

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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Leo G. Delperdang
Representative, 94th District

I am here today as a Legislator, as a Citizen of Kansas, and as a member of SEMA, the automotive Specialty Equipment Market Association to testify in favor of HB-2165

I am asking for your support for House Bill (H.B.) 2165, which would remove the unnecessary restrictions currently required for vehicles eligible for registration as antique.

Our classic car hobby represents a \$45 Billion specialty automotive industry. As a member of SEMA, I have experienced and visited with many of the approximately 7,500 mostly small businesses across the country. including 68 businesses based right here in Kansas, that manufacture, rebuild, distribute, and retail parts and accessories for motor vehicles. The products made by our Kansas companies include performance, functional, restoration, and styling enhancement products for use on passenger cars, trucks, and special interest older vehicles.

Currently, the Kansas statutes defines an antique vehicle as being “more than 35 years old and as close to the original as possible, without any significant alterations to the major component parts.” H.B. 2528 would only require the vehicle to be more than 35 years old, regardless of the age of the component parts installed on the vehicle. Many of the newer and upgraded parts are placed on older vehicles for safety reasons, such as tires, brakes, rotors, axles, glass, etc. Other parts are placed on the vehicle for aesthetic purposes, such as wheels, chrome, lights, or interior components. And in many cases, after-market parts are placed on a vehicle, simply because there are no original replacement parts available.

Since 1954, there is One feature that many antique vehicles have that cannot be altered or changed under federal law. That feature is the VIN or Vehicle Identification Number. That item alone, contains the vehicle information, including the year manufactured. In the case of vehicles equipped with a VIN, that alone needs to determine the year of the vehicle and the antique status of that vehicle. For vehicles manufactured prior to 1954, the year of original manufacture needs to be the determining factor.

I also ask for the Senate’s help to remove a committee amendment that was brought forth in the House Transportation Committee on February 04th, 2021. This amendment was in good intention, but it adversely stripped all wording, referring to Pre-1949 modified Street Rods. There are cases whereas individuals hand build after market vehicles, such as the popular 1932 Ford. These vehicles have customarily been registered as a “Street Rod” and carry a Street Rod License Plate. Our intention was to keep this option available to the individuals whom wish to license their hot rod vehicle as a “Street Rod”.