

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.

2024-03

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2023, certain portions of the State of South Carolina experienced severe weather, including significant rainfall, high winds, localized flooding, and one (1) confirmed tornado, as well as other hazardous conditions, as a result of a dangerous storm system that impacted the East Coast; 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 Horry County followed the county government's decision to operate on an abbreviated schedule and delay opening until 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 18, 2023, to ensure the safety of 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 county and on the following date:

December 18, 2023:

Abbreviated Schedule: Horry County (opened at 10:00 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 29th DAY OF
JANUARY, 2024.**

HENRY MCMASTER
Governor

ATTEST:

MARK HAMMOND
Secretary of State