

# Senate Transportation Committee

*Vivian Hall 271-3091*

**HB 1421-FN**, modifying title exemptions for motor vehicles manufactured before the year 2000.

**Hearing Date:** April 14, 2026

**Time Opened:** 1:11 p.m.

**Time Closed:** 1:16 p.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators McConkey, Ward, Prentiss and Fenton

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senator Ricciardi

**Bill Analysis:** This bill exempts any motor vehicle that is at least 20 years old from the requirement to obtain a certificate of title, except for heavy trucks and trucktractors with a gross vehicle weight over 18,000 pounds. This exemption applies on a rolling basis as vehicles reach 20 years of age. This bill also allows a person who owns a title-exempt vehicle the ability to voluntarily request a title.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Granger

Rep. Giasson

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**Who supports the bill:** Representative, Michael Granger, Strafford 2; Representative Daniel Popovici-Muller, Rockingham 17; Curtis Howland; Timothy Finney; and Pamela Harders.

**Who opposes the bill:** Howard Handler.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** Jennifer Gorner, Division of Motor Vehicles, Title Bureau Administrator.

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Representative Michael Granger, Strafford 2**

- Rep. Granger said that this bill would update the rules on when a vehicle no longer needs a title for transfer, changing the current 25-year cutoff to a 20-year rolling threshold.
- It addresses issues caused by abandoned vehicles without titles, especially for tow truck drivers who need a legal way to dispose of them.
- The change would help prevent old, unused vehicles from sitting around and creating safety or environmental problems.

- An added provision would allow easier titling of older or antique vehicles, making them easier to sell, including across state lines.

**Senator Fenton** asked how someone would prove ownership if they don't have a title vehicle.

**Rep. Granger** said an individual could use a bill of sale

**Senator Fenton** asked if he was to go to register that vehicle, if he can register the vehicle with a bill of sale.

**Rep. Granger** clarified that for vehicles that are older than 20 years, and if it's from the year 2000 or prior, yes.

**Senator Fenton** asked Rep. Popovici-Muller whether he knew the cost of titling a vehicle.

**Rep. Granger** said he didn't know.

**Senator Fenton** added that it costs \$35.

**Rep. Granger** explained that from a tow truck driver's perspective, it can be difficult to obtain a title for abandoned vehicles, as previous owners of the vehicles do not always help facilitate the process.

**Senator Fenton** asked if he saw any issues with clarifying ownership, noting that under a rolling threshold, the state will exempt more vehicles every single year.

**Rep. Granger** said he doesn't see a problem with this because titles are for preventing grand theft auto. He explained that it is less likely that someone will steal a car more than 20 years old.

**Jennifer Gorner, Division of Motor Vehicles, Title Bureau Administrator**

- Ms. Gorner clarified that the DMV is currently issuing titles for any vehicle from the year 2000 or newer.
- Every year, the Division of Motor of Vehicles adds a new year of motor vehicles that require a title.
- This bill will help the Division of Motor Vehicles allocate their resources more efficiently for better turnaround times for issuing titles.
- She clarified that if a vehicle isn't yet within the 21-year "titleable" age under the proposed bill, a person can still apply for a title.
- She explained that someone must provide valid proof of ownership, such as a prior title or original registration (from a title-exempt state) to show the chain of ownership.