OPINION 57-119

April 30, 1957 (OPINION)

INSURANCE

RE: May State Chartered Credit Union Reserve Earnings to Pay

Death Benefits

In March, 1957, we received a request for an opinion from your office in regard to the question of whether it is permissive for a state chartered credit union to set up reserves from its earnings for the purpose of paying a death benefit to the members of the credit union.

Credit unions are creatures of the Legislature and derive their existence and powers from the statutes governing them. Under section 6-0606 of the 1953 Supplement to the North Dakota Revised code of 1943 the powers of a credit union are enumerated. We find nothing in the law which authorizes a credit union to reserve earnings for the purpose of paying death benefits.

It is the opinion of this office that it would not be within the purview of the powers granted a credit union to reserve earnings for the purpose of paying death benefits.

LESLIE R. BURGUM

Attorney General