



HENRY DARGAN McMASTER
GOVERNOR

March 30, 2026

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-118, H. 5182, which authorizes the Jasper County Council to provide local funds from any revenue source to an eligible charter school in Jasper County. For the reasons set forth below, I am compelled to veto H. 5182.

As the General Assembly is aware, like several of my predecessors, I have consistently vetoed unconstitutional local or special legislation. The South Carolina Constitution expressly prohibits the General Assembly from enacting 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). Yet, H. 5182 would apply to only a single county. Although our courts have held that greater deference is warranted in the context of public education, "legislation regarding education is not exempt from the requirements of Article III, § 34(IX)." *Horry Cty. v. Horry Cty. Higher Educ. Comm'n*, 306 S.C. 416, 419, 412 S.E.2d 421, 423 (1991). Here, the General Assembly has not established that a special law is necessary to "best meet the exigencies of [this] particular situation." *Charleston Cty. Sch. Dist. v. Harrell*, 393 S.C. 552, 559, 713 S.E.2d 604, 608 (2011). Additionally, the Jasper County Council possesses general budgeting and appropriation authority under its Home Rule powers, including the authority to allocate funds for county purposes. S.C. Code Ann. § 4-9-30. As a result, this bill appears largely redundant of authority the County Council may already exercise under existing law.

For the foregoing reasons, I am respectfully vetoing R-118, H. 5182 and returning the same without my signature.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Henry D. McMaster".

Henry Dargan McMaster