

Automobiles—Motor Vehicles—Licenses—Registration.

Since chapter 158, laws of 1931, which repeals chapter 181, laws of 1929, does not go into effect until March 15, 1932, registration of automobiles for 1932 should be held in abeyance until March 15, 1932.

Mr. Austin B. Middleton,
Registrar of Motor Vehicles,
Deer Lodge, Montana.

July 30, 1931.

My dear Mr. Middleton:

You have requested my opinion on the following question:

“House bill 237, which goes into effect on March 15, 1932, provides in part that applicants for registration of motor vehicles can make their application to the county treasurer, pay the 1932 taxes and receive a ten day permit to operate their car without license plates and also advances the date on which automobile owners can secure license plates from January 1 to March 15, 1932. Inasmuch as this law does not go into effect until March 15, 1932, can registration be accepted under the old law up to that date?”

Under the provisions of chapter 181, laws of 1929, applications for registration are required to be made not later than January 1 of each year, the fiscal year for registration being from January 1 to January 1. By the provisions of chapter 158, laws of 1931, which goes into effect March 15, 1932, registration is required not later than March 15 of each year, thus changing the fiscal year for registration from January 1 to January 1 to March 15 to March 15.

By reason of the fact that chapter 158, *supra*, does not go into effect until March 15, 1932, the provisions of chapter 181, laws of 1929, are not repealed until that date and a strict interpretation of the law as it now stands would require registration under both the old and the new law for the year 1932 but, of course, such was not the intention of the legislature.

It is impossible to reconcile these two provisions for registration with the intent of the legislature and the only thing that can be done, in my opinion, is to hold registration for the year 1932 in abeyance until

March 15, 1932, and then accept registrations under the provisions of the new act.

Very truly yours,

L. A. FOOT,

Attorney General.