OPINION 57-132

October 4, 1957 (OPINION)

MOTOR VEHICLES

RE: Dealer's License - Two Places of Business

We have received your letter of October 3, 1957, in regard to motor vehicle dealers, licenses, and bonds.

There are two statutes involved here: Chapter 258 of the 1957 Laws, which amends section 39-0459 of the 1953 Supplement, and makes it unlawful for any person, partnership, or corporation to engage in the business of buying, selling, or exchanging motor vehicles or to advertise or hold himself out to the public as engaging in such business without a license. The cost of such license is twenty-five dollars. The other statute is section 39-04593 of the 1953 Supplement, which requires a motor vehicle dealer to furnish a bond before a license shall be issued to him. Each bond is set at three thousand dollars.

Your question involves situations where the same person or corporation operates more than one place of business under different names and frequently under different management. Your specific question is whether in such instances a separate license and bond are required for each such place or whether more than one place can be operated with a single license.

It is our opinion in such instances that each establishment or place of business must be separately licensed and bonded.

If you have instances where more than one place is operated by the same person, partnership, or corporation under the same name and all managed from a central place by the same management, we believe that one license and bond would suffice for all the places so operated.

LESLIE R. BURGUM

Attorney General