Office Box 1498
Blythewood, South Carolina 29016

RE: Agency collection of data related to violations of texting and seatbelt laws

Dear Director Shwedo:

The Legislative Oversight Committee has recently been made aware of some concerns related to the collection and dissemination of specific driver information by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The purpose of this letter is to solicit your input about the agency's current practices with regard to the laws in question.

The state laws prohibiting texting while driving (S.C. Code Ann. § 56-5-3890) and requiring use of a seat belt (S.C. Code Ann. §§ 56-5-6520 *et seq.*) include provisions prohibiting violations of these laws from being included in the offender's motor vehicle records or reported to the offender's motor vehicle insurer. Does DMV currently maintain any records related to violations of these laws? If so, for what purpose are these records kept? Is this information ever reported or released to any entity outside the agency?

In order to address these concerns in a timely manner, I would appreciate your response by Friday, February 14, 2020. Thank you for your continued service to the people of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm. Weston J. Newton".

Wm. Weston J. Newton
Committee Chair

cc: House Legislative Oversight Committee Members