

1973 WL 27729 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

November 19, 1973

*1 Mrs. Barbara W. Moxon
President
League of Women Voters of South Carolina
1917 Hampton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mrs. Moxon:

Thank you for your letter of October 4 asking whether or not the League of Women Voters should register as lobbyists.

Lobbyists and lobbying are covered in Chapter 6, Sections 30-151 through 30-157, South Carolina Code of Laws, 1962, as amended. Section 30-156 describes the persons to whom that chapter is applicable and reads as follows:

‘The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the citizens or officials of any county or municipality, but shall apply to the executive officers and any member of their legal staff, whether of general or local counsel, and of all other corporations who undertake, in such capacity, to perform services as legislative counsel or agent for such corporation, regardless of whether they receive additional compensation for such services.’

Therefore, if any of your executive officers act as a lobbyist, the League of Women Voters should, in my opinion, register as a lobbyist. No compensation for these services would be required in order for this chapter to be applicable.

Our statute would seem to be in accord with the general definition of lobbying as stated in 51 Am. Jur. 2d Lobbying § 1 at 991, which reads as follows:

‘Lobbying has a well-defined meaning in this county: Addressing or soliciting members of the legislative body, in the lobby or elsewhere, for the purpose of influencing their vote.’

In this State a person may represent himself without having to register as a lobbyist, but when he speaks in behalf of another person, he would, in my opinion, come within the provisions of Chapter 6 of the South Carolina Code.

We appreciate your efforts to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in governments.

With best wishes,
Very truly yours,

Daniel R. McLeod
Attorney General

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