

1972 WL 25174 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

January 12, 1972

*1 While the approval of the State Board of Education is required before a business college may issue honorary degrees, it is not necessary for the business college to seek the approval of the State Board regarding those upon whom honorary degrees are to be conferred.

State Superintendent of Education.
Columbia, South Carolina.

We have been requested to advise you as to whether or not the State Board of Education possesses the authority to either approve or disapprove the conferring of two honorary Doctor of Law degrees by Preston Business College.

Section 21-671 of the South Carolina Code of Laws provides as follows:

It shall be illegal for any person engaged in the business of operating a business college, university or similar school to issue degrees of any kind, except upon the approval of the State Board of Education.

We regard that statute as conferring upon the State Board only the power to either approve or disapprove the type of degree that a business college may issue in accordance with the state statutes and rules and regulations of the State Board of Education. It does not authorize the State Board to either approve or disapprove the conferring of honorary degrees upon individuals where the business college is permitted by the State Board to issue honorary degrees.

Accordingly, if Preston Business Collage has received the approval of the State Board to confer honorary Doctor of Law degrees, the College may confer such degrees upon those that it wishes to honor without the necessity of seeking the approval of the State Board of Education.

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