

**SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

STATE AUDITOR'S REPORT

JUNE 30, 2016



INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

October 23, 2017

Members of the Commission
South Carolina State Ethics Commission
Columbia, South Carolina

We have performed the procedures described in Attachment 1, which were agreed to by the management of the South Carolina State Ethics Commission (the Commission), solely to assist you in evaluating the systems, processes and behaviors of the Commission for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the specified parties in this report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described in Attachment 1 for the purpose of which the agreed-upon procedures report has been requested or for any other purpose.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review, the objective of which would be an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the systems, processes and behaviors of the Commission. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

The concept of materiality does not apply to findings to be reported in an agreed-upon procedures engagement. Therefore, all findings from the application of the agreed-upon procedures must be reported unless the definition of materiality is agreed to by the specified parties. Management of the Commission has agreed that the following deficiencies will not be included in the State Auditor's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures:

- Clerical errors of less than \$1,000 related to processing cash receipts and cash disbursements transactions unless the errors occur in ten percent or more of the transaction class inspected.
- Clerical errors of less than \$1,000 related to reporting packages.
- Errors in applying account coding definitions to accounting transactions unless it is determined that ten percent or more of the accounting transactions inspected were found to be in error.
- Reporting packages which are submitted less than three business days after the due date unless it is determined that more than two of the reporting packages were submitted late.

Members of the Commission
South Carolina State Ethics Commission
October 23, 2017

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the governing body and management of the South Carolina State Ethics Commission and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.



George L. Kennedy, III, CPA
State Auditor

**South Carolina Office of the State Auditor
Schedule of Agreed Upon Procedures - South Carolina State Ethics Commission (R52)**

Cash Receipts/Revenues

1. Compare current year revenues at the subfund and account level from sources other than State General Fund appropriations to those of the prior year. Obtain and document an understanding of Earmarked Funds variations over \$7,900 and 10%.
2. Randomly select twenty-five cash receipts transactions and inspect supporting documentation to:
 - Agree transaction amount, date, payer, document number, and account coding to the general ledger.
 - Determine that revenues/receipts were deposited in a timely manner.
 - Ensure that both revenue collections and amounts charged are properly authorized by law.
3. Randomly select five cash receipts and inspect supporting documentation to determine that receipts are recorded in the proper fiscal year.

We found no exceptions as a result of the procedures.

Cash Disbursements/Non-Payroll Expenditures

4. Compare current year non-payroll expenditures at the subfund and account level to those of the prior year. Obtain and document an understanding of variations over \$11,000 - General Funds, \$4,200 - Earmarked Funds and 10%.
5. Randomly select twenty-five non-payroll disbursements and inspect supporting documentation to determine:
 - Transaction is properly completed as required by agency procedures; invoice(s) agree(s) with general ledger as to vendor, amount, number, and date.
 - All supporting documents and approvals required by agency procedures are present and agree with the invoice.
 - The transaction is a bona fide expenditure of the agency, properly coded to the general ledger.
 - Disbursement complied with applicable State laws, rules, and regulations including the State Consolidated Procurement Code, state travel regulations, etc.
 - Clerical accuracy / verify proper sales/use tax.
6. Randomly select six non-payroll disbursements and inspect supporting documentation to determine that disbursements are recorded in the proper fiscal year.

We found no exceptions as a result of the procedures.

Payroll

7. Compare current year payroll expenditures at the subfund and account level to those of the prior year. Obtain an understanding of variations over \$11,000 - General Funds, \$4,200 - Earmarked Funds and 10%.

Payroll (Continued)

8. Randomly select five employee paychecks and inspect supporting documentation during the fiscal year to:

For Salaried Employees:

- Obtain and inspect the employee's payroll and/or personnel file for various forms, communications, etc., to confirm that the person is a bona fide employee of the agency.
- Agree gross pay to supporting documentation confirming all changes to gross salary for the year. Determine that all changes have been properly approved.

For Hourly Employees:

- Obtain and inspect the employee's payroll and/or personnel file for various forms, communications, etc., to confirm that the person is a bona fide employee of the agency.
- Confirm the hourly rate and time sheets are properly approved; recalculate gross pay.

9. Randomly select five bonus pay disbursements to determine:
- Employee does not make more than \$100,000 annually.
 - Bonuses received during the year did not exceed \$3,000.
 - Transaction was appropriately documented and approved.
10. Randomly select five bonus pay disbursements authorized by the 2015-2016 Supplemental Appropriations to determine:
- Employee is a permanent state employee in a full-time equivalent position who has been in continuous state service for at least six months prior to July 1, 2015.
 - Employee does not make more than \$100,000 annually.
 - Bonus pay was split between funds according to the ratio of the employee's base salary.
11. Select all employees hired during the fiscal year to determine if they were added to the payroll in accordance with the agency's policies and procedures and that their first pay check was properly calculated in accordance with applicable State law.
12. Compare the percentage change in personal service expenditures between the current year and prior year to the percentage change in employer contributions expenditures between the current year and prior year. Obtain an explanation of changes of +/-10%.
13. Compute the percentage distribution of fringe benefit expenditures by fund source and compare to the actual distribution of recorded personal service expenditures by fund source. Obtain an explanation of changes of +/- 10%.

We found no exceptions as a result of the procedures.

Journal Entries

14. Randomly select five journal entries for the fiscal year to:
- Trace postings to the general ledger, confirming amounts agree with supporting documentation. Confirm transaction is properly approved.
 - Inspect supporting documentation to confirm the purpose of the transaction.

We found no exceptions as a result of the procedures.

Appropriation Act

15. Inspect the Appropriation Act work program, provided to and completed by management, confirming areas of noncompliance, if any.
16. Confirm compliance with agency-specific state provisos by inquiring with management and observing supporting documentation.

We found no exceptions as a result of the procedures.

Reporting Packages

17. Obtain copies of all fiscal year end reporting packages submitted to the Office of the State Comptroller General. Inspect reporting packages to:
 - Determine if preparation was in accordance with Comptroller General Office requirements.
 - Determine if amounts reported in the reporting packages agree with the supporting workpapers and accounting records.

Finding

The liability reported for compensated absences was understated by approximately \$2,400 due to the inadvertent omission of compensatory time from the reported liability.

Management's Response

The Ethics Commission has never paid out comp time to any employee during the entire time the Ethics Commission has existed. As a result, we did not recognize that we needed to account for comp time in the reports filed with the Comptroller General's Office. We have made the necessary changes to accurately report the value of any comp time that may need to be included and reported to the Comptroller General's Office in the future.

Status of Prior Findings

18. Inquire about the status of findings reported in the Accountant's Comments section of the engagement for the prior fiscal year to determine if the agency has taken appropriate corrective action.

We found no exceptions as a result of the procedures.

Minutes

19. We will inspect the Commission's approved minutes beginning with the end date of prior year fieldwork through the end of our fieldwork.

We found no other matters related to our procedures.