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Subject: Legislative Update 2 - Bill Raises Max Assessed Value and Min Age of Antique Car  
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As indicated in my Email to you this past Sunday, here is the legislative update which includes the recommended actions from CT Council of Car Clubs (4C's) Board of Directors:

## **4C's Legislative Alert No. 2 – Bill Introduced to Increase Maximum Property Tax Assessment from \$500 to \$1000 and the minimum age of an antique car from 20 to 30 years.**

On Friday, February 10, 2017 the 4C's was provided with Governor's Bill No. 7050, "An Act Concerning Enhancements to Municipal Finance and Accountability" introduced by Representatives Aresimowicz and Ritter, and Senators Looney and Duff has been referred to the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee. The 88 page bill is attached as a .pdf file. This bill contains two provisions adverse to the antique auto hobby.

Section 42 on page 83 of the attached bill proposes to increase the maximum property tax assessment on any antique, rare or special interest motor vehicle from \$500 to \$1000. Section 43 starting on the bottom of page 83 proposes to raise the age requirement of an antique rare or special interest motor vehicle from 20 years old or older to 30 years old or older. (For your convenience, the pages containing these two sections are also attached as a second .pdf file.) This section does allow for vehicles between 20 and 30 years old that have "Classic Vehicle" or "Early American" License Plates issued before October 1, 2017 to continue to use those plates. So the owners of these vehicles will not have to go back to DMV and re-register their vehicles with regular passenger car plates.

If these provisions are adopted, the maximum property tax assessment on an antique car greater than 30 years old will double from \$500 to \$1000. For a current antique, rare or special interest vehicle between 20 and 30 years old the property tax assessed value will increase from \$500 to the fair market value. As an example, a 1992 Mustang GT Convertible currently assessed at \$500 would be assessed at approximately \$5000 (the NADA Average Retail Value of the vehicle)

### **Recommended Action:**

While these proposals may not seem catastrophic to the antique auto hobby, we do recommend that members contact their legislators and voice their opposition to these changes as presented in Sections 42 and 43 of Governor's Bill 7050. Contacting your legislator at this time will be most effective if your Legislator is a member of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee since the bill is with that committee. A listing of the Committee Membership is provided later in this Email. Be aware that if your legislators are not on this Committee, they are likely not yet aware that Governor's Bill 7050 proposes these changes.

Specifically, the 4C's position is that:

1. The assessment cap should be preserved at \$500; and,
2. The definition of a Classic Vehicle should be raised from 20 years to 25 years rather than 30 years.

Basis for these positions:

- 1 The current \$500 maximum property tax assessment results in a tax on an antique vehicle in Connecticut that is equal to or greater than the states that border Connecticut. Rhode Island currently has a maximum \$500 tax assessment on vehicles more than 25 years old. For vehicles 5 years old and older, Massachusetts has an excise tax with an assessed value of 10% of the Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP). In Massachusetts that tax is 2.5% of that assessed value. For a 1965 Mustang 2 door hardtop with a MSRP of \$2427 the assessed value is \$242.70 and the annual Massachusetts excise tax would be \$6.07. In Connecticut, with the maximum \$500 assessment and a municipality with a mill rate of 30, the annual property tax on that same 1965 Mustang would be \$15. New York does not have an annual tax on motor vehicles. Additional discussion points for your use when contacting your legislator regarding why the current maximum \$500 assessment is fair are also provided later in this Email. In communicating with your legislator, it is always best to customize the message to your personal situation and your enjoyment of the antique

