

SUBJECT: TROOPERS ASSOCIATION PAYING HIGHWAY PATROL COMMANDER'S EXPENSES FOR ATTENDING CONVENTION

SUMMARY:

The SC Troopers Association may pay expenses incurred by the Highway Patrol Commander to attend a National Troopers Association conference.

QUESTION:

The attorney for the South Carolina Troopers Association questions whether the Association can reimburse or pay the travel expenses for the Patrol Commander to attend a national meeting. The Association will host a national meeting of troopers later this year. The Association would like to invite the Commander to attend a meeting in San Diego as an at-large attendee.

DISCUSSION:

This opinion is rendered in response to a letter dated January 7, 1992 requesting an opinion from the State Ethics Commission. The Commission's jurisdiction is limited to the applicability of the Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act of 1991 (Act No. 248 of 1991; Section 8-13-100 et. seq., as amended, 1976 Code of Laws). This opinion does not supersede any other statutory or regulatory restrictions or procedures which may apply to this situation.

In Advisory Opinion SEC AO92-061, the Commission advised that employees who are officers of national professional associations may have expenses paid by that organization. From the facts as submitted, the Commission would advise that the Highway Patrol Commander's expenses for attendance at the national meeting could be paid by the SC Troopers Association.