



2003 ASSEMBLY BILL 427

July 7, 2003 – Introduced by Representatives PETROWSKI, OWENS, ALBERS, WASSERMAN, HINES, VAN ROY and HAHN, cosponsored by Senator ROESSLER. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 341.15 (3) (a) and 341.265 (1m); and **to create** 341.266 (2) (dm)
2 of the statutes; **relating to:** the display of historical registration plates on
3 special interest vehicles that are 20 or more years old and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, an owner of a motor vehicle that is of model year 1945 or earlier may register the vehicle as an antique vehicle. Antique vehicles may be driven only for special occasions such as display and parade purposes or for necessary testing, maintenance, and storage purposes. Antique vehicles may display a historical registration plate from or representing the model year of the vehicle but must carry current registration plates in the vehicle.

Also under current law, an owner of a special interest vehicle that is 20 or more years old may, under specified circumstances, register the vehicle as a special interest vehicle for a one-time fee of twice the regular annual registration fee (\$45 for most automobiles), plus a one-time processing fee of \$50. A special interest vehicle is a motor vehicle that has not been changed from its original manufacturer's specifications and which is being preserved for its historic interest. Vehicles registered as special interest vehicles are issued distinctive registration plates, and may be reregistered for no additional fee if, with an exception, the vehicle is not operated on the highways during the month of January.

This bill allows a motor vehicle registered as a special interest vehicle to display historical Wisconsin registration plates from or representing the model year of the vehicle if the historical plates do not bear the same registration number as that

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assigned by the Department of Transportation (DOT) to any other currently registered vehicle. The owner of the vehicle must carry the current distinctive registration plates in the vehicle. The bill also requires the owner to notify DOT of the historical plates' registration number and requires DOT to record that number in the vehicle registration records maintained by DOT.

The bill allows the display of historical registration plates on special interest vehicles only if DOT receives, prior to June 30, 2005, contributions totaling at least \$40,900 from interested persons to cover DOT's estimated costs of implementation, and, if sufficient contributions are received, only after DOT has completed the development work necessary for implementation. If DOT does not receive sufficient contributions by June 30, 2005, DOT must return all contributions.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 341.15 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 341.15 (3) (a) A person who operates a vehicle for which a current registration
3 plate, insert tag, decal, or other evidence of registration has been issued without such
4 plate, tag, decal, or other evidence of registration being attached to the vehicle,
5 except when such vehicle is being operated pursuant to a temporary operation
6 permit or plate or, subject to s. 341.266 (2) (dm) 2., displays a historical plate under
7 s. 341.265 or 341.266.

8 **SECTION 2.** 341.265 (1m) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 341.265 (1m) ~~-A~~ Notwithstanding s. 341.15 (1), a person who registers an
10 antique motor vehicle under sub. (1) may furnish and display on the vehicle a
11 historical plate from or representing the model year of the vehicle if the registration
12 and plates issued by the department are simultaneously carried in or, with respect
13 to an antique motorcycle, with the vehicle and are available for inspection.

14 **SECTION 3.** 341.266 (2) (dm) of the statutes is created to read:

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1 341.266 (2) (dm) 1. Notwithstanding s. 341.15 (1) and subject to subd. 2., a
2 person who registers a special interest vehicle under par. (a) may, after the
3 department has completed the development work specified in subd. 2., furnish and
4 display on the vehicle historical plates previously issued by the department from or
5 representing the model year of the vehicle if the registration and the plates issued
6 by the department under par. (c) are simultaneously carried in or, with respect to a
7 motorcycle, with the vehicle and are available for inspection. A vehicle displaying
8 historical plates under this subdivision shall display 2 identical plates, one attached
9 to the front and the other to the rear of the vehicle, except that a motorcycle shall
10 display one historical plate attached to the rear of the vehicle. A person who displays
11 any historical plate on a vehicle under this subdivision shall, not less than 10 days
12 prior to displaying the plate, notify the department of the registration number of the
13 historical plate and identify the vehicle, and the vehicle registration records of the
14 department shall reflect the registration number of the historical plate along with
15 the registration number assigned by the department under par. (c). This subdivision
16 does not apply to any historical plate bearing the same registration number as that
17 assigned by the department for another currently registered vehicle.

18 2. Upon receipt of contributions totaling at least \$40,900 from persons
19 interested in the display of historical plates under subd. 1, the department shall
20 commence any development work necessary to implement the provisions of subd. 1.
21 and shall complete the development work within 6 months of its commencement.
22 The development work under this subdivision shall be funded only from the
23 appropriation under s. 20.395 (4) (ch) from contributions received by the department
24 for the purpose of implementing the provisions of subd. 1. If the department does not
25 receive contributions totaling at least \$40,900 for the purpose of implementing the

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SECTION 3

1 provisions of subd. 1. by June 30, 2005, the department may not commence
2 development work to implement the provisions of subd. 1 and shall promptly return
3 to each contributor all contributions received by the department for the purpose of
4 implementing the provisions of subd. 1.

5 (END)