

HB004

Usually, when laws are changed, they take effect from date of the change.

This is not the case involving Maryland's recent historic tag change.

In my case, I have already had my 2001 state inspection, and paid thousands for the work necessary to pass MSI in 2018.

My vehicle became eligible for historic tags, and because of the my difficulty and incredible additional costs to pass emissions test, I converted to historic tags.

I have had these historic tags for at least 5 years.

Then Maryland reneges on these previously approved and granted historic tags.

Simply put and in my opinion, the new law should have ONLY affected NEW applications for historic tags, and previously issued ones should have been "grandfathered in".

This is how most new changes are implemented.

NOT demand owners turn in their legally obtained tags and start over again because of the change.

Furthermore, it is truly unreasonable to simply state that only cars 1999 and older can be eligible for historic tags.

When? In 2025 when the rule was changed? In 2026? Forevermore?

It is ridiculous to make such a rule change and totally omit the "rolling year" rule.

Be it, 20 years, 25 years, or whatever. But to state only 1999, and implying indefiniteness of this 1999 year rule, is absurd.

Based on the year of 2025 when the rule changed, and the 1999 year they stated (which is about 25 years), it sounds as if Maryland was trying to change from a rolling 20 rule to a rolling 25 year, but failed to state it.

Perhaps an oversight?

Perhaps ignorance?

Perhaps a shady way of sticking it to vehicle owners like me.

Shame on Maryland for this.

Yes, I am angry about it.

I have continually invested in my particular vehicle, keeping it safe and well maintained, other than the astronomical cost of catalytic converter replacement and emission shortfalls.

To be forced to junk an otherwise perfectly good vehicle, quite frankly feels unfair and makes me ashamed of my state.

Other states have rolling 20 year rules, some have rolling 25 year rules.

What Maryland has done is truly unique, and shameful.

In my opinion, Maryland should be made to:

1) RETURN previously held historic tags (like mine) that were confiscated since the rule change, grandfathering all such previously issued historic tags.

2) Define clearly a new rolling 25 year rule, or whatever age they determine, But define it.

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