

Letter to Maryland Legislators on Historic Motor Vehicle Fees and Rolling Year Allowance

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I am writing as a concerned Maryland resident regarding the increases in motor vehicle fees to Historic vehicles and everyday vehicles in general along with the surcharges for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system. While I recognize the need to fund critical services, I urge you to consider the burden these higher costs place on everyday families.

Concerns

Motor vehicle fees and EMS surcharges, often regressive by nature, impact lower-income residents and those who rely on their vehicles for work and basic needs the most. Small business owners, rural families, and individuals on fixed incomes are especially affected by frequent or significant increases.

I am now a retired citizen in this state and had to purchase tags for my 2001 truck from historic tags due to the July 1, 2025 law change for historic vehicles. Why pick a five year time frame for vehicles 2000 to 2005? I was able to change from regular to historic tags a couple of years ago for the 20 year vehicle age. My vehicle is 2001 and as of 2026 is now 25 yrs old and there is no Grandfather Clause. It cost me over a hundred dollars for that change, but I now had to purchase regular tags once again for the same vehicle that will be 25 years old in 2026 with no chance of ever putting historic tags on this vehicle again due to the recent 2025 law changes for historic vehicles. Not to mention the cost for annual tags for my vehicle which is a F250 which the base fee is \$178.00 plus the \$40 surcharge for EMS which equals \$218 a year which is too much for a person living on a limited income.

This state has a big problem with vehicles having Virginia Tags and unless that matter is resolved, it will become a bigger problem with the current vehicle fee increases. I won't be able to afford to continue to live in the state of Maryland due to these high costs for water, electric, real estate and now vehicle registration fee increase.

The law passed last year does not have a rolling year allowance, meaning in effect that Maryland considers automotive history effectively ended in 1999. We disagree with this

Maryland unique unilateral decision on when history “ends”. Last year’s change will affect the future of the hobby via increased costs for collectors and a State entity determining when automotive history ends forever. In this year’s legislative session, two bills have been introduced to address this issue. ***The first, HB4, moves the requirement from 20 to 25 years, includes a rolling year allowance and has a grandfather clause for those currently having a Class L Tag. The second, HB125, contains all but the grandfather clause.*** We feel both have a secondary effect in reducing abuse of the Class L tags often seen on MD highways due to the fact that the costs and age/wear/tear on a 25+ year old vehicle as a daily driver/abuser will outweigh the registration/tag savings the Historic tag provides. As HB4 contains the grandfathering clause, it will alleviate the “off, then on” trips to MVA for tag/plate switches for vehicles at or close to 25 years owned by those in the hobby.”

We need OUR LEGISLATORS and REPRESENTATIVES to understand and realize, that this may very well be the beginning of the assault in our hobby. This round, it's 1999. The next time the state needs money, it might be 1979? And then..... The worst part of the current 1999 bill, is that there was NO GRANDFATHER CLAUSE in the bill. Current owners are being FORCED to have their vehicles state inspected, re-registered and entered into the states money grabbing VEIP. This is the part WE ARE FIGHTING!

Thank you for your attention to these concerns and for your service to our state.

Respectfully,

Catherine Lewis

A Concerned Maryland Resident