

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



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Honorable Ryan deGraffenried, Jr.
State Senator, 21st District
P. O. Box 2263
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

Boards of Registrars -
Compensation - Associations -
Funds

A member of the board of registrars may use a working day to attend a training or informational meeting sponsored by the Alabama Association of Boards of Registrars and receive compensation for the day of actual attendance at the meeting.

Dear Senator deGraffenried:

This opinion is issued in response to your request for an opinion from the Attorney General.

QUESTION

Can a member of the county board of registrars legally use a day attending a meeting sponsored by the Alabama Association of Boards of Registrars as one of the statutorily allotted paid session days?

FACTS AND ANALYSIS

Your request states that the Alabama Association of Boards of Registrars sponsors regular training and informational meetings. These meetings are not mandatory; however, members of the various county boards are urged to attend.

Code of Alabama 1975, § 17-4-153, provides the compensation and allowances that each registrar is entitled to receive from the state and states:

"Each registrar shall receive a salary in the amount of \$50 per day for each day's attendance upon business of the board, to be paid by the state and disbursed to the county commissions and disbursed by the county commissions to each registrar on order of a quorum of the board of registrars of the county. . . . Each registrar shall receive a mileage allowance equal to the amount allowed state employees or employees of the county, whichever is greater, for official travel in the course of attending the business of the board, including attending continuing education programs. Travel and other expenses will be paid by the county commissions to the boards of registrars and the state will reimburse the county commissions based on a written request submitted by the county commissions to the State Comptroller." (Emphasis added.)

Code of Alabama 1975, § 17-4-156, limits each member of the board of registrars to a maximum number of working days for which the member may receive a salary. The maximum number of working days varies among the counties as set forth in § 17-4-156.

This office has previously held that members of the board of registrars may be reimbursed by the county commissions for travel and other related expenses incurred to attend a statewide workshop for boards of registrars, as this would be travel in the course of attending the business of the board. Opinion to Honorable Wayne Buttram, Chairman,

Honorable Ryan deGraffenried, Jr.
Page 3

Board of Registrars of DeKalb County, dated February 11, 1988, A.G. No. 88-00162. Given this opinion and the language of § 17-4-153, a board member may use a working day to attend a training or informational meeting sponsored by the Alabama Association of Boards of Registrars and receive a salary for that day. It should be noted that the receipt of a salary for a working day is limited to the day of actual attendance of the meeting and should not be received for a travel day.


CONCLUSION

A member of the board of registrars may use a working day to attend a training or informational meeting sponsored by the Alabama Association of Boards of Registrars and receive compensation for the day of actual attendance at the meeting.

I hope this sufficiently answers your question. If our office can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

JIMMY EVANS
Attorney General
By:


JAMES R. SOLOMON, JR.
Chief, Opinions Division

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