

2023 -- S 0750

LC002283

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Introduced By: Senators Lombardo, Gallo, Pearson, DiMario, Ciccone, and Tikoian

Date Introduced: March 22, 2023

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

(Dept. of Revenue)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 31-3-31.1 and 31-3-31.2 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-3  
2 entitled "Registration of Vehicles" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-3-31.1. Registration of street rods and custom vehicles.**

4 (a) Definition of terms:

5 (1) A "street rod" means a motor vehicle that:

6 (i) Is a 1948 or older vehicle; or the vehicle was manufactured after 1948 to resemble a  
7 vehicle manufactured before 1949; and

8 (ii) Has been altered from the manufacturer's original design; or has a body constructed  
9 from nonoriginal materials.

10 (2) The model year and the year of manufacture that are listed on the [registration](#) certificate  
11 ~~of title~~ of a street rod vehicle shall be the model year and year of manufacture that the body of such  
12 vehicle resembles.

13 (b) Registration fee and application for street rods shall be as follows:

14 (1) For each such street rod, there shall be a one-time pre-registration surcharge of fifty  
15 dollars (\$50.00) which said sum(s) shall be accumulated by the division of motor vehicles until  
16 such time as said sum reaches an aggregate of twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,000) whereupon  
17 said division is authorized to proceed with the ordering/manufacturing of plates as required by  
18 subsection (3) herein. In addition thereto, and from hence forth, there shall be paid regular  
19 registration fees required for standard passenger vehicles as determined by the division of motor

1 vehicles.

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

5 (A) Will be maintained for occasional transportation, exhibitions, club activities, parades,  
6 tours, and similar uses; and

7 (B) Will not be used for general daily transportation.

8 (ii) In addition to the certification required under paragraph (i) of this subsection, when  
9 applying for registration of a street rod, the new owner of the street rod shall provide proof  
10 acceptable to the administration that the street rod passed a safety inspection that has been approved  
11 by the administration in consultation with the street rod community in this state.

12 (3) On registration of a vehicle under this section, the administration shall issue a special  
13 street rod vehicle registration plate of the size and design that the administration determines in  
14 consultation with the street rod community in this state.

15 (4) Unless the presence of the equipment was specifically required by a statute of this state  
16 as a condition of sale in the year listed as the year of manufacture on the certificate of title, the  
17 presence of any specific equipment is not required for the operation of a vehicle registered under  
18 this section.

19 (5) A vehicle registered under this section is exempt from any statute that requires periodic  
20 vehicle inspections and from any statute that requires the use and inspection of emission controls.

21 **31-3-31.2. Custom vehicles — Definition — Registration and fees.**

22 (a) A custom vehicle means any motor vehicle that:

23 (1) Is at least twenty-five (25) or more years old and of a model year after 1948; or was  
24 manufactured to resemble a vehicle twenty-five (25) years old and of a model year after 1948; and

25 (2) Has been altered from the manufacturer's original design; or has a body constructed  
26 from nonoriginal materials.

27 (3) The model year and the year of manufacture that are listed on the certificate of title or  
28 registration certificate of a custom vehicle shall be the model year and year of manufacture that the  
29 body of such vehicle resembles.

30 (b) For each such custom vehicle, there shall be a one-time pre-registration surcharge of  
31 fifty dollars (\$50.00) which said sum(s) shall be accumulated by the division of motor vehicles  
32 until such time as said sum reaches an aggregate of twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,000)  
33 whereupon said division is authorized to proceed with the ordering/manufacturing of plates as  
34 required by subsection (d) herein. In addition thereto, and from hence forth, there shall be paid

1 regular registration fees required for standard passenger vehicles as determined by the division of  
2 motor vehicles.

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

6 (i) Will be maintained for occasional transportation, exhibitions, club activities, parades,  
7 tours, and similar uses; and

8 (ii) Will not be used for general daily transportation.

9 (2) In addition to the certification required under paragraph (1) of this subsection, when  
10 applying for registration of a custom vehicle, the new owner of the custom vehicle shall provide  
11 proof acceptable to the administration that the custom vehicle passed a safety inspection that has  
12 been approved by the administration in consultation with the custom vehicle community in this  
13 state.

14 (d) On registration of a vehicle under this section, the administration shall issue a special  
15 custom vehicle registration plate of the size and design that the administration determines in  
16 consultation with the custom vehicle community of this state.

17 (e) Unless the presence of the equipment was specifically required by a statute of this state  
18 as a condition of sale in the year listed as the year of manufacture on the certificate of title, the  
19 presence of any specific equipment is not required for the operation of a vehicle registered under  
20 this section.

21 (f) A vehicle registered under this section is exempt from any statute that requires periodic  
22 vehicle inspections and from any statute that requires the use and inspections of emission controls.

23 (g) Signal lamps and devices — Street rod vehicles and custom vehicles:

24 (1) “Blue dot tail light” means a red lamp installed in the rear of a motor vehicle containing  
25 a blue or purple insert that is not more than one inch in diameter.

26 (2) A street rod or custom vehicle may use blue dot tail lights for stop lamps, rear turning  
27 indicator lamps, rear hazard lamps, and rear reflectors.

28 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

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- 1 This act would amend the registration requirements for street rods and custom vehicles.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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