



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

February 21, 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 returning without my approval H.4494, R-236, an Act:

**TO CREATE THE BARNWELL COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION AND REGISTRATION
AND TO ABOLISH THE BARNWELL COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION
AND THE BARNWELL COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION.**

This veto is based on my belief that this bill is unconstitutional. H.4494, R-236 proposes to abolish the Barnwell County Board of Voter Registration and the Barnwell County Election Commission and create the Barnwell County Board of Elections and Registration. As such, this legislation affects only Barnwell County and is, therefore, clearly an act for a specific county. Such acts are in violation of Article VIII, Section 7, of the Constitution of the State of South Carolina, which provides that "[n]o laws for a specific county shall be enacted." Acts similar to H.4494, R-236 have been struck down by the South Carolina Supreme Court as violative of Article VIII, Section 7.

For this reason, I am vetoing and returning H.4494, R-236 to you without my signature.

Sincerely,

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

Mark Sanford