

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
AUGUSTA

April 4, 1934

Honorable Robinson C. Tobey
Secretary of State
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mr. Tobey:

In your letter of March 28, you requested a ruling on the interpretation of Section 67 of Chapter 29, R. S., with respect to the transfer of plates.

In order to arrive at the correct interpretation of Section 67 of Chapter 29 of the Revised Statutes, it is necessary to read in connection with it, the provisions of Section 55, especially the 4th sentence of that section which reads as follows:

"The secretary of state may select and issue a special distinguishing letter, mark, or design for number plates issued to manufacturers and dealers; also for any temporary or other special classes of registration and for use on motor cycles, trucks, trailers, tractors, and side cars, which are required to be registered under this chapter."

Acting under the authority given you by Section 55, you furnish particular types of plates for different types of motor vehicles, and your purpose in doing so is obvious. Accordingly, a passenger car may not carry a plate issued for a truck, or vice versa; and the principle is the same with respect to other types of motor vehicle where you have seen fit to distinguish between them with plates of special design.

That being the case, the legislature in enacting Section 67, had no intention of interfering with your duties under Section 55. Accordingly, in order for the holder of a registration to retain his same plates and use them on another vehicle, it is necessary for him to use them only on a vehicle of the same type. In other words, a person may not discontinue the use of a truck and claim the privilege of using the same plates on a pleasure car.

Giving effect to the above interpretation, where one holds a registration and discontinues the ownership or use of such motor vehicle, he is not entitled to any rebate from the State of Maine until such time in the Calendar year as he may register a motor vehicle of the same type as the one transferred, or the use of which has been discontinued.

Very truly yours,

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN
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Attorney General

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