

Executive Order No. 2018-53

Granting Paid Leave to State Employees Due to Hurricane Michael and the State of Emergency

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2018, Hurricane Michael came ashore on the coast of Florida as a category 4 hurricane, continuing through several states; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Michael was reclassified to a tropical storm before moving into South Carolina on October 11, 2018; and

WHEREAS, weather forecasters warned of tropical storm force winds of at least 39 miles per hour, with winds or gusts up to hurricane force of 74 miles per hour in some areas, along with flooding rains, making driving conditions detrimental; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned issued Executive Order 2018-48, declaring a State of Emergency due to the expected effects of Hurricane Michael on top of existing flood waters that remained from Hurricane Florence; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned directed state employees to follow county closures due to the State of Emergency and potential for hazardous weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, several counties chose to close early, delay opening, or close entirely their offices during the time period when the tropical storm, which brought tropical storm force winds and rain, moved through the county; and

WHEREAS, state government offices (to include state-supported colleges, universities, and technical colleges), closed pursuant to the undersigned's advice and directive to follow county closures; and

WHEREAS, the following counties were closed on October 11, 2018, for one entire day: Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Fairfield, Florence, Hampton, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Lexington, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Saluda, Sumter, and Williamsburg.

WHEREAS, Aiken County operated on a delayed start at 11:00 AM on October 11, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Marion County closed early at 11:00 AM on October 11, 2018; 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 a State of Emergency or hazardous conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby grant leave with pay to state employees in the above-listed counties for work missed on October 11, 2018, because the state office closed pursuant to the hazardous weather policy. Employees may only receive pay if the employee was absent from work because the state office was closed.

This Order is effective immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 26th DAY OF OCTOBER,
2018.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**