



HENRY DARGAN McMASTER
GOVERNOR

March 13, 2025

The Honorable Cody T. Mitchell
422D Blatt Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Representative Mitchell:

I have signed into law R-9, H. 3952, which amends Act No. 571 of 1965 so as to require the Florence–Darlington Technical Education Commission to submit an annual budget to Darlington County Council instead of to the Darlington County Board of Education.

As the General Assembly is well aware, like several of my predecessors, I have consistently vetoed local or special legislation that violates the South Carolina Constitution. Therefore, I carefully review and consider all such legislation presented to me and scrutinize the same in view of the governing law. Here, based on a review of H. 3952 and other relevant authorities, it is clear that Florence–Darlington Technical College (“College”) “extends beyond the confines of one county” since it serves Florence, Darlington, and Marion Counties. *Fort Hill Nat. Gas Auth. v. City of Easley*, 310 S.C. 346, 350, 426 S.E.2d 787, 789 (1993). Therefore, because the College is not necessarily “peculiar to a county,” I am persuaded that H. 3952 does not constitute impermissible local legislation. *Kleckley v. Pulliam*, 265 S.C. 177, 185, S.E.2d 217, 221 (1975). Accordingly, I do not believe this bill is clearly unconstitutional. Nevertheless, I encourage the General Assembly to address similar issues in the future by passing laws of uniform, statewide application.

For the foregoing reasons, I have signed H. 3952 into law.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Henry D. McMaster".

Henry Dargan McMaster

HDM/es/tl