

1977 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 65 (S.C.A.G.), 1977 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 77-67, 1977 WL 24409

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 77-67

March 1, 1977

\*1 Ms. Jacquelyn S. Dickman  
Staff Attorney  
S. C. Department of Health and Environment Control  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Ms. Dickman:

In response to your request for an opinion from this Office as to the validity under State law of the creation of a multi-county association to develop and provide for an emergency medical services program for its member counties, my opinion is that such an undertaking is of the type authorized by the provisions of Article VIII, Section 13 of the South Carolina Constitution of 1895, as amended. As you know, that constitutional provision empowers:

[a]ny county, . . . [t]o agree with the State or with any other political subdivision for the joint administration of any function and exercise of powers and the sharing of the costs thereof.

Our Office has earlier rendered an opinion that 'any function' as used in Article VIII, Section 13 means any function in which a county can engage alone. 1972-73 OPS.ATTY.GEN. No. 3498. Act No. 283 of 1975, the 'home rule' legislation, expressly authorizes county governing bodies to make appropriations for, *inter alia*, 'hospital and medical care.' § 14-3703(5), CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1962, as amended (Cum. Supp.). Therefore, inasmuch as a South Carolina county can provide for medical care, including emergency medical care, individually, it can perform the same function in conjunction with other counties.

With kind regards,

Karen LeCraft Henderson  
Assistant Attorney General

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