

Automobiles, Position of Number Tags Upon.

Since Chapter 65, Laws of 1915, is a special law relating to licensing and numbering of automobiles, it is to be given effect when inconsistent with the provisions of the general highway law, Chapter 141, Laws of 1915.

March 13, 1916.

Hon. George R. Allen,
County Attorney,
Virginia City, Montana.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your communication under date the 4th instant, relative to the proper interpretation of Chapter 141 of the Laws of the Fourteenth Legislative Assembly, and Chapter 65 of the same Session Laws. There is an apparent conflict in the provisions of these laws relative to the position and size of the numbers to be placed upon automobiles. Chapter 65 is an amendment of Section 3 of Chapter 73 of the Laws of the Thirteenth Legislative Assembly, which was:

"An Act providing for the registration, identification and regulation of motor vehicles, operated and driven upon the public roads and highways of this state."

Chapter 65 of the Laws of 1915, provides that the distinctive number shall consist of a metal plate not less than six inches wide and not less than fifteen inches long, bearing number assigned such motor vehicle by the Secretary of State, upon which there shall be numerals not less than four inches long nor less than one-half inch in width, which tag shall be displayed on the front end and rear of the vehicle.

Section 1 of Chapter 9 of Chapter 141 of the Session Laws of 1915, provides that owners shall equip motor vehicles with a tag of suitable character, dimensions of which shall not be less than twelve inches long and four inches wide, such tag to be exhibited on the rear end of said motor vehicle. It is to be noted that Chapter 65 is a specific provision relative to the registration and numbering of motor vehicles, while Chapter 141 is a general highway law. I conclude, therefore, that the provisions of Chapter 65 must govern, in as much as the special provisions govern when inconsistent with the provisions of some general law.

Yours very truly,

J. B. POINDEXTER,
Attorney General.