

HOUSE No. 3199

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Brian S. Dempsey

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the registration and inspection of street rods and custom vehicles.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Brian S. Dempsey

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

3rd Essex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 4315 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine
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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 2006 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting, after section 2F, the following section:-

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

6 (b) For purposes of this section, and sections 7DD and 33 of this chapter, the following words shall
7 have the following meanings:

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

12 “Model year”, the model year indicated on a motor vehicle’s certificate of origin or, if there is no such
13 certificate, the model year the body of such vehicle resembles.

14 “Street rod”, a motor vehicle (1) (a) for which the year of manufacture is prior to 1949, or (b) for which
15 the year of manufacture is later than 1948 and which was manufactured to resemble a vehicle

16 manufactured prior to 1949, and which (2) (a) has been altered from the manufacturer's original design,
17 or (b) has a body constructed from non-original materials.

18 "Year of manufacture", the model year indicated on a motor vehicle's certificate of origin or, if there is no
19 such certificate, the model year the body of such vehicle resembles.

20 (c) Applications for the registration of a street rod or custom vehicle shall be made by the owner
21 thereof. The application shall contain, in addition to such other particulars as may be required by the
22 registrar, a statement of the name, place of residence and address, date of birth of the applicant and the
23 number of the applicant's license to operate, if one has been issued. The application shall also contain the
24 apartment number or unit number if the applicant's address is in an apartment house, or family hotel, or a
25 condominium, or a residential flat, or in a combined business and residential property. The application
26 shall also contain a brief description of the street rod or custom vehicle, including the name of the maker,
27 such number or numbers as may be required by the registrar to properly identify the vehicle, the character
28 of the motor power and the type of transmission. The application also shall contain a statement by the
29 applicant under the penalties of perjury that (1) there are no outstanding excise tax liabilities on said
30 motor vehicle which have been incurred by the applicant, any member of his immediate family who is a
31 member of the applicant's household, or any business partner of the applicant, (2) the motor vehicle shall
32 be maintained for occasional transportation, exhibitions, club activities, parades, tours and similar uses,
33 and (3) the motor vehicle will be used for general daily transportation. The application shall be
34 accompanied by a certificate, in such form as might be acceptable to the registrar, that the street rod or
35 custom vehicle has passed a safety inspection approved by the registrar. Applicants for registration shall
36 also comply with the provisions of chapter 90D. The registrar or his duly authorized agent shall register in
37 a book or upon suitable index cards to be kept for the purpose the motor vehicle described in the
38 application, giving to the vehicle a distinguishing mark or number to be known as the register number for
39 that vehicle, and shall thereupon issue to the applicant a certificate of registration. The certificate shall
40 contain the name, place of residence and address of the applicant and the register number or mark, and
41 shall be in such form and contain such further information as the registrar may determine.

42 (d) Street rods and custom vehicles registered pursuant to this section shall be exempt from section
43 142M of chapter 111 or the rules and regulations made pursuant thereto.

44 (e) The presence of any specific equipment is not required for the operation of a street rod or custom
45 vehicle registered under this section, unless the presence of such equipment was specifically required by
46 another provision of the General Laws as a condition of sale in the year of manufacture.

47 SECTION 2. Said chapter 90 is hereby further amended by inserting, after section 7CC, the following
48 section:-

49 Section 7DD. Notwithstanding sections 7 and 7E of this chapter and any other general or special law,
50 rule or regulation to the contrary, street rods and custom vehicles may use blue dot tail lights for stop
51 lamps, rear turning indicator lamps, rear hazard lamps and rear reflectors. For the purposes of this section,
52 a “blue dot tail lamp” shall mean a red lamp installed in the rear of a motor vehicle containing a blue or
53 purple insert that is not more than 1 inch in diameter.

54 SECTION 3. Section 33 of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
55 adding the following paragraph:

56 (37) For the registration of every street rod or custom vehicle, as defined in section 2G of this chapter.