

## Senate Bill 2247

I am testifying in favor of SB 2247 because it is promoting changes that are necessary and crucial to those of us who are involved in the old car restoration and hot rod building hobby. We now have real problems in getting titles for old vehicles. Some vehicles we have owned for many years and some we have acquired lately, and legally, but the owner no longer has a title. The passage of time since the vehicle was parked, and basically abandoned, has made it likely that the title has been lost or destroyed. The titling process in past years was not anywhere near as complicated or restrictive as it has become currently. Not having a title was not a huge factor when buying an old basically abandoned vehicle because getting a new title was accomplished by simply filling out a couple of documents for DMV and having a ND Highway Patrolman come out and verify the VIN number and do a safety inspection to see that it was roadworthy. That whole process was done after the old vehicle was rebuilt. With the current DMV process, we certainly can't even begin to start rebuilding the vehicle because after a big investment DMV may decide we won't be getting a title. The process has grown from two pages, and the inspection, to over 10 pages of documents, a VIN inspection by a certified auto repair shop, photographs of the VIN and several of the vehicle, a national search of stolen vehicle records, a search of interstate registrations, and then yet another safety inspection when completed. All that, and usually a disagreement with DMV as to the value as stated by the owner, and then sometimes a denial of a title anyway because some minor detail didn't meet what they demanded.

Although SB 2247 states the DMV will accept the purchase price stated on a bill of sale for tax purposes, I think the vehicles owned for many years and without bills of sale should be accepted with a current value estimated by the owner and not have to be appraised. If the required pictures of the vehicle make the vehicle's value look much greater than represented, the DMV could then require an appraisal. There are very few people who would be qualified to appraise a vehicle that is not complete and in rough condition and in various stages of disrepair. An appraisal would also be very expensive on lower value cars in this condition. Estimated values would be all over the scale and not uniform. I hope this system could be implemented before the bill reaches final vote.

We had a meeting with ND DMV officials and Senator Paul Thomas and over 20 people involved in the old car hobby to try to find ways to improve the titling process for this type of old vehicles. It should be done more easily with a less burdensome process and still be satisfactory with DMV. The DMV officials agreed that there are problems and they would come up with a plan in about 3 months. After the 3 month wait, we had a negative response for any changes from DMV. They told us their legal advisors said any changes could MAYBE open the door to fraud. In my opinion, this means that ALL of us who do this honestly and fairly are being penalized because "SOMEONE MIGHT" use the process to break the law. Those who do break the law should be penalized, not all of us. In my opinion, this is not what our system was founded on and is not based in good faith. I believed we were innocent until proven guilty? By current DMV policy, it seems we have to prove we didn't steal the car and then go through all these steps to further prove it, when it was a simple deal between a willing buyer and a willing seller of an old vehicle. I do understand that DMV has a job to do, but they should be able to work with the changes presented in this bill. Please vote to pass this bill to help correct some of the problems with the current titling process. Thank you.

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