

Executive Order No. 2018-20

Appointment of Commission to Investigate Annexation of Certain Areas in Horry County and Georgetown County

WHEREAS, due to an apparent misunderstanding between Horry County and Georgetown County regarding the Horry–Georgetown boundary line, there is a small area within the statutory boundary of Horry County that has been treated as being located in Georgetown County, and certain property owners within the affected area erroneously believe that their properties are located in Georgetown County (“Horry County Affected Area”); and

WHEREAS, due to the same misunderstanding, there is a small area within the statutory boundary of Georgetown County that has been treated as being located in Horry County, and certain property owners within the affected area erroneously believe that their properties are located in Horry County (“Georgetown County Affected Area”); and

WHEREAS, Chapter 5 of Title 4 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, sets forth a procedure for annexing, merging, or transferring an area from one county to another (“Change of Boundaries Statute”); and

WHEREAS, the Change of Boundaries Statute provides that the governing body of a county may by resolution request that a part of such county be merged with one or more adjoining counties; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Change of Boundaries Statute, the Horry County Council and the Georgetown County Council have presented separate resolutions, copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibit A, requesting, *inter alia*, that that the Horry County Affected Area be merged with, or annexed to, Georgetown County and that the Georgetown County Affected Area be merged with, or annexed to, Horry County; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of an annexation request from a county governing body and presentment of the requisite resolution, the Governor shall appoint a commission of four persons, which shall, *inter alia*, investigate and report all facts pertinent to the potential annexation in accordance with sections 4-5-120 through -160 of the South Carolina Code of Laws; and

WHEREAS, it appears to the satisfaction of the undersigned that the requested annexation and corresponding resolutions comply with the procedures set forth in the Change of Boundaries Statute and are consistent with the provisions of the Joint Resolution ratified by the General Assembly on May 14, 2018, and approved by the undersigned on May 18, 2018; and

WHEREAS, there is no known opposition to the potential annexation, and Sel Hemingway and Wesley Bryant, Esquire, of Georgetown County, and Chris Eldridge and Arrigo Carotti, Esquire, of Horry County, are fit and proper persons to serve on the commission, which shall appropriately investigate all facts relating to the requested annexation and report in writing to the undersigned the pertinent facts and other relevant matters as requested or required by law; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of the commission’s report and satisfactory compliance with sections 4-5-120 through -160 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, the undersigned shall order an election in accordance with section 4-5-170 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein,

I hereby appoint the following fit and proper persons to investigate all facts related to the requested annexation in Georgetown County and Horry County and report in writing to the undersigned the pertinent facts and other relevant matters in accordance with the Change of Boundaries Statute or otherwise as requested or required by law:

1. Wesley Bryant, Esquire – Georgetown County;
2. Sel Hemingway, Georgetown County Administrator;
3. Arrigo Carotti, Esquire – Horry County; and
4. Chris Eldridge, Horry County Administrator

Pursuant to sections 4-5-140 and 4-5-160 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, the Commission:

a. may contract for the survey and location of the proposed change of line and for such purpose may employ three competent disinterested surveyors, who are nonresidents of the counties affected, two to be selected by the commission and the third by the two selected by the commission; and

b. shall carefully investigate all facts relating to the area, population, and assessed property values of the territory proposed to be severed and that remaining, the proximity of the line to any courthouse, and the proper amount of indebtedness of the county losing area to be assessed to the county gaining such area; and

c. shall report in writing to the Governor upon all such relevant matters as the Governor may direct for his information; and

d. shall report to the Governor an itemized statement of the expense of the survey and plats; and

e. shall submit its final report to the Governor no later than August 1, 2018.

This Order is effective immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 12th DAY OF JUNE,
2018.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**