

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

STATE AUDITOR'S REPORT

JUNE 30, 2017



Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

October 2, 2018

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), on the systems, processes and behaviors related to financial activity of the Commission for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. The Commission's management is responsible for the systems, processes and behaviors related to financial activity. 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 either for the purpose for 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 related to financial activity 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.

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
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 variations over \$10,000 – Earmarked Funds and 10%.
2. Randomly select twenty-five cash receipts transactions and inspect supporting documentation to:
 - Agree transaction amount, date, payor, document number, and account coding to the general ledger.
 - Determine that revenues/receipts were deposited in a timely manner, in accordance with Proviso 117.1 of the Appropriation Act.
 - Ensure that both revenue collections and amounts charged are properly authorized by law.
3. Randomly select four 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 \$15,000 – General Funds, \$10,000 – 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 Commission procedures; invoice(s) agree(s) with general ledger as to vendor, amount, number, and date.
 - All supporting documents and approvals required by Commission procedures are present and agree with the invoice.
 - The transaction is a bona fide expenditure of the Commission, 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 / confirm 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 \$15,000 – General Funds, \$10,000 – Earmarked Funds and 10%.

Payroll (Continued)

8. Randomly select five employee payments 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 Commission.
- 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 Commission.
- Confirm the hourly rate and time sheets are properly approved; recalculate gross pay.

9. Haphazardly select two 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. Select all employees hired during the fiscal year to determine if they were added to the payroll in accordance with the Commission's policies and procedures and that their first pay check was properly calculated in accordance with applicable State law.

11. Select all employees who terminated employment during the fiscal year to determine if they were removed from the payroll in accordance with the Commission's policies and procedures, that the employee's last pay check was properly calculated, and that the employee's leave payout 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 variations over 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 variations over 10%.

We found no exceptions as a result of the procedures.

Journal Entries and Transfers

14. Randomly select one journal entry and four transfers 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 Commission-specific state provisos by inquiring with management and observing supporting documentation, where applicable.

We found no exceptions as a result of the procedures.

Reporting Packages

17. Obtain copies of fiscal year end reporting packages submitted to the Office of the State Comptroller General (CG). Inspect the Master Reporting Package Checklist to determine the appropriate reporting packages were prepared and submitted by the due date established by the CG's Reporting Policies and Procedures Manual.
 - Determine if preparation was in accordance with CG requirements.
 - Determine if amounts reported on the reporting packages agree with the supporting workpapers and accounting records.

We found no exceptions as a result of the procedures.

Minutes

18. 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.

Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC)

19. Select all controls identified through the South Carolina Enterprise Information System GRC system and inspect mitigating control documentation. Confirm with management the controls are operating as designed.

We found no exceptions as a result of the procedures.

Status of Prior Findings

20. Through inquiry and inspection, determine if the Commission has taken appropriate corrective action on the findings reported during the engagement for the prior fiscal year.

We found no exceptions as a result of the procedures.