



HENRY DARGAN McMASTER
GOVERNOR

May 13, 2025

The Honorable G. Murrell Smith, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives
State House, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval R-70, H. 3969, which seeks to authorize the operation of remote personal delivery devices in Richland County and to establish restrictions for the same. Although I appreciate that the underlying aim of H. 3969 is to ensure that new technology is effectively and safely utilized for the benefit of South Carolinians, for the reasons set forth below, I am compelled to veto this legislation.

The South Carolina Constitution requires that "[t]he General Assembly shall forthwith enact general laws . . . which shall be uniform in their operations." S.C. Const. art. III, § 34. Indeed, the state constitution generally prohibits the adoption of legislation "for a specific county" and "where a general law can be made applicable." S.C. Const. art. VIII, § 7; S.C. Const. art. III, § 34(IX). These constitutional provisions seek "to make uniform where possible the statutory laws of this State in order to avoid duplicative or conflicting laws on the same subject," *Med. Soc. of S.C. v. Med. Univ. of S.C.*, 334 S.C. 270, 279, 513 S.E.2d 352, 357 (1999), and to prevent "legislation by delegation," which the South Carolina Supreme Court has called "pernicious," *Duke Power Co. v. S.C. Pub. Serv. Comm'n*, 284 S.C. 81, 90, 326 S.E.2d 395, 400 (1985). Against this backdrop, H. 3969 is special legislation: It applies only to Richland County. Even if personal delivery devices are currently confined to Richland County, I am aware of no reason why these same regulations for personal delivery devices could not be adopted in a general law and apply across the entire State. *Cf. Town of Hilton Head Island v. Coal. of Expressway Opponents*, 307 S.C. 449, 456, 415 S.E.2d 801, 805 (1992).

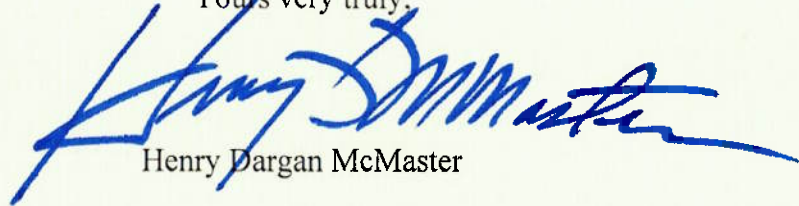
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For the foregoing reasons, I am respectfully vetoing R-70, H. 3969 and returning the same without my signature.

Yours very truly,

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

Henry Dargan McMaster

HDM/tal