State of South Carolina
Office of the Governor

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June 10, 2013

The Honorable Robert W. Harrell, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives
506 Blatt Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Speaker Harrell,

I am vetoing and returning without my approval, R72, H.3907 which purports to expand the methods of payment that the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) may accept. I am vetoing this bill because DMV is not currently prohibited from accepting varied forms of payment, and also it currently is authorized to take action to recover funds from those who have outstanding obligations to the agency.

The bill begins by establishing Section 56-1-1210 to allow DMV, in its discretion, to accept uncertified checks. Section 56-3-860 already provides DMV with authority to accept this form of payment for various purposes. Additionally, there is no statutory prohibition that bars DMV from accepting uncertified checks for any of the services it offers; in fact, the agency has accepted them for years. This new section is therefore unnecessary.

Also, a new Section 56-1-1220 would permit DMV to deny service to customers with outstanding debts to the agency. Under Section 56-1-285, DMV is already empowered to revoke licenses or to refuse to renew them. Additionally, since 1995, the Setoff Debt Collection Act (Chapter 56, Title 12) has provided state agencies with the means to recover debts such as these, by intercepting refunds that would otherwise be distributed by the Department of Revenue. Instead of creating a new, single-agency process, I have directed DMV to begin participating in this existing program.

Since the aforementioned provisions of this bill are not ultimately necessary, the only other significant text within this bill is Section 56-1-1230, which imposes a new processing fee on those who use credit cards to make payment to DMV. I believe the Department has sufficient resources at its disposal to allow it to continue to fulfill its mission without burdening drivers with another fee.

For these reasons, I am vetoing and returning without my approval R72, H.3907.

My very best,

Nikki R. Haley