

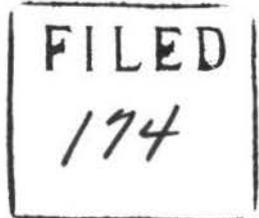
ELECTIONS:
CRIMINAL LAW:
HIGHWAY PATROL:
MISSOURI ELECTIONS COMMISSION:

The Missouri Elections Commission is empowered to seek and receive investigative assistance from the Missouri State Highway Patrol in the investigation of apparent violations of the Campaign Finance and Disclosure Law.

OPINION NO. 174

August 4, 1975

Mr. Albert L. Kemp, Jr.
Executive Director
Missouri Elections Commission
631 West Main Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101



Dear Mr. Kemp:

This is in response to your request for an opinion. In the request you have asked the following question:

Does the Missouri Elections Commission have the right to seek and receive investigative assistance from the Missouri State Highway Patrol in investigating certain apparent violations of the Campaign Finance and Disclosure Law?

Subsection 4 of Section 12 of the Missouri Campaign Finance and Disclosure Law states that the Missouri Elections Commission shall:

"Upon written complaint of any citizen or upon its own motion or upon findings reported to the Commission by the Secretary of State, investigate and report apparent violations of this act to appropriate law enforcement authorities;"

Subsection 4 of Section 14 of such law states:

"It shall be the duty of all officers of the State of Missouri charged with the enforcement of criminal law to render and furnish to the Commission when requested all information and assistance in their possession and in their power."

Mr. Albert L. Kemp, Jr.

Section 43.180, RSMo 1969, provides in part:

". . . The members of the state highway patrol shall have full power and authority to make investigations connected with any crime of any nature. . . ."

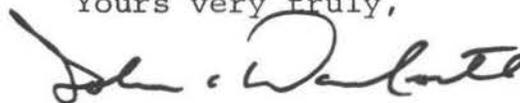
It is clear that the Missouri Campaign Finance and Disclosure Law requires the Missouri Elections Commission to investigate apparent violations of the act, while also requiring all law enforcement officers of the state of Missouri to furnish the Commission with all information and assistance in their possession and in their power. It is also clear that under Section 43.180, RSMo 1969, the Highway Patrol has the authority "to make investigations connected with any crime of any nature."

CONCLUSION

Therefore, it is the opinion of this office that the Missouri Elections Commission is empowered to seek and receive investigative assistance from the Missouri State Highway Patrol in the investigation of apparent violations of the Campaign Finance and Disclosure Law.

The foregoing opinion, which I hereby approve, was prepared by my assistant, Robert H. House.

Yours very truly,



JOHN C. DANFORTH
Attorney General