

HOUSE No. 3199

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to the registration and inspection of street rods and custom vehicles..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting, after section 2F, the following section:-

3 Section 2G. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule or regulation to the
4 contrary, the issuance of certificates of registration and number plates for street rods and custom
5 vehicles shall be in accordance with this section.

6 (b) For purposes of this section, and sections 7DD and 33 of this chapter, the
7 following words shall have the following meanings:

8 “Custom vehicle”, a motor vehicle (1) for which the year of manufacture is after 1948
9 and (a) for which the model year is at least 25 years old, or (b) which was manufactured to
10 resemble a motor vehicle for which the model year is at least 25 years old, and which (2) (a) had
11 been altered from the manufacturer’s original design, or (b) has a body constructed from non-
12 original materials.

13 “Model year”, the model year indicated on a motor vehicle’s certificate of origin or, if
14 there is no such certificate, the model year the body of such vehicle resembles.

15 “Street rod”, a motor vehicle (1) (a) for which the year of manufacture is prior to 1949, or
16 (b) for which the year of manufacture is later than 1948 and which was manufactured to
17 resemble a vehicle manufactured prior to 1949, and which (2) (a) has been altered from the
18 manufacturer’s original design, or (b) has a body constructed from non-original materials.

19 “Year of manufacture”, the model year indicated on a motor vehicle’s certificate of origin
20 or, if there is no such certificate, the model year the body of such vehicle resembles.

21 (c) Applications for the registration of a street rod or custom vehicle shall be made by
22 the owner thereof. The application shall contain, in addition to such other particulars as may be
23 required by the registrar, a statement of the name, place of residence and address, date of birth of
24 the applicant and the number of the applicant’s license to operate, if one has been issued. The
25 application shall also contain the apartment number or unit number if the applicant’s address is
26 in an apartment house, or family hotel, or a condominium, or a residential flat, or in a combined
27 business and residential property. The application shall also contain a brief description of the
28 street rod or custom vehicle, including the name of the maker, such number or numbers as may
29 be required by the registrar to properly identify the vehicle, the character of the motor power and
30 the type of transmission. The application also shall contain a statement by the applicant under the
31 penalties of perjury that (1) there are no outstanding excise tax liabilities on said motor vehicle
32 which have been incurred by the applicant, any member of his immediate family who is a
33 member of the applicant’s household, or any business partner of the applicant, (2) the motor
34 vehicle shall be maintained for occasional transportation, exhibitions, club activities, parades,

35 tours and similar uses, and (3) the motor vehicle will be used for general daily transportation.
36 The application shall be accompanied by a certificate, in such form as might be acceptable to the
37 registrar, that the street rod or custom vehicle has passed a safety inspection approved by the
38 registrar. Applicants for registration shall also comply with the provisions of chapter 90D. The
39 registrar or his duly authorized agent shall register in a book or upon suitable index cards to be
40 kept for the purpose the motor vehicle described in the application, giving to the vehicle a
41 distinguishing mark or number to be known as the register number for that vehicle, and shall
42 thereupon issue to the applicant a certificate of registration. The certificate shall contain the
43 name, place of residence and address of the applicant and the register number or mark, and shall
44 be in such form and contain such further information as the registrar may determine.

45 (d) Street rods and custom vehicles registered pursuant to this section shall be exempt
46 from section 142M of chapter 111 or the rules and regulations made pursuant thereto.

47 (e) The presence of any specific equipment is not required for the operation of a street
48 rod or custom vehicle registered under this section, unless the presence of such equipment was
49 specifically required by another provision of the General Laws as a condition of sale in the year
50 of manufacture.

51 SECTION 2. Said chapter 90 is hereby further amended by inserting, after section 7CC,
52 the following section:-

53 Section 7DD. Notwithstanding sections 7 and 7E of this chapter and any other general
54 or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, street rods and custom vehicles may use blue
55 dot tail lights for stop lamps, rear turning indicator lamps, rear hazard lamps and rear reflectors.

56 For the purposes of this section, a “blue dot tail lamp” shall mean a red lamp installed in the rear
57 of a motor vehicle containing a blue or purple insert that is not more than 1 inch in diameter.

58 SECTION 3. Section 33 of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
59 hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:

60 (37) For the registration of every street rod or custom vehicle, as defined in section 2G of
61 this chapter.