



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

May 19, 2017

The Honorable Kevin L. Bryant
President of the Senate
State House, First Floor, East Wing
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval R-74, S. 353, which seeks to alter election procedures for the Langley Water and Sewer District, the Bath Water and Sewer District and the Clearwater Water and Sewer District. For the reasons set forth below, I must veto S. 353.

I appreciate the desire to streamline election procedures for water and sewer commissioners given the current system, which results in the commencement of terms well after they are officially set to begin. However, this bill conflicts with the Home Rule provision of the South Carolina Constitution – Article VIII, Section 7 – which prohibits the enactment of legislation that applies only to a single county. Because S. 353 affects only Aiken County, it is unconstitutional.

Although I appreciate the underlying aims of S. 353, efforts to change election procedures for a single county should be made at the local level, or alternatively through legislation that addresses election procedures on a broader scale. For the foregoing reasons, I am respectfully vetoing R-74 S. 353 and returning the same without my signature.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Henry McMaster", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Henry McMaster