



The Massachusetts Association of Auto Clubs (M.A.A.C.) strongly **Supports** S.B. 1920 which is before the Joint Transportation Committee, an amendment which would amend M.G.L. c.90 s.6 by adding wording supporting the restoration of Year of Manufacture registration plates. M.A.A.C. represents the interests of some 280 Massachusetts car clubs that count more than 40,000 members in their ranks, and M.A.A.C. believes that this amendment would increase the number and use of Year of Manufacture (YOM) registrations. Year of Manufacture plates are an important part of the transportation history of the commonwealth and are only used on vehicles that were manufactured that year, therefore their use should be encouraged. This registration type has restrictions on the use of the vehicles - "maintained solely for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest (this includes drives to prepare for such functions and transportation to and from the repair shop)." In 2011, there were 7,028 Year of Manufacture (YOM) registrations for vehicles in the commonwealth. The number of YOM registrations has dropped in each "Shelly" monthly report since M.A.A.C. first received reports in 2011, and in November 2017 there were only 5,482 registrations. M.A.A.C. believes S.B. 1920 would reverse this trend or at least slow it.

Some additional data points:

- This would eliminate the need for registry employees to subjective determinations of the "originality" or readability of a plate being presented for registration.
- Amendment ONLY applies to YOM plates and would not allow for Changes/Modifications to the general license plates.
- Applies only to plates made before 1980, and therefore heritage "Green" plates used for general registration would not be included.
- Vehicles registered as Antique and YOM are driven less miles than "older" vehicles registered under general license plates. National average is less than 250 miles annually.
- Owners of Antique vehicles often spend thousands on the restoration of their vehicles only to place a "unrestored plate" on the vehicle.
- YOM plates DO NOT restrict the Registrar's ability to issue low number plates as they do not have the same registration codes.
- Antique vehicles are part of the Commonwealth's history and their preservation should be encouraged.
- Owners would be encouraged to make sure that the plate was readable and if not would have the option to restore the plate rather than re-registering.
- Restored registration plates are safer for road use and reduce the number of "un-readable" plates by toll devices.
- The Commonwealth receives revenue for this registration, and therefore this bill would be revenue **POSITIVE** (\$50 yearly) vs owners using the standard registration (\$60 every 2 years).

M.A.A.C. **Strongly Opposes** H. 1805 which would modify M.G.L. c.90 by adding the requirement for Antique Vehicles to meet emission standards. Presently all vehicles over 25 years of age are exempt Antique or not. MAAC believes that this is a step in the wrong direction and will add to confusion and added cost of ownership. This bill, while has some redeeming points, will discourage the ownership of Antique vehicles within the Commonwealth and will influence the finances of the Commonwealth.

(Over)

M.A.A.C **Supports** S. 2148 which would modify M.G.L. C. 90 to support the Hot Rod and Custom vehicle registration. MAAC believes that the preservation of the original Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is important to the owners and purchaser of vehicles. VIN numbers have been placed on automobiles since the early 20th century and are critical to the history of the vehicle. The commonwealth's replacement of VINs reduces the consumer's ability to verify the provenance of a vehicle and therefore reduces the value of the vehicle.

M.A.A.C **Supports** H. 4022 which would designate United States Highway Route 20 as a state historic highway. The Commonwealth has a rich history in roads and highways, this designation supports the preservation of these highways.

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