

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.**

**2024-29**

**WHEREAS**, on September 25, 2024, the undersigned issued Executive Order No. 2024-24, declaring a State of Emergency in connection with Hurricane Helene, which made landfall along the coast of the State of Florida as a major hurricane and subsequently impacted the State of South Carolina and other areas in the southeastern region of the United States with strong winds, significant and sustained rainfall, flash flooding, tornadoes, and other dangerous conditions, causing extensive damage to public and private property and critical utility infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 1(H) of Executive Order No. 2024-24 “authorize[d] and direct[ed] state agencies and departments, including state-supported colleges, universities, and technical colleges, to follow county government closure determinations, consistent with the normal state procedure associated with hazardous weather conditions, for purposes of closing state government offices in any such counties or operating the same on an abbreviated schedule to ensure the safety of state employees and the general public”; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the foregoing, Section 1(H) of Executive Order No. 2024-24 also provided that “[e]mergency or other critical personnel designated and determined by, and in the sole discretion of, the corresponding Agency Head, or their designee, as essential or mission-critical to the State’s preparation for, response to, or recovery from emergency conditions related to Hurricane Helene or Hurricane Milton, or otherwise necessary to serve the State of South Carolina or to ensure the continuity of critical operations of state government, may still be required to report to work” and directed that “[s]tate agencies and departments shall utilize, to the maximum extent possible, telecommuting or work-from-home options for non-essential employees”; and

**WHEREAS**, during the aforementioned State of Emergency, and in accordance with the directive set forth in Section 1(H) of Executive Order No. 2024-24 for state government offices to follow county government closure determinations, state government agencies or offices thereof in numerous counties throughout the State were closed or operated on an abbreviated schedule on one or more days during the period from September 26, 2024, through October 7, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the foregoing, state government agencies or offices thereof in numerous counties throughout the State were closed or operated on an abbreviated schedule on one or more days during the same period due to the hazardous weather conditions associated with Hurricane Helene or the significant impacts related to the same, or both, and to ensure the safety of state employees and the general public, *see* S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 19–712.01; and

**WHEREAS**, section 8-11-57 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, provides, in pertinent part, that “whenever the Governor declares a state of emergency or orders all or some state offices closed due to hazardous weather conditions he may authorize up to five days leave with pay for affected state employees who are absent from work due to the state of emergency or the hazardous weather conditions.”

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby order and direct as follows:

**Section 1. Authorizing Leave with Pay Due to State of Emergency and Hurricane Helene and Related Impacts**

A. I hereby authorize and direct any and all state agencies and departments, including state-supported colleges, universities, and technical colleges, that closed or operated on an abbreviated schedule on one or more days during the period from September 26, 2024, through October 7, 2024, due to the above-referenced State of Emergency or due to the aforementioned hazardous weather conditions or resulting impacts, or both, to provide a list to the South Carolina Department of Administration of all offices closed and employees affected by November 1, 2024.

B. I hereby authorize and direct the South Carolina Department of Administration to process or approve leave with pay for the identified state employees.

**Section 2. General Provisions**

A. This Order is not intended to create, and does not create, any individual right, privilege, or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the State of South Carolina, its agencies, departments, political subdivisions, or other entities, or any officers, employees, or agents thereof, or any other person.

B. This Order shall be implemented consistent with and to the maximum extent provided by applicable law and shall be subject to the availability of appropriations. This Order shall not be interpreted, applied, implemented, or construed in a manner so as to impair, impede, or otherwise affect the authority granted by law to an executive agency or department, or the officials or head thereof, including the undersigned.

C. This Order is effective immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE  
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 25th DAY OF  
OCTOBER, 2024.**

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**HENRY DARGAN MCMASTER**  
Governor

ATTEST:

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MARK HAMMOND  
Secretary of State