

EXECUTIVE ORDER No.

2024-02

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2024, certain portions of South Carolina experienced severe weather, including significant rainfall, localized flooding, high winds, and two (2) confirmed tornados, as well as other hazardous conditions, as a result of a dangerous storm system that moved across the southeastern region of the United States; and

WHEREAS, due to the aforementioned hazardous weather conditions and resulting impacts, and in accordance with county government closures and the normal state procedure associated with the same, state government offices in one or more counties throughout the State were closed or operated on an abbreviated schedule to ensure the safety of state employees and the general public; 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. Authorization of Leave with Pay Due to Severe Weather

A. I hereby authorize leave with pay for affected state employees, as set forth below, who were absent from work due to the aforementioned hazardous weather conditions,

and in accordance with the directive for state government offices to follow county government closures for hazardous weather conditions, in the following counties and on the following dates:

January 9, 2024:

Closed: Aiken County, Allendale County, Barnwell County, Berkeley County, Charleston County, Dorchester County, Georgetown County, Hampton County, Horry County, Orangeburg County, Saluda County, Williamsburg County

Abbreviated Schedule: Bamberg County (closed at 2:00 p.m.), Calhoun County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Chesterfield County (closed at 1:00 p.m.), Clarendon County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Colleton County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Darlington County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Dillon County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Fairfield County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Florence County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Kershaw County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Lee County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Marion County (closed at 1:00 p.m.), Marlboro County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Sumter County (closed at 12:30 p.m.).

January 10, 2024:

Abbreviated Schedule: Orangeburg County (opened at 10:30 a.m.).

B. In the event that county government offices in a county not listed above were closed or operated on an abbreviated schedule due to the aforementioned hazardous weather conditions, I hereby authorize the Department of Administration to grant leave with pay for affected state employees who were absent from work as a result of the corresponding closure of state government offices and to administratively add any such county to the list of covered closures without the need for further Orders.

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 11th
DAY OF JANUARY, 2024.**

HENRY MCMASTER
Governor

ATTEST:

MARK HAMMOND
Secretary of State