

Mark Sanford
Governor



Marcia S. Adams
Director

State of South Carolina

Department of Motor Vehicles

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Beth Parks
803-896-5599
beth.parks@scdmv.net

Proposed Legislation May Hinder DMV Service

Blythewood, S.C. – April 21, 2005 – Officials from the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles held press conferences today at the Lexington DMV office and the Charleston DMV office on Leeds Avenue to express their concerns over House Bill 3296. The bill, if passed, would remove \$8 million in dedicated revenue funding from DMV and redirect those funds for other state needs.

Since becoming a stand-alone agency in 2003, DMV has expanded its customer services to include online services and Saturday operations. Customer wait times in DMV offices have dropped from a statewide average of 66 minutes in 2002 to 15 minutes in 2005. The agency has also been able to return \$12 million back to the state general fund for core government services.

An additional \$8 million loss in funding, however, could force the agency to eliminate services. The result could be longer lines and slower services in DMV offices.

“Customer service is our number one priority and we want to continue offering the services that South Carolina citizens have come to appreciate and expect. Our concern is that House Bill 3296, if passed as it is currently written, will hinder our progress,” said Executive Director Marcia Adams.

The bill may force the agency to eliminate Saturday service hours, reduce weekly office hours in some field offices, reduce staffing levels, and reduce the development of new online services.

“We’ve come a long way in just three years, but we know we still have a long way to go. No one wants to go back to the way things were. If this bill passes as it is, many of our service improvement plans will be jeopardized. That’s just not what we want to offer South Carolina citizens,” said Mrs. Adams.

House Bill 3296 has passed out of the Ways and Means Committee and will be on the floor for consideration in the House next week.

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