

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AUGUSTA

May 29, 1935

Honorable Lewis O. Barrows  
Secretary of State  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Sir:

Concerning the construction of the statutes requiring a license fee of \$500 for traveling circuses, and whether or not the state is requiring that such circuses pay a registration fee in Maine on trucks brought into the state and used in connection with the performances of such circuses, I am pleased to advise that heretofore it has not been the practice of the state to require traveling circuses to register their trucks in this state.

This practice was commenced by Secretary of State Edgar C. Smith, and his policy has since been followed. Secretary Smith took a practical view of the law and was of the opinion that the legislature did not intend to impose a \$500 license fee and, in addition, require registration fees on trucks. Were this to be done, the combined license and registration fees would amount to a sum which would be prohibitory for practically all circuses. It has been the view of the state that the possible and, under the circumstances, practical construction of the statute was that the license fee of \$500 would be all that the state would require.

Secretary Smith also felt that in adopting this construction he was according a courtesy to the other states of the Union, which courtesy is accorded by those states. That is, on the ground of reciprocity.

Very sincerely yours,

Attorney General

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