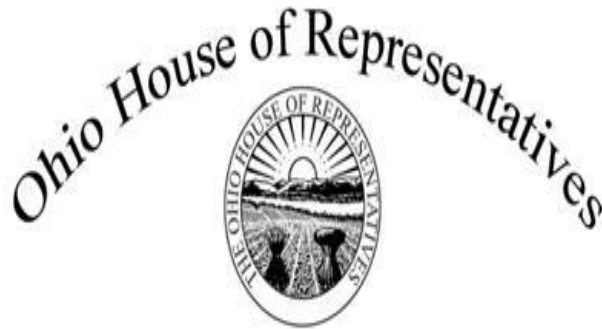


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Government

Sarah Fowler Arthur
State Representative

Sponsor Testimony HB 347 – Replica Motor Vehicle License

Chairman Baldrige, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the Transportation & Public Safety Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 347, creating the Replica Motor Vehicle License and Titling Process. This bill was introduced in each of the past three general assemblies and affects Ohio's vintage car enthusiasts. I reintroduced it because current law continues to hassle a constituent in my district who builds and drives replica vehicles for parades, car shows, and exhibitions. Additionally, federal law changes over the past six years and updated federal regulations which went into effect earlier this year, now allow hobbyists to buy a turn-key replica vehicle from a kit manufacturer or to build their own vehicle that is at least 25 model years old. Ohio law currently does not differentiate between a vintage vehicle and a replica vehicle. Ohio should modernize our laws to accommodate the unique needs of our replica car enthusiasts and to enable them to fully enjoy the process of creating a replica vehicle and sharing it with others.

The titling and licensing processes laid out in HB 347 ensure that qualifying vehicles are at least 25 model years old, have been verified as a "replica" vehicle by a historical car expert, and receive a vehicle inspection from the State Highway Patrol. The new federal laws require replica cars to meet certain equipment safety standards and HB 347 also requires an inspection and signed statement of safety to operate on public roads and highways. The owner must also sign an affidavit that the vehicle will not be used for general transportation but only for clubs, exhibitions, tours, parades, and similar activities.

Once the requirements have been met the Clerk would be able to title the vehicle as a "replica" and the owner could receive a license plate designating the vehicle as a replica for the specified model year (rather than current law which designates the vehicle model year as the year it was built). In other words, HB 347 allows a 1965 Cobra to be built by a replica car enthusiast in 2022 to be titled and licensed as a "replica 1965 Cobra" rather than a 2022 Cobra in a 1965 style.

Automobiles from the past allow people to connect with and preserve our history in a tangible way, as the birth state of leading car developers, including Ransom E Olds (Geneva, Ohio), the Packard Brothers (Warren, Ohio), and Thomas Alva Edison (Milan, Ohio), we should encourage these connections.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope the committee will break the cycle of previous general assemblies and move forward with both additional hearings and a favorable report on HB 347!

Links for more information about the federal law changes to Replica Vehicles:

<https://carbuzz.com/news/turnkey-replicas-can-now-be-sold-in-the-us>

<https://www.semasan.com/legislative-alerts/national/new-federal-law-enables-hobbyists-purchase-turnkey-replica-cars>