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SENATE BILL 412

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; PROVIDING PERMANENT REGISTRATION
AND REGISTRATION PLATES FOR STREET RODS AND CUSTOM VEHICLES;
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Motor Vehicle Code is
enacted to read:

"~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ CUSTOM VEHICLE AND STREET ROD
REGISTRATION.--

A. As used in this section:

(1) "custom vehicle" means a motor vehicle
that is at least twenty-five years old and manufactured after
1948, or a vehicle that was manufactured after 1948 to resemble
a vehicle that is at least twenty-five years old, and that has
been altered from the manufacturer's original design or has a

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1 body constructed from nonoriginal materials;

2 (2) "model year" means the year of manufacture
3 of the motor vehicle model or brand that a custom vehicle or
4 street rod most resembles in outward appearance; and

5 (3) "street rod" means a motor vehicle that is
6 a 1948 or older vehicle, or a vehicle that was manufactured
7 after 1948 to resemble a vehicle manufactured before 1949, and
8 that has been altered from the manufacturer's original design or
9 has a body constructed from nonoriginal materials.

10 B. On application to the department, the owner of a
11 custom vehicle or street rod may receive a certificate of title
12 and permanent registration by:

13 (1) paying a one-time registration and plate
14 fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) for the duration of that
15 person's ownership;

16 (2) submitting a witnessed bill of sale for
17 the custom vehicle or street rod or an affidavit from the owner
18 that the owner assembled the vehicle;

19 (3) submitting an affidavit that the custom
20 vehicle or street rod shall be maintained only for occasional
21 transportation, exhibitions, vehicle club activities, parades,
22 tours and similar limited uses and that the custom vehicle or
23 street rod shall not be used for general or daily
24 transportation; and

25 (4) providing evidence acceptable to the

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1 department that the custom vehicle or street rod meets safety
2 and equipment requirements pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Code;
3 provided that a custom vehicle or street rod need not have
4 equipment that was not required by state or federal law in its
5 model year.

6 C. The date of manufacture of a custom vehicle or
7 street rod for title and registration purposes is the model
8 year.

9 D. Upon approval of an application, the department
10 shall issue a special custom vehicle or street rod registration
11 plate. The department, with the advice and consultation of the
12 custom vehicle and street rod communities in the state, shall
13 determine the color and design of the special plates.

14 E. A motor vehicle to be registered or currently
15 registered pursuant to this section is exempt from a state or
16 local law or ordinance requiring periodic vehicle or vehicle
17 emission inspections but, except as provided in Paragraph (4)
18 of Subsection B of this section, is subject to Section 66-3-901
19 NMSA 1978.

20 F. Upon the transfer of ownership of a custom
21 vehicle or street rod, the new owner shall apply to the
22 department for a new certificate of title and registration
23 pursuant to Section 66-3-103 NMSA 1978 and shall pay the
24 registration and plate fee specified in Subsection B of this
25 section. The registration plate shall remain with the

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1 transferred vehicle.

2 G. The registration and plate fee required in
3 Subsection B of this section shall be distributed as follows:

4 (1) fifteen dollars (\$15.00) of each fee shall
5 be retained by the department and is appropriated to the
6 department for the manufacture and issuance of the special
7 custom vehicle or street rod registration plates; and

8 (2) eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) of each fee
9 shall be paid to the state treasurer for credit to the motor
10 vehicle suspense fund for distribution in accordance with
11 Section 66-6-23 NMSA 1978."