



The Massachusetts Association of Auto Clubs (M.A.A.C.) strongly **Supports** S.2243/H.3333/H.3339 which is before the Joint Transportation Committee, which would amend M.G.L. c.90 s.6 by adding wording supporting the restoration of Year of Manufacture (YOM) registration plates. M.A.A.C. represents the interests of some 280 Massachusetts car clubs that count more than 40,000 members in their ranks, and M.A.A.C. believes that this amendment would increase the number and use of Year of Manufacture registrations. This registration type has restrictions on the use of the vehicles - "maintained solely for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest (this includes drives to prepare for such functions and transportation to and from the repair shop)." Year of Manufacture plates are an important part of the transportation history of the Commonwealth and are only used on vehicles that were manufactured in that year. (therefore, their use should be encouraged) In 2011, there were 7,028 YOM registrations for vehicles in the Commonwealth. The number of YOM registrations has dropped in each "Shelly" monthly report since M.A.A.C. first received reports in 2011, in October 2023 there were only 4,822 registrations under the Year of Manufacture. The same report showed that there were 47,298 total registrations that could qualify for Year of Manufacture plates, so most cars before 1978 are driving on unrestricted plates. M.A.A.C believes S.2243/H.3333/H.3339 would encourage the use of Year of Manufacture plates.

Some additional data points:

- This would eliminate the need for registry employees to subjective determinations of the "originality" or readability of a plate being presented for registration.
- Amendment ONLY applies to YOM plates and would not allow for changes/modifications to the general license plates.
- Applies only to plates made before 1980, and therefore heritage "Green" plates used for general registration would not be included.
- Vehicles registered as Antique and YOM are driven fewer miles than "older" vehicles registered under general license plates. National average is less than 250 miles annually.
- Owners of Antique vehicles often spend thousands on the restoration of their vehicles only to place a "unrestored plate" on the vehicle.
- YOM plates DO NOT restrict the Registrar's ability to issue low number plates as they do not have the same registration codes.
- Antique vehicles are part of the Commonwealth's history and their preservation should be encouraged.
- Owners would be encouraged to make sure that the plate was readable and if not would have the option to restore the plate rather than re-registering.
- MAAC met with the previous Registrar and presented a solution but the registrar did not respond to requests for further meetings. (Attached)
- Restored registration plates are safer for road use and reduce the number of "un-readable" plates by toll devices.
- The Commonwealth receives revenue for this registration, this bill would be revenue **POSITIVE** (\$50 yearly) vs owners using the standard registration (\$60 every 2 years).
- MAAC has compared over 100 plates and created an industry-based paint code for each plate color to promote consistency and remove ambiguity. (Attached)

Massachusetts Association of Auto Clubs (MAAC)

William R. C. Ellis - President

Association Website: www.MassAutoClubs.org - Association email: Mass.Assoc.Auto.Clubs@gmail.com

Tel: 001.781.454.9807 - Email: William_Ellis@Lotsoc.com