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The State of South Carolina



Office of the Attorney General

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September 5, 1991

The Honorable Larry A. Martin
Member, House of Representatives
Post Office Box 247
Pickens, South Carolina 29671

Dear Representative Martin:

Thank you for your recent letter in which you questioned the authority of the State Highway Department to impose a twenty-five (\$25.00) dollar penalty where there has been a lapse of registration of a vehicle. You indicated that reference had been made to Section 56-3-375 of the Code as the basis for such interpretation.

As I indicated in our telephone conversation on August 8, the various statutes dealing with vehicle registration are ambiguous on the point raised by you. However, this Office has repeatedly indicated in prior opinions that the interpretation of a statute by the agency charged with administering it is entitled to great weight and should not be overturned without clear and cogent reasons. See: Opinions dated March 27, 1991, March 24,

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1989 and November 23, 1988. As a result, we are not in a position to override the interpretation of the Department in this instance. I regret the fact that we cannot be of greater assistance to you at this time. If you have further questions, please let me know.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,



Charles H. Richardson
Assistant Attorney General

CHR:gmb

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:



ROBERT D. COOK
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