

1980 WL 120862 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

September 10, 1980

\*1 James R. Hill, Jr.  
General Counsel  
Department of Mental Retardation  
2712 Middleburg Drive  
Post Office Box 4706  
Columbia, South Carolina 29240

Dear Mr. Hill:

You have asked for an opinion of this office as to whether golf carts may be legally driven on the public highways of this State. Please find enclosed an opinion to Colonel Seaborn, dated May 30, 1978, in which it was determined that golf carts would fall within the definition of a motor vehicle as defined by § 56-5-130. South Carolina Code of Laws § 56-5-4410 prohibits any person from driving any vehicle which does not contain equipment required by various other code sections. There are numerous provisions in the Code which require such equipment as proper brakes, lighting requirements, bumpers, horns and warning devices, mirrors, etc. See for example, [Code of Laws of South Carolina §§ 56-5-4850-56-5-4900](#); 56-5-4450, et seq.; 56-5-4910-56-5-4940; 56-5-4950; 56-5-4990; 56-5-5040; and 56-5-5020. Unless the vehicle is so equipped, it should not be operated on the public highways of this State.

You have also asked whether these vehicles could be operated upon sidewalks. [Code of Laws of South Carolina § 56-5-3835](#) prohibits any person from driving any vehicle upon a sidewalk or sidewalk area except under conditions not relevant here.

If the golf cart is properly equipped with all equipment required by law, then the vehicle should be licensed and registered and have secured the applicable insurance as required by other sections of the Code.

If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Richard D. Bybee  
Assistant Attorney General

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