

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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April 23, 1943

Homer Orr, Purchasing Agent

Purchasing

Frank I. Cowan, General

Attorney General

State-owned Automobiles

Re: Interpretation of P. L. 1939, Chapter 220, "Discontinuance of state-owned cars, exceptions" (Amended, P.L. 1941, Chapter 325, approved January 24, 1942.)

The exception in the statute which permits heads of departments or members of commissions "as the governor and council may from time to time designate" to have State-owned cars provided for them does not limit such provision to a single automobile to be used by a head of a department or by a member of a commission, nor to automobiles to be used solely by the heads of departments or members of commissions. It was apparently the intent of the legislature to limit the use of automobiles and to make sure that some responsible head of department or commission should be charged with the duty of guarding against misuse.

It is my understanding that you wish to know to what extent the State may lawfully provide automobiles for the use of State institutions. The proper procedure will be to have a Council order designating the Commissioner or Commissioners who have charge of the particular institution in question as persons for whom the automobiles can be provided, and the Commissioner or Commissioners shall then designate the persons connected with said institution who shall operate said automobiles solely in connection with State business.

Frank I. Cowan
Attorney General

FIG:8