

From: Danny Varat <DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov>
To: Catherine McNicollCatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov
Date: 3/9/2018 9:17:24 AM
Subject: Re: Legislative Audit Council

One more edit. Please use this one

March 12, 2018

Legislative Audit Council
1331 Elmwood Avenue
Suite 315
Columbia, SC 29201

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the important role that you play in the review of state agencies that enables the General Assembly can make informed policy decisions. I have had the opportunity during my service in Columbia to become closely familiar with the operations and procedures of certain state agencies, including the Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW).

I acquired an historical knowledge and understanding of DEW while serving as a primary legislator involved in its transformation from the Employment Security Commission. Senator Greg Ryberg, then-chairman of the LCI Committee, appointed me as subcommittee chairman to review legislation and other key subject matter dealing with the agency. I worked with LAC and conducted hearings on the findings and recommendations of your previous audits of DEW. LAC served as a vital partner, and the General Assembly acted on its findings to ensure a successful transformation.

I, and I believe many other legislators, enjoy a new level of comfort with the performance of agency and especially with its leadership, Director Cheryl Stanton. The agency has turned an approximately half-billion dollar debt to the federal government into an approximately three-quarters of a billion dollar positive balance in the trust fund. The agency simultaneously cut unemployment taxes to South Carolina businesses in five consecutive years. This alone has saved them an estimated seven-hundred million dollars. Our unemployment rate, moreover, hovers at its lowest in nearly two decades. South Carolina is now a national model for workforce agencies both in its effectiveness in serving our veteran population and in forming certified work-ready communities. I now rarely receive constituent calls about DEW, whereas when I began my service the calls were constant and not pleasant.

Thank you for soliciting my input for the current LAC study of DEW. My main focus as a public servant is the prosperity of taxpayers, businesses owners and our workforce. I am confident in the current operations and focus of the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce. I also am confident that your work should take less time and be of less trouble than in the past when cooperation and information were less forthcoming. I look forward to your findings, and please call upon me or my office if we can be of further service.

With Warmest Regards,

Lieutenant Governor Kevin Bryant

From: Catherine McNicoll
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 4:00 PM
To: Danny Varat
Subject: FW: Legislative Audit Council

FYI

Best Regards,
Catherine McNicoll
Director of Legal & Legislative Affairs
Lieutenant Governor's Office
CatherineMcNicoll@SCStatehouse.gov
803-734-5292 (phone)

From: Candy Pou [mailto:cpou@lac.sc.gov] **On Behalf Of** Earle Powell
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:32 AM
To: Lt. Governor's Office
Subject: Legislative Audit Council



February 26, 2018

Kevin Bryant
Lieutenant Governor

ltgov@scstatehouse.gov

RE: S.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE

Members of the General Assembly have requested, through statute, the Legislative Audit Council to conduct a review of the Department of Employment and Workforce which focuses on:

- Finances and operations of the agency in regard to the financial status of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.
- Process for notifying state officials of the financial status of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.
- Alternatives for maintaining solvency of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.
- Examination of the unemployment eligibility process for efficiency and compliance with law and policy.
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of DEW's programs for assisting claimants in returning work.

In planning our review, we would like to include the knowledge and experience of interested parties. If you have any interest or concerns, please contact Brad Hanley, audit manager, in writing at BHanley@lac.sc.gov or by telephone at (803) 253-7612.

Your ideas and information may be helpful in planning and conducting the audit. Your reply will be held in confidence. Please respond by March 12, 2018. We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,
K. Earle Powell
Director

