



HENRY MCMASTER
GOVERNOR

May 21, 2024

The Honorable Josh Kimbrell
502 Gressette Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Senator Kimbrell:

I have signed into law R-198, S. 1051, which amends several provisions of existing law pertaining to various wildlife- and natural-resources-related issues.

It is my understanding that, whether due to clerical error, oversight, or otherwise, S. 1051, as enrolled and ratified, inadvertently retained previously proposed language related to the hunting and taking of wild turkeys. More specifically, S. 1051 purports to modify the hunting seasons and bag limits for wild turkeys. *See* 2023 S.C. Acts No. __, §§ 1–4, S. 1051 (R-198). I am advised that this mistakenly included verbiage significantly overlaps with the subject of H. 4280, which has passed both bodies in slightly different form and is now pending before a conference committee. *See* H. 4820, § 1, 125th Gen. Assemb., 2d Reg. Sess. (2024). I fully anticipate that the conference committee on H. 4820 will resolve the differences between the two versions and present a conference report to the General Assembly later this year.

Although S. 1051 includes later effective dates than H. 4820, my understanding is that the dates established by H. 4820 will nevertheless control because—assuming the General Assembly ultimately passes H. 4820 and I sign it into law—that bill will have become law after S. 1051 and would implicitly repeal the earlier language and thereby resolve any conflict. *See Chris J. Yahnis Coastal, Inc. v. Stroh Brewery Co.*, 295 S.C. 243, 247, 368 S.E.2d 64, 66 (1988) (“If, however, the statutes are incapable of any reasonable reconciliation, the last statute passed will prevail, so as to impliedly repeal the earlier statute to the extent of the repugnancy.”). Accordingly, I look forward to the General Assembly passing H. 4820 and clarifying or correcting the apparent clerical mistake.

The Honorable Josh Kimbrell

Page 2

May 21, 2024

In light of the foregoing, I have signed S. 1051 into law. I look forward to continuing to work with the General Assembly to address these and other issues related to our State's wildlife and natural resources.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry McMaster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "M".

Henry McMaster

cc: The Honorable George E. Campsen, III, Chairman
Senate Fish, Game, and Forestry Committee

The Honorable William M. Hixon, Chairman
House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee