

The Florida Senate
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Transportation Committee

BILL: CS/SB 124
INTRODUCER: Transportation Committee and Senator Posey
SUBJECT: Custom Vehicles and Street Rods
DATE: March 7, 2007 **REVISED:** _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Boyd	Meyer	TR	Fav/CS
2.			TA	
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This Committee Substitute (CS) defines the terms "custom vehicle" and "street rod" and provides for the registration and licensing of such vehicles. The CS also exempts such vehicles from certain equipment and inspection requirements.

This CS substantially amends s. 320.0863 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Under s. 320.0863, F.S., a street rod is defined as “a modified motor vehicle manufactured before 1949 which is maintained primarily for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest but not for general transportation.” For purposes of this section, the word ‘modified’ means an engine, a driveline, a suspension, brakes, or other component parts manufactured after 1949 are installed. There is no definition for a custom vehicle in current law.

To complete vehicle registration in the state, a street rod must currently pay a \$7.50 license tax, plus a processing fee of \$3. Since there is no current definition for a custom vehicle, the vehicle falls under “automobiles for private use” and must currently pay a license tax from \$14.50 to \$32.50, depending on the weight of the vehicle.

Specialty license plates are available for street rods, with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (department) issuing 1,054 plates in FY 2005-06.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This CS amends Section 320.0863, F.S., adding the term “custom vehicle” and its definition. A custom vehicle is defined as a vehicle 25 years old or older and of a model year after 1948 or was manufactured to resemble a vehicle 25 years old or older and of a model year after 1948; and has been altered from the manufacturer’s original design or has a body constructed from non-original materials.

This CS requires the creation of a special, new license plate for those vehicles that meet the above definition of “custom vehicle.” To register a street rod or custom vehicle, the owner shall apply to the department by submitting a completed application form and providing:

- The license tax prescribed by s. 320.08 (2)(a), F.S., and a processing fee of \$3.
- A written statement the vehicle will not be used for general daily transportation.
- A written statement the vehicle meets state equipment and safety requirements for the year listed as the model year on the certificate of title.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill will also require contracted programming modifications to the motor vehicle software systems at an estimated cost of \$7,560. Issuance of this plate will not require additional employees or equipment.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

This Senate Professional Staff Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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