

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 723 (Delegates Heller and DeCarlo)  
Commerce and Government Matters

---

**Vehicle Laws - Registration Classifications - "Show Motor Vehicles"**

---

This bill establishes a "Show Motor Vehicle" as a new vehicle registration classification. To be registered as a Show Motor Vehicle, the vehicle owner is required to submit an application certifying that the vehicle will be driven less than 1,000 miles per year, and used only for exhibitions, club activities, parades, tours, and similar events and not for general daily transportation. A Show Motor Vehicle is exempt from any vehicle inspections, including emissions testing. The annual registration fee is set at \$13.50.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential indeterminate increase in special fund expenditures. Revenues would not be affected as discussed below.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None. This bill would have no material impact on small businesses.

---

**Fiscal Analysis**

**Background:** There are two similar types of vehicle classifications, Historic Motor Vehicles and Street Rods. Both classifications require certification that the vehicles will be used only for exhibitions, parades, and similar events and not for daily general transportation. In addition, a Historic Motor Vehicle is required to be 20 years or older and may not be substantially altered from the manufacturer's original design and a Street Rod is required to be 25 years or older and must be substantially altered from the manufacturer's original design. Both classifications do not require vehicle or emissions inspections. The annual registration fee for both classifications is set at \$13.50. In fiscal 1996, 35,762 Historic Motor Vehicles and 2,728 Street Rods were registered with the Motor Vehicle Administration

(MVA).

**State Revenues:** The level of interest that could be generated by this new vehicle classification cannot be reliably estimated at this time. It is assumed that most of the vehicles that could register as a Show Motor Vehicle are already registered under the two existing classifications. Thus, the increase in the number of vehicles registered as a Show Motor Vehicle is assumed to be minimal. The annual registration fee is \$13.50. To the extent that vehicles register as a Show Motor Vehicle and are not registered under the two existing classifications, Transportation Trust Fund revenues could increase.

This bill also provides that vehicles under this new classification are exempt from emissions testing. The current fee for an emissions test is \$12 and is set to increase to \$14 on June 1, 1997. Assuming that a minimal number of vehicles would register as a Show Motor Vehicle as discussed above, the Transportation Trust Fund revenues could decrease by a minimal amount.

**State Expenditures:** A minimum of 4,000 registration plates must be ordered when a new vehicle classification is established. The cost is \$3.05 per set. Thus, Transportation Trust Fund expenditures would increase by \$12,200. However, to the extent that fees may be collected under the new classification, the costs may be offset by the increased revenue. The MVA advises that computer programming expenditures could increase by an estimated \$139,250 to modify the computer programs as proposed in this legislation. The Department of Fiscal Services (DFS) advises that if other legislation is passed requiring computer reprogramming changes, economies of scale could be realized. This would reduce computer programming costs associated with this bill and other legislation affecting the MVA system. Further, DFS advises that the increased computer expenditure is simply an estimate and the MVA may be able to handle the changes with either less money than it estimates or existing resources.

---

**Information Source(s):** Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration),  
Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 17, 1997

brd

---

Analysis by: Christina H. Kim  
Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 841-3710  
(301) 858-3710