

The State of South Carolina



Office of the Attorney General

T. TRAVIS MEDLOCK
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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December 21, 1994

The Honorable Holly A. Cork
Senator, District No. 46
3 Rowboat Row
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Dear Senator Cork:

Attorney General Medlock has referred to me your letter of December 9, 1994 for reply.

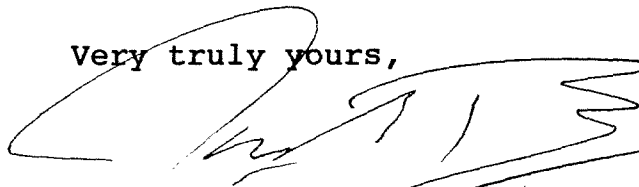
You inquired as to the authority of private security officers employed by Sea Pines Plantation on Hilton Head to enforce the numerous traffic and motor vehicle laws of this State on the private property of the Plantation.

Enclosed please find a previous Opinion of this office, dated April 30, 1987, which answers your question. That Opinion interpreted S.C. Code Ann. §40-17-130, which gives a private security guard, licensed or registered under this State's Private Detective and Private Security Agency's Act, the same arrest authority as Deputy Sheriffs, but only on the private property they are assigned to guard. The previous Opinion of this office, which is still accurate, confirms that Sea Pines private security officers, provided they are properly licensed and registered with SLED, would have the same authority as deputy sheriffs on the Sea Pines property to enforce any and all State Laws, including the specific statutes referenced in your letter of December 9.

The Honorable Holly A. Cork
Page 2
December 21, 1994

Should you have questions or desire further information,
please advise.

Very truly yours,



James G. Bogle, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

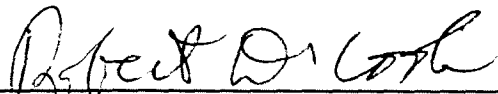
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Enclosures

APPROVED BY:



Treva G. Ashworth, Acting Director
Government and Civil Litigation Division



Robert D. Cook, Executive Assistant for Opinions