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Date: 6/22/2015 11:08:06 AM
Subject: FW: DOT authority

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From: Jerry Bellune [mailto:jerrybellune@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 11:00 AM
To: Godfrey, Rob
Cc: Rob Cottingham
Subject: DOT authority

Rob: Does the governor want to respond to this slap in her face?

Power Play: Who Gets to Appoint the DOT Secretary?

by Rick Brundrett
June 22, 2015, 8 a.m.

Buried near the bottom of Act 114 of 2007 is one sentence that strips the governor of the authority to appoint the Department of Transportation secretary and gives that power to the already legislatively-controlled DOT Commission – effective Wednesday of next week.

The general public won't find the sunset provision in the Code of Laws section on the General Assembly's website. After *The Nerve* pointed that out recently to State Code Commissioner Jim Harrison, a former House member from Richland County, he said the code's publisher would revise that section of the website, possibly as early as this summer.

Gov. Nikki Haley, who took office in 2011, has been largely silent about the sunset provision, though she reportedly supported legislation earlier this year that would have allowed her to appoint all the members of an expanded DOT Commission, which would have been given the authority to appoint the DOT secretary – the administrative head of the 4,300-employee, \$1.6 billion agency.

But there was no overhaul of DOT this year as sought by Haley. The last major restructuring legislation was Act 114 of 2007, which gave the governor the power to appoint DOT's administrative head instead of the DOT Commission, though it left the policy-making authority to the commission – all but one of whose eight members are elected by lawmakers.

Critics say DOT – an executive agency – effectively is still controlled by the Legislature with no accountability.

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