

Gov. Perdue's Chief Of Staff Answers Legislative Committee Questions About DOT Letters

By Administrator

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RALEIGH, (AP) — Senate Democrats are criticizing the way the chamber's Republican leaders are investigating how and why letters by a Department of Transportation executive were changed with help from aides to North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue.

The Senate Rules Committee heard from two transportation employees and Perdue's deputy chief of staff Wednesday. A committee member questioned them about their involvement in creating letters sent to a pair of lawmakers about funds needed next year for two toll projects.

One DOT worker struggled to hold back tears as she spoke. Democratic Sen. Dan Blue said career civil servants should not be subject to the kind of public scrutiny in the committee. Chairman Sen. Tom Apodaca disagreed. He said the panel will debate Thursday what action — if any — to take next.