

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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February 20, 1930

To Lieut. G. Colby Wardwell, State Highway Police
Re: Sharing the Ride

We have your inquiry regarding the application of Public Laws 1923, Chapter 311, as amended by Public Laws 1925, Chapter 167 and Public Laws 1929, Chapter 301, to an automobile of a Bangor resident who is employed at Bucksport and carries a daily load of the same workmen between Bangor and Bucksport at a weekly charge.

My predecessor, in an opinion given the Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission under date of April 27, 1926, printed in his report for that year, Page 37, ruled that this law did not apply to a workman carrying with his fellow workmen as an accommodation, they paying therefor their part of the exact cost. He ruled that this statute was not intended to apply to private automobiles, not common carriers, operated by the owner as a convenience for himself and friends, even though the passengers bear a share of the expense of operation.

It seems to me that the case which you describe falls within this ruling and that it was not the intention of the Legislature to subject the person you mention to the provisions of this Act.

Clement F. Robinson
Attorney General

CFR EH