



SCCID

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE

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MEMORANDUM TO:

The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor of South Carolina
The Honorable Harvey S. Peeler, Jr, Chm. Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Bruce W. Bannister, Chm. House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense

DATE: 17 January 2025

RE: Proviso 117.166

The Commission on Indigent Defense provided an initial report on 19 July 2024 outlining the information required in accordance with Proviso 117.166 of the FY 24-25 General Appropriations Act (H 5100).

The proviso further requires that “after the initial report is submitted, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination and the Commission on Indigent Defense shall provide semiannual progress updates” on current number of warrants pending.

The warrants pending as of January 1, 2025, are as follows:

1. Warrants pending/disposed as of 7/1/2023, 7/1/2024 and as of 1/1/2025 by Circuit/ County Public Defender Offices. (Exhibit 1)
2. Steps taken to retain employees. Attached Exhibit 2 reflects the substantial increases received by public defenders due to increased funding. Pay increases have been critical in hiring and retaining public defenders. (Exhibit 2)
3. Statewide recruitment and retention data reflecting Public Defender office hires and other personnel data. (Exhibit 3)
4. Exhibit 4 reflects the continued progress by public defenders in reducing the number of pending warrants from a Pandemic high of 123,124 to 105,029 and warrants over a year old from 64,983 to 49,856 (Exhibit 4).

Statewide Pending General Sessions Warrants as of January 1, 2025
Public Defender Data ¹
Pursuant to Proviso 117.170, 2024-2025 SC Appropriations Act, Part 1B

Circuit/County	FY 24 Pending Warrants July 1, 2023	FY 25 Pending Warrants July 1, 2024	FY 25 Pending Warrants as of January 1, 2025				Warrants Disposed of FY 25 as of January 1, 2025
			FY 25 Pending Warrants	FY 25 Warrants Pending Aged 365 or Less	FY 25 Warrants Pending Aged 366-544 Days	FY 25 Warrants Pending Aged 545 Days or More	
1st Circuit							
Calhoun	215	236	240	131	12	97	158
Dorchester	2,581	1,611	1,592	932	192	468	1,538
Orangeburg	1,681	1,943	1,721	925	167	629	1,241
Circuit Totals	4,477	3,790	3,553	1,988	371	1,194	2,937
2nd Circuit							
Aiken	2,926	3,723	3,874	1,739	525	1,610	2,100
Bamberg	373	407	495	263	65	167	144
Barnwell	674	899	810	333	108	369	421
Circuit Totals	3,973	5,029	5,179	2,335	698	2,146	2,665
3rd Circuit							
Clarendon	468	442	452	285	46	121	300
Lee	270	283	320	167	40	113	142
Sumter	2,982	3,336	3,563	1,334	398	1,831	1,105
Williamsburg	515	530	628	343	77	208	273
Circuit Totals	4,235	4,591	4,963	2,129	561	2,273	1,820
4th Circuit							
Chesterfield	2,767	1,251	1,178	535	151	492	850
Darlington	1,941	1,888	1,933	882	235	816	949
Dillon	598	364	488	282	57	149	270
Marlboro	813	469	626	339	84	203	278
Circuit Totals	6,119	3,972	4,225	2,038	527	1,660	2,347
5th Circuit							
Kershaw	2,022	2,440	2,244	828	239	1,177	1,065
Richland	10,326	11,749	11,058	5,676	1,464	3,918	7,331
Circuit Totals	12,348	14,189	13,302	6,504	1,703	5,095	8,396

Exhibit 1

1) Data reflects warrants handled by Public Defender offices,
as compiled by SCCID Defender Data System (Case Management).

Statewide Pending General Sessions Warrants as of January 1, 2025
Public Defender Data ¹
Pursuant to Proviso 117.170, 2024-2025 SC Appropriations Act, Part 1B

Circuit/County	FY 24 Pending Warrants July 1, 2023	FY 25 Pending Warrants July 1, 2024	FY 25 Pending Warrants as of January 1, 2025				Warrants Disposed of FY 25 as of January 1, 2025
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6th Circuit							
Chester	796	820	821	383	118	320	422
Fairfield	494	431	466	230	78	158	262
Lancaster	3,079	4,226	4,170	1,419	585	2,166	1,667
Circuit Totals	4,369	5,477	5,457	2,032	781	2,644	2,351
7th Circuit							
Cherokee	1,619	1,547	1,480	720	254	506	814
Spartanburg	5,970	5,288	5,360	2,983	692	1,685	3,512
Circuit Totals	7,589	6,835	6,840	3,703	946	2,191	4,326
8th Circuit							
Abbeville	787	543	549	251	60	238	282
Greenwood	2,836	2,523	2,398	1,224	344	830	1,506
Laurens	3,102	2,793	2,757	1,052	450	1,255	1,479
Newberry	773	718	699	338	155	206	393
Circuit Totals	7,498	6,577	6,403	2,865	1,009	2,529	3,660
9th Circuit							
Berkeley	2,631	3,317	3,183	1,503	435	1,245	1,603
Charleston	13,359	7,973	8,582	4,476	971	3,135	3,034
Circuit Totals	15,990	11,290	11,765	5,979	1,406	4,380	4,637
10th Circuit							
Anderson	1,723	2,221	2,332	1,657	272	403	2,525
Oconee	1,852	1,667	1,766	1,024	302	440	1,360
Circuit Totals	3,575	3,888	4,098	2,681	574	843	3,885
11th Circuit							
Edgefield	816	374	315	198	39	78	267
Lexington	3,586	3,519	3,284	2,136	342	806	3,226
McCormick	450	112	130	103	7	20	95
Saluda	415	132	134	89	15	30	132
Circuit Totals	5,267	4,137	3,863	2,526	403	934	3,720

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			FY 25 Pending Warrants	FY 25 Warrants Pending Aged 365 or Less	FY 25 Warrants Pending Aged 366-544 Days	FY 25 Warrants Pending Aged 545 Days or More	
12th Circuit							
Florence	4,120	4,087	4,340	2,215	500	1,625	1,676
Marion	615	734	719	363	104	252	344
Circuit Totals	4,735	4,821	5,059	2,578	604	1,877	2,020
13th Circuit							
Greenville	9,137	9,652	10,831	7,241	1,392	2,198	7,274
Pickens	2,073	2,485	2,438	1,512	403	523	1,687
Circuit Totals	11,210	12,137	13,269	8,753	1,795	2,721	8,961
14th Circuit							
Allendale	329	151	80	33	19	28	132
Beaufort	3,620	3,877	3,149	1,004	394	1,751	2,270
Colleton	1,352	1,086	845	381	117	347	847
Hampton	646	552	481	191	63	227	397
Jasper	959	1,089	899	348	134	417	670
Circuit Totals	6,906	6,755	5,454	1,957	727	2,770	4,316
15th Circuit							
Georgetown	918	645	675	499	88	88	625
Horry	6,359	6,075	6,466	3,751	925	1,790	4,377
Circuit Totals	7,277	6,720	7,141	4,250	1,013	1,878	5,002
16th Circuit							
Union	905	925	973	503	100	370	387
York	3,771	3,475	3,485	2,352	276	857	4,519
Circuit Totals	4,676	4,400	4,458	2,855	376	1,227	4,906
Statewide Total	110,244	104,608	105,029	55,173	13,494	36,362	65,949

Exhibit 1

1) Data reflects warrants handled by Public Defender offices,
as compiled by SCCID Defender Data System (Case Management).



PUBLIC DEFENDER SALARY COMPARISON FY22-23 TO FY23-24 (AVERAGE AND MEDIAN SALARIES FTE ONLY)

FY 22-23					
Values	Less than 3 Years	3-5 Years	Experience 6-10 Years	11+ Years	All Years
(#) Total Attorneys	96	44	56	64	260
CURRENT STATEWIDE AVERAGE SALARY FOR EACH EXPERIENCE LEVEL	\$64,190.54	\$70,107.49	\$75,629.97	\$87,756.46	\$73,456.59
CURRENT STATEWIDE MEDIAN SALARY FOR EACH EXPERIENCE LEVEL	\$62,843.00	\$67,648.80	\$75,025.39	\$87,286.50	\$69,826.00
FY 23-24					
Values	Less than 3 Years	3-5 Years	Experience 6-10 Years	11+ Years	All Years
(#) Total Attorneys	57	46	58	84	245
CURRENT STATEWIDE AVERAGE SALARY FOR EACH EXPERIENCE LEVEL	\$74,876.49	\$83,111.57	\$93,264.40	\$109,906.96	\$92,786.17
<i>Difference from FY23</i>	<i>\$10,685.95</i>	<i>\$13,004.08</i>	<i>\$17,634.43</i>	<i>\$22,150.50</i>	<i>\$19,329.58</i>
CURRENT STATEWIDE MEDIAN SALARY FOR EACH EXPERIENCE LEVEL	\$74,596.61	\$81,170.28	\$92,677.00	\$108,181.00	\$90,000.00
<i>Difference from FY23</i>	<i>\$11,753.61</i>	<i>\$13,521.48</i>	<i>\$17,651.62</i>	<i>\$20,894.50</i>	<i>\$20,174.00</i>



SCCID PUBLIC DEFENDER TOTALS COMPARISON OF 6/30/2024 AND 1/1/2025

Circuit	County	Position	PD Totals as of June 30, 2024				PD Totals as of January 1, 2025			
			FTE	PTE	CONTRACT	Grand Totals	FTE	PTE	CONTRACT	Grand Totals
1	Calhoun	Public Defender	0	1	2	2.5	0	1	2	2.5
	Dorchester	Public Defender	7	1	1	8.5	7	1	2	9.5
	Orangeburg	Public Defender	4	1	4	8.5	5	1	4	9.5
		Totals	11	1.5	7	19.5	12	1.5	8	21.5
2	Aiken	Public Defender	12	0	6	18	13	0	5	18
	Bamberg	Public Defender	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
	Barnwell	Public Defender	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
		Totals	14	0	6	20	15	0	5	20
3	Clarendon	Public Defender	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2
	Lee	Public Defender	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
	Sumter	Public Defender	7	0	3	10	7	0	2	9
	Williamsburg	Public Defender	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
		Totals	9	0	5	14	9	0	5	14



SCCID PUBLIC DEFENDER TOTALS COMPARISON OF 6/30/2024 AND 1/1/2025

Circuit	County	Position	PD Totals as of June 30, 2024				PD Totals as of January 1, 2025			
			FTE	PTE	CONTRACT	Grand Totals	FTE	PTE	CONTRACT	Grand Totals
4	Chesterfield	Public Defender	2	0	1	3	2	0	3	5
	Darlington	Public Defender	2	0	2	4	2	1	2	4.5
	Dillon	Public Defender	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	2
	Marlboro	Public Defender	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	1
		Totals	6	0	4	10	5	0.5	7	12.5
5	Kershaw	Public Defender	5	0	1	6	5	0	0	5
	Richland	Public Defender	26	0	7	33	41	0	8	49
		Totals	31	0	8	39	46	0	8	54
6	Chester	Public Defender	1	0	3	4	2	1	5	7.5
	Fairfield	Public Defender	1	0	2	3	1	1	3	4.5
	Lancaster	Public Defender	4	0	3	7	7	0	3	10
		Totals	6	0	8	14	10	1	11	22



SCCID PUBLIC DEFENDER TOTALS COMPARISON OF 6/30/2024 AND 1/1/2025

Circuit	County	Position	PD Totals as of June 30, 2024				PD Totals as of January 1, 2025			
			FTE	PTE	CONTRACT	Grand Totals	FTE	PTE	CONTRACT	Grand Totals
7	Cherokee	Public Defender	2	0	2	4	3	0	2	5
	Spartanburg	Public Defender	9	0	6	15	15	5	1	18.5
		Totals	11	0	8	19	18	2.5	3	23.5
8	Abbeville	Public Defender	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	2.5
	Greenwood	Public Defender	4	0	1	5	4	1	1	5.5
	Laurens	Public Defender	4	0	1	5	3	1	1	4.5
	Newberry	Public Defender	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	2
		Totals	9	0	3	12	8	1.5	5	14.5
9	Berkeley	Public Defender	9	0	1	10	10	0	1	11
	Charleston	Public Defender	28	4	0	30	31	4	2	35
		Totals	37	2	1	40	41	2	3	46



SCCID PUBLIC DEFENDER TOTALS COMPARISON OF 6/30/2024 AND 1/1/2025

Circuit	County	Position	PD Totals as of June 30, 2024				PD Totals as of January 1, 2025			
			FTE	PTE	CONTRACT	Grand Totals	FTE	PTE	CONTRACT	Grand Totals
10	Anderson	Public Defender	9	0	4	13	9	0	5	14
	Oconee	Public Defender	4	0	3	7	4	0	3	7
		Totals	13	0	7	20	13	0	8	21
11	Edgefield	Public Defender	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
	Lexington	Public Defender	9	0	0	9	16	0	0	16
	McCormick	Public Defender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Saluda	Public Defender	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
		Totals	10	0	0	10	18	0	0	18
12	Florence	Public Defender	9	3	2	12.5	9	3	0	10.5
	Marion	Public Defender	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
		Totals	10	1.5	2	13.5	10	1.5	0	11.5
13	Greenville	Public Defender	22	0	4	26	25	0	6	31
	Pickens	Public Defender	6	0	2	8	6	0	3	9
		Totals	28	0	6	34	31	0	9	40



SCCID PUBLIC DEFENDER TOTALS COMPARISON OF 6/30/2024 AND 1/1/2025

Circuit	County	Position	PD Totals as of June 30, 2024				PD Totals as of January 1, 2025			
			FTE	PTE	CONTRACT	Grand Totals	FTE	PTE	CONTRACT	Grand Totals
14	Allendale	Public Defender	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
	Beaufort	Public Defender	11	0	4	15	12	0	4	16
	Colleton	Public Defender	3	0	1	4	4	0	1	5
	Hampton	Public Defender	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	2
	Jasper	Public Defender	3	0	2	5	3	0	0	3
		Totals	19	0	8	27	21	0	6	27
15	Georgetown	Public Defender	3	0	2	5	3	0	3	6
	Horry	Public Defender	8	0	4	12	9	0	4	13
		Totals	11	0	6	17	12	0	7	19
16	Union	Public Defender	3	0	0	3	3	0	0	3
	York	Public Defender	18	0	0	18	22	0	0	22
		Totals	21	0	0	21	25	0	0	25
Grand Total			246	5	79	330	294	10.5	85	389.5
Total Filled Positions			330				389.5			



SCCID PUBLIC DEFENDER GENERAL SESSIONS PENDING WARRANTS

SCCID Pending Warrants for FY2021 (Full Pandemic); FY2022 (Post Pandemic); FY2023; FY2024 and FY2025 (7/1/2024 to 12/31/2024)

