

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC COUNSEL OVERSIGHT

Senator Bradley, Alternating Chair

Representative Smith, Alternating Chair

MEETING DATE: Monday, February 17, 2025

TIME: 3:30—5:30 p.m.

PLACE: *Toni Jennings Committee Room*, 110 Senate Building

SENATE MEMBERS: Senator Bradley, Alternating Chair; Senators Arrington, Burgess, Calatayud, Gruters, Ingoglia, and Osgood

HOUSE MEMBERS: Representative Smith, Alternating Chair; Representatives Albert, Alvarez, J., Gentry, Gerwig, Griffiths, and Rosenwald

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
		Selection of Public Counsel for next term.	
	Other Related Meeting Documents		



THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION

Human Resources
Suite 701, Claude Pepper Building
111 W. Madison Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400
(850) 488-6803 • FAX (850) 488-0780
olshrs@leg.state.fl.us



APPLICANT INFORMATION

NAME (Last, First, Middle) Trierweiler, Walt L.	(Prior)	HOME / CELLULAR TELEPHONE [REDACTED]
MAILING ADDRESS [REDACTED]		BUSINESS TELEPHONE (850) 717-0326
CITY, STATE, COUNTY, ZIP Tallahassee, FL, Leon County, 32309		EMAIL ADDRESS trierweiler.walt@leg.state.fl.us
POSITION APPLIED FOR: <u>Public Counsel</u>		
DATE AVAILABLE: <u>March 1, 2025</u> COUNTY PREFERENCE: <u>Leon</u>		

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Please initial each of the three statements below to acknowledge you have read and understand before submitting your application for employment.

FRS RETIREES

The Florida Legislature is a participating employer in the Florida Retirement System (FRS). Applicants who previously retired or have taken a distribution from the FRS may be reemployed by an FRS employer only after satisfying certain required waiting periods connected with the Investment or Pension Plans. If you have previously retired or taken a distribution from the FRS, please contact the FRS at [1-866-446-9377 (TRS 711)] regarding the waiting periods. WLT

OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

A candidate hired by the Florida Legislature is required to obtain prior approval for outside employment. If your request for approval is denied, you will have to resign from your outside employment in order to remain employed by the Legislature. WLT

EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS

Employees of the Florida Legislature are subject to the provisions of Section 11.26, Florida Statutes. Certain positions within the Legislature may also be subject to the post-employment prohibitions described in Section 112.313(9) which applies employment restrictions for two years after Legislative employment. WLT

EDUCATION

Pursuant to Joint Policy and to verify education, once employed you must submit an official college transcript reflecting the highest level of education and/or coursework completed or conferment of degree to Human Resources.

INDICATE highest grade completed:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

GED

College

1 2 3 4 5

Graduate School

SCHOOL	DID YOU GRADUATE?		NAME AND ADDRESS	MAJOR / MINOR	DEGREE RECEIVED	MONTH/ YEAR GRADUATED	IF NO DEGREE, # OF HRS. EARNED	
	YES	NO					QTR	SEM
High School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	James S. Ricards High School 3013 Jim Lee Road, Tallahassee, FL	High School Diploma				
College/ University	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Florida State University	Political Science/Military Science	Bachelor of Science	April, 1984		
Graduate/ Professional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Florida State University College of Law	Law	Juris Doctor	May, 1991		
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The University of Virginia School of Law	Law	Master of Law	May, 2004		

LICENSES • CERTIFICATIONS • SPECIAL SKILLS

Please indicate typing, computer/word-processing skills, foreign language proficiency, professional or occupational licensure you currently possess. Please provide a copy of certifications and licensures with the application.

Has any disciplinary action ever been taken against your certificate or license? YES NO

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Describe your work experience in detail, beginning with your current or most recent job. Include military service (indicate rank) and job-related volunteer work, if applicable. Use a separate block to describe each position or gap in employment. If needed, attach additional sheets, using the same format as on the application.

****All information in this section must be completed. Resumes may be attached to provide additional information but completion of this form is required.****

Present or Most Recent Employer

If currently employed, may we contact your employer? Yes No

Employer: Florida Legislature Office of Public Counsel Supervisor: _____

Address: 111 W. Madison Street, Suite 812 Supervisor's Title: _____

City, State, Zip: Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-1400 Phone number: (850) 717-0326

Employment Dates: May / 1 / 2023 to current / /
MONTH DAY YEAR MONTH DAY YEAR

Hours per week: 40-50 Check box if Volunteer work: Ending Salary: \$135,204

Position Title: Public Counsel

Primary Duties: Provide legal representation for the people of the State of Florida in proceedings before the Public Service Commission. Led the litigation teams who achieved the favorable Duke Energy Florida settlement and tried the Tampa Electric Company, Peoples Gas, and other smaller rate cases.

Reason for leaving or seeking other employment:

Next Previous Employer

Employer: Florida Public Service Commission Supervisor: Keith C. Hetrick

Address: 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Supervisor's Title: General Counsel

City, State, Zip: Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0850 Phone number: (850) 413-6189

Employment Dates: June / 13 / 2016 to April / 22 / 2023
MONTH DAY YEAR MONTH DAY YEAR

Hours per week: 40-50 Check box if Volunteer work: Ending Salary: \$75,979

Position Title: Senior Attorney

Primary Duties: I have litigated six large rate cases as the Lead Attorney for Commission Staff. In one docket, we consolidated 27 water and wastewater utilities. I have also served as lead for: the 2022 Storm Protection Plan dockets, Florida's largest solar programs, a contested territorial dispute, storm costs recovery cases, the Conservation Clause, and staff assisted water and wastewater cases. I also mentor our new litigation attorneys and law clerks.

Reason for leaving or seeking other employment: I sought appointment as the Public Counsel with the Office of Public Counsel, which represented an excellent opportunity, commensurate with my skills and experience, to continue to serve the citizens of the State of Florida in a position of greater responsibility.

Next Previous Employer

Employer: Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation Supervisor: Patrick Cunningham

Address: 2601 Blairstone Road Supervisor's Title: Deputy General Counsel

City, State, Zip: Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0027 Phone number: (850) 488-8500

Employment Dates: May / 27 / 2011 to June / 11 / 2016
MONTH DAY YEAR MONTH DAY YEAR

Hours per week: 40-50 Check box if Volunteer work: Ending Salary: \$55,728

Position Title: Senior Attorney

Primary Duties: As the Senior Prosecutor for Community Association Managers, I eliminated a large case backlog by 84%. As Prosecutor for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco for N. Florida, I led joint prosecutions and disciplinary proceedings for license violations involving the sale of synthetic marijuana and tax fraud. As a Condominium Attorney, I handled licensing issues and complaints. Other supervisors: DBPR Secretary, Ken Lawson & Joe Helton.

Reason for leaving or seeking other employment: To accept a position of greater responsibility at the PSC.

Next Previous Employer

Employer: The Cicchetti Law Firm Supervisor: Tammy Cicchetti
Address: 1709 Hermitage Blvd. Supervisor's Title: Partner/Owner
City, State, Zip: Tallahassee, Florida, 32308 Phone number: (850) 671-1890
Employment Dates: May / 1 / 2008 to Feb. / 28 / 2011
Hours per week: 50-60 Check box if Volunteer work: Ending Salary: \$85,000
Position Title: Litigation Attorney
Primary Duties: Litigated personal injury and wrongful death cases involving premises, commercial carrier, and auto liability claims for insurance defense firm representing GEICO, Travelers, Farm Bureau, and USAA. Responsible for conducting pretrial discovery, depositions, motions, and jury trials.

Reason for leaving or seeking other employment: When Ms. Cicchetti announced the need to reduce her staff of five attorneys and to increase the work hours for those who stayed, I volunteered to be the first to go. I was grateful for the experience, but found the work unfulfilling. I wanted to return to government service.

Next Previous Employer

Employer: U. S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps Supervisor: Colonel Charles D. Hayes, Jr., U.S. Army
Address: U. S. Army Claims Service, 4411 Llewellyn Avenue Supervisor's Title: Chief, Tort Claims Division
City, State, Zip: Fort George G Meade, Maryland, 20755 Phone number: (301) 677-7009
Employment Dates: Feb. / 1 / 1992 to May / 1 / 2008
Hours per week: 40-50 Check box if Volunteer work: Ending Salary: \$86,908
Position Title: Chief, U. S. Tort Claims Section
Primary Duties: My JAG career reflected the normal progression of supervisory roles of increasing responsibility to include: Chief, U.S. Torts; Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, U. S. Army Mil. District of Washington/JTF-NCR; Center Judge Advocate, Walter Reed Army Medical Center; Senior Defense Counsel, Germany; Procurement Fraud Lit./Pentagon 9/11 Response Cell; Chief, MILOPS, and Chief, Criminal Law, Army Central Command.

Reason for leaving or seeking other employment: After 20 years of combined active service, I retired as Lieutenant Colonel. I moved back home to Tallahassee with my family and accepted a position in an Insurance Defense Litigation firm.

Next Previous Employer

Employer: Young, van Assenderp, and Anderson, P.A. Supervisor: Roy Young and Ken van Assenderp
Address: 225 S. Adams Street, Suite 200 Supervisor's Title: Senior Partners
City, State, Zip: Tallahassee, Florida 32302 Phone number: (850) 222-7206
Employment Dates: Sept. / 9 / 1989 to Jan. / 31 / 1992
Hours per week: 20-40 Check box if Volunteer work: Ending Salary: \$40,000
Position Title: Law clerk while in law school and then as a full-time associate until I could return to the Army as a JAG.
Primary Duties: Conducted legal and legislative history searches, and prepared legal documents in support of the permitting and development of large planned communities and commercial properties throughout Florida. Terrific attorneys and staff. Great job experience.

Reason for leaving or seeking other employment: I returned to the U. S. Army as a JAG Captain.

RELATIVES

Please list the names and relationships of relatives* who are a member of the Legislature, a legislative employee, a lobbyist, a member of the Florida Cabinet or the Governor, a key Cabinet aide, the head of an executive branch department or an appointed secretary or executive director.

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Office: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Office: _____

*"Relative" is defined as: Father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or half-sister.

LEGAL HISTORY

A criminal history record check will be conducted prior to hiring.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OR PLED NOLO CONTENDERE TO A FELONY OR A FIRST DEGREE MISDEMEANOR? A conviction includes a plea of guilty, a guilty verdict, or finding of guilt, regardless of whether the sentence is imposed or adjudication is withheld. YES NO

If "YES", what were the charges?

Where were you convicted (city and state)? _____

Date of Conviction: _____

A "YES" answer to this question will not automatically bar you from employment. The nature, job-relatedness, severity and date of the offense in relation to the position for which you are applying are considered [see §112.011, F.S.].

REFERENCES

Please list three references excluding relatives and former employers. Include the name, phone number, and email address.

Name	Phone	Email
1. Judge L. Clayton "Clay" Roberts	██████████	██████@██████
2. Commissioner Julie Brown	██████████	██████@██████
3. Mr. Scott McPherson, former CO-CIO	██████████	██████████@██████

EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY

The Florida Legislature hires only U.S. citizens and lawfully authorized alien workers. If hired you will be required to provide identification and either proof of citizenship or proof of authorization to work in the U.S.

Are you legally eligible to work in the United States? YES NO

EXEMPTION FROM PUBLIC RECORDS DISCLOSURE

Are you a current or former law enforcement officer, other covered employee**, or the spouse or child of one, whose information is exempt from public records disclosure under section 119.071(4)(d), Florida Statutes? YES NO

**Other covered jobs include but are not limited to: correctional and correctional probation officers, firefighters, certain judges, assistant state attorneys, state attorneys, assistant and statewide prosecutors, personnel of the Department of Revenue or local governments whose responsibilities include revenue collection and enforcement or child support enforcement, and certain investigators in the Department of Children and Families [see§ 119.071.F.S.].

SELECTIVE SERVICE

Section 110,1128, Florida Statutes, prohibits employment by the State (including re-hire after a break in service) of any male born after October 1, 1962, who failed to register with the Selective Service System, under the provisions of the U.S. Military Selective Service Act, during the person's period of eligibility (ages 18 through 25). Additionally, if currently employed by the State, this law prohibits the promotion of such person.

IF YOU ARE A MALE BORN AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1962, HAVE YOU REGISTERED WITH THE SELECTIVE SERVICE OR DO YOU HAVE PROOF OF AN EXEMPTION FROM THIS REQUIREMENT (DOCUMENTATION MAY BE REQUIRED)?

YES NO Not Applicable _____

AUTHORIZATION AND CERTIFICATION

I hereby authorize the Florida Legislature to verify all information contained in this application and supplement hereto. I consent to the release of any information regarding my eligibility for legislative employment by employers, educational institutions, law enforcement agencies, personal references or other organizations.

I certify that the above statements are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I further understand that any misrepresentations or false statements made by me on this application, or any supplement hereto, may be grounds for immediate discharge and/or rejection from consideration for further employment. If employed, I understand that my employment and compensation can be terminated with or without cause and with or without notice at any time at the option of either the Legislature or myself.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

*Manual or electronic signatures are accepted.
All employment applications, pursuant to legislative policy, are available for review by the public.*

Select Year: 2024 ▼

The 2024 Florida Statutes

[Title XXVII](#)
RAILROADS AND OTHER REGULATED
UTILITIES

[Chapter 350](#)
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

[View Entire
Chapter](#)

350.061 Public Counsel; appointment; oath; restrictions on Public Counsel and his or her employees.—

(1) The committee designated by joint rule of the Legislature or by agreement between the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives as the Committee on Public Counsel Oversight shall appoint a Public Counsel to represent the general public of Florida before the Florida Public Service Commission. The Public Counsel shall be an attorney admitted to practice before the Florida Supreme Court, shall be appointed for a term of 4 years, and may be reappointed thereafter, provided that a person appointed as the Public Counsel may not serve more than 12 consecutive years in the position. However, the time served by the Public Counsel before July 1, 2020, may not be considered in applying the limitation on consecutive years of service. The Public Counsel shall be appointed by a majority vote of the committee appointees of each house and may be removed from office by a majority vote of the committee appointees of each house. A person may continue as Public Counsel beyond the 4-year term until his or her successor is appointed and takes office, unless the person is removed by a vote of the committee. The Committee on Public Counsel Oversight shall receive applications, conduct interviews, and appoint a Public Counsel to a 4-year term beginning on March 1, 2021, and every 4 years thereafter. The Public Counsel shall perform his or her duties independently. Vacancies in the office shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

(2) The Public Counsel shall take and subscribe to the oath of office required of state officers by the State Constitution.

(3) No officer or full-time employee of the Public Counsel shall actively engage in any other business or profession; serve as the representative of any political party or on any executive committee or other governing body thereof; serve as an executive, officer, or employee of any political party, committee, organization, or association; receive remuneration for activities on behalf of any candidate for public office; or engage on behalf of any candidate for public office in the solicitation of votes or other activities in behalf of such candidacy. Neither the Public Counsel nor any employee of the Public Counsel shall become a candidate for election to public office unless he or she shall first resign from his or her office or employment.

History.—s. 1, ch. 74-195; s. 2, ch. 81-318; s. 6, ch. 87-50; s. 535, ch. 95-148; s. 6, ch. 2005-132; s. 35, ch. 2008-227; s. 29, ch. 2011-34; s. 1, ch. 2020-137.

Select Year: 2024 ▼

The 2024 Florida Statutes

[Title XXVII](#)
RAILROADS AND OTHER REGULATED
UTILITIES

[Chapter 350](#)
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

[View Entire
Chapter](#)

350.0611 Public Counsel; duties and powers.—It shall be the duty of the Public Counsel to provide legal representation for the people of the state in proceedings before the commission and in proceedings before counties pursuant to s. [367.171\(8\)](#). The Public Counsel shall have such powers as are necessary to carry out the duties of his or her office, including, but not limited to, the following specific powers:

(1) To recommend to the commission or the counties, by petition, the commencement of any proceeding or action or to appear, in the name of the state or its citizens, in any proceeding or action before the commission or the counties and urge therein any position which he or she deems to be in the public interest, whether consistent or inconsistent with positions previously adopted by the commission or the counties, and utilize therein all forms of discovery available to attorneys in civil actions generally, subject to protective orders of the commission or the counties which shall be reviewable by summary procedure in the circuit courts of this state;

(2) To have access to and use of all files, records, and data of the commission or the counties available to any other attorney representing parties in a proceeding before the commission or the counties;

(3) In any proceeding in which he or she has participated as a party, to seek review of any determination, finding, or order of the commission or the counties, or of any hearing examiner designated by the commission or the counties, in the name of the state or its citizens;

(4) To prepare and issue reports, recommendations, and proposed orders to the commission, the Governor, and the Legislature on any matter or subject within the jurisdiction of the commission, and to make such recommendations as he or she deems appropriate for legislation relative to commission procedures, rules, jurisdiction, personnel, and functions; and

(5) To appear before other state agencies, federal agencies, and state and federal courts in connection with matters under the jurisdiction of the commission, in the name of the state or its citizens.

History.—s. 1, ch. 74-195; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 2, ch. 81-318; s. 6, ch. 87-50; s. 536, ch. 95-148; s. 12, ch. 2000-350; s. 2, ch. 2001-145.

Select Year: 2024 ▼

The 2024 Florida Statutes

[Title XXVII](#)
RAILROADS AND OTHER REGULATED
UTILITIES

[Chapter 350](#)
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

[View Entire
Chapter](#)

350.0612 Public Counsel; location.—The Public Counsel shall maintain his or her office in Leon County on the premises of the commission or, if suitable space there cannot be provided, at such other place convenient to the offices of the commissioners as will enable him or her to carry out expeditiously the duties and functions of his or her office.

History.—s. 1, ch. 74-195; s. 2, ch. 81-318; s. 6, ch. 87-50; s. 537, ch. 95-148.

Select Year: 2024 ▼

The 2024 Florida Statutes

[Title XXVII](#)
RAILROADS AND OTHER REGULATED
UTILITIES

[Chapter 350](#)
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

[View Entire
Chapter](#)

350.0613 Public Counsel; employees; receipt of pleadings.—The committee may authorize the Public Counsel to employ clerical and technical assistants whose qualifications, duties, and responsibilities the committee shall from time to time prescribe. The committee may from time to time authorize retention of the services of additional attorneys or experts to the extent that the best interests of the people of the state will be better served thereby, including the retention of expert witnesses and other technical personnel for participation in contested proceedings before the commission. The commission shall furnish the Public Counsel with copies of the initial pleadings in all proceedings before the commission, and if the Public Counsel intervenes as a party in any proceeding he or she shall be served with copies of all subsequent pleadings, exhibits, and prepared testimony, if used. Upon filing notice of intervention, the Public Counsel shall serve all interested parties with copies of such notice and all of his or her subsequent pleadings and exhibits.

History.—s. 1, ch. 74-195; s. 2, ch. 81-318; s. 6, ch. 87-50; s. 538, ch. 95-148.

Select Year: 2024 ▼

The 2024 Florida Statutes

[Title XXVII](#)
RAILROADS AND OTHER REGULATED
UTILITIES

[Chapter 350](#)
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

[View Entire
Chapter](#)

350.0614 Public Counsel; compensation and expenses.—

(1) The salaries and expenses of the Public Counsel and his or her employees shall be allocated by the committee only from moneys appropriated to the Public Counsel by the Legislature.

(2) The Legislature declares and determines that the Public Counsel is under the legislative branch of government within the intention of the legislation as expressed in chapter 216, and no power shall be in the Executive Office of the Governor or its successor to release or withhold funds appropriated to it, but the same shall be available for expenditure as provided by law.

(3) Neither the Executive Office of the Governor nor the Department of Management Services or its successor shall have power to determine the number, or fix the compensation, of the employees of the Public Counsel or to exercise any manner of control over them.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the operating budget, as approved jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives from the moneys appropriated to the Public Counsel by the Legislature, constitutes the allocation under which the Public Counsel will manage the duties of his or her office. The Public Counsel:

(a) Shall submit an annual budget request to the Legislature in the format, detail, and schedule determined by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(b) May employ technical and clerical personnel and retain additional counsel and experts, including expert witnesses. In employing such personnel, retaining additional counsel and experts, and exercising all other administrative duties of the office, the Public Counsel must follow applicable provisions of the most recent version of the Joint Policies and Procedures of the Presiding Officers. Any guidance for administrative issues not addressed by the Joint Policies and Procedures of the Presiding Officers requires consultation and joint agreement of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

This subsection expires July 1, 2024.

History.—s. 1, ch. 74-195; s. 120, ch. 79-190; s. 2, ch. 81-318; s. 6, ch. 87-50; s. 121, ch. 92-279; s. 55, ch. 92-326; s. 539, ch. 95-148; s. 7, ch. 2005-132; s. 36, ch. 2008-227; s. 30, ch. 2011-34; s. 71, ch. 2021-37; s. 90, ch. 2022-157; s. 80, ch. 2023-240.