

Agency Name:	Public Service Commission		
Agency Code:	R040	Section:	72



**Fiscal Year FY 2025-2026**

## Agency Budget Plan

### FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

#### OPERATING REQUESTS

(FORM B1)

For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

#### NON-RECURRING REQUESTS

(FORM B2)

For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

#### CAPITAL REQUESTS

(FORM C)

For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

#### PROVISOS

(FORM D)

For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
<b>PRIMARY CONTACT:</b>	Jocelyn Boyd	(803) 727-3589	jocelyn.boyd@psc.sc.gov
<b>SECONDARY CONTACT:</b>	Amanda Golebiowski	(803) 896-0254	amanda.golebiowski@psc.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2025-2026 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

<b>SIGN/DATE:</b>	<u>Agency Director</u> Jocelyn Boyd / 9/26/2024	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
<b>TYPE/PRINT NAME:</b>	Jocelyn Boyd	

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

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**FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST**

<b>NUMBER</b>	NEW
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*Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").*

<b>TITLE</b>	Avoided Cost Experts
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*Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.*

<b>BUDGET PROGRAM</b>	1502.000000.000 Administration
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*Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.*

<b>RELATED BUDGET REQUEST</b>	
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*Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2025-2026? If so, cite it here.*

<b>REQUESTED ACTION</b>	Add
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*Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.*

<b>OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED</b>	None
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*Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?*

<b>SUMMARY &amp; EXPLANATION</b>	<p>We received a Special Appropriation of \$250,000 in the General Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 in Proviso 118.19(52) for the South Carolina Integration Study, which will not be moving forward at this time pursuant to Commission Order No. 2024-419 dated June 17, 2024. The Public Service Commission would like to use this funding for third-party avoided cost consultants and experts that are required and must be hired every other year pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(I).</p>
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*Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.*

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The Public Service Commission is requesting authorization to use and expend funds authorized in General Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Proviso 118.19(52) (South Carolina Integration Study - \$250,000) for expenses incurred for third-party avoided cost consultants and experts employed through contract or otherwise and retained pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(I). Without the use of the special appropriation funds, the Public Service Commission will have to request these funds for the avoided cost consultants and experts from another authorized source or fund the consultants out of its existing Other fund budget.

*Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.*

**PROPOSED  
PROVISO TEXT**

The Public Service Commission is authorized to use and expend funds authorized in the General Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Proviso 118.19(52) (South Carolina Integration Study - \$250,000) for expenses incurred for third-party avoided cost consultants and experts employed through contract or otherwise and retained pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(I). This appropriation is reassigned for the Public Service Commission to use these funds to pay for the third-party avoided cost consultants and experts employed through contract or otherwise.

*Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.*

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FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION

CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Cost Savings on Office Supplies
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AMOUNT	<div>\$40</div> <div>What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.</div>
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ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	<div>N/A</div> <div>How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?</div>
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PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	<div>Administration</div> <div>What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?</div>
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SUMMARY	<div> <div> The Public Service Commission will reduce office supplies expenses to cover an anticipated 3% reduction. This 3% reduction in office supplies expenses will not affect the Commission's ongoing operations. </div> <div> The Commission's method of calculation for anticipated reductions is to multiply our general fund appropriations by 3%. </div> </div>
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# AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

N/A	
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*What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?*

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## FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

<b>TITLE</b>	Live streaming with WebEx Capabilities for Commission Hearings, Business Meetings, and Public Interviews for Qualified, Independent Third-Party Consultants and Experts
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS</b>	Live Streaming with WebEx Capabilities for Commission hearings, business meetings and public interviews for qualified, independent third party consultants and experts saves businesses and citizens time as well as cost of traveling to and from the Commission located in Columbia. The savings will vary depending on how far a business or citizen would have to travel to attend a hearing, business meeting, or public interview.
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*What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Repeal or revision of regulations. <input type="checkbox"/> Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden. <input type="checkbox"/> Other
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<b>METHOD OF CALCULATION</b>	The method of determining the savings would be at a rate of 67 cents per automobile mile plus the hourly rate of the business employee or citizen multiplied by the hours attending as well as traveling to and from the hearing/meeting.
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*Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.*

<b>REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES</b>	N/A
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*Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?*

<b>REDUCTION OF REGULATION</b>	N/A
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*Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?*

	<p>The travel cost burden to businesses and citizens is being eliminated so more businesses and citizens can listen to and participate in, as needed, hearings, business meetings and public interviews for qualified, independent third party consultants or experts. The result is more businesses and citizens can be informed and/or participate in Commission proceedings. The Commission has used live streaming since Covid-19 in FY2020 and has continued to seek opportunities to improve and enhance the virtual experience in Commission proceedings. After the severity of Covid-19 declined substantially, many attorneys and witnesses choose to appear in person. However, the aforementioned virtual options are still extended by the Commission and are often utilized. The table below shows the number of virtual and audio participants in the Commission's proceedings in FY2022 through FY2024.</p>				
	<b>Public Service Commission Proceedings</b>  <b>Virtual &amp; Audio Participants</b>  <b>Fiscal Year '23-24</b>	<b>Hearings/Proceedings Before Commission(ers)</b>			
	<b>Month</b>	<b>Hearing Examiner Proceedings Incl'g Forums &amp; Workshops (total virtual participants)</b>	<b>Witnesses/ Other Participants</b>	<b>Counsel/ Rep's</b>	<b>Total</b>
	Jul-23	13	2	4	19

Aug-23	0	35	3	38
Sep-23	1	3	4	8
Oct-23	0	4	3	7
Nov-23	4	7	13	24
Dec-23	0	0	5	5
Jan-24	0	0	0	0
Feb-24	0	20	4	24
Mar-24	0	0	0	0
Apr-24	0	0	0	0
May-24	0	0	0	0
Jun-24	3	1	5	9
<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>134</b>

<b>Public Service Commission Proceedings</b>				
<b>Virtual &amp; Audio Participants</b>	<b>Hearings/Proceedings Before Commission(ers)</b>			
<b>Fiscal Year 2022-23</b>				
<b>Month</b>	<b>Hearing Examiner Proceedings Incl'g Forums &amp; Workshops (total virtual participants)</b>	<b>Witnesses/ Other Participants</b>	<b>Counsel/ Rep's</b>	<b>Total</b>
Jul-22	2	8	12	22
August-22	6	10	0	16
September-22	2	13	1	16
October-22	0	12	7	19
November-22	6	25	5	36
December-22	7	0	0	7
January-23	0	24	7	31
February-23	0	3	2	5
March-23	2	5	4	11
April-23	0	15	3	18
May-23	1	0	0	1
June-23	1	3	9	13
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>195</b>

## SUMMARY

<b>Public Service Commission Proceedings</b>				
<b>Virtual &amp; Audio Participants</b>	<b>Hearings/Proceedings Before Commission(ers)</b>			
<b>Fiscal Year 2021-22</b>				
<b>Month</b>	<b>Proceedings Incl'g Forums &amp; Workshops (Total virtual participants)</b>	<b>Witnesses/ Presenters</b>	<b>Counsel/ Rep's</b>	<b>Total</b>
July 2021	0	28	42	70
August 2021	5	18	93	116
September 2021	6	20	38	64
October 2021	0	16	56	72
November 2021	0	22	35	57
December 2021	0	0	0	0
January 2022	7	6	9	22

February 2022	6	1	2	9
March 2022	12	5	8	25
April 2022	4	4	8	16
May 2022	3	11	16	30
June 2022	35	1	0	36
<b>Totals</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>517</b>

Live streaming the Commission's proceedings has substantially increased the visibility of the Commission's business by allowing citizens and businesses to view proceedings as they occur or even watch at a later time. Live stream viewer traffic data are shown in the table below for FY 2020 - FY 2024

<b>PSC Livestream Viewer Traffic</b>					
	<b>Total Events (FY 2019-2020)</b>	<b>Total Events (FY 2020-2021)</b>	<b>Total Events (FY 2021-2022)</b>	<b>Total Events FY (2022-2023)</b>	<b>Total Events (FY 2023-2024)</b>
<b>July</b>		877	1,258	480	2,330
<b>August</b>		517	1,535	828	6,375
<b>September</b>	399	518	656	836	4,145
<b>October</b>	1,913	1,228	954	1,096	2,511
<b>November</b>	1,542	1,542	1,726	1,107	1,116
<b>December</b>	724	777	331	178	3,130
<b>January</b>	375	3,433	308	1,176	650
<b>February</b>	804	1,771	280	287	1,360
<b>March</b>	777	2,742	403	161	613
<b>April</b>	336	2,467	771	2,145	511
<b>May</b>	545	1,046	857	857	5,345
<b>June</b>	567	1,100	2,341	2,341	1,576
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,982</b>	<b>18,018</b>	<b>11,420</b>	<b>11,492</b>	<b>29,662</b>
*SCETV updated its livestream data portal during the year and is now reporting data for the entirety of FY 2022-2023. Numbers have been updated to reflect historical data.					

*Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?*