



S E N A T E

S. No. 2493

(In Substitution of S.B. Nos. 2396 and 2402, taking into
consideration H.B. No. 9884)

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
SERVICES (UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON VINTAGE VEHICLE REGULATION
ACT) WITH SENATORS GATCHALIAN, ZUBIRI,
TOLENTINO, VILLAR, RECTO AND SOTTO III AS
AUTHORS THEREOF

AN ACT REGULATING THE USE AND OTHER
ACTIVITIES RELATED TO VINTAGE
AUTOMOBILES AND OTHER HISTORICAL,
CLASSIC, OR COLLECTOR MOTOR VEHICLES,
AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR EXEMPTION FROM
THE STANDARDS AND RESTRICTIONS SET BY
LAWS, AND REGULATIONS ISSUED AFTER THE
DATE OF THEIR MANUFACTURE

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

- 1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as
2 the “Vintage Vehicle Regulation Act”.

1 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Section 14 Article XIV
2 of the Constitution declares that the State shall foster the
3 preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a
4 Filipino culture based on the principle of unity in diversity
5 in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression.
6 Section 16 of the same Article declares that the country’s
7 artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural
8 treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of
9 the State which may regulate its disposition.

10 The State recognizes that motor vehicles are integral
11 part of Philippine culture, embedded in its history and
12 chronicles of government, transportation, industry, social
13 life, and popular culture. The State acknowledges that
14 surviving vintage vehicles, as well as their related tools,
15 equipment, accessories, buildings, literature, and
16 collectible ephemera, deserve and require sustainable
17 conservation, and that motoring heritage aids
18 contextualization, documentation, interpretation, and
19 understanding of the development of the nation’s way of
20 life and how it continues to transition. Within this context,

1 the preservation of vintage vehicles is in accord with policy
2 of the State to preserve its heritage and patrimony.

3 The State recognizes the large and expanding
4 international markets for the restoration of these vintage
5 vehicles. The State is keenly aware that the country's
6 unique conditions, the capability of its small and medium
7 industries, and the quality of its human resource make it
8 competitive in those markets. It is therefore the declared
9 policy of the State to provide an environment that will
10 encourage its entrepreneurs and industries to participate
11 in those markets and permit its businessmen, technicians,
12 and workforce to acquire the knowledge and skills
13 necessary for the purpose. In furtherance of such policies,
14 the State shall pursue the following objectives:

15 (i) protect, preserve, enhance, and promote the
16 nation's heritage by preserving vintage vehicles and in
17 furtherance thereof permit the importation of such vehicles
18 in historically correct condition;

1 (ii) establish and strengthen regulatory policies that
2 encourage their preservation, maintenance, occasional use,
3 and registration;

4 (iii) increase economic opportunities by creating
5 conditions favorable to small and medium industries that
6 may participate in the international markets for the
7 restoration and repair of vintage vehicles and the
8 manufacture of their spare and replacement parts; and

9 (iv) encourage tourism through the promotion of
10 automobile tours, establishment of vintage vehicle or car
11 museums, exhibits, vintage motorsports, and similar
12 events.

13 SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all aspects
14 of the regulation of the importation and exportation,
15 registration, and use of vintage vehicles.

16 SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

17 (a) *Authentic Spare Part* refers to a replacement part,
18 whether old or newly produced, that is identical in
19 appearance and function to an original component
20 installed in the vehicle or in vehicles belonging to the same

1 model line as the vehicle at the time of manufacture, but
2 not necessarily made of the same material, including
3 chassis and monocoque shell and subframe replacements of
4 the same pattern as the original. This will include spare
5 parts from the manufacturer's stock intended for the later
6 servicing or repair of vehicles of the same model line as the
7 vehicle;

8 (b) *Concours D 'Elegance or Concours* refers to a
9 vintage vehicle which condition is for exhibition or contest;

10 (c) *Automobile Lineage Brand* refers to the original
11 manufacturer's name or latest brand name as a result of
12 corporate merger or acquisition;

13 (d) *Motor vehicle* refers to any self-propelled vehicle
14 designed to carry passengers or goods, including
15 automobiles, pick-up trucks, vans, sports utility vehicles,
16 Asian utility vehicles, and motorcycles. A trailer, caravan,
17 or other vehicle intended to be towed by attachment to a
18 motor vehicle shall be deemed a motor vehicle for purposes
19 of this Act;

1 (e) *Original components* refer to parts of the vehicle,
2 including the motor, chassis, and gearbox, that were
3 originally installed by its manufacturer at the time of its
4 production;

5 (f) *Restoration Mode or RESTOMOD* refers to vintage
6 car that has been restored but modified with modern parts
7 and technology;

8 (g) *Spare parts* refer to component parts, sub-
9 assemblies or complete assemblies, identical to or
10 interchangeable with original components of a vintage
11 vehicle, and accessories that are permitted to be installed
12 on a vintage vehicle under Section 12 hereof; and

13 (h) *Vintage vehicle* refers to a motor vehicle, whether
14 powered by an internal combustion engine, electricity, a
15 combination of both, or other means, that is at least forty
16 (40) years old reckoned from the date of manufacture,
17 whose chassis, engine, steering assembly, and suspension
18 assembly are either original or authentic and whose body
19 has not been altered in general appearance, subject only to

1 the exceptions in Section 12 hereof. It shall exclude
2 replicas and reproductions of vintage vehicles.

3 SEC. 5. *Exemption.* – In recognition of their small
4 number, their expected limited use, and the historical fact
5 that the technology available at the time of their
6 manufacture will not permit them to meet modern
7 standards, vintage vehicles registered under this Act shall
8 not be required to meet clean-air, anti-pollution, safety,
9 road-use, and other standards that were not in force at the
10 time of their manufacture, either as a condition for their
11 registration and use on public roads or otherwise, the
12 provisions of the Clean Air Act (RA 8749) and any other
13 law or regulation notwithstanding. However, vintage
14 vehicles manufactured after December 31, 1967 must be
15 fitted with safety belts as mandated by Republic Act
16 No. 8750 or the Seat Belts Use Act of 1999.

17 SEC. 6. *Importation.* – Vintage vehicles, whether
18 concours, RESTOMOD and/or for repair or restoration,
19 authentic components, original or replica body shells,
20 engines and transmissions, spare parts and accessories

1 may be imported into the Philippines by any person or
2 entity.

3 SEC. 7. *Exportation.* – A vintage vehicle may be
4 exported without restriction: *Provided*, That in the interest
5 of preserving the cultural and historical heritage
6 associated with vintage vehicles, the exportation of vintage
7 vehicles that have historical significance to the country,
8 such as vehicles of Presidents of the Philippines, as
9 certified by the National Historical Commission of the
10 Philippines (NHCP) in accordance with rules and
11 guidelines, shall be prohibited, except for the purpose of
12 repair or restoration abroad as authorized by the NHCP.

13 SEC. 8. *Valuation for Tariffs, Import Duties and other*
14 *Taxes.* – The Bureau of Customs (BOC), for purposes of
15 valuation for tariffs, import duties and other taxes of
16 imported vintage vehicle, shall differentiate concours,
17 RESTOMOD and for restoration vintage vehicle,
18 restoration mode and for restoration shall have a lower
19 valuation against concours for the same make and model of
20 vintage vehicle. For purposes of this section, for

1 restoration vintage vehicle shall mean a vintage vehicle,
2 whether containing the important parts such as engine,
3 transmissions, chassis and body or just the body shell,
4 which is for further modification or restoration in the
5 Philippines.

6 SEC. 9. *Availment of Fiscal and Tax Incentives.* –
7 Restoration shops and companies which are in the business
8 of importation of vintage vehicles for restoration in the
9 Philippines and for export of the same, shall be eligible to
10 avail themselves of the fiscal and tax incentives provided
11 in Republic Act No. 11534, otherwise known as “An Act
12 Reforming the Corporate Income Tax and Incentives
13 System, amending for the purpose Sections 20, 22, 25, 27,
14 28, 29, 34, 40, 57, 109, 116, 204 and 290 of the National
15 Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended and creating
16 therein new Title XIII, and for other purposes,” and other
17 applicable laws. The restoration shops and companies shall
18 comply with all the requirements provided for by law in
19 the availment of fiscal and tax incentives.

1 SEC. 10. *Right-hand Drive Vehicles.* – The prohibition
2 on the importation, registration, and use of right-hand-
3 drive vehicles shall not apply to vintage vehicles
4 manufactured on or before December 31, 1970 or to vintage
5 vehicles intended principally for racing or other
6 motorsport.

7 SEC. 11. *Period Specification.* – A vintage vehicle
8 registered or otherwise benefitting under this Act shall be
9 preserved and maintained in a historically correct
10 condition, which, for purposes of this Act and subject to
11 Section 12 hereof, shall mean that (i) its chassis, engine,
12 steering, and suspension shall not have been replaced or
13 modified except with original or authentic components, and
14 (ii) its body has not been changed in general appearance.

15 SEC. 12. *Permitted Modifications.* – The following
16 modifications shall be permitted on vintage vehicles:

17 (i) modifications of a type that can be demonstrated to
18 have been made when the vintage vehicle was in
19 production or within ten (10) years of the end of
20 production;

1 (ii) modifications to brakes, suspension, axles and
2 running gear to improve efficiency or safety;

3 (iii) use of carburetors or fuel injection systems not
4 original to the vintage vehicle to improve efficiency,
5 economy or environmental performance;

6 (iv) installation of a new, modern engine of the same
7 brand or manufacture and of the same general
8 specification as the engine original to the vintage vehicle or
9 vehicles belonging to the same historic model line or
10 automobile brand lineage as the vintage vehicle; and

11 (v) installation of after-market accessories and
12 equipment, such as radios, air-conditioning, and
13 directional lights, to permit the convenient or safe use of
14 the vehicle.

15 SEC. 13. *Limited Use.* – A vintage vehicle that (i) is
16 imported after the effectivity of this Act, or (ii) is registered
17 under this Act, or (iii) otherwise benefits from any
18 exemption or privilege under this Act shall be used only for
19 personal purposes and/or leisure driving. A vintage vehicle
20 shall in no event be used for commercial purposes, except

1 only for motion pictures, advertisements, pictorials,
2 weddings, and motorcades. In no event shall a vintage
3 vehicle be used as a public utility vehicle or for the
4 commercial transport of persons or goods.

5 SEC. 14. *Registration.* – All vintage vehicles (i)
6 imported after the effectivity of this Act or (ii) benefiting
7 from any exemption or privilege under this Act shall be
8 registered as a vintage vehicle with the Land
9 Transportation Office (LTO) in order to benefit from the
10 provisions of this Act. Such registration shall be valid for
11 three (3) years. The LTO is not precluded to provide a
12 longer validity of registration. For vintage vehicles which
13 are not regularly used, on permanent exhibit or in
14 museums, the LTO shall provide a system for onsite
15 registration or where the vintage vehicle parked or
16 exhibited, and may impose additional fees for this purpose.
17 In the case of vintage vehicle on permanent exhibit or in
18 museums, the registration with the LTO is at the option of
19 the owner or museum if the vintage vehicle is no longer in
20 running condition.

1 SEC. 15. *License Plate.* – The LTO shall issue to each
2 registered vintage vehicle license plates that contain the
3 words “vintage vehicle” in addition to the usual letters and
4 numerals appearing in license plates. The model year or
5 year of manufacture shall be indicated on any appropriate
6 part of the plate.

7 SEC. 16. *Applicability of Prohibitions.* – The
8 prohibitions set out in this Act shall not apply to motor
9 vehicles that are not registered under this Act or which do
10 not seek to benefit from any exemption or privilege under
11 this Act. Such motor vehicles shall be subject to all laws
12 and regulations governing the registration and use of
13 motor vehicles in general, including all air emission,
14 safety, roadworthiness and other standards.

15 SEC. 17. *Inspection.* – A vintage vehicle applying for
16 registration or the renewal of its registration under this
17 Act shall be subject to inspection in compliance with
18 Sections 11 and 12 hereof and, if manufactured after
19 December 31, 1975, in compliance with the minimum
20 safety and roadworthiness guidelines established by the

1 LTO in consultation with stakeholders. In no event shall
2 the standards for safety inspection for vintage vehicles
3 registered under this Act exceed or be more stringent than
4 those that were in force at the year the vehicle was
5 manufactured.

6 As in the case of any motor vehicle and in the interest
7 of public safety and responsible ownership, the LTO shall
8 conduct random inspection of registered vintage vehicles
9 on public roads and highways.

10 SEC. 18. *Lost Papers.* – (a) A vintage vehicle that has
11 no certificate of registration, official receipt of registration
12 payment, or other evidence of ownership or registration
13 may be registered as a vintage vehicle under this Act,
14 subject to the submission by the applicant of (i) a notarized
15 affidavit that states that the applicant is the owner, is in
16 possession of the vehicle, knows of no claim on the vehicle,
17 and which describes the circumstances by which the
18 applicant came to acquire the vehicle, (ii) clearance from
19 the relevant police agency that there is no record of the
20 vehicle having been stolen, and (iii) payment to the LTO of

1 a one-time reconstitution fee of Ten thousand pesos
2 (P10,000.00) in addition to the regular fees and charges for
3 the registration of vintage vehicles.

4 (b) Publication of Notice of Application for
5 Registration. The LTO shall publish a notice of the
6 application in a newspaper of general circulation once a
7 week for three (3) consecutive weeks at the expense of the
8 applicant and on its website within three (3) days from
9 receipt of each complete application, describing the vehicle
10 and stating that the applicant has applied for registration.
11 If the LTO receives no objection to the application or claim
12 by third parties on the vehicle within three (3) months
13 from the date of publication, it shall register the vehicle as
14 a vintage vehicle under this Act. The registration of a
15 vintage vehicle shall be without prejudice to rights of
16 persons who may claim ownership of the vintage vehicle
17 under applicable laws.

18 (c) Date of manufacture. The date of manufacture of a
19 vintage vehicle with lost, incomplete, or inconsistent
20 papers may be ascertained through the car manufacturer

1 or the assistance of vintage car associations or interest
2 groups. If details such as the exact date of manufacture
3 cannot be ascertained, the registration paper and entry in
4 the database of the LTO shall indicate this fact and an
5 annotation that the “date of manufacture is not available
6 but has been estimated by [name of authority/association]”.

7 SEC. 19. *Vintage Vehicle Restoration Database;*
8 *Education.* – (a) Recognizing the historical and cultural
9 value and contribution of vintage vehicles to employment
10 and the industry in general, the LTO shall establish and
11 maintain a national database that lists and describes
12 vintage vehicles in the country, which it shall share with
13 the NHCP for purposes of Section 7 hereof.

14 (b) To support the local restoration industry, the LTO
15 shall include in its database authorized and licensed
16 companies and shops engaged in the repair or restoration
17 of vintage vehicles or in the manufacture of spare and
18 replacement parts for vintage vehicles, private sector
19 associations and interest groups, and relevant government
20 agencies, such as the Technical Education and Skills

1 Development Authority, and actively engage them, in
2 strengthening opportunities and programs for skills and
3 technological development in these and related industries.

4 (c) The LTO shall promote and encourage the
5 conscientious, correct and safe maintenance of vintage
6 vehicles through consistent information and education
7 campaigns and other means.

8 *SEC. 20. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The
9 LTO shall, after public hearings and consultation with
10 concerned sectors of society, including at least five (5)
11 vintage vehicle owners or representatives from owners'
12 groups or associations, formulate and issue the necessary
13 rules and regulations for the effective and speedy
14 implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days of its
15 effectivity. Likewise, the LTO shall consult with vintage
16 vehicle owners or representatives from owners' groups or
17 associations in the development of other relevant policies
18 and issuances. Any draft issuance or policy shall also be
19 circulated electronically via email and other social media
20 channels for meaningful engagement of stakeholders

1 especially owners, collectors, restorers, mechanics, and
2 enthusiasts.

3 SEC. 21. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this
4 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, such parts not
5 affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and
6 effect.

7 SEC. 22. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, rules
8 and regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof,
9 which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
10 amended or modified accordingly.

11 SEC. 23. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen
12 (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a
13 newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,