



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

June 11, 2008

The Honorable Robert W. 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 vetoing and returning without my approval H. 3993, R-378. This bill designates opening day of the annual major league baseball season each year as "Historic Baseball Leagues Day in South Carolina."

While we appreciate the intent of "Historic Baseball Leagues Day in South Carolina" in reminding each of us of the greatness of what many believe to be indeed America's greatest sport, the value of sports – and even the subtle pleasure of sharing a hot dog in the stands with a loved one, in signing H. 4731, the "Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom Day" earlier this year, we suggested that a moratorium on further "special days" legislation might be appropriate at this time. Just as with hot dogs while in the stands, you can have too much of a good thing.

I offered two reasons.

First, by establishing so many days, we dilute the value of the intended recognition.

Second, we already have a concurrent resolution process by which members of the public can request the General Assembly to recognize certain days, weeks, or months for special purposes. In the vast majority of cases, it is simply unnecessary to raise these designations to the level of state law.

South Carolina state law currently recognizes 18 "special days," such as "Frances Willard Day," "General Pulaski's Memorial Day," and "POW/MIA Recognition Day," just to name a few. During my time in office, I have signed a number of other "special days" bills – including "Francis Marion Day," "Airborne Heritage Day," and "Fibromyalgia Awareness Day."

We believe the concurrent resolution process would be the more proper channel through which to recognize historic baseball leagues. For this reason, I have vetoed H. 3993, R-378.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MS" or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Mark Sanford