

Date of Hearing: June 20, 2016

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

SB 1429 (Nielsen) – As Amended March 28, 2016

SENATE VOTE: 39-0

SUBJECT: Vehicles

SUMMARY: Extends, from model-year 1969 or older for cars and model-year 1972 or older for commercial vehicles and pickup trucks to model-year 1980 or older for all motor vehicles, the authority for the owner of a vintage motor vehicle to use license plates from the year corresponding to the vehicle's model-year in lieu of regular license plates, if the model-year date license plates are legible and serviceable as determined by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires DMV to issue two fully reflectorized license plates for identification purposes upon registration of a motor vehicle.
- 2) Authorizes the owner of a vehicle that is a 1969 or older model-year vehicle or the owner of a commercial vehicle or a pickup truck that is a 1972 or older model year to utilize license plates with the date of year corresponding to the model-year date when the vehicle was manufactured, if the model-year date license plate is legible and serviceable, as determined by DMV, in lieu of regular license plates.
- 3) Authorizes DMV to consult with an organization of old car hobbyists in determining whether the date of year of the license plate corresponds to the model-year date when the vehicle was manufactured.
- 4) Requires a \$45 fee for the application to use model-year license plates.
- 5) Establishes the California Legacy License Plate Program, authorizing DMV to issue newly manufactured license plates that replicate the look of California license plates from the state's past.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: Under current law, the owner of a motor vehicle that is model-year 1969 or older or of a commercial vehicle or pickup truck that is model-year 1972 or older may use license plates corresponding to the vehicle's model-year for that vehicle, pursuant to approval by DMV that the license plate is legible and serviceable and upon paying an additional \$45 fee. This allows vintage or historical car hobbyists to display 'authentic' license plates and attain a greater degree of historical accuracy for their vehicles. Currently the authorization for using model-year plates includes the black and gold license plates issued for motor vehicles until 1969 and for trucks until 1972.

This bill would extend that authorization to include the blue and gold license plates issued for use on California motor vehicles until 1980. According to the author, owners obtain these

vintage license plates from sources including relatives, garages, or estate sales. Although these plates are already in the possession of some owners, they would not be able to be used on a vehicle until approved by DMV.

This bill would not alter the existing fee structure for the model-year license plate program at DMV.

Previous legislation: AB 462 (Villines), Chapter 497, Statutes of 2007, extended the authorization for an owner of a motor vehicle to use model-year license plates from 1962 to 1969 for motor vehicles and 1972 for commercial vehicles and pickup trucks.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Association of California Car Clubs
Capital City Cruisers Car Club
El Dorado Early Ford V8 Car Club
Specialty Equipment Market Association

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Justin Behrens / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093