

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 1998**NOTE 10. DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLANS:**

Several optional deferred compensation plans are available to State employees and employers of its political subdivisions. Certain employees of the Commission have elected to participate. The multiple-employer plans, created under Internal Revenue Code Sections 457, 401 (k), and 403 (b), are accounted for as agency funds of the State and included in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the State of South Carolina. Employees may withdraw the current value of their contributions when they terminate State employment. Employees may also withdraw contributions prior to termination if they meet requirements specified by the applicable plan.

Compensation deferred under the Section 401 (k) and 403 (b) plans is placed in trust for the contributing employee. The State has no liability for losses under the plans. Under the Section 457 plan, all deferred compensation plan amounts and earnings remain assets of the employer (the State) subject to the claims of the employer's general creditors, one of whom is the employee participant. It is unlikely, however, that the State would ever use plan assets to satisfy claims of the State's general creditors. The portion of assets to the Section 457 plan to which the State has access is disclosed in its annual financial report.

On August 20, 1996, the provisions of Internal Revenue Code Section 457 were amended by adding subsection (g). That subsection provides that new plans will not be considered eligible plans unless all assets and income of the plans are held in trust for the exclusive benefit of the participants and their beneficiaries. Existing plans also must comply with this requirement by January 1, 1999. South Carolina's plan adopted this change effective July 24, 1998.

NOTE 11. POSTEMPLOYMENT AND OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and the annual Appropriation Act, the State of South Carolina provides certain health care, dental, and life insurance benefits to certain active and retired State employees and certain surviving dependents of retirees. All permanent full-time and certain permanent part-time employees of the Commission are eligible to receive these benefits. The State provides postemployment health and dental benefits to employees who retire from State service or who terminated with at least 20 years of State service who meet one or more of the eligibility requirements, such as age, length of service, and hire date. Generally those who retire must have at least 10 years of retirement service credit to qualify for these State-funded benefits. Benefits are effective at date of retirement when the employee is eligible for retirement benefits.

These benefits are provided from applicable funding sources of the Commission for the Commission's active employees and through annual appropriations by the General Assembly to the State Budget and Control Board for all participating State retirees except the portions funded through the pension surcharge. The State finances health and dental plan benefits on a pay-as-you-go basis. Approximately 19,200 retirees met these eligibility requirements as of June 30, 1998.

The Commission recorded employer contributions expenditures within the applicable program expenditure categories for these insurance benefits for active employees in the amount of approximately \$2,386,000 for the year ended June 30, 1998. As discussed in Note 12, the Commission paid approximately \$ 623,000 applicable to the 1.916 percent surcharge included with the employer contributions for retirement benefits. These amounts were remitted to the South Carolina Retirement Systems for distribution to the Office of Insurance Services for retiree health and dental insurance benefits.