

Thomas, Paul J.

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Paul

I am totally in support of S.B.2247 to allow quicker, less complications and more cooperation from the NDDOT - MVD in registering and titling motor vehicles with a Bill of Sale. I will give you an example of my lack of cooperation from the NDDOT – MVD:

In 2020, I decided to try to purchase a restorable 1968-70 Chevelle. After some searching, I found a 1969 Chevelle listed on BisMan by a young guy from Park River, ND. He had purchased the Chevelle out of Ohio and according to the pictures, it definitely needed restoration, but it was possible and we agreed on a price after I personally looked at the car. I certainly asked about the title and the fellow assured me he had the title, but it was still titled in Ohio, but was an original and transferable. So a few weeks later I arrived to trailer the Chevelle home. At this point the young fellow (a liar) explained he had searched his apartment completely and had lost the Ohio title. So we negotiated a lower price (not nearly enough), he signed a Bill of Sale, and I brought the car home. Shame on me for buying without a title.

So I began my search on how to title this vehicle. I started with the NDDOT – MVD who were no help whatsoever. They simply emphasized, no Ohio title, no ND registration or title – period. I searched Ohio and found records of the Chevelle being titled in certain counties of the state. Even found names of previous owners, but no responses when I tried to contact them. This led me to a wider search where I found that in Vermont, a person can register a vehicle older than 15 years with a simple Bill of Sale with VIN, dated, description and selling price, which I had. Of course this all came with a price for registration, license plates and Vermont sales tax (\$1150+). To verify the vehicle was not either stolen or abandoned, I also had to subscribe and do a nationwide search through an internet service. This proved the vehicle was not stolen or abandoned. Once currently registered and licensed in Vermont, this was supposed to suffice for registering, titling and licensing in all U.S. states. Guess what, North Dakota would not accept this process, although all other 49 states would!

So I again provided all this documentation to the NDDOT – MVD, which by this time amounted to paperwork the equivalent to a full-size, half inch thick magazine. They still refused! Finally one kind person in that Bismarck office told me I needed to get a court ordered title. This led me to the help of a local lawyer, filling out affidavits and getting on the District Court schedule. Our District Judge after hearing what I went through, immediately ordered a ND Title be issued for my 1969 Chevelle. After this was completed and sent to NDDOT – MVD, I finally had my ND Title for the Chevelle, which took about a year's time and more expense.

So Paul, YES, S.B. 2247 is badly needed!

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