



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

March 21, 2019

The Honorable Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval R-15, S. 504, which seeks to abolish the Allendale County Aeronautics and Development Commission ("Commission") and to reconstitute the Commission as the "Allendale County Aeronautics Commission."

Like several of my predecessors, I have consistently vetoed unconstitutional local or special legislation. Article VIII, section 7 of the South Carolina Constitution expressly prohibits the General Assembly from enacting legislation that applies to only a single county. S.C. Const. art VIII, § 7; *see also* S.C. Const. art. III, § 34(IX) (prohibiting local or special laws "where a general law can be made applicable"); S.C. Const. art. VIII, § 10 ("No laws for a specific municipality shall be enacted . . ."). Yet, S. 504 plainly pertains to only Allendale County and does not satisfy any recognized exception to the constitutional prohibition on local legislation. *See* 1983 WL 181822, at *1 (S.C.A.G. Mar. 31, 1983) ("An act amending prior special legislation regarding a county aeronautics commission would violate the provisions of Article VIII, Section 7 of the South Carolina Constitution."). As noted by Governor Sanford in vetoing the Commission's 2008 enabling legislation, the South Carolina Supreme Court has declared similar acts unconstitutional. Therefore, because S. 504 does not cure the Commission's original constitutional defect, I am compelled to veto the bill. Once again, I encourage the General Assembly to begin addressing such matters by passing laws of uniform, statewide application, rather than by repeatedly resorting to piecemeal and inconsistent local legislation.

For the foregoing reasons, I am respectfully vetoing R-15, S. 504 and returning the same without my signature.

Yours very truly,

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

Henry McMaster