



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

June 11, 2012

The Honorable Harry B. Limehouse III
326C Blatt Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Representative Limehouse,

I am writing to let you know that today I signed R243, H.5051, a bill that allows the Commission on Higher Education to approve doctoral programs in Marine Science at four-year colleges and universities, even if similar programs are offered by a research university. Although I generally disagree with the creation of exemptions or loopholes, I have signed this bill because I support increased choice for students and greater flexibility for our public colleges and universities.

Last month, the Senate passed S.1397 as a first step towards establishing Accountability-Based Funding (ABF) for South Carolina's public colleges and universities. This joint resolution also called for the development of a set of financial and regulatory incentives that would reward institutions for achieving their missions. I was disappointed that S. 1397 did not emerge from the House Education and Public Works Committee during this year's session, but I look forward to working with you on ABF next year.

For these reasons, I signed R243, H.5051 into law.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley".

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/jdb

cc: Members of the General Assembly