

(1) year nor more than ten (10) years, or be both fined and imprisoned, in the discretion of the Court.

Defaced Identification Marks.

1920, ch. 407, sec. 157A.

203. (a) Any person who removes, defaces, alters, changes, destroys, or obliterates, in any manner or way, or who causes to be removed, defaced, altered, changed, destroyed, or obliterated, in any manner or way, any trade mark, distinguishing or identification number, serial number, or mark on or from any motor vehicle as defined in Section 173 of this Article, or who shall sell any such motor vehicle, knowing the same to be in such condition, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine of not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), or by imprisonment for any term not exceeding seven (7) years, or both, in the discretion of the Court.

(b) Any person having in his possession or custody (as owner or otherwise) at the time of the enactment of this section a motor vehicle on which or from which any trade mark, distinguishing or identification number, serial number, or mark has been, or is, covered, removed, defaced, destroyed, or obliterated, or altered or changed in any way, shall within sixty (60) days from the passage of this Act, file with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles a verified statement showing the source of his title, the proper trade marks, identification or distinguishing number, serial number, or mark, if known, and if known, the manner of and reason for such mutilation, change, alteration, concealment, or defacement, the length of time such vehicle has been held and the price paid therefor; and no prosecution shall be had under this section when such statement has been properly filed and the new mark or number provided for in sub-section (d) of this section properly substituted; otherwise the penalty prescribed in sub-section (c) of this section to be imposed.

(c) Any person who shall, after the enactment of this section, come into possession or custody (as owner or otherwise) of any motor vehicle from which or on which any trade mark, distinguishing or identification number, serial number, or mark, has been or is covered, removed, defaced, destroyed, or obliterated, or altered or changed in any manner or way, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine of not less than five dollars (\$5.00) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisonment for not more than seven (7) years, or both, in the discretion of the Court, unless such person shall, within ten (10) days from the time such motor vehicle shall have come into his possession, file with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles the verified statement required by sub-section (b) of this section, and substitute a new distinguishing mark or number as next hereinafter provided.

(d) In the case of an obliterated or defaced mark or number being reported as aforesaid, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall assign a new distinguishing mark or number to be used in lieu of the one so