

1979 WL 43219 (S.C.A.G.)  
Office of the Attorney General  
State of South Carolina  
December 21, 1979

\*1 Honorable J. Verne Smith  
Member  
South Carolina Senate  
Box 528  
Greer, South Carolina 29651

Dear Verne:

I regret that your letter dated November 8, 1979, has not yet been answered. The Assistant to whom this letter was assigned has been, since that time, constantly engaged with disturbances in Chester County and has been away from the Office almost continuously. His activities included a walk with demonstrators from Chester to the State House in Columbia, so I think it can be seen that he has been kept very busy.

The Act of 1975 regulating massage parlors is full, clear and complete and has stood the test of challenge in the Supreme Court of this State. I believe it is having a good effect to bring a difficult problem under manageable control.

No matter what guise an organization may be licensed under by a city, it cannot operate a massage parlor without being licensed by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, as the 1975 Act specifically provides. No city, in other words, can authorize operations of this kind if they are not duly licensed by SLED.

If any organization or individual secures a business license from a city to operate as a social club, carnival show or anything else, they cannot authorize any activity which requires licensing by the State. If this type of activity takes place in these circumstances, the law enforcement power of the State is then available to take whatever steps are necessary. I am sure that this can and will be quickly and effectively done.

I am not precisely familiar with what has happened in the City of Columbia but I will undertake to get the factual information and relay it to you whenever it is obtained. In any event, the statute is controlling in the operation of massage parlors and there is nothing any city or other political subdivision can do to effect this.

I wish for you and yours a joyous and happy Christmas Season.

With best wishes,  
Cordially,

Daniel R. McLeod  
Attorney General

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