

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.**

**2025-05**

**WHEREAS**, on January 10, 2025, the undersigned issued Executive Order No. 2025-02, declaring a State of Emergency due to the threats posed by severe winter weather, which was forecasted to impact the southeastern region of the United States, and which subsequently produced snowfall, freezing rain, and other hazardous conditions and disrupted essential utility services and other critical systems in certain areas of the State of South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the aforementioned State of Emergency and the forecasted hazardous weather conditions and resulting impacts associated with the same, and in accordance with the directive set forth in Section 1(H) of Executive Order No. 2025-02 for state government offices to follow county government closure determinations, state government offices in numerous counties throughout the State were closed or operated on an abbreviated schedule on January 10, 2025, 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. Authorizing Leave with Pay Due to Winter Weather Conditions**

A. I hereby authorize leave with pay for affected state employees, as set forth below, who were absent from work during the State of Emergency and due to the aforementioned

hazardous weather conditions, and in accordance with the directive set forth in Section 1(H) of Executive Order No. 2025-02 for state government offices to follow county government closure determinations, in the following counties on January 10, 2025:

Abbreviated Schedule: Aiken County (closed at 10:15 a.m.), Allendale County (closed at 1:00 p.m.), Calhoun County (closed at 1:00 p.m.), Cherokee County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Chester County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Chesterfield County (closed at 2:30 p.m.), Clarendon County (closed at 2:00 p.m.), Darlington County (closed at 12:30 p.m.), Dillon County (closed at 3:00 p.m.), Dorchester County (closed at 1:30 p.m.), Greenwood County (closed at 10:00 a.m.), Kershaw County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Lancaster County (closed at 2:00 p.m.), Lee County (closed at 12:30 p.m.), Lexington County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Marion County (closed at 3:00 p.m.), Marlboro County (closed at 1:00 p.m.), Newberry County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Orangeburg County (closed at 12:30 p.m.), Pickens County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Richland County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Spartanburg County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Sumter County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Union County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Williamsburg County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), York County (closed at 12:00 p.m.)

Closed: Abbeville County, Anderson County, Bamberg County, Barnwell County, Edgefield County, Fairfield County, Greenville County, Laurens County, McCormick County, Oconee County, Saluda County

B. In the event that county government offices in a county not listed above were closed or operated on an abbreviated schedule during the State of Emergency and due to the aforementioned hazardous weather conditions, I hereby authorize the South Carolina 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 17th DAY OF  
JANUARY, 2025.**

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**HENRY DARGAN MCMASTER**  
**Governor**

ATTEST:

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**MARK HAMMOND**  
Secretary of State