

**“THE HISTORIC MOTOR VEHICLE AMENDMENT ACT OF 2007”,
BILL 17-449**



**Testimony of
Lucinda Babers, Director
Department of Motor Vehicles**

**Before the
Committee on Public Works and the Environment
Jim Graham, Chairman**

**Monday, October 27, 2008
2:00 pm – Room 500
The Wilson Building
Washington, DC**

Good afternoon, Councilmember Graham, members of the Committee and Council, and your staffs. My name is Lucinda Babers, and I am the Director of the District's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Today, I will share the Executive's position related to "The Historic Motor Vehicle Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-449, which proposes to change the requirements for historic vehicles that are registered in the District.

Specifically, the Bill would allow vehicles older than 25 years (or older than 15 years if the vehicle is no longer being manufactured) to obtain historical tags if the vehicle receives a one-time inspection and is only driven within 250 miles of the District during pleasure driving. Although the Executive does not oppose this portion of the Bill, we do have concerns related to how enforcement would be conducted to ensure these historic vehicles do not travel more than the required 250 miles outside of the District.

Additionally, the Bill allows vehicles that meet the historical age requirements to be used for everyday, general purposes if the vehicle receives periodic inspections (which we assume will be every two years). Once again, the Executive does not oppose this portion of the Bill. However, to achieve these two types of historical vehicle designations, DMV would have to create two distinct historical tag designs that would allow DMV, the Department of Public Works and law enforcement the ability to differentiate the two historical tag categories.

In summary, the basic difference between this Bill and the historical vehicle requirements for Maryland and Virginia is that neither of these jurisdictions allows historical vehicles to be used for general transportation purposes. Instead, these jurisdictions limit the use of historical vehicles to club activities, parades, exhibits, tours and similar events. Therefore, if this Bill is passed, it would be important for the District to educate law enforcement on the new uses for District historical vehicles.

I'm glad to respond to any questions you may have related to this Bill. Thank You.

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