WHEREAS, the cost of health care in South Carolina is increasing at an alarming rate and such increases effect access by the underinsured and uninsured individuals;

WHEREAS, the lack of a coordination of health policy initiatives and health data systems development has resulted in fragmented health data systems, insufficient to support health policy issues that include, but are not limited to escalating health care costs, increasing problems associated with access to health care, substance abuse, and chronic care issues, particularly as they concern our aging population;

WHEREAS, policy-making recommendations are developing in both public and private entities, and these entities may not always be aware of the data necessary to support their policy initiatives, data currently available, or the data system enhancements that would increase the usefulness of data in health policy development;
NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the powers conferred upon me by the Constitution and laws of the State of South Carolina, I hereby establish the Governor's Steering Committee on Health Policy and Data Integration. The Steering Committee shall be housed and staffed within the Division of Research and Statistical Services, State Budget and Control Board.

The members of the Steering Committee shall be primary users and analysts of health data. The Steering Committee shall be advisory to the lead agency in planning and implementing comprehensive health statistics system improvements. Membership of the Steering Committee shall consist of a representative from each of the following: the Governor's Office; the Joint Legislative Health Care Planning and Oversight Committee; the Budget and Control Board; the South Carolina Health Policy Council; and the Human Services Coordinating Council. The Governor's Office representative shall act as Chairman.

Operating within existing resources, and as additional resources become available, the specific powers, duties and responsibilities of the Steering Committee shall include:

1. A comprehensive review of the State's health information needs in support of health policy development and program management;

2. Response to major policy issues as determine by the Governor and the Steering Committee by developing data systems necessary to support, monitor, and evaluate these health policy initiatives and related questions;

3. Prioritize data system improvements identified by the Steering Committee on the basis of the urgency of the data need, cost benefit of the improvement, and the time needed to make the improvement.
4. Prepare a five-year health data system improvement plan with two-year and five-year goals to be reported annually to the Governor and the Legislature;

5. Develop a specific detailed proposal for enhancing existing data systems or for creating new systems to meet high priority health information needs;

6. Recommend to the Governor and the Legislature within 24 months a formalized method for on-going review, coordination, communication enhancement, and data system improvement and integration with health policy development; and

7. Develop a system of communication and coordination among the health committees of the Legislature, the Office of the Governor, and the various state agencies and their boards and commissions in an effort to identify health policy data needs as early in the policy development process as possible.

To assist the Steering Committee in completing its tasks will be an Interagency Working Group to work in conjunction with the Steering Committee composed of a representative from each of the following agencies: the Health and Human Services Finance Commission; the Department of Health and Environmental Control; the Department of Mental Health; the Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; the Commission on Higher Education; the Department of Insurance; the Department of Social Services; the Commission on Aging; the South Carolina Medical Association; the South Carolina Hospital Association; the Department of Youth Services; the Department of Corrections; the Commission for the Blind; the Children's Foster Care Review Board; Continuum of Care for Emotionally Disturbed Children; the State Department of Education; the Guardian Ad Litem Program; the Department of Probation, Parole, and
Pardon Services; the Medical University of South Carolina; the Department of Mental Retardation; the School for the Deaf and Blind; the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation; the University of South Carolina Institute of Public Affairs; the State Board of Nursing; persons representing the insurance industry and consumer interest to be selected by the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee, with approval of the Governor, shall have the authority: 1) to assign respective agency staff resources to the Steering Committee when necessary to assess and prepare matter which may come before the Steering Committee, 2) to apply for, receive and administer funds which are, or may become, available from both public and private sources for programs and initiatives pertaining to improving linkages between health policy and health data systems as the stipulations of the funding source might permit; and 3) to expand its membership by a majority vote.

The Steering Committee shall have its first meeting on or about October 1, 1991 and shall complete its work by December 31, 1993, at which time the Executive Order shall sunset.