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Application of Financial Responsibility Law to Motor Driven Snow
Vehicles Prior to Effective Date of Public Law 1967, Chapter 479

Although the financial responsibility law does not now apply to snow travelling vehicles, the question has been posed whether prior to the effective date of Public Law 1967, Chapter 479, the financial responsibility sections of Title 29 applied to motor driven snow sleds, i.e., snow travelling vehicles.

I am firmly of the opinion that the financial responsibility law of Title 29 was not intended to apply and did not apply prior to the effective date of Public Law 1967, Chapter 479.

The financial responsibility law provides, inter alia, that:

"Upon receipt of an abstract of the record in case of conviction of any person for a violation of any state law relative to motor vehicles, the Secretary of State, in his discretion, may forthwith suspend the license of the person so convicted and the registration certificates and registration plates issued for any motor vehicle,

. . . . " (Emphasis supplied)

M.R.S.A. Title 29, § 782, subsection 2.

Although by our opinion of December 30, 1965 it was ruled that the definition of motor vehicle would encompass motor driven snow sleds, that opinion did not indicate that a motor driven snow sled was a motor vehicle for which registration certificates and registration plates were issued. In fact, registration certificates and registration plates were not issued for motor driven snow sleds; nor were licenses issued to persons for the operation of motor driven snow sleds.

It seems clear that references to licensing and registration within the financial responsibility law precludes the conclusion that the financial responsibility law in Title 29 applies to motor driven snow sleds, i.e., snow travelling vehicles.

JSM:H

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