

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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February 22, 1967

Lieutenant Kenneth Wood

Maine State Police
Traffic Division
Attorney General

Jerome S. Matus, Assistant

Display of Dealer Plates

FACTS:

By memorandum dated January 30, 1967 you have requested an opinion as to the period of time dealer plates are valid for display.

QUESTION:

Under 29 M.R.S.A. § 339, does the requirement for a dealer to pay the registration fee before December 31 also mean that the registrations expire on that date and make display of the previous year's plates illegal on January 1; or under 29 M.R.S.A. § 106 are the dealer plates valid for display until March 1?

ANSWER:

A dealer plate is valid for display until March 1 of the next succeeding year.

OPINION:

29 M.R.S.A. § 339 states in part as follows:

"Every manufacturer or dealer in new or used motor vehicles or trailers or holder of a transporter registration certificate shall pay to the Secretary of State the required registration fee for the succeeding year on or before the 31st day of December annually. . . ." (Emphasis supplied)

February 22, 1967

This section makes it clear that registration fees for dealer plates must be paid for the succeeding year on or before December 31. The section does not refer to the display of dealer plates and therefore does not control the display of dealer plates.

The display of motor vehicle registrations and license tags upon number plates, including dealer plates, is controlled by 29 M.R.S.A. § 106 which provides in part:

" Motor vehicle registrations and license tags issued thereon in any calendar year shall be valid for use and display until March 1st of the next calendar year."

Thus, dealer plates may be displayed until March 1 of the next succeeding year.

Jerome S. Matus
Assistant Attorney General

JSM/slf

cc: Secretary of State -
Motor Vehicle Division