



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

August 8, 2003

The Honorable David H. Wilkins
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby returning without my approval H. 4176, R-131 an Act:

TO AMEND ACT 231 OF 1993, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF ELECTION AND REGISTRATION FOR UNION COUNTY, SO AS TO REDUCE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD FROM NINE MEMBERS TO EIGHT MEMBERS.

This veto is based on my belief that H. 4176, R-131 is unconstitutional. The bill proposes to decrease the number of members on the Board of Election and Registration for Union County. As such, H. 4176, R-131, affects only Union County and is, therefore, clearly an act for a specific county. Such acts are in violation of Article VIII, Section 7 of the Constitution of the State of South Carolina, which provides that "[n]o laws for a specific county shall be enacted." Acts similar to H. 4176, R-131 have been struck down by the South Carolina Supreme Court as violative of Article VIII, Section 7.

For this reason, I am returning H. 4176, R-131 to you without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MS", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Sanford
Governor