WHEREAS, from January 21, 2016 to January 25, 2016, the National Weather Service began issuing Freezing Rain Advisories, Winter Weather Advisories, Winter Storm Warnings, and Special Weather Statements for Black Ice in effect from January 21, 2016, through January 25, 2016, forecasting periods of snow, sleet, freezing rain, and temperatures below freezing in parts of South Carolina leading to the possibility of hazardous driving conditions and power outages, which pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of citizens; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the threat of hazardous weather conditions, state government offices were closed or delayed in accordance with county government offices as follows: on Friday, January 22, 2016, in Anderson, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Fairfield, Florence, Greenville, Lancaster, Laurens, Marlboro, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union, and York Counties, on Saturday, January 23, 2016, in Lancaster, Laurens, Oconee, and Spartanburg Counties, and on Monday, January 25, 2016, in Lancaster and Spartanburg Counties; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 8-11-57 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, the governor of this State may authorize leave with pay for affected state employees who were absent from work due to the closing of state offices for hazardous weather conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the laws and Constitution of the State of South Carolina, I hereby grant leave with pay to state employees absent from work as directed on January 22, 2016 through January 25, 2016, due to the closing of state offices caused by hazardous weather conditions.

This order shall take effect immediately.

NIKKI R. HALEY
Governor

ATTEST:

MARK HAMMOND
Secretary of State