



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

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COLUMBIA 29211

April 26, 2004

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. 4919, R-274, a Joint Resolution:

TO PROVIDE THAT SCHOOL DAYS MISSED ON JANUARY 27, 2004, AND FEBRUARY 26 AND 27, 2004, BY THE STUDENTS OF SCHOOLS IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARLBORO COUNTY WHEN THE SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED DUE TO ICE OR INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE MAKE-UP REQUIREMENT THAT FULL SCHOOL DAYS MISSED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES BE MADE UP.

This veto is based on the intention upon which Act 89 of 2003 was signed by me on July 23, 2003. When I signed this legislation last year, it was my aim to give school districts a series of options to make up missed school days. My opposition to legislation like H. 4919 is that it is unnecessary given the enactment of Act 89.

Section 1 of Act 89 (Section 59-1-430(A) of the South Carolina Code of Laws) states that, "[a]ll school districts shall designate annually at least three days within their school calendars to be used as make-up days in the event of . . . [snow, extreme weather conditions, or other disruptions requiring schools to close]." As a result of this requirement, students of the Marlboro County School District made up one day out of a total of four days which they missed due to inclement weather conditions. The school district, however, requested the General Assembly to waive the remaining three days.

As a policy, we should require school districts to exhaust their make-up days prior to seeking a waiver from the General Assembly under Section 59-1-430(B), except in extremely unusual circumstances. Currently, most school districts have either proceeded with using their scheduled make-up days or intend to do so. I believe Act 89 should be applied uniformly to all school

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districts such that school districts should not obtain legislative relief before using its make-up days which must be scheduled under Section 59-1-430(A). This policy was applied when I recently signed H. 4937, R-226, a bill authorizing the Greenville County School Board of Trustees to forgive two additional days beyond the three scheduled make-up days already exhausted by Greenville County students. That legislation is the model in both process and policy that this administration envisioned when I signed Act 89 in 2003.

For this reason, I am returning H. 4919, R-274 to you without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Sanford