

1976 WL 30756 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

June 1, 1976

*1 Mr. Russell D. Mellette
Director
Governmental Affairs
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
1002 Calhoun Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Mellette:

Attorney General McLeod has referred your letter of May 17, 1976, to me for reply. You have asked whether South Carolina law prohibits an employer giving an employee running for public office time off with pay during the political campaign or keeping that employee on the payroll after his election to public office. There is no question that a private employer may retain an employee under either one of the above two situations if he so desires. The only difficulties in this area arise with public employers, and even then there is no statewide rule precluding all political activity by employees.

I have assumed that your request pertained only to private employers. However, if I can be of further assistance to you, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth P. Woodington
Assistant Attorney General

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