



WILLIAM J. SCOTT

ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS
500 SOUTH SECOND STREET
SPRINGFIELD

May 26, 1977

FILE NO. S-1248

OFFICERS:

Definition of the Term
"Full Time" As Used in
the Environmental Protection Act

Honorable William A. Redmond
Speaker
House of Representatives
State of Illinois
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Speaker Redmond:

I have your letter wherein you request an opinion regarding the meaning of the term "full time" as that term is used in section 5(a) of the Environmental Protection Act. (Ill. Rev. Stat. 1975, ch. 111 1/2, par. 1005(a).) More specifically, you ask whether, absent any interference with official duties, a member of the Pollution Control Board may engage in and receive compensation for such activities as lecturing, teaching and writing.

Honorable William A. Redmond - 2.

For the reasons hereinafter stated, it is my opinion that the term "full time", as used in indicating the amount of time which a member of the Pollution Control Board is to devote to his duties, means that he must devote an amount of time considered standard or normal for the performance of such duties. The term "full time" does not prohibit lecturing, teaching and writing when such activities do not in any way interfere with the member's performance of his official duties.

Section 5(a) of the Environmental Protection Act (Ill. Rev. Stat. 1975, ch. 111 1/2, par. 1005(a)) provides in pertinent part as follows:

" * * *

Board members shall be paid \$30,000 per year, and the Chairman \$35,000 per year. Each member shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred, shall devote full time to the performance of his duties, and shall make a financial disclosure upon appointment.
* * * " (Emphasis added.)

In opinion No. F-1798 (1967 Ill. Att'y. Gen. Op. 87) my predecessor, in construing a similar provision, advised that the term "full time" as applied to the performance of

Honorable William A. Redmond - 3.

official duties, means the amount of time considered normal for the performance of such duties.

There is no Illinois statutory or case law definition of the term "full time" as that term is used in section 5(a). In the absence of a statutory definition, it is assumed that words have their ordinary and popularly understood meaning. (General Motors Corporation, Fisher Body Division v. The Industrial Commission (1975), 62 Ill. 2d 106, 112; People v. Dednam (1973), 55 Ill. 2d 565, 568.) The ordinary and popularly understood meaning of the term "full time" is defined in Webster's Third New International Dictionary as "the amount of time considered the normal or standard amount for working during a given period".

Section 14 of article VI of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 places upon judges a restriction similar to that placed upon members of the Pollution Control Board. The Supreme Court, however, in its practice rules, has interpreted the constitutional restriction in a manner which allows judges to receive reasonable compensation for lecturing, teaching, writing or similar activities. (Ill. Rev. Stat. 1975, ch. 110A, par. 65.) Therefore, lecturing, teaching

Honorable William A. Redmond - 4.

and writing, as long as those activities do not interfere in any way with a board member's performance, would be activities which could be pursued without violation of the "full time" restriction.

Very truly yours,

A T T O R N E Y G E N E R A L