



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

June 13, 2015

The Honorable James H. Lucas
Speaker of the House of Representatives
South Carolina Statehouse, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives:

I am vetoing and returning without my approval H.3670, R-119, a bill relating to the West Florence Fire District. **This bill is currently the subject of a pending lawsuit that brings into question a previous and related act's constitutionality, and also includes a bizarre five-year sunset provision.**

Last year, H. 5225 (Act 183 of 2014), initially creating the West Florence Fire District, became law. Soon thereafter, the Florence County Council filed a lawsuit in circuit court against the new fire district challenging the Act's constitutionality. With this lawsuit pending, H.3670 was introduced this session amending Act 183 by adding more parcels of property in Darlington County to the West Florence Fire District.

I am vetoing H.3670 for two reasons. First, this bill is the subject of and a response to a pending lawsuit. The bill singles out a neighborhood in Darlington County currently well-served by the Darlington County Fire District and annexes these residents into a different fire district in a neighboring county. Second, this bill includes a five-year sunset provision which would reverse this annexation, resulting in residents paying taxes for five years for a new fire station and equipment and getting nothing in return thereafter. **It is illogical, unfair and unprecedented to shuffle residents between service providers in this manner.**

Every member of the General Assembly has the responsibility to vote on all legislation, including local bills. Therefore, I respectfully ask that all members exercise their responsibility and vote to sustain this veto of H. 3670.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nikki R. Haley".

Nikki R. Haley