

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.

2025-06

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2025, the undersigned issued Executive Order No. 2025-02, declaring a State of Emergency due to the threats posed by forecasted severe winter weather, which subsequently impacted the southeastern region of the United States, producing prolonged periods of cold temperatures, snowfall, freezing rain, and other hazardous conditions, and disrupting essential utility services and 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 one or more days during the period from January 21, 2025, through January 24, 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 the following dates:

January 21, 2025:

Abbreviated Schedule: Abbeville County (closed at 3:00 p.m.), Aiken County (closed at 2:00 p.m.), Allendale County (closed at 4:30 p.m.), Bamberg County (closed at 2:30 p.m.), Barnwell County (closed at 2:00 p.m.), Beaufort County (closed at 2:00 p.m.), Berkeley County (closed at 4:00 p.m.), Charleston County (closed at 4:00 p.m.), Clarendon County (closed at 2:00 p.m.), Darlington County (closed at 3:00 p.m.), Dorchester County (closed at 2:00 p.m.), Edgefield County (closed at 2:00 p.m.), Georgetown County (closed at 3:00 p.m.), Hampton County (closed at 2:00 p.m.), Jasper County (closed at 1:00 p.m.), Lee County (closed at 4:00 p.m.), Marlboro County (closed at 2:00 p.m.), McCormick County (closed at 3:00 p.m.), Orangeburg County (closed at 2:00 p.m.), Saluda County (closed at 4:00 p.m.), Sumter County (closed at 4:00 p.m.), Williamsburg County (closed at 3:00 p.m.).

January 22, 2025:

Closed: Aiken County, Allendale County, Anderson County, Bamberg County, Barnwell County, Beaufort County, Berkeley County, Calhoun County, Charleston County, Chesterfield County, Clarendon County, Colleton County, Darlington County, Dillon County, Dorchester County, Edgefield County, Fairfield County, Florence County, Georgetown County, Hampton County, Horry County, Jasper County, Kershaw County, Lee County, Lexington County, Marion County, Marlboro County, McCormick County, Orangeburg County, Richland County, Saluda County, Sumter County, Williamsburg County.

Abbreviated Schedule: Abbeville County (opened at 12:00 p.m.), Cherokee County (opened at 10:30 a.m.), Chester County (opened at 10:30 a.m.), Greenville County (opened at 12:00 p.m.), Laurens County (opened at 10:30 a.m.), Newberry County (opened at 12:00 p.m.), Oconee County (opened at 11:30 a.m.), Union County (opened at 10:30 a.m.), York County (opened at 10:30 a.m.).

January 23, 2025:

Closed: Allendale County, Beaufort County, Berkeley County, Charleston County, Colleton County, Dorchester County, Florence County, Georgetown County, Hampton County, Horry County, Jasper County, Sumter County, Williamsburg County.

Abbreviated Schedule: Aiken County (opened at 10:00 a.m.), Bamberg County (opened at 12:00 p.m.), Barnwell County (opened at 11:00 a.m.), Calhoun County (opened at 10:00 a.m.), Chesterfield County (opened at 9:30 a.m.), Clarendon County (opened at 10:30 a.m.), Dillon County (opened at 11:00 a.m.), Edgefield County (opened at 10:00 a.m.), Fairfield County (opened at 10:30 a.m.), Kershaw County (opened at 11:00 a.m.), Lancaster County (opened at 10:30 a.m.), Lee County (opened at 11:00 a.m.), Lexington County (opened at 10:30 a.m.), Marion County (opened at 11:30 a.m.), Marlboro County (opened at 11:00 a.m.), Orangeburg County (opened at 12:00 p.m.), Richland County (opened at 12:00 p.m.), Saluda County (opened at 10:30 a.m.).

January 24, 2025:

Closed: Beaufort County, Charleston County, Colleton County, Georgetown County, Jasper County.

Abbreviated Schedule: Berkeley County (opened at 11:00 a.m.), Dorchester County (opened at 12:00 p.m.), Florence County (opened at 10:30 a.m.), Horry County (opened at 12:00 p.m.), Marion County (opened at 10:30 a.m.), Williamsburg 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 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 6th DAY OF
FEBRUARY, 2025.**

HENRY DARGAN MCMASTER
Governor

ATTEST:

MARK HAMMOND
Secretary of State