
By: **Delegates Guns and Rudolph**

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CHAPTER _____

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

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
23 Article - Transportation
24 Section 13-936, 13-936.1, and 13-937.1
25 Annotated Code of Maryland

1 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

2 BY adding to

3 Article - Transportation

4 Section 13-937.2

5 Annotated Code of Maryland

6 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

9 **Article - Transportation**

10 13-936.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (2) Will not be used:

30 (i) For general daily transportation; or

31 (ii) Primarily for the transportation of passengers or property on
32 highways.

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

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

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

11 13-936.1.

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

15 (b) (1) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the owner of a motor
16 vehicle registered under § 13-936 [or § 13-937.1] of this subtitle as a Class L
17 (historic) [or], § 13-937.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE AS A Class N (street rod) vehicle, OR §
18 13-937.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE AS A CLASS O (CUSTOM) VEHICLE may display 2 vintage
19 registration plates in lieu of current registration plates on that vehicle.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 13-937.1.

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

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

4 (2) Has been substantially altered from the manufacturer's original
5 design.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (2) IN ADDITION TO THE CERTIFICATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH
19 (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, WHEN APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION OF A STREET ROD
20 AFTER TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP, THE NEW OWNER OF THE STREET ROD SHALL
21 PROVIDE PROOF ACCEPTABLE TO THE ADMINISTRATION THAT, WITHIN ONE MONTH
22 PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION, THE STREET ROD
23 PASSED A SAFETY INSPECTION THAT:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 13-937.2.

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

11 (1) IS AT LEAST 25 YEARS OLD;

12 (2) IS OF A MODEL YEAR AFTER 1948 BUT EARLIER THAN MODEL YEAR
13 1984; AND

14 ~~(2)~~ (3) HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERED FROM THE
15 MANUFACTURER'S ORIGINAL DESIGN.

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

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

21 (D) (1) IN APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION OF A CUSTOM VEHICLE UNDER
22 THIS SECTION, THE OWNER OF THE CUSTOM VEHICLE SHALL SUBMIT WITH THE
23 APPLICATION A CERTIFICATION THAT THE VEHICLE FOR WHICH THE APPLICATION
24 IS MADE:

25 (I) WILL BE MAINTAINED FOR USE IN EXHIBITIONS, CLUB
26 ACTIVITIES, PARADES, TOURS, OCCASIONAL TRANSPORTATION, AND SIMILAR USES;
27 AND

28 (II) WILL NOT BE USED:

29 1. FOR GENERAL DAILY TRANSPORTATION; OR

30 2. PRIMARILY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF PASSENGERS
31 OR PROPERTY ON HIGHWAYS.

32 (2) IN ADDITION TO THE CERTIFICATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH
33 (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, WHEN APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION OF A CUSTOM
34 VEHICLE AFTER TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP, THE NEW OWNER OF THE CUSTOM
35 VEHICLE SHALL PROVIDE PROOF ACCEPTABLE TO THE ADMINISTRATION THAT,

1 WITHIN 1 MONTH PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION,
2 THE CUSTOM VEHICLE PASSED A SAFETY INSPECTION THAT:

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

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

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

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

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

18 (G) UNLESS THE PRESENCE OF THE EQUIPMENT WAS SPECIFICALLY
19 REQUIRED BY A STATUTE OF THIS STATE AS A CONDITION OF SALE WHEN THE
20 VEHICLE WAS MANUFACTURED, THE PRESENCE OF ANY SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT IS
21 NOT REQUIRED FOR THE OPERATION OF A VEHICLE REGISTERED UNDER THIS
22 SECTION.

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

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