



April 02, 2025

Secondhand Automobiles

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Secondhand Automobiles

Private Acts of 1917 Chapter 110

SECTION 1. That in counties having a population of 190,000 or more by the Federal Census of 1910 of any subsequent Federal Census, it shall be the duty of every dealer in secondhand automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, and other self-propelled vehicles, and second-hand bicycles, and second-hand accessories for all such vehicles, to keep a well bound book and enter therein in legible manuscript or typewriting a particular, minute and detailed description of every second-hand automobile, truck, motorcycle, or other self-propelled vehicle, and every secondhand bicycle, and all second-hand accessories of every kind for any of such vehicles bought, exchanged, or traded for by said dealer; also the name, color, and residence of the party of parties selling, trading, or exchanging same; such entries in said book to be made immediately after said dealer acquires such vehicle and articles, and said book to be indexed and opened at all times to the inspection of the police or other officers. And provided further, that it shall be unlawful under any circumstances to exchange, purchase from, or trade for any above the named vehicles or articles from a minor unless written permission be given by the parents or guardian of such minor and filed as a part of the record of the transaction.

SECTION 2. That every person, firm or corporation engaged in said business in said counties shall prepare and deliver to the Chief of Police or Chief of Detectives of the town or city in which said business is carried on, every day before the hour on nine o'clock A.M., a legible copy of such register and the description of all second-hand automobiles, trucks, motorcycles and bicycles with the motor numbers, factory numbers or engine numbers thereof and a description of all second-hand accessories purchased or traded for during the preceding day. If said business is carried on in a town or city where there is no Chief of Police or Chief of Detectives then said description of the various articles, as aforesaid shall be delivered to the Mayor of said town or city, if any, otherwise to the Sheriff of the county in which said business is located.

SECTION 3. That no second-hand automobile, truck, motorcycle, or bicycle, or any second-hand accessories purchased or traded for shall be disposed of or permitted to be sold or disposed of by said dealer for a period of twenty-four hours after the copy of said register, description and information provided for in the preceding section shall have been delivered to the Chief of Police, Chief of Detectives, Mayor or Sheriff, as therein provided.

SECTION 4. That a failure on the part of any dealer in the second-hand vehicles and articles hereinbefore mentioned, to do and perform all and any of the things required in this Act shall constitute a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars and not more than one hundred dollars upon conviction in any Criminal Court having jurisdiction.

SECTION 5. That this Act shall not apply to dealers or agents who handle new automobiles and accept old automobiles as part payment for new automobiles.

SECTION 6. That all laws or parts of laws in conflict with this Act be and the same are hereby repealed, and that this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: January 26, 1917.

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