
By: **Delegates Guns and Rudolph**

Introduced and read first time: February 18, 1998

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Historic Motor Vehicles, Street Rods, and Custom Vehicles**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of "historic motor vehicle" and "street rod"
4 to exclude vehicles that are newer than certain model years; requiring the new
5 owner of a street rod, when applying for registration of the vehicle after transfer
6 of ownership, to provide to the Motor Vehicle Administration certain proof that
7 the vehicle has passed a certain safety inspection within a certain time period;
8 establishing a Class O vehicle registration classification for certain custom
9 vehicles; establishing the qualifications for registration as a Class O vehicle;
10 requiring the owner of a custom vehicle, when applying for registration as a
11 Class O vehicle, to provide to the Administration a certain certification and
12 proof that the vehicle has passed a certain safety inspection within a certain
13 period of time; establishing the registration fee for a Class O vehicle; providing
14 for the effect on the registration of certain vehicles that are improperly
15 registered as a result of certain provisions of this Act; providing for the issuance
16 of a special registration plate for Class O vehicles; exempting Class O vehicles
17 from certain provisions relating to vehicle equipment and periodic vehicle
18 inspections; authorizing the Administration to issue a vintage registration plate
19 for a Class O vehicle under certain circumstances; making technical and stylistic
20 changes; and generally relating to motor vehicle registration classifications.

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
22 Article - Transportation
23 Section 13-936, 13-936.1, and 13-937.1
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

26 BY adding to
27 Article - Transportation
28 Section 13-937.2
29 Annotated Code of Maryland
30 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
2 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article - Transportation**

4 13-936.

5 (a) In this section, "historic motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle, including a
6 passenger vehicle, motorcycle, or truck, that:

7 (1) Is 20 years old or older AND, REGARDLESS OF AGE, IS NOT NEWER
8 THAN THE 1980 MODEL YEAR;

9 (2) [Has] OTHER THAN MINOR COSMETIC CHANGES, HAS not been
10 substantially altered from the manufacturer's original design; and

11 (3) Meets criteria contained in [rules and] regulations [issued]
12 ADOPTED by the Administration.

13 (b) In this section, "historic motor vehicle" does not include a vehicle that has
14 been remanufactured or reconstructed as a replica of an original vehicle.

15 (c) If registered with the Administration under this section, every historic
16 motor vehicle is a Class L (historic) vehicle.

17 (d) For each Class L (historic) vehicle, the annual registration fee is \$13.50.

18 (e) In applying for registration of a historic motor vehicle under this section,
19 the owner of the vehicle shall submit with the application a certification that the
20 vehicle for which the application is made:

21 (1) Will be maintained for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades,
22 tours, occasional transportation, and similar uses; and

23 (2) Will not be used:

24 (i) For general daily transportation; or

25 (ii) Primarily for the transportation of passengers or property on
26 highways.

27 (f) Except as provided in § 13-936.1 of this subtitle, on registration of a
28 vehicle under this section, the Administration shall issue a special, historic motor
29 vehicle registration plate of the size and design that the Administration determines.

30 (g) Unless the presence of the equipment was specifically required by a
31 statute of this State as a condition of sale when the vehicle was manufactured, the
32 presence of any specific equipment is not required for the operation of a vehicle
33 registered under this section.

1 (h) A vehicle registered under this section is exempt from any statute that
2 requires periodic vehicle inspections or that requires the use and inspection of
3 emission controls.

4 13-936.1.

5 (a) In this section "vintage registration plate" means a Maryland registration
6 plate that was actually issued for display on a motor vehicle in a year not less than 25
7 years prior to January 1 of each calendar year.

8 (b) (1) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the owner of a motor
9 vehicle registered under § 13-936 [or § 13-937.1] of this subtitle as a Class L
10 (historic) [or], § 13-937.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE AS A Class N (street rod) vehicle, OR §
11 13-937.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE AS A CLASS O (CUSTOM) VEHICLE may display 2 vintage
12 registration plates in lieu of current registration plates on that vehicle.

13 (2) The Administration may authorize the display of 2 vintage
14 registration plates in lieu of current registration plates on a motor vehicle described
15 in paragraph (1) of this subsection if:

16 (i) The owner of the motor vehicle submits an application on a form
17 prescribed by the Administrator;

18 (ii) The 2 vintage registration plates were issued in the same year
19 as the model year of the motor vehicle; and

20 (iii) The owner of the motor vehicle pays a onetime registration fee
21 of \$13.50.

22 (c) If the Administration authorizes the display of vintage registration plates
23 under this section:

24 (1) The vintage registration plates shall remain valid for as long as title
25 to the motor vehicle remains in the person who submitted an application under
26 subsection (b)(2)(i) of this section; and

27 (2) A fee in addition to the one time registration fee prescribed in
28 subsection (b)(2)(iii) of this section is not required for the issuance of the vintage
29 registration plates.

30 13-937.1.

31 (a) In this section "street rod" means a motor vehicle that:

32 (1) Is [25 years old] A 1948 MODEL YEAR or older VEHICLE; and

33 (2) Has been substantially altered from the manufacturer's original
34 design.

35 (b) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, if registered with the
36 Administration under this section, every street rod is a Class N (street rod) vehicle.

1 (c) For each Class N (street rod) vehicle, the annual registration fee is \$13.50.

2 (d) (1) In applying for registration of a street rod under this section, the
3 owner of the street rod shall submit with the application a certification that the
4 vehicle for which the application is made:

5 [(1)] (I) Will be maintained for use in exhibitions, club activities,
6 parades, tours, occasional transportation, and similar uses; and

7 [(2)] (II) Will not be used:

8 [(i)] 1. For general daily transportation; or

9 [(ii)] 2. Primarily for the transportation of passengers or property
10 on highways.

11 (2) IN ADDITION TO THE CERTIFICATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH
12 (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, WHEN APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION OF A STREET ROD
13 AFTER TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP, THE NEW OWNER OF THE STREET ROD SHALL
14 PROVIDE PROOF ACCEPTABLE TO THE ADMINISTRATION THAT, WITHIN ONE MONTH
15 PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION, THE STREET ROD
16 PASSED A SAFETY INSPECTION THAT:

17 (I) HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATION; AND

18 (II) IS SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE NATIONAL STREET ROD
19 ASSOCIATION'S 23-POINT VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTION.

20 (e) (1) The registration of a street rod registered before July 1, 1987 as a
21 Class L (historic) vehicle shall remain valid until midnight on the date indicated on
22 the registration card issued by the Administration.

23 (2) On expiration of a street rod's registration as a Class L (historic)
24 vehicle, a street rod registered with the Administration shall be registered as a Class
25 N (street rod) vehicle as required by this section.

26 (f) Except as provided in § 13-936.1 of this subtitle, on registration of a
27 vehicle under this section, the Administration shall issue a special street rod vehicle
28 registration plate of the size and design that the Administration determines.

29 (g) Unless the presence of the equipment was specifically required by a
30 statute of this State as a condition of sale when the vehicle was manufactured, the
31 presence of any specific equipment is not required for the operation of a vehicle
32 registered under this section.

33 (h) A vehicle registered under this section is exempt from any [statute]
34 PROVISION OF TITLE 23 OF THIS ARTICLE that requires periodic vehicle inspections
35 [or] AND FROM ANY STATUTE that requires the use and inspection of emission
36 controls.

1 13-937.2.

2 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "CUSTOM VEHICLE" MEANS A MOTOR VEHICLE THAT:

3 (1) IS OF A MODEL YEAR AFTER 1948 BUT EARLIER THAN MODEL YEAR
4 1981; AND

5 (2) HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERED FROM THE MANUFACTURER'S
6 ORIGINAL DESIGN.

7 (B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, IF
8 REGISTERED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION UNDER THIS SECTION, EVERY CUSTOM
9 VEHICLE IS A CLASS O (CUSTOM) VEHICLE.

10 (C) FOR EACH CLASS O (CUSTOM) VEHICLE, THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE
11 IS \$13.50.

12 (D) (1) IN APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION OF A CUSTOM VEHICLE UNDER
13 THIS SECTION, THE OWNER OF THE CUSTOM VEHICLE SHALL SUBMIT WITH THE
14 APPLICATION A CERTIFICATION THAT THE VEHICLE FOR WHICH THE APPLICATION
15 IS MADE:

16 (I) WILL BE MAINTAINED FOR USE IN EXHIBITIONS, CLUB
17 ACTIVITIES, PARADES, TOURS, OCCASIONAL TRANSPORTATION, AND SIMILAR USES;
18 AND

19 (II) WILL NOT BE USED:

20 1. FOR GENERAL DAILY TRANSPORTATION; OR

21 2. PRIMARILY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF PASSENGERS
22 OR PROPERTY ON HIGHWAYS.

23 (2) IN ADDITION TO THE CERTIFICATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH
24 (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, WHEN APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION OF A CUSTOM
25 VEHICLE AFTER TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP, THE NEW OWNER OF THE CUSTOM
26 VEHICLE SHALL PROVIDE PROOF ACCEPTABLE TO THE ADMINISTRATION THAT,
27 WITHIN 1 MONTH PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION,
28 THE CUSTOM VEHICLE PASSED A SAFETY INSPECTION THAT:

29 (I) HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATION; AND

30 (II) IS SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE KUSTOM KEMPS OF
31 AMERICA 16-POINT VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTION.

32 (E) (1) THE REGISTRATION OF A CUSTOM VEHICLE REGISTERED BEFORE
33 OCTOBER 1, 1998 AS A CLASS N (STREET ROD) VEHICLE SHALL REMAIN VALID UNTIL
34 MIDNIGHT ON THE DATE INDICATED ON THE REGISTRATION CARD ISSUED BY THE
35 ADMINISTRATION.

1 (2) ON EXPIRATION OF A CUSTOM VEHICLE'S REGISTRATION AS A CLASS
2 N (STREET ROD) VEHICLE, A CUSTOM VEHICLE REGISTERED WITH THE
3 ADMINISTRATION SHALL BE REGISTERED AS A CLASS O (CUSTOM) VEHICLE AS
4 REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION.

5 (F) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 13-936.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE, ON REGISTRATION
6 OF A VEHICLE UNDER THIS SECTION, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ISSUE A SPECIAL
7 CUSTOM VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATE OF THE SIZE AND DESIGN THAT THE
8 ADMINISTRATION DETERMINES.

9 (G) UNLESS THE PRESENCE OF THE EQUIPMENT WAS SPECIFICALLY
10 REQUIRED BY A STATUTE OF THIS STATE AS A CONDITION OF SALE WHEN THE
11 VEHICLE WAS MANUFACTURED, THE PRESENCE OF ANY SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT IS
12 NOT REQUIRED FOR THE OPERATION OF A VEHICLE REGISTERED UNDER THIS
13 SECTION.

14 (H) A VEHICLE REGISTERED UNDER THIS SECTION IS EXEMPT FROM ANY
15 PROVISION OF TITLE 23 OF THIS ARTICLE THAT REQUIRES PERIODIC VEHICLE
16 INSPECTIONS AND FROM ANY STATUTE THAT REQUIRES THE USE AND INSPECTION
17 OF EMISSION CONTROLS.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 1998.