



HENRY DARGAN McMASTER  
GOVERNOR

May 8, 2025

The Honorable Lawrence K. Grooms  
313 Gressette Building  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Senator Grooms:

I have signed into law R-40, S. 522, which pertains to the Charleston Regional Airport District ("District"), the powers and duties of which are exercised and performed by the Charleston Regional Aviation Authority ("Authority"). As you know, S. 522 amends sections 2 and 3 of Act No. 1235 of 1970 to change the name of the District and Authority to reflect its "Regional" impact.

Like several of my predecessors, I have consistently vetoed local or special legislation that is clearly unconstitutional. Therefore, I carefully consider all such legislation presented to me and scrutinize the same in view of the applicable law. Here, based on a review of S. 522 and other relevant authorities, it appears that the District's impact, through the Charleston International Airport and other facilities, "extends beyond the confines of one county" to serve not only Charleston County but also surrounding counties. *Fort Hill Nat. Gas Auth. v. City of Easley*, 310 S.C. 346, 350, 426 S.E.2d 787, 789 (1993). Indeed, the District's regional impact was seemingly already reflected by the composition of the Authority's governing board, which includes among its members the mayors of several municipalities with boundaries that extend beyond the confines of Charleston County. Accordingly, for these and other reasons, I am persuaded that S. 522 does not constitute impermissible local legislation. See *Kleckley v. Pulliam*, 265 S.C. 177, 185, 217 S.E.2d 217, 221 (1975); *Op. Att'y Gen.*, 2003 WL 21998992, at \*3 (S.C.A.G. July 31, 2003). Nevertheless, although I do not believe S. 522 is clearly unconstitutional on its face, given the General Assembly's regular reliance on—and the recurring nature of—special legislation, I encourage you and your colleagues to address similar issues in the future by passing general laws of uniform, statewide application whenever possible.

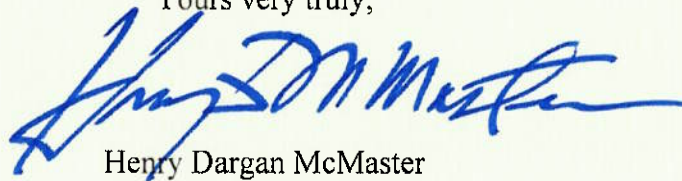
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For the foregoing reasons, I have signed S. 522 into law. I look forward to continuing to work with the General Assembly to address these and other similar issues on a statewide basis.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Henry Dargan McMaster", is written over the typed name.

Henry Dargan McMaster

HDM/tal

cc: Charleston County Legislative Delegation