WHEREAS, on February 15, 2016 and February 16, 2016, the National Weather Service began issuing Freezing Rain and Winter Weather Advisories, 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 Monday, February 15, 2016, in Greenville and Lancaster Counties, and on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, in Spartanburg County; 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 Constitution and Statutes of the State of South Carolina, I hereby grant leave with pay to state employees absent from work as directed on February 15, 2016 and February 16, 2016, due to the closing of state offices caused by hazardous weather conditions.

This order shall take effect immediately.