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H.B. 39  
133rd General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

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**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Becker and Patterson

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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), as a historical motor vehicle.
- Authorizes the owner of a historical motor vehicle that is 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 historical motor vehicles that are 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

#### Historical and replica motor vehicles

The bill alters the definition "historical motor vehicle" – which is a motor vehicle that is owned solely as a collector's item and is 25 years or older – to include certain replica motor vehicles. A "replica motor vehicle," under the bill, 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. Once registered as a historical motor vehicle, a replica motor vehicle, like other historical vehicles, may only be used for the following:

1. Club activities, exhibitions, tour, parades, and similar uses; and
2. Travel to and from a location where maintenance is performed.<sup>1</sup>

The owner of a replica motor vehicle registered as a historical motor vehicle must display historical vehicle license plates issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. The replica

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 4501.01(G) and (DDD) and 4503.181(A).

motor vehicle may not display "model year" license plates, as is allowed for other historical motor vehicles.<sup>2</sup>

## **Replica motor vehicle designation on certificate of title**

Under the bill, a person who intends to obtain historical license plates for a replica vehicle may obtain a certificate of title indicating that a motor vehicle is a replica motor vehicle. Prior to obtaining the certificate of title, the owner 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 with expertise in historical motor vehicles that the vehicle reasonably replicates the vehicle that the owner intends to replicate; and
4. Sign and notarize the written statement.<sup>3</sup>

If these conditions are met, and a motor vehicle owner requests that the certificate of title indicate that the vehicle is a replica motor vehicle, the common pleas court clerk (for a fee determined by the Registrar) must issue a certificate of title. The Registrar must ensure that this certificate of title:

1. Is in the same form as the original certificate of title;
2. Bears the word "REPLICA" in black boldface letters;
3. Includes the make, model, and model year of the motor vehicle the owner intends to replicate.

The Registrar must also develop an automated procedure within the automated title processing system for this process.<sup>4</sup>

The owner of a replica motor vehicle that is titled pursuant to these procedures must obtain historical motor vehicle license plates, and is exempt from certain provisions (explained below). Replica motor vehicles that are not titled pursuant to these procedures are subject to general registration, titling, and equipment requirements.<sup>5</sup>

## **Exemptions for certain replica motor vehicles**

The bill exempts historical motor vehicles that are replica motor vehicles from the following:

1. The general provision that motor vehicles must have stop lights (only if the motor vehicle replicates a motor vehicle that was not originally manufactured with stop lights);

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4503.181. A model year license plate is a license plate from the year that a historical motor vehicle was manufactured. So, a 1920 Ford Model T could display a license plate from that year.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4505.072(A).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 4505.072(C) and (D).

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 4505.072.

2. Emissions, noise control, and fuel usage provisions that were enacted or adopted after the year of manufacture that the vehicle replicates.<sup>6</sup>

Additionally, bill does not prohibit a person from owning or operating a historical motor vehicle that is a replica vehicle if it is equipped with an item that did not violate a motor equipment law that was in effect in the calendar year it replicates.<sup>7</sup>

## Effective date

The bill has a delayed effective date. The bill's changes take effect 180 days after the bill is enacted.<sup>8</sup>

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## History

Action	Date
Introduced	02-12-19

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<sup>6</sup> R.C. 4513.071 and 4513.41.

<sup>7</sup> R.C. 4513.38.

<sup>8</sup> Section 3.