

Opinion No. 80.**Automobiles—Motor Vehicles—
Vehicles—Registrar of Motor Vehicles
—Certificate of Ownership.**

Held: All certificates of ownership and certificates of registration issued by the registrar of motor vehicles after June 30, 1943, shall conform to the requirements as set forth in Chapter 148, Laws of 1943.

June 28, 1943.

Mr. John E. Henry
Registrar of Motor Vehicles
Deer Lodge, Montana

Dear Mr. Henry:

You have inquired whether Section 7 of Chapter 148, Laws of 1943, declaring the chapter "shall be in full force and effect as to new certificates of ownership and certificates of registration issued after June 30, 1943," applies to all certificates issued after that date or only to those issued from application, as distinguished from those issued as a result of transfer of title.

Chapter 148, Laws of 1943 amends the statute declaring what the certificates of registration and certificates of ownership shall contain—and consequently it has been necessary for your department to prepare and print new forms in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 148, Laws of 1943.

All laws are to be given a sensible construction. A literal application of a statute which would lead to absurd consequences is to be avoided whenever a reasonable application may be given which is consistent with the legislative purpose. (*United States v. Ryan*, 284 U. S. 167, 175.) A statute should be given an interpretation best calculated to carry out the actuating thought in the minds of the legislature at the time of its passage. (*Reeve v. City of Billings*, 57 Mont. 552, 555, 189 Pac. 768, 769.)

To say your office must issue the old forms of certificate of ownership and certificate of registration to certain applicants, while issuing the revised forms prepared under the provisions of Chapter 148 to certain other applicants, would serve no purpose under the provisions of the chapter. Only confusion and disorder could result in the administration of your department, and

certainly no useful purpose would result to those individuals and businesses which must deal with your department.

It is therefore my opinion all certificates of ownership and certificates of registration issued by the registrar of motor vehicles after June 30, 1943, should conform to the requirements set forth in Chapter 148, Laws of 1943.

Sincerely yours,
R. V. BOTTOMLY
Attorney General