

HB 1421-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

12Feb2026... 0445h

2026 SESSION

26-2339

06/08

HOUSE BILL

1421-FN

AN ACT

modifying title exemptions for motor vehicles manufactured before the year 2000.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Granger, Straf. 2; Rep. Giasson, Hills. 29

COMMITTEE:

Transportation

AMENDED 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 truck-tractors 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.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT modifying title exemptions for motor vehicles manufactured before the year 2000.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Exempted Vehicles. Amend RSA 261:3, I(k)
2 to read as follows:

3 (k) Any motor vehicle whose manufacturer's model year is **older than 20 years** [~~before~~
4 ~~the year 2000~~], except heavy trucks and truck-tractors whose gross vehicle weight exceeds 18,000
5 pounds.

6 2 New Paragraph; Certificate of Title; Exempted Vehicle; Voluntary Certificate of Title. Amend
7 RSA 261:3 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

8 III. For any vehicle where a certificate of title need not be obtained pursuant to this section,
9 a person may obtain a voluntary title for such vehicle by submitting to the department a previously
10 issued, current or expired New Hampshire certificate of registration, a valid out-of-state certificate
11 of title, an application for a certificate of title, or a current New Hampshire vehicle identification
12 number verification form as prescribed by the director. For the purposes of this section, a temporary
13 registration issued pursuant to RSA 261:57 shall not meet the requirement of a previously issued
14 New Hampshire certificate of registration.

15 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

HB 1421-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2026-0445h)

AN ACT modifying title exemptions for motor vehicles manufactured before the year 2000.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	Up to \$525,000 Decrease	\$525,000 Per Year Decrease	
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	Highway Fund			
Expenditures*	\$0	Up to \$11,550 Decrease	Up to \$74,550 Decrease	\$74,550 Decrease
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	Restricted - Highway Fund Cost of Collections - Per the state constitution, costs associated with the collection/administration of highway fund revenue by the Department of Safety is deducted prior to funds being credited as unrestricted highway fund revenue			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

Estimated Political Subdivision Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditures	\$0	\$0	Up to \$63,000 Decrease	\$63,000 Decrease

METHODOLOGY:

This bill makes the following changes relative to motor vehicle titles:

- Changes the certificate of title exemption threshold from vehicles with a manufacturer’s model year prior to 2000 to vehicles that are more than 20 years old, thereby establishing a rolling exemption period.
- Clarifies that heavy trucks and truck-tractors with a gross vehicle weight rating exceeding 18,000 pounds remain subject to title requirements regardless of age.
- Authorizes the issuance of voluntary certificates of title for vehicles otherwise exempt from mandatory titling and specifies acceptable documentation to obtain such title.
- Clarifies that a temporary registration issued pursuant to RSA 261:57 does not qualify as a previously issued New Hampshire registration for purposes of obtaining a voluntary title.

The Department of Safety has identified 15,212 titles issued for vehicles (excluding heavy trucks and truck tractors over 18,000 pounds) that reached the 20-year threshold in 2025. Therefore, this bill will reduce state title fee revenue by approximately \$525,000 per year (\$35 x 15,000 titles issued). Also, pursuant to RSA 235:23 ("Apportionment A"), 12 percent of highway fund road toll and motor vehicle fee revenue collected is distributed to municipalities in the year following collection. Therefore, this bill would also reduce state expenditures and local revenue, beginning in FY 2028, by approximately \$63,000. In addition, the Department states that state expenditures for direct mailing titles would also decrease by approximately \$11,550 per year (\$0.77 per title).

All amounts in the first year of implementation (FY 2027) will be reduced as this bill is effective 60 days after passage. Typically, legislation impacting motor vehicle licensing, registration, and titling are effective January 1.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Safety