

HOUSE No. 3458

By Mr. Dempsey of Haverhill, petition of Brian S. Dempsey relative to the registration and inspection of street rods and custom vehicles. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF STREET RODS AND CUSTOM VEHICLES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the
2 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after Section
3 2F thereof, the following section:—

4 Section 2G. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule
5 or regulation to the contrary, the issuance of certificates of registra-
6 tion and license plates for street rods and custom vehicles shall be in
7 accordance with this section.

8 (b) For purposes of this section and Section 7DD of this chapter,
9 the following words shall have the following meanings:—

10 “Custom vehicle”, a motor vehicle (1) for which the year of man-
11 ufacture is after 1948 and (a) for which the model year is at least 25
12 years old, or (b) which was manufactured to resemble a motor
13 vehicle for which the model year is at least 25 years old, and which
14 (2) (a) has been altered from the manufacturer’s original design, or
15 (b) has a body constructed from non-original materials.

16 “Model year”, the model year indicated on a motor vehicle’s cer-
17 tificate of origin or, if there is no such certificate, the model year the
18 body of such vehicle resembles.

19 “Street rod”, a motor vehicle (1)(a) for which the year of manu-
20 facture is prior to 1949, or (b) for which the year of manufacture is
21 later than 1948 and which was manufactured to resemble a vehicle
22 manufactured prior to 1949, and which (2)(a) has been altered from
23 the manufacturer’s original design, or (b) has a body constructed
24 from non-original materials.

25 “Year of manufacture”, the model year indicated on a motor vehi-
26 cle’s certificate of origin or, if there is no such certificate, the model
27 year the body of such vehicle resembles.

28 (c) Applications for the registration of a street rod or custom
29 vehicle shall be made by the owner thereof. The application shall
30 contain, in addition to such other particulars as may be required by
31 the registrar, a statement of the name, place of residence and
32 address, date of birth of the applicant and the number of the appli-
33 cant’s license to operate, if one has been issued. The application
34 shall also contain the apartment number or unit number if the appli-
35 cant’s address is in an apartment house, or family hotel, or a condo-
36 minium, or a residential flat, or in a combined business and
37 residential property. The application shall also contain a brief
38 description of the street rod or custom vehicle, including the name of
39 the maker, such number or numbers as may be required by the regis-
40 trar to properly identify the vehicle, the character of the motor power
41 and the type of transmission. The application also shall contain a
42 statement by the applicant under the penalties of perjury that:—

43 (1) there are no outstanding excise tax liabilities on said motor
44 vehicle which have been incurred by the applicant, any member of
45 his immediate family who is a member of the applicant’s household,
46 or any business partner of the applicant, (2) the motor vehicle shall
47 be maintained for occasional transportation, exhibitions, club activi-
48 ties, parades, tours and similar uses, and

49 (3) the motor vehicle will not be used for general daily transporta-
50 tion. The application shall be accompanied by a certificate, in such
51 form as might be acceptable to the registrar, that the street rod or
52 custom vehicle has passed a safety inspection approved by the regis-
53 trar after consultation with the National Street Rod Association. A
54 one-time registration fee of \$25 shall accompany such application.
55 Applicants for registration shall also comply with the provisions of
56 chapter ninety D.

57 The registrar or his duly authorized agents shall register in a book
58 or upon suitable index cards to be kept for the purpose the motor
59 vehicle described in the application, giving to the vehicle a distin-
60 guishing mark or number to be known as the register number for that
61 vehicle, and shall thereupon issue to the applicant a certificate of
62 registration. The certificate shall contain the name, place of resi-
63 dence and address of the applicant and the register number or mark,

64 and shall be in such form and contain such further information as the
65 registrar may determine.

66 The registrar shall further issue a special street rod or custom
67 vehicle registration plate, of a size and design to be determined by
68 regulations promulgated by the registrar after consultation with the
69 National Street Rod Association.

70 (d) Street rods and custom vehicles registered according to this
71 section shall be exempt from any statute that requires periodic
72 vehicle inspections or the use and inspection of emission controls.

73 (e) The presence of any specific equipment is not required for the
74 operation of a street rod or custom vehicle registered under this
75 section, unless the presence of such equipment was specifically
76 required by another provision of the general laws as a condition of
77 sale in the year of manufacture.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
2 amended by inserting, after section 7CC the following section:—

3 Section 7DD. Notwithstanding Sections 7 and 7E of this chapter
4 and any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the con-
5 trary, street rods and custom vehicles may use blue dot tail lights for
6 stop lamps, rear turning indicator lamps, rear hazard lamps and rear
7 reflectors. For the purposes of this section, a “blue dot tail light”
8 shall mean a red lamp installed in the rear of a motor vehicle con-
9 taining a blue or purple insert that is not more than one inch in
10 diameter.