

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.**

**2022-05**

**WHEREAS**, on January 14, 2022, the undersigned issued Executive Order No. 2022-04, declaring a State of Emergency and waiving or suspending certain transportation-related regulations to facilitate emergency preparations and response operations in connection with a severe winter storm that was forecasted to impact the southeastern region of the United States beginning on January 15, 2022, and which subsequently produced significant snowfall, freezing rain, and other hazardous conditions and disrupted essential utility services and other critical systems in certain areas of the State of South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the aforementioned hazardous weather conditions and resulting impacts, and in accordance with county government closures and the normal state procedure associated with the same, state government offices in one or more counties throughout the State were closed or operated on an abbreviated schedule to ensure the safety of state employees and the general public; and

**WHEREAS**, section 8-11-57 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, provides, in pertinent part, that “whenever the Governor declares a state of emergency or orders all or some state offices closed due to hazardous weather conditions he may authorize up to five days leave with pay for affected state employees who are absent from work due to the state of emergency or the hazardous weather conditions.”

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby order and direct as follows:

**Section 1. Authorization of Leave with Pay Due to Severe Winter Weather**

A. I hereby authorize leave with pay for affected state employees, as set forth below, who were absent from work during the State of Emergency and due to the aforementioned hazardous weather conditions, and in accordance with the directive for state government offices to follow county government closures for hazardous weather conditions, in the following counties on January 18, 2022:

Closed: Anderson County, Cherokee County, Greenville County

Abbreviated Schedule: Chester County (delayed by two hours), Lancaster County (opened at 10:00 a.m.), Laurens County (delayed by two hours), Oconee County (opened at 12:00 p.m.), Pickens County (opened at 11:00 a.m.), Spartanburg County (opened at 12:00 p.m.), Union County (opened at 12:00 p.m.), York County (opened at 10:00 a.m.)

B. In the event that county government offices in a county not listed above were closed or operated on an abbreviated schedule during the State of Emergency and due to the aforementioned hazardous weather conditions, I hereby authorize the Department of Administration to grant leave with pay for affected state employees who were absent from work as a result of the corresponding closure of state government offices and to administratively add any such county to the list of covered closures without the need for further Orders.

## **Section 2. General Provisions**

A. This Order is not intended to create, and does not create, any individual right, privilege, or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the State of South Carolina, its agencies, departments, political subdivisions, or other entities, or any officers, employees, or agents thereof, or any other person.

B. This Order shall be implemented consistent with and to the maximum extent provided by applicable law and shall be subject to the availability of appropriations. This Order shall not be interpreted, applied, implemented, or construed in a manner so as to impair, impede, or otherwise affect the authority granted by law to an executive agency or department, or the officials or head thereof, including the undersigned.

C. This Order is effective immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE  
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 19th DAY OF  
JANUARY, 2022.**

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**HENRY MCMASTER**  
Governor

ATTEST:

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MARK HAMMOND  
Secretary of State