

Title: Pass real ethics reform this year

Author:

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## THE GREENVILLE NEWS EDITORIAL

# Pass real ethics reform this year

**S**outh Carolina faces the possibility of not having real ethics reform legislation enacted this year in large part because a majority of state senators won't agree to give a genuinely independent body the authority to investigate serious complaints against legislators. Without outside pressure the Legislature most likely will end this year at the same place it did last year, and that is with legislators refusing to hold themselves accountable for their own actions.

Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, has been a leader in the state Senate pushing for ethics reform legislation that would, among other things, allow an outside body to investigate legislators. That already happens with other statewide officials and local officials who are held accountable by the State Ethics Commission. When it comes to state legislators, however, they investigate themselves through either the Senate or House Ethics Committees. Yes, it's the fox guarding the henhouse.

Martin's bill this year — Senate 1 to show both its importance and place in the queue of proposed laws — contained what would be a substantive change for legislators, and this was the hurdle that couldn't be cleared last year, too. "What absolutely must be in the ethics bill," he said in a telephone interview last week, "is a truly independent commission handling complaints involving legislators."

That fundamentally makes sense. Lawmakers are ill-equipped to seriously investigate each other, and any findings could easily be viewed with suspicion. Other state senators disagree and have blocked the approval of an ethics bill with this important ingredient.

Sen. Luke Rankin, the Horry County Republican who chairs the Senate Ethics Committee, derailed Martin's bill less than two weeks ago with an amendment that would have put four legislators on a nine-member commission that would investigate other legislators. That would give almost a majority of votes to legislators, and it simply would not advance the goal of ethics reform in South Carolina. Martin and his allies found themselves voting against their own bill because it had been so watered down as to be ineffective.

Standing with Martin throughout this process have been Upstate senators such as Mike Fair, Ross Turner and Danny Verdin. That's where the praise ends. For one reason or another — and a lot of horse-trading goes on with major pieces of legislation — Martin's attempt at serious ethics reform hasn't been fully supported by Senate Democrats or Upstate Republicans such as Lee Bright, Kevin Bryant, Tom Corbin and Shane Martin.

Speaking in Spartanburg last week, Gov. Nikki Haley went after the senators from that area who had helped derail, and possibly kill, ethics reform this year. She said, according to the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*, that Sens. Shane Martin, Bright, Corbin and Democrat Glenn Reese "basically killed ethics reform" by voting for an amendment that put legislators on a panel to investigate accusations against legislators. Added to that list could be Democrat Karl Allen from Greenville County, and Bryant from Anderson County.

Sen. Larry Martin, the champion of ethics reform, said the Rankin amendment defeated the purpose of ethics reform

and it had the added problem of putting lawmakers in a special, privileged class that they created for themselves. "My view is that when you put sitting legislators (on the ethics commission looking into com-

plaints), you have defeated the purpose of independent investigations," Martin said in a telephone interview.

His legislation already could be considered a huge compromise because it allowed the Senate and House to continue looking into what he called "technical violations" against their members. He described those issues as involving mislabeling a campaign contribution or leaving off a zero in a report. "If you can catch it and correct it, then you're cited with a technical violation," he said. More serious issues, such as "cooking the books or putting campaign contributions in your own pocket" would be investigated by an outside body.

Recent South Carolina history has helped demonstrate the need for ethics reform that not only catches serious violations but also ensures the public that such matters will be taken seriously. In just a few years the Senate has seen one of its senators and a lieutenant governor forced from office, and the House has seen its most powerful member, the Speaker, resign under indictment for charges that later were proven to be true.

Martin said he still has hope that his ethics reform bill can come back before the Senate and gain the votes needed for approval. Because of Senate rules that will not be easy at this point in the legislative year, but it has a better chance of happening if voters get in touch with their senators who are blocking meaningful legislation.

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JEFFREY COLLINS/AP

**Some South Carolina state senators continue to block legislation that would create real ethics reform.**

Title: **Proposal to sack S.C. State leaders challenged**  
 Author: Wirereports  
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# Proposal to sack S.C. State leaders challenged

**School board chairman  
says trustees being  
unfairly disparaged**

Wire reports

**COLUMBIA** While a growing number of lawmakers say the leadership of financially troubled South Carolina State University needs to go, the school's board chairman said Friday trustees are being unfairly disparaged.

A proposal introduced by Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman would replace the school's entire board with a temporary one appointed by him and other lawmakers.

Co-sponsors include the chamber's Democratic leader as well as two senators who graduated from South Carolina's only public historically black college.

The new board would decide whether to fire embattled President Thomas Elzey.

The proposal, introduced Thursday, signals that senators are ready to take drastic action to make the university financially solvent.

But board Chairman William Small said Friday the university's legislatively elected trustees are being unfairly disparaged.

"This situation could have and should have been handled in a much more professional and substantially less damaging manner," Small said.

"I sadly feel that South Carolina State University has experienced irreparable short-term damage. ... My hope and prayer is that the historians will cease and that better judgment and reason will some-

how find a place at the table."

Small is among the 60 percent of trustees who came aboard after Elzey was hired in spring 2013.

Leatherman told The State newspaper Thursday he has lost faith in S.C. State's trustees since a legislative panel he chairs agreed in December to grant the school \$12 million over three years. The school received the first \$1.5 million payment soon after, but the amount it owes for unpaid bills has grown – by \$1 million to \$11 million.

That's in addition to a \$6 million state loan the school received last spring and can't pay back.

"I wanted to give them that opportunity to show the General Assembly that they were serious about what had to be done," Leatherman, R-Florence, told the newspaper. "It's obvious to everyone that they seem to keep getting deeper and deeper in the hole."

The House Ways and Means Committee advanced a similar idea earlier this week. U.S. Rep.

Jim Clyburn and his wife, both 1961 graduates of S.C. State, also called this week for the leadership's ousting. A main difference in all three ideas is the makeup of the board that would temporarily take over.

Last week, the Legislative Black Caucus called for Elzey's resignation. But he refused, and trustees

backed him up.

The calls for new leadership followed a Ways and Means panel's stunning proposal to temporarily close the school and reopen it in 2017 after a massive overhaul. Senators immediately pledged to kill the proposal, and even in the House, its chances were dim.

But it reflected the growing frustration of lawmakers who say university officials aren't providing requested information or a realistic path to solvency.

"I don't think anybody wants to see South Carolina State closed, and I hope that's never a serious conversation," but the frustration is legitimate, Gov. Nikki Haley said Wednesday. "We want to help you but you're not helping yourself."

S.C. State is digging out of a hole created by years of declining enrollment, along with a drop in state funding and federal changes that made many students ineligible for grants. Despite the shrinking revenue, the school continued to spend as if nothing had changed, Elzey has said.

Last week, a group of current and former S.C. State students filed a federal lawsuit against the state, saying lawmakers damaged the school's enrollment by not providing enough funding and by allowing other public colleges to offer the same courses taught at the Orangeburg school.

Title: **Schools, buildings winners in proposed S.C. borrowing**  
 Author: By Cassie Cope ccope@thestate.com  
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# Schools, buildings winners in proposed S.C. borrowing

**\$500M marked for job training, maintenance**

By CASSIE COPE  
ccope@thestate.com

**COLUMBIA** After cutting spending during the recession, S.C. House budget writers say it is time for the state to borrow again for colleges and job training, overdue maintenance and to lay the groundwork for more economic development.

The state Senate's top leader said Friday that he is inclined to agree. Republican Gov. Nikki Haley is reserving judgment for now, her spokeswoman said Friday.

The House Ways and Means Committee voted late Thursday to borrow nearly \$500 million for the projects, the first major state bond issue for buildings and infrastructure in 15 years.

The borrowed money would:

- Give 12 colleges and universities across the state – including Winthrop, Clemson, Coastal Carolina, MUSC, The Citadel, the

College of Charleston and USC-Beaufort, but not S.C. State – money to repair buildings, including two University of South Carolina buildings.

- Set aside money for K-12 education that could be used to help resolve a Supreme Court ruling saying the state should do more for rural schools.

- Pay for overdue maintenance of state buildings and to renovate state welcome centers.

- Improve workforce training – a Haley goal – at a minimum of five technical colleges across the state, including a Lowcountry aeronautical training center for Boeing.

- Spend millions on water and sewer projects for economic development; that money could support more rural jobs, another Haley priority.

Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said Friday he would look favorably at the bond package, adding the Senate could change or add to the projects.

Gov. Haley was more iffy on the idea. Spokeswoman Chaney Adams said Haley does not plan to weigh in yet on the proposal.

Until late Thursday, the General Assembly had not passed a similar borrowing package in 15 years.

"That's a long time," Leatherman said, adding the state's needs have grown during that period.

House budget writers say now is the time to borrow because the state's general fund is growing again and interest rates are low.

Higher education could be one winner.

SEE **SCHOOLS**, PAGE 6B

## SCHOOLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Under the House plan, USC would get \$15 million to renovate its law school building on Main Street, a project estimated to cost \$25 million, and \$5 million to renovate its South Carolina Library on the Horse-shoe.

State Sen. John Courson, R-Richland, said the library houses valuable historical records. "We're being negligent if we don't spend the money (protecting the) historical documents that made the state what it is."

Universities often ask for more state money for deferred maintenance but only

get a small portion – if any – of their request. "It's the hardest money to come by," USC president Harris Pastides said Friday.

The bond package also includes \$20 million for overdue maintenance on state-owned buildings, including those in S.C. parks.

"Buildings, just like the house you live in, they deteriorate, get run down," Leatherman said. "You've got to keep them maintained ... to continue to use them."

The proposed bond package also includes \$50 million for K-12 education.

That money is not geared toward one project. Instead, it is set aside as a reserve in

case lawmakers need to respond with dollars to the Supreme Court's recent decision that the state is not doing enough for rural schools, said state Rep. Kenny Bingham, R-Lexington.

"(The money) is available to deal with the problem if it's needed and, until we determine that, we're not going to spend it on anything," Bingham said.

Bingham, who chairs the House budget subcommittee

for K-12 education, is a member of a task force – appointed by Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington – that begins meeting Monday to work on a solution to that court

ruling.

In addition, \$60 million would go to the state Department of Commerce to help pay for water and sewer projects needed for economic development.

Rural areas need infrastructure to compete with urban areas in attracting companies, said Leatherman.

Commerce secretary Bobby Hitt said additional money could help jump-start business recruitment in rural areas.

"Our approach has been to help communities 'set the table' for economic development by assisting with essential infrastructure, like roads, water and sewer," he said.

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### **Borrowing \$500 million?**

*The S.C. House Ways and Means Committee approved borrowing \$497.2 million for building and infrastructure projects late Thursday, including:*

**\$146 million for higher education** building projects, including \$25 million for the University of South Carolina

**\$94 million for technical schools**, including \$35 million for an aerospace center at Trident Technical College

**\$60 million for water-and-sewer projects** to support economic development

**\$50 million for deferred maintenance** at state-owned buildings, parks and an armory

**\$50 million for K-12 education**, money that does not have a defined purpose



Title: **SC senators grill agency pick on ties to Haley, record**  
 Author: By Jamie Self The State  
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## SC senators grill agency pick on ties to Haley, record

**By Jamie Self**  
 The State

Democratic state senators repeatedly asked Thursday how a close friend and campaign donor to Republican Gov. Nikki Haley ended up the sole candidate to run the state's health and environmental agency.

For four hours, Eleanor Kitzman, that friend and donor, responded to those questions and others, including inquiries into financial and legal dust-ups, her lack of expertise in health and environmental issues, the circumstances behind her leaving jobs working for two governors and why she had to change answers on a questionnaire about her personal and work history.

The hearing, which will resume Tuesday at 4 p.m., was Kitzman's first public appearance before the Senate Medical Affairs Committee.

That body will decide whether to recommend that the full Senate confirm Kitzman to lead the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, a \$154,879-a-year job.

Democratic senators

repeatedly questioned Haley's role in Kitzman's appointment to be DHEC's next chief. Haley recommended Kitzman for the job in December, after learning the Texas native was returning to South Carolina and looking for a job with law and consulting firms.

DHEC's board, whose members are appointed by the governor, offered the job to Kitzman after an interview process that included no other candidates, irking some senators.

Kitzman said Thursday she spoke with the chairman of the agency's board twice and met with agency board members for two hours.

She said she gave the agency her resume, but board members never asked for references.

In the past, the agency's board has conducted an executive search when it wanted to hire a new director, although that is not required by state law.

For example, the board hired former director Catherine Templeton from 250 candidates.

Despite her friendship with Haley and unsuccessful bid for the GOP nomination for S.C. lieu-

tenant governor in 2010, Kitzman told senators she would leave politics out of her decision-making. Instead, she said she would listen to agency employees with expertise in making decisions.

The agency's director, she said, "should not be partisan, should not allow personal, political views to interfere with the proper administration of the law an enacted by the General Assembly."

Kitzman also responded to questions about legal and financial dust-ups.

Kitzman said she had defaulted on a student loan that she since has paid off and paid a \$250 late penalty related to a professional license. She also said she had been sued for outstanding debt tied to her 2010 campaign, paying \$50,000 to settle two lawsuits.

Senators also asked Kitzman about changes she made in a questionnaire from the Senate committee that is vetting her nomination.

In her first written response to the committee, Kitzman said she had never been arrested or charged. She later revised that response to reflect a \$133 traffic fine and a

three-decade-old, bad-check charge in Texas. She also initially left out that she had made campaign contributions to Haley.

Kitzman said that was an unintended oversight, blaming it on incorrectly reading the question asked.

"I have nothing to hide," she said, adding she never intended to deceive or mislead the committee.

Kitzman gave \$4,750 to fellow Republican Haley's 2010 and 2014 campaigns, and co-hosted a fundraiser for her at Wild Dunes.

Republican senators read letters of recommendation for Kitzman that the committee has received, adding her qualifications were evident in her resume and questionnaire.

State Sen. Ray Cleary, R-Georgetown, said Kitzman's management skills are "pretty well spelled out," urging committee members to focus their questions on her qualifications.

Kitzman has been a presence at the State House for almost two decades.

Title: **Med-Enroll venture could create 153 jobs**  
 Author: Staff report  
 Size: 27.9 square inch  
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# Med-Enroll venture could create 153 jobs

Startup sets up shop in Florence

Staff report

A company that specializes in assisting businesses with the management of healthcare costs is establishing its company headquarters and a processing center in Florence County.

Med-Enroll is investing \$3.5 million to establish operations, and the investment is expected to create 153 new jobs.

"It's always exciting when a startup company decides to put its roots down in our state. Med-Enroll's \$3.5 million investment and the creation of more than 150 new jobs is great news for the Florence community, and we look forward to supporting them as they grow in our state," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

Med-Enroll is a startup

service firm focused on helping its clients find alternative, low-cost healthcare solutions. Med-Enroll will achieve this by educating its clients' employees on public healthcare options, screening eligible employees in coverage as well as managing ongoing reporting requirements, officials said.

The company's facility, a headquarters and processing center, will be located in Florence's historic Rainwater Building at 151 West Evans St. The 15,000-square-foot building, which the company is currently preparing to have restored, is positioned in the heart of downtown.

Groundbreaking on the restoration project is

expected to take place this month. However, hiring for the new positions is expected to begin immediately. Those interested in obtaining more information on open positions or the company itself should visit [www.med-enroll.com](http://www.med-enroll.com).

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development has approved a \$650,000 set aside grant to Florence County to assist with real property improvements. The council has also approved job development credits related to the project.

"The State of South Carolina and local officials in Florence have truly shown us their commitment to driving job creation and how business friendly South Carolina

can be. We are excited to be starting our venture in Florence and hope that our business will not only provide a positive economic impact in the region, but also serve as a business leader in helping drive the economic redevelopment of downtown Florence," said Kerstin Nemec, president of Med-Enroll, Inc.

Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman, president pro-tempore of the Senate, said, "Med-Enroll's decision to locate in Florence is proof of our efforts to attract new investments and job opportunities to our state. South Carolina's favorable economic conditions and skilled workforce are critical tools for growing and supporting businesses of all types."

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 Author: By Jamie Self jself@thestate.com  
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# S.C. senators grill agency pick on ties to Haley, record

Kitzman will face more questions next week

By JAMIE SELF  
 jself@thestate.com

**COLUMBIA** Democratic state senators repeatedly asked Thursday how a close friend and campaign donor to Republican Gov. Nikki Haley ended up the sole candidate to run the state's health and environmental agency.

For four hours, Eleanor Kitman, that friend and donor, responded to those questions and others, including inquiries into financial and legal dust-ups, her lack of expertise in health and environmental issues, the circumstances behind her leaving jobs working for two governors and why she had to change answers on a questionnaire about her personal and work history.

The hearing, which will resume Tuesday at 4 p.m., was Kitman's first public appearance before the Senate Medical Affairs Committee.

That body will decide whether to recommend that the full Senate confirm Kitman to lead the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, a \$154,879-a-year job.

Democratic senators repeatedly questioned Haley's role in Kitman's appointment to be DHEC's next chief. Haley recommended Kitman for the job in December, after learning the Texas native was returning to South Carolina and looking for a job with law and consulting firms.

DHEC's board, whose members are appointed by the governor, offered the job to Kitman after an interview process that included no other candidates, irking some senators. Kitman said Thursday she spoke with the chairman of the agency's board twice and met with agency board members for two hours. She said she gave the agency her resume, but board members never asked for references.

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to hire a new director, although that is not required by state law. For example, the board hired former director Catherine Templeton from 250 candidates.

Despite her friendship with Haley and unsuccessful bid for the GOP nomination for S.C. lieutenant governor in 2010, Kitman told senators she would leave politics out of her decision-making. Instead, she said she would listen to agency employees with expertise in making decisions.

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State Sen. Ray Cleary, R-Georgetown, said Kitman's management skills are "pretty well spelled out," urging committee members to focus their questions on her qualifications.

Kitman has been a presence at the StateHouse for almost two decades.

In 1997, she worked as a registered lobbyist for a North Carolina insurance company, lobbying on behalf of auto-insurance reforms that passed that year.

Two years later, Kitman founded Driver's Choice Insurance in Columbia, an insurer formed in response to the state's deregulation of automobile insurance.

Kitman also was S.C. insurance commissioner under Gov. Mark Sanford. She resigned from that post in 2007, saying Thursday that she and Sanford could no longer "agree to disagree" over insurance issues affecting coastal property owners.

In 2011, the then-newly elected Haley picked Kitman to run the S.C. Budget and Control Board, a post she held for less than a year before Texas Gov. Rick Perry tapped her to run his state's insurance department.

However, Kitman was not reappointed to that post by the Texas legislature.

Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler, R-Gaffney, said Thursday he had received a letter from the former Texas governor, a possible GOP candidate for president in 2016, in support of Kitman's confirmation.



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TRACY GLANTZ - tglantz@thestate.com

**Eleanor  
Kitzman,  
Gov. Nikki  
Haley's pick  
to lead the  
state health  
depart-  
ment, took  
questions  
from a  
Senate  
panel for  
four hours  
Thursday.**

Title: S.C. Senate punts on ethics reform bill

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## Our view

# S.C. Senate punts on ethics reform bill

Some or all of the state senators who helped defeat an ethics reform bill last week must have something to hide. What else could explain the abrupt end to a nearly three-year effort to enact meaningful changes in the way ethics charges against lawmakers are handled?

It had appeared that this year the stars might finally be aligning for genuine ethics reform. The House, which passed a reform bill two years ago, has passed more reform proposals this year, including an essential measure creating an independent investigative commission to oversee ethics complaints.

Gov. Nikki Haley, who began pressuring lawmakers in 2012 to adopt ethics reforms, has consistently lobbied for changes, including a measure to end the practices of lawmakers investigating themselves.

Her use of the bully pulpit to push for reforms was a significant benefit to the cause. But, in the end, it was not enough.

The Senate has squelched meaningful reforms for the past two years. Even a watered-down bill died in the Senate last session.

And last week, senators rejected meaningful reforms once again. As before, the apparent stumbling block was a proposal to create an inde-

pendent investigative panel.

Ethics complaints now are investigated by ethics committees in the House and Senate, meaning that House and Senate members essentially are investigating their own peers. Under the bill sponsored by Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin, R-Pickens, a restructured State Ethics Commission similar to the one approved in the House, which would have been charged with investigating legislators.

But many senators balked at the change, claiming that problems with lawmakers overseeing their own have been in the House, not the Senate. A majority of senators voted to replace Martin's proposed independent panel with one that featured lawmakers and members of the public.

Martin couldn't stomach the changes and voted against his own bill, saying it no longer included independent oversight. He said the final bill "was so unacceptable I couldn't even vote to send the blooming thing to the House, knowing that I would have a chance to amend it later."

While Martin says the effort to toughen ethics laws that haven't changed in 20 years is not dead, it is "on life support."

The brazenness of senators who openly hijacked proposals to allow an independent commission to review ethics complaints is stunning. It sends the message that many senators consider themselves a privileged class whose actions relating to their public service should not be subjected to scrutiny by disinterested investigators.

Claims that the problems lie in the House, not the Senate, are preposterous. Nothing about senators makes them immune from ethical lapses. They have the same capacity for breaking the law as House members.

What is needed in both houses is transparency and accountability. The public deserves to know where elected officials get their money and where potential conflicts of interest exist.

And when lawmakers are accused of ethical violations, the public needs the assurance that those accusations will be investigated thoroughly without bias or favoritism.

The problems with the current system are not merely hypothetical. Last fall, in the most prominent case of ethical malfeasance, House Speaker Bobby Harrell, one of the most powerful politicians in the state, resigned from office after pleading

guilty to public corruption charges.

But Harrell had used all his influence to dismantle the investigation that led to his indictment. If not for the intervention and tenacity of S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson, he might never have been indicted.

We hope this is not the end of the struggle to enact meaningful ethics reforms. This effort is too important to allow a few senators to derail it.

And while some senators smugly contend that they are capable of policing themselves, we are left to wonder how many offenders managed to evade punishment.

## In summary

Hopes for meaningful ethics reform in the Legislature dim with failure of Senate to pass bill.

## » Online

## Your view

What do you think about this editorial? Come to our website and tell us.

[heraldonline.com/submit-letter](http://heraldonline.com/submit-letter)

Title: **DSS receives third of new workers requested**  
 Author: By Cassie Cope ccope@thestate.com  
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# DSS receives third of new workers requested

## Budget writers double pay raises

By CASSIE COPE  
ccope@thestate.com

**COLUMBIA** House budget writers voted Thursday to approve only about a third of the new employees requested by the embattled state Department of Social Services.

The reduction in new employees was a pointed message aimed at the state agency, under scrutiny for more than a year because of the deaths of children under its supervision.

“(Social Services) came and made a (budget) presentation before us,” said state Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, chairman of the House health care budget

## DSS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

ity to retain the caseworkers that they have, or they have a plan going forward to help prevent tragedies that we’ve seen,” Smith said earlier Thursday after his budget subcommittee met.

Smith noted Social Services did not have a representative at his budget subcommittee’s meeting Thursday.

“It was a presentation that was not acceptable in my opinion. It was not informative.

“It did not engender any trust that the agency is heading in the right direction.”

Instead of giving the agency the 338 new workers that it requested, the House Ways and Means committee Thursday approved 120 new workers.

But it doubled pay raises requested by the agency. Paying case workers more should help the agency’s efforts to retain workers, said Smith.

“They did not convince

me that they have any ability that they have any ability.”  
SEE **DSS**, PAGE 4A

tee’s meeting Thursday.

The proposal still must win the approval of the full House and Senate.

House budget writers approved a 10 percent raise for Social Services’ child protective workers, who also received a 10 percent raise in the fall.

The two raises would take

the average starting salary for case workers to \$38,037 from \$31,435 in the fall.

A smaller pay raise also was OK’d for adult protective services workers and administrative staff.

Social Services – headed by Gov. Nikki Haley’s appointee Lillian Koller until June – did not ask for extra caseworkers

until a state Senate panel, investigating child deaths, questioned workers’ high caseloads and turnover.

Social Services deputy director Jessica Hanak-Coulter told senators in July that the agency needed to hire 202 new workers to keep workers’ caseloads at or below the proposed limit for



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the number of cases and children that each worker should manage.

But adding child welfare staffers has proven difficult for

the agency, in part because so many staffers quit. The turnover rate among the agency's 1,016 child welfare workers was 39.1 percent in 2014.

Last week, the state Senate confirmed Haley's new appointee to head Social Services, Susan Alford of Irmo.

But Smith said Thursday that neither he nor House Ways and Means chairman Brian White, R-Anderson, had heard from Alford.