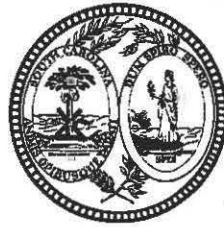


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The State of South Carolina
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

CHARLES MOLONY CONDON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 26, 1996

The Honorable Earle E. Morris, Jr.
Comptroller General, State of South Carolina
Post Office Box 11228
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: Informal Opinion

Dear Mr. Morris:

It is my understanding that Ms. Mary S. Rivers, a former Hampton County Auditor, retired as of August 31, 1995 and Governor Beasley appointed a replacement on September 14, 1995. I have been advised that on November 5, 1996, Hampton County held an election for the county auditor's seat for the four year term set to begin on July 1, 1997. You have advised that your office administers to some of the duties of the elected county auditors and county treasurers in the state and also pays a portion of their salaries in the same manner that you pay state employees. Since your office pays a portion of the county auditor's salary, you have asked when the recently elected auditor's term of office begins.

The time for commencement of the county auditor's term of office is the first day of July next following the auditor's election. S.C. Code Ann. § 4-11-10 (Supp. 1996). Therefore, the recently elected auditor's term of office will begin on July 1, 1997. Thus, the Office of the Comptroller General should extend state benefits and salary to the present county auditor until June 30, 1997 as that is the final day of appointed auditor's term of office.

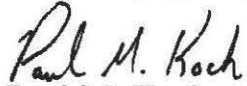
This letter is an informal opinion only. It has been written by a designated assistant attorney general and represents the position of the undersigned attorney as to the specific question asked. It has not, however, been personally scrutinized by the Attorney General nor officially published in the manner of a formal opinion.

Request for

Mr. Morris
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With kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul M. Koch".

Paul M. Koch

Assistant Attorney General