



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

March 8, 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. 4702, R-209, an Act:

TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT 1 IN CLARENDON COUNTY TO EXPEND FUNDS IN ITS SCHOOL BUILDING FUND TO MEET ITS COSTS OF OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE AND TO REPLACE FUNDS LOST AS A CONSEQUENCE OF REDUCTIONS IN STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004.

This veto is based upon my belief that bonded indebtedness should not be used by school districts to fund operating expenditures. According to school district officials, the funds in Clarendon School District One's building fund amount to approximately \$300,000 derived from bonded indebtedness. In a transmittal letter accompanying H. 3945, R-105 last year, I indicated very clearly that I would veto any legislation that continued this practice. As I stated then, I believe funding short-term operating needs with long-term bonded indebtedness is not the fiscally-responsible way to address budget shortfalls, and will actually add further stress on the school district's financial condition.

Furthermore, while all state agencies have been forced to make adjustments in their budgets due to the shortfalls of the past few years, according to school district officials, this school district is not currently running an operating deficit. Therefore, I do not believe authorizing the use of this money is appropriate or necessary.

For these reasons, I am returning H. 4702, R-209 to you without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford

cc: The Honorable C. Alexander Harvin, III