

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.**

**2026-04**

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2026, certain portions of the State of South Carolina experienced severe weather conditions, including extreme thunderstorms and high winds; and

**WHEREAS**, due to these hazardous weather conditions and the resulting impacts, state government offices in several counties throughout the State operated on an abbreviated schedule on March 16, 2026, 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 Severe Weather**

A. I hereby authorize leave with pay for affected state employees, as set forth below, who were absent from work during the aforementioned hazardous weather conditions, and in accordance with the directive for state government offices, with the exception of state government offices located in Richland and Lexington Counties, to follow county government closure determinations, in the following counties or offices on March 16, 2026:

Closed: Allendale County, Darlington County, Dillon County, Marlboro County, Williamsburg County.

Abbreviated Schedule: Kershaw County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Marion County (closed at 11:00 a.m.).

B. In the event that county government offices in a county not listed above were closed or operated on an abbreviated schedule during the State of Emergency 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 such 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  
MARCH, 2026.**

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**HENRY DARGAN MCMASTER**  
Governor

ATTEST:

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**MARK HAMMOND**  
Secretary of State