

1975 WL 29548 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

March 3, 1975

*1 Honorable H. Ray Ham
Member
House of Representatives
Lexington County
809 Security Federal Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Ray:

Thank you for forwarding me a copy of the Bill to amend Sections 58-62 of the Code so as to create (1) an Assistant Attorney General to be designated by me to represent the Public Service Commission and (2) a similar Assistant Attorney General to represent the consumer interest before the Commission.

I think that it would be a mistake to combine both of these functions in one office. The law presently provides for this and I have previously asked that the duties be separated because I do not feel that the same 'law firm' should represent both the Commission and consumer interest because it is most probable that conflicting interests will be involved and certainly conflicting duties are most likely to be asserted. I frankly do not care which duty is eventually made to rest upon this Office but only one individual should designate the people to represent each of the two spheres of activity.

It is probable that the best approach would be to establish a separate consumer protection division. One was created last year, which deals primarily with financial transactions. This, of course, is headed by Pete Parker. All of consumer protection matters could be placed in that office or, if the Legislature chooses, placed in this Office, but, in any event, adequate funding to do a decent job should be provided.

I appreciate your giving me an opportunity to express my views and will discuss the matter with you at any time you indicate.

With best wishes,
Cordially,

Daniel R. McLeod
Attorney General

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