



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

February 6, 2006

The Honorable Robert Harrell Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval H. 4394, R-220.

I commend the thinking behind this bill because it represents an ongoing discussion between business and educational leaders on making two-year or technical education a more acceptable choice in the education marketplace. I am concerned, however, that this bill would set precedent for every technical school in South Carolina to chart its own course with regard to branding. Though this legislation simply leaves to the Spartanburg County Commission for Technical Education the ability to rename Spartanburg Technical College, I am concerned with this bill's statewide implications and its unintended consequences to economic recruitment and the structure of the technical system that may come with it.

South Carolina is one of the few states remaining with an established technical system, and it has developed a reputation nationally for being able to work with businesses coming into the state to quickly and effectively train workers. In addition, the technical system has become an important option for young workers as an affordable way to develop work skills.

Our Center for Accelerated Technology Training Program, or CATT program, is one of the oldest and most highly regarded workforce training programs in the United States. Over the past 45 years, the CATT program has received recognition at both the national and international level and has served as an effective economic recruitment tool. The CATT program was instrumental in bringing international companies, such as BMW and Fuji, to South Carolina. These companies have become important corporate citizens here in the state.

Changing technical school names in piecemeal fashion could, effectively, weaken the successful branding that we have accomplished over the last four decades.

A strength of the Technical College System is greater coordination than we see in the traditional university system here in South Carolina. One of the greatest challenges we face in South Carolina is the large number of higher education institutions. With 33 public institutions and 79 campuses, higher education in South Carolina has become fractured and uncoordinated. This lack of structure is costly and is contributory in the debate on higher education costs currently before our state.

To the credit of the General Assembly, it has been part of the formula that has led us to a great technical system that has a unified image, or brand throughout this country. Should it be determined that we do, in fact, need to rename our technical system, for the sake of economic development, I don't believe we should have 10 or 15 competing brands across the state. I believe this legislation could well set us on a course to do just that.

For the reasons stated above, I am vetoing H. 4394, and returning it without my approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Sanford', written in a cursive style.

Mark Sanford

MS/se