



Connecticut Council of Car Clubs
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Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Room 3700, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Subject: Senate Bill 1139, "An Act Eliminating Property Tax on Certain Motor Vehicles and Adjusting the Uniform Property Tax Assessment Rate"

Dear State Senator/Representative:

The Connecticut Council of Car Clubs (4C's) is an association of approximately 35 Connecticut Car Clubs that monitors legislation in the state. We represent on the order of 2000 antique auto hobbyists in Connecticut. The 4C's Board of Directors is comprised of volunteer auto hobbyists.

Senate Bill 1139 proposes to eliminate the ability of Connecticut municipalities to collect property tax on motor vehicles from their residents. The 4C's recognizes that the tax burden on our real property will have to increase to pay for current municipal services if the local motor vehicle property tax is eliminated. We are concerned that elimination of the local motor vehicle property tax is a precursor for institution of a state-wide motor vehicle property tax as a new source of tax revenue for the State of Connecticut. This concept of a state-wide motor vehicle tax was proposed in Senate Bill 431. The 4C's has submitted Public Hearing Testimony on Senate Bill 431 expressing our potential concern with the implementation of a state-wide motor vehicle tax. That concern is repeated below:

In the event that the General Assembly decides to go forward with a state-wide tax on motor vehicles, the 4C's has a potential concern about the implementation of that new tax. Section 12-71(b) of the General Statutes currently limits the maximum assessed value of an antique, rare or special interest motor vehicle. If a state-wide motor-vehicle tax is implemented, we feel that it is critical that the current Section 12-71(b) provision be maintained for the following reasons:

- Antique auto hobbyists in the state maintain modern motor vehicles that are used as daily transportation. As such, antique auto hobbyists will continue to pay their fair share of property tax on their modern motor-vehicles.
- By sponsoring several car shows and cruise nights throughout the spring, summer and fall, the antique auto hobby benefits many local charities, organizations and businesses throughout the state, and provides a positive benefit to the community, including supporting the movie industry. Elimination of the current Section 12-71(b) provision would result in antique auto hobbyists being excessively taxed when compared to other hobbies in the state.

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- The antique auto hobby supports several businesses in the state that are vital to restoring and maintaining our vehicles. Eliminating the current Section 12-71(b) provision would negatively impact those businesses.
- With the current Section 12-71(b) provision, property taxes on antique, rare or special interest motor vehicles in Connecticut are in alignment with our surrounding states. Eliminating that provision would result in the taxes on antique motor vehicles in Connecticut that are higher than Rhode Island, Massachusetts or New York.

The negative impact on the antique auto hobby in Connecticut would be severe if a state-wide motor vehicle tax is implemented without maintaining the current Section 12-71(b) provision.

The 4C's respectfully requests that the current provisions of Section 12-71(b) of the General Statutes related to antique, rare or special interest vehicles be maintained in the event the General Assembly decides to move forward with the implementation of the state-wide motor vehicle tax.

Should you have any questions on this issue, feel free to contact Dave Bajumpaa using information in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely,
Connecticut Council of Car Clubs