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H.B. 239*
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Transportation

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Fowler Arthur and Dean

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SUMMARY

- Authorizes a person to register a replica motor vehicle (which is a vehicle that intends to replicate another motor vehicle that is at least 25 years old), for limited operation on public roads and highways.
- Authorizes the owner of a replica motor vehicle to request that the certificate of title indicate that the vehicle is a replica vehicle, and establishes procedures for issuance of the certificate of title.
- Exempts replica motor vehicles from certain requirements (e.g., emissions, noise control, and fuel usage) that were not in effect in the year of manufacture that the vehicle replicates.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Replica motor vehicles

The bill establishes requirements for registration, title, and use of replica motor vehicles. A “replica motor vehicle” is a motor vehicle that is constructed, assembled, or modified to replicate the make, model, and model year of a motor vehicle that is at least 25 years old.¹ The bill authorizes specific exemptions related to motor vehicle registration and equipment requirements for replica motor vehicles. However, to take advantage of these exemptions, the replica motor vehicle must be titled as a replica motor vehicle and may not be used for general transportation. Replica motor vehicles that are not titled pursuant to the bill’s

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Transportation Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 4501.01(III).

procedures are subject to general motor vehicle registration, titling, and equipment requirements.²

Replica motor vehicle registration

To register the replica motor vehicle, the owner must execute an affidavit that the replica motor vehicle will be used only for the following purposes:

1. Club activities, exhibitions, tour, parades, and similar uses; and
2. Travel to and from a location where maintenance is performed on the replica motor vehicle.³

Additionally, the affidavit must declare that the State Highway Patrol inspected the replica motor vehicle and found it safe to operate on public roads and highways. In lieu of the regular registration taxes and fees, the owner must pay a one-time, \$10 license fee to the Registrar or deputy registrar for the registration of the replica vehicle, similar to the fee for historical vehicles. Proceeds of the fee must be deposited in the Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund created under current law.⁴

The owner of a replica motor vehicle must display a replica motor vehicle license plate in plain view on the rear of the vehicle. A replica motor vehicle license plate must display the inscription “Replica Vehicle – Ohio” and the registration number assigned to the replica vehicle. Unlike a historical vehicle, no vehicle date of manufacture is to be listed on a replica vehicle license plate. While a replica motor vehicle does not require annual registration, if the owner transfers the replica motor vehicle to a new owner, the new owner must re-register the replica motor vehicle through the same procedures.⁵

Replica motor vehicle designation on certificate of title

Under the bill, a person who wants the certificate of title to indicate that a motor vehicle is a replica motor vehicle must do the following:

1. Have the State Highway Patrol inspect the vehicle;
2. Obtain an inspection report from the Patrol;
3. Obtain a signed written statement from a person or nonprofit corporation with expertise in historical motor vehicles that the motor vehicle reasonably replicates the motor vehicle that the owner intends to replicate; and
4. Sign and notarize the written statement.⁶

² R.C. 4505.072(E).

³ R.C. 4503.183(A) and (C).

⁴ R.C. 4503.183(B) and (C).

⁵ R.C. 4503.183.

⁶ R.C. 4505.072(A).

If these conditions are met, and a motor vehicle owner requests that the certificate of title indicate that the motor vehicle is a replica motor vehicle, the common pleas court clerk must issue to the owner the requested certificate of title. If a motor vehicle is titled as replica motor vehicle, any future owner of the motor vehicle must title it as a replica motor vehicle. The Registrar must ensure that this certificate of title:

1. Is in the same form as the original certificate of title;
2. Displays the word “REPLICA” in black boldface letters;
3. Includes the make, model, and model year of the motor vehicle the owner intends to replicate; and
4. Includes the year the replica motor vehicle was constructed, assembled, or modified.⁷

The Registrar must develop an automated procedure within the automated title processing system for this process.⁸ The owner of a replica motor vehicle that is titled pursuant to these procedures must obtain replica motor vehicle license plates and comply with the general registration and operation limitations of a replica motor vehicle.⁹

Equipment exemptions for replica motor vehicles

The bill exempts replica motor vehicles, that are titled as such, from the following:

1. The general provision that motor vehicles must have stop lights (only if the replica motor vehicle replicates a motor vehicle that was not originally manufactured with stop lights);
2. Emissions, noise control, and fuel usage provisions that were enacted or adopted after the year of manufacture that the vehicle replicates.¹⁰

Additionally, the bill specifies that a person cannot be prohibited from owning or operating a replica motor vehicle that is equipped with an item that did not violate a motor equipment law that was in effect in the calendar year it replicates. Similarly, the person cannot be prohibited from owning or operating a replica motor vehicle that fails to comply with an equipment requirement that was adopted in a year subsequent to the year of manufacture of the vehicle that the replica motor vehicle replicates. For example, if a replica motor vehicle replicates a 1955 Ford Thunderbird, the owner of the replica motor vehicle does not need to comply with equipment requirements adopted after 1955.¹¹

⁷ R.C. 4505.072(D) and 4505.08.

⁸ R.C. 4505.072(B), (C), and (D).

⁹ R.C. 4505.072(E).

¹⁰ R.C. 4513.071 and 4513.41.

¹¹ R.C. 4513.38.

Effective date

The bill has a delayed effective date. The bill's changes take effect 180 days after the bill is enacted.¹²

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	07-11-23
Reported, H. Transportation	---

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¹² Section 3.