



The Ohio Independent Auto Dealers Association



March 7, 2022

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and Members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee. My name is Wendy Rinehart, Executive Director of the Ohio Independent Automobile Dealers Association ("OIADA"). On behalf of the Association, I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition of House Bill 347.

The OIADA represents the interests of the more than 5,000 licensed used car dealers in the state of Ohio. They are businessmen and women, many of whom small businessmen and women with five or fewer employees, that have dedicated their very existence to the establishment and success of their business. They are the small dealerships that survives in the best of times and the worst of times because they are a part of their communities as city councilmen, school board members, churchgoers, and youth organization sponsors and coaches, who look for ways to make our cities and our towns better places to live.

HB 347 will create chaos. This bill allows individuals, who assemble vehicles, to obtain a completely different model year than the rest of the country or the manufacturers are made to comply with. The bill creates a specific notation on Ohio titles only. However, once the vehicle is transferred out of Ohio, there is no similar notation; meaning, subsequent purchasers may have no indication that the vehicle is a replica not an original.

The current law requires a replica vehicle to be titled as the year the title was created. So, if I bought a 1973 Barracuda kit and built it today, I would receive a title for a 2022 Plymouth Barracuda. This title would indicate to every subsequent purchaser that the vehicle is a replica. The vehicle will not look like vehicles built in 2022; the Barracuda was discontinued in 1974; and Plymouth stopped manufacturing vehicles in 2001, signaling this is a replica or kit car.

Under the proposed legislation, the same 1973 Barracuda kit would be titled as a 1973 Barracuda with a "replica" notation on the Ohio title. Once the vehicle was sold to a purchaser in Indiana or any other state outside of Ohio, the replica notation could/would fall off and it now will appear like a 1973 Plymouth Barracuda manufactured by Plymouth in 1973, not a hobbyist – in 2022.

This proposed legislation does nothing to benefit Ohioans; in fact, it sets Ohioans up for lawsuits and liability. Under the bill, if a subsequent purchaser believes they purchased a 1973 Plymouth Barracuda produced by Plymouth and the notation "replica" does not transfer, but later the buyer finds out it is a kit or replica, they will seek recourse against the seller – an Ohioan.

Without the notation "replica" being uniformly adopted across all 50 states, this bill only creates confusion as to the origins of the vehicle once it is transferred outside of Ohio. For this reason, OIADA cannot and does not support the legislation.

Respectfully,

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