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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

February 16, 2017  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Chairman Weston Newton  
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INVITATION FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY, DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS, STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION, JOHN DE LA HOWE SCHOOL, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY AT A HOUSE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

Columbia, SC - The House Legislative Oversight Committee is currently conducting oversight studies on twelve (12) state agencies. The Committee has meetings on the dates below for the purpose of receiving comments from the public about six of these agencies.

- Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. - Room 110, Blatt Building (Department of Archives and History, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, and John de la Howe School)
- Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. - Room 110, Blatt Building (State Election Commission, Human Affairs Commission, and Law Enforcement Training Council and Criminal Justice Academy)

During this time, Speaker Jay Lucas and the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee are pleased to invite the public to provide comments and recommendations about the agency. Individuals can sign up to speak 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.

These meetings provide the opportunity to have an individual member of the public's face and voice connected with the comments while speaking directly to the Subcommittee members. An ongoing opportunity, to provide input, is a public feedback link available on the Committee's website, which allows individuals to provide comments anonymously. A time-limited opportunity is an online public survey to provide comments anonymously, which is open for a month. It is the Committee's practice to publish responses to online surveys verbatim as received by the Committee. To view responses, go to [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov), click on the "Citizens' Interest" tab on the top row, then on the "Agency Oversight by House Legislative Oversight Committee" link and finally click on the agency for which you would like to view responses from the public.

The Committee's vision is for South Carolina agencies to become, and continuously remain, the most effective state agencies in the country through processes which eliminate waste and efficiently deploy resources thereby creating greater confidence in state government. Comments from those citizens who choose to provide input are important to the Members of the House Legislative Oversight Committee because they may help direct the Committee to additional potential areas for improvement with these agencies.

The specific task of the House Legislative Oversight Committee is to conduct legislative oversight studies on state agencies over the course of seven years. The purpose of a legislative oversight study is to determine if agency laws and programs are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly and whether or not they should be continued, curtailed or even eliminated. Also, the Committee recognizes that an oversight study serves the purpose of informing the public about an agency. Any legislator may file legislation, which will go through the normal legislative process, to implement recommendations this Committee may have relating to the agencies.

Suggestions for additional ways to inform the public about this meeting and the House Legislative Oversight Committee's process are welcomed.

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