

1973 WL 27037 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

April 4, 1973

*1 Mr. Robert Berger
1404 W. Fredonia
Peoria, Illinois 61606

Dear Mr. Berger:

This office is in receipt of your letter of March 5, 1973, addressed to the Attorney General, with inquiry into the existence of chain gangs within the state of South Carolina.

Please be advised that Article 5, Section 33 of the Constitution of the State of South Carolina provides:
'Circuit Courts and all Courts inferior thereto and municipal Courts shall have the power, in their discretion, to impose sentence of labor upon highways, streets and other public works upon persons by them sentenced to imprisonment.'

In accordance with that constitutional provision, our State Legislature has enacted Sections 55-451 through 55-527, Code of Laws of South Carolina (1962) which provide for the establishment, supervision and utilization of 'chain gangs' throughout the various counties of South Carolina as well as other provisions relating thereto.

The term 'chain gang' is synonymous with 'county public works' and is simply the utilization of inmate labor to maintain highways, roads, bridges, and other public projects.

I trust the foregoing will sufficiently answer your inquiry.

Yours very truly,

John P. Wilson
Senior Assistant Attorney General

1973 WL 27037 (S.C.A.G.)

End of Document

© 2020 Thomson Reuters. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.