

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT BY BOARD MEMBERS

SUMMARY:

Board Members of a political subdivision are not prohibited by the Ethics Reform Act from accepting travel reimbursement from that agency to attend agency functions.

QUESTION:

The Executive Director of the Midlands Emergency Medical Service Management Association has requested an opinion on behalf of the Board members. The Attorney General's Office has determined that the Association is a political subdivision. Members are appointed by the respective County Councils and serve without compensation. He questions whether it is prohibited for Board Members to:

1. Accept payment from Midlands EMS for meals, lodging and mileage reimbursement to attend the S.C. EMS Annual Symposium - as Chairman of the Board - Other Board Members?
2. Accept meals from functions such as Executive Committee luncheon meetings, Paramedic graduation dinners, etc.

DISCUSSION:

This opinion is rendered in response to a letter dated December 18, 1991 requesting an opinion from the State Ethics Commission.

The Commission's jurisdiction is limited to the applicability of the Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act of 1991 (Act No. 248 of 1991; Section 8-13-100 et. seq., as amended, 1976 Code of Laws). This opinion does not supersede any other statutory or regulatory restrictions or procedures which may apply to this situation.

There are no prohibitions against members of a political subdivision being reimbursed for travel expenses for service on that political subdivision board if such travel reimbursement is allowed by that agency's authorizing legislation.