



HENRY MCMASTER
GOVERNOR

May 15, 2019

The Honorable James H. Lucas
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-60, H. 3700, which includes an amendment that seeks to exclude a particular erosion control device in Georgetown County from the permitting provisions and protections of the Beachfront Management Act.

I understand the special importance of this issue to residents of DeBordieu Colony in Georgetown County and other coastal communities. However, where, as here, the State has worked for several years to develop a comprehensive statutory and regulatory framework to protect our shared coastal resources, I believe it would be unwise to hastily enact a special exception to the Beachfront Management Act. The provision in question was a late-hour amendment added to a bill that was debated and considered through the normal legislative process. The better course is for the General Assembly—in consultation with homeowners, civic leaders, and environmental experts—to debate and decide legitimate policy issues involving our unique shoreline and authorize the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control to address such matters through open, public processes. Further, as a matter of precedent, I must oppose a practice that is tantamount to enacting local or special legislation, prohibited by our constitution.

Finally, although this project does not involve the use of public funds, the amendment made to the legislation unnecessarily cedes the State's jurisdiction and permitting authority to the federal government—namely, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

For the foregoing reasons, I am respectfully vetoing R-60, H. 3700 and returning the same without my signature.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henry McMaster".

Henry McMaster