

Your letter also calls attention to opinion No. 168 issued by this office, in which we advised:

"Except for dealers' license plates, which may be transferred from one motor vehicle to another as used in the business of buying, selling, and exchanging motor vehicles, I find no statutory authority permitting the transfer of license plates from one caravaned motor vehicle to another," and asks us to suggest some solution to the difficulty.

Section 1755, R. C. M. 1935 provides:

"1. * * * It shall be his (Registrar of Motor Vehicles) duty to keep a record, as hereinafter specified, of all motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers of every kind, and certificates of registration and ownership thereof * * *.

"2. In the case of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers, the record shall show the following: Name of owner, residence by town and county, business address, name and address of conditional sales vendor, mortgagee or other lien holder and amount due under contract or lien, manufacturer of car, manufacturer's designation of style of car or vehicle, manufacturers' engine and serial number, year of manufacture, character of motive power and shipping weight of car as shown by the manufacturer and the distinctive license number assigned such car or vehicle; and, if a truck or trailer, the number of tons capacity, and such other information as may from time to time be found desirable."

Section 1758 requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to issue a certificate of registration to the applicant, and Section 1759.2 requires him to issue with the certificate of registration, the license plates bearing a distinctive number which must be exhibited on the vehicle.

Under the foregoing statutory provisions, we think it is clear that the Registrar of Motor Vehicles must issue a certificate of registration for each caravaned car, which certificate of course, must contain the identifying information required by statute. When this is done, it should not be difficult for you to put a stop to the practice mentioned in your letter.

Opinion No. 375.

Motor Vehicles—Licenses—Certificates of Registration—Caravans.

HELD: The Registrar of Motor Vehicles must issue certificate of registration for each caravaned car, which certificate must contain the identifying information required by Section 1755, R. C. M. 1935.

November 30, 1936.

Montana Highway Patrol Board
The Capitol

We have your letter of November 25 in which you state:

"Contracting caravaners who caravan cars through Montana to the Pacific Coast states are purchasing sets of Montana trailer license plates and using them over and over again on successive caravans, due to the fact that when they receive plates they do not receive an identification receipt showing that certain plates are intended for a certain car.

"I find after talking to Mr. Small at Deer Lodge, that they have not issued a registration receipt or receipt of any kind identifying the trailer plates with a certain car."