

By: Howard of Fort Bend

H.B. No. 890

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the registration and compulsory inspection of certain street rods and custom vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 501, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 501.038 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.038. CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR CUSTOM VEHICLE OR STREET ROD. (a) In this section, "custom vehicle" and "street rod" have the meanings assigned by Section 504.502.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, if the department issues a certificate of title for a custom vehicle or street rod, the model year of the vehicle must be listed on the certificate of title and must be the model year that the body of the vehicle resembles. The certificate of title must also include the word "replica."

(c) The owner of the custom vehicle or street rod shall provide the department with documentation identifying the model year that the body of the vehicle resembles.

SECTION 2. Section 504.502, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (i) and adding Subsections (f-1) and (f-2) to read as follows:

(a) The department shall issue specialty license plates for a passenger car, truck, motorcycle, or former military vehicle that:

1           (1) [~~is at least 25 years old,~~] if the vehicle is a  
2 passenger car, truck, or motorcycle:

3                   (A) is at least 25 years old; or

4                   (B) is a custom vehicle or street rod;

5           (2) is a collector's item;

6           (3) is used exclusively for exhibitions, club  
7 activities, parades, and other functions of public interest and is  
8 not used for regular transportation; and

9           (4) does not carry advertising.

10          (b) The license plates must include the words "Antique  
11 Auto," "Antique Truck," "Antique Motorcycle," "Street Rod,"  
12 "Custom Vehicle," or "Military Vehicle," as appropriate.

13          (f-1) Notwithstanding Chapter 547, a custom vehicle or  
14 street rod eligible to receive license plates under this section is  
15 not required to be equipped with a specific piece of equipment  
16 unless the specific piece of equipment was required by statute as a  
17 condition of sale during the year listed as the model year on the  
18 certificate of title.

19          (f-2) On initial registration of a custom vehicle or street  
20 rod, the owner must provide proof, acceptable to the department,  
21 that the custom vehicle or street rod passed a safety inspection  
22 that has been approved by the department. The department shall  
23 create a safety inspection process for inspecting custom vehicles  
24 and street rods.

25          (i) In this section:

26                   (1) "Custom vehicle" means a vehicle:

27                           (A) that is:

1 (i) at least 25 years old and of a model  
2 year after 1948; or

3 (ii) manufactured to resemble a vehicle  
4 that is at least 25 years old and of a model year after 1948; and

5 (B) that:

6 (i) has been altered from the  
7 manufacturer's original design; or

8 (ii) has a body constructed from materials  
9 not original to the vehicle.

10 (2) "Former [~~,"~~ "former] military vehicle" means a  
11 vehicle, including a trailer, regardless of the vehicle's size,  
12 weight, or year of manufacture, that:

13 (A) [~~(1)~~] was manufactured for use in any  
14 country's military forces; and

15 (B) [~~(2)~~] is maintained to represent its  
16 military design and markings accurately.

17 (3) "Street rod" means a vehicle:

18 (A) that was manufactured:

19 (i) before 1949; or

20 (ii) after 1948 to resemble a vehicle  
21 manufactured before 1949; and

22 (B) that:

23 (i) has been altered from the  
24 manufacturer's original design; or

25 (ii) has a body constructed from materials  
26 not original to the vehicle.

27 SECTION 3. Section 548.052, Transportation Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2           Sec. 548.052. VEHICLES NOT SUBJECT TO INSPECTION. This  
3 chapter does not apply to:

4           (1) a trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or mobile  
5 home moving under or bearing a current factory-delivery license  
6 plate or current in-transit license plate;

7           (2) a vehicle moving under or bearing a paper dealer  
8 in-transit tag, machinery license, disaster license, parade  
9 license, prorated tab, one-trip permit, antique license, custom  
10 vehicle license, street rod license, temporary 24-hour permit, or  
11 permit license;

12           (3) a trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or mobile  
13 home having an actual gross weight or registered gross weight of  
14 4,500 pounds or less;

15           (4) farm machinery, road-building equipment, a farm  
16 trailer, or a vehicle required to display a slow-moving-vehicle  
17 emblem under Section 547.703;

18           (5) a former military vehicle, as defined by Section  
19 504.502(i) [~~502.275~~];

20           (6) a vehicle qualified for a tax exemption under  
21 Section 152.092, Tax Code; or

22           (7) a vehicle for which a certificate of title has been  
23 issued but that is not required to be registered.

24           SECTION 4. Section 504.502, Transportation Code, as amended  
25 by this Act, applies only to a registration period beginning on or  
26 after the effective date of this Act.

27           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.