

# DRIVING FORCE

WINTER 2019 | [semaSAN.com](http://semaSAN.com)

## Moment in the **SUN**



**Texas Win for Assembled Vehicles Shines Among  
the Year's Legislative Victories**

# New Lone Star State Law Highlights Hobby's Triumphant Efforts in 2019

By Colby Martin

**A**nother year of action-packed legislative sessions has drawn to a close. As such, the SEMA Action Network (SAN) was tapped to stick up for automotive aficionados on vehicle-related proposals from coast to coast. However, one accomplishment is worth a deeper look.

Earlier this year, Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed into law SAN-supported legislation creating a specific registration and titling class for former military and assembled vehicles, including kit cars and dune buggies. The new law provides guidance to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) on how to treat such vehicles. Previously, there was no specific registration and titling class for certain assembled vehicles, such as offerings similar to the legendary Volkswagen-based Meyers Manx.

What led to the bill's successful outcome? A strongly united effort carefully planned and coordinated on every front. A policy was set in 2014 to specifically exclude eligibility for titling/registration based on safety concerns. Initially, letters were sent to vehicle owners from the DMV indicating that their vehicles were "erroneously issued title and registration" and their street-legal status was being revoked. The need for a long-term solution became clear.

Advocates from the automotive hobby and industry began a constructive dialogue. A working group was formed to bring local expertise and topical knowledge to the table. Impacted owners, club members, enthusiasts and business leaders began discussions with a legislative consultant, officials from the DMV and state lawmakers. As a result of the meeting, the DMV revisited the state's titling requirements and the legislature was given an opportunity to help guide them through passing the SAN-supported proposal.

The role of timing cannot be understated. It may come as a surprise that the state's legislature is one of the few jurisdictions that do not convene every year—instead, it meets biennially. Any rewriting of the rules must be done swiftly or face a two-year wait. Language in the draft legislation ultimately required a compromise for approval, so amendments were made in the process. Resident SAN contacts encouraged passage of the bill throughout its journey in the capitol. The signing of the bill into law achieved the immediate goal and sets a productive precedent going forward.

Tact, patience and a broad range of allies are often critical when attempting to sway public policy—especially when the odds seem stacked against the automotive community. When most state legislatures open for business again in January, SAN contacts will once again be notified about the chance to fight for cars and trucks in their region. As always, please present the hobby in a positive manner with your outreach messages to decision makers—no matter how tough the topic. Our community needs every possible advantage when politics are involved.

Photos Courtesy Shutterstock.com.



# 2019: The Year in Review

The laws and regulations that govern automobiles and their parts have a continuous impact on the way enthusiasts enjoy their hobby. The charge of the SEMA Action Network (SAN) is to stay informed of all relevant state and federal proposals and advocate for pro-hobby positions to ensure the best possible outcome for fellow collectors and fans. The following details provide a summary of critical legislative/regulatory issues addressed over the past year impacting the hobby.

## FEDERAL UPDATE

**RPM Act:** U.S. Senators Richard Burr (R-NC) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) along with 24 original cosponsors reintroduced the Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports (RPM) Act (S. 2602) in the current U.S. Senate. The bill clarifies that the Clean Air Act allows motor vehicles to be



converted into dedicated race cars and that it is legal to produce, sell and install race parts for those vehicles. Passage of the RPM Act will protect sales beyond emissions-related parts, including racing tires, wheels, brakes, suspension equipment, and roll cages. Racers won't be buying and installing those products if a car or motorcycle cannot be converted into a dedicated race vehicle. To contact your lawmakers, visit [www.SEMA.org/rpm](http://www.SEMA.org/rpm).

**Replica Vehicle Law:** SEMA has sued the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for failure to implement a 2015 law that permitted low volume automakers to sell up to 325 rep-



lica cars each year. Replicas are cars that resemble production vehicles manufactured at least 25 years ago. The law provided NHTSA until December 2016 to issue any regulation needed to implement its provisions. The agency missed the deadline and has yet to issue a regulation. SEMA has asked a federal appellate court to compel NHTSA to act.

**E15 Gasoline:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a rule to allow gas stations around the country to sell E15 (gasoline that's 15% ethanol) year-round. Previously, the EPA prohibited the sale of E15 between June 1 and September 15 due to fuel-volatility concerns that higher blends of ethanol combined with warmer temperatures may lead to increased ground-level ozone formation and



smog. The SAN opposes an expansion of E15 sales, which the EPA is pursuing in order to achieve the Renewable Fuel Standard's artificial mandates to blend large volumes of ethanol into gasoline sold in the United States. Ethanol, especially in higher concentrations such as E15, can cause damage to high-performance parts and vehicles manufactured prior to 2001.

**Bonneville Salt Flats:** Utah lawmakers appropriated \$5 million toward a program to restore the Bonneville Salt Flats, contingent upon securing federal funds. The monies will be used to create a 10-year, \$50 million program to dramatically increase the amount of salt pumped onto Bonneville. The bulk of the monies will



come from the federal government, with contributions as well from the motorsports community. Once up and running, the racing venue should gradually expand from its current 8-mile length, with a goal of reaching the original 13-mile length. SEMA, along with other organizations and companies comprising the Save the Salt Coalition, is working with state and federal officials to implement the program.

**Public Lands Bill:** In March, President Trump signed into law a massive public lands bill. It included elements supported by the SAN, such as the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act co-authored by Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA) and Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) to permanently designate six existing OHV areas. Those areas include Johnson Valley (expanded by 11,000 acres), Spangler Hills, El Mirage, Rasor, Dumont Dunes and Stoddard Valley. The bill also included a provision to permanently designate federal lands within Emery County, Utah. While the provision protects most existing OHV routes within the San Raphael Swell, several trails were lost.

## PROVINCIAL UPDATE

**New Brunswick, Canada—License Plates:** Beginning July 15, 2019, motorists in New Brunswick were no longer required to display a front license plate on passenger vehicles and light trucks. The change removed the requirement to display two license plates on vehicles weighing less than 4,500 kilograms.

Cont. on p. 4 ►

STATE UPDATE



**Arizona—Emissions**

**Exemption:** A SAN-supported law to exempt qualified collectible vehicles from the state's emissions inspection and maintenance program went into effect June 1. While the bill was signed into law in 2005, the state's regulatory process delayed implementation. In order to qualify, a vehicle must be either 15 model years old or older or a unique or rare design of limited production and an object of curiosity. In addition, the vehicle must be maintained primarily for use in car club activities, exhibitions, parades or other functions of public interest, or for a private collection and used infrequently. Additionally, the vehicle must have collectible or classic automobile insurance coverage that restricts the vehicle's mileage or use, or both, and requires the owner to have another vehicle for personal use. The current exemptions for pre-'67 vehicles also remain in effect.



**California—Exhaust Noise:**

California Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law SAN-supported legislation that immediately restored fix-it tickets for cars suspected of violating the

state's exhaust noise limit. The bill amended a 2018 law, which removed fix-it tickets for such violations and which generated significant concern within the specialty automotive aftermarket industry and enthusiast community. Since 2003, exhaust systems installed on motor vehicles in California with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of less than 6,000 lbs., other than motorcycles, may not exceed a sound level of 95 decibels when tested under a Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) procedure.

**California—OHV Access:** The California Coastal Commission voted to continue permitting off-highway vehicle (OHV) use at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA). During its July 11 meeting in San Luis Obispo, the Commission rejected staff recommendations to further restrict motorized recreational access, with the eventual goal of prohibiting OHV and motorized vehicles at Oceano Dunes SVRA.



**Delaware—Street Rods:**

Delaware Governor John Carney signed into law a bill easing the process of registering a street rod, by favorably changing the existing age and equipment requirements. The new law amends the definition of street rod from a vehicle manufactured before '70 to one 25 years old or older. The law



**Maine—Ethanol:**

Maine Governor Janet Mills signed a bill into law allowing the sale of ethanol-free gasoline statewide. Previously, only the counties of York, Sagadahoc, Androscoggin, Kennebec, Knox and Lincoln banned the sale of ethanol-free gasoline.



**Nebraska—Military Vehicles:**

Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts signed into law legislation allowing for the titling and registration of former military vehicles. The new law defines a former military vehicle as "a vehicle that was manufactured for use in any country's military forces and is maintained to accurately represent its military design and markings, regardless of its size or weight, but is no longer used, or never was used by a military force." Previously, those vehicles were not allowed to be titled or registered for on-road use in the state.



**Nevada—Military Vehicles:**

Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak signed into law legislation that allows for the titling and registration of retired military vehicles. The new law also authorizes the



**National Collector Vehicle Appreciation Day:** The 10th annual Collector Car Appreciation Day (CCAD) took place on Friday, July 12, 2019. Both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives introduced resolutions (H. Res. 108/S. Res. 271) to focus attention on the vital role automotive restoration and collection plays in American society. Thousands of Americans gathered at car cruises, parades and other events to celebrate the nation's automotive heritage. Next year's celebration is set for July 10, 2020.

A number of domestic and foreign jurisdictions recognized CCAD 2019. They include:

- **Louisiana:** A bill was signed into law that every year will designate the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the second weekend in July as

- **Louisiana Collector Car Appreciation weekend.**
- **West Virginia:** The West Virginia Legislature passed a House Concurrent Resolution designating the second Friday in July as Collector Car Appreciation Day in the state.
- **Wisconsin:** An Assembly Joint Resolution to annually designate the second Friday in July as Collector Vehicle Appreciation Day in the state was approved by the full Wisconsin Assembly.
- **Canada:** Most of the provincial governments issue annual proclamations to officially declare Collector Car Appreciation Day and/or Automotive Heritage Month. This year included Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan.

design and production of a specialty plate for those vehicles. Previously, such vehicles could not be titled or registered for use on highways in the state.



**New Mexico—License Plates:** Legislation to require registration plates on the front and back of all motor vehicles died when the legislature adjourned. Under current law, all motor vehicles in the state are issued only a single plate. Because of strong opposition, the bill failed to receive a vote on the House floor.



**North Carolina—Antique Vehicles:** North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper signed into law legislation to lower the age of vehicles eligible for an antique license plate to 30 years old. Previously, only vehicles that were at least 35 years from the date of manufacture were eligible for antique tags.

**North Carolina—Emissions Exemption:** Beginning December 1, 2019, all motor vehicles 20 years old or older became exempt from emissions testing. On that date, the applicable clause from a 2017 regulatory reform bill went into effect. Previously, 22 of the state's 100 counties required vehicles model-year '96 or later to undergo an annual emissions inspection.

The current emissions inspection exemption in these counties for new cars from the three most recent model years still remains in effect.



**Ohio—License Plates:** Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed into law legislation to allow for the issuance of a single, rear-mounted license plate for motor vehicles. Previously, Ohio required vehicles to display two plates.



**Rhode Island—License Plates:** Legislation to allow vehicles with "year of manufacture" (YOM) tags to display a single license plate on the rear of the vehicle, passed the deadline for the governor's signature or veto and thus became law without being signed. All motor vehicles 25 model years old and older, are currently eligible for courtesy YOM plates in Rhode Island. Previously, those vehicles were required to display both front and rear YOM plates.



**Tennessee—Military Vehicles:** Tennessee Governor Bill Lee, signed into law legislation that exempts historic military vehicles from the requirement to display license plates. An historic military vehicle is currently defined as being 25 years old or older, manufactured for use in

any country's military, and maintained to represent the vehicle's military design and markings.



**Texas—Assembled Vehicles:** Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed into law SAN-supported legislation creating a specific registration and titling class for former military vehicles and assembled vehicles, including kit cars and dune buggies. The new law provides guidance to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles on how to treat such vehicles. Previously, there was no specific registration and titling class for certain assembled vehicles, such as dune buggies.



**West Virginia—Motorsports Committee:** Governor Jim Justice signed into law legislation to create the West Virginia Motorsports Committee. The committee is tasked with aiding in the development of racing events and facilities throughout the state. The committee will also seek opportunities to promote economic growth and manufacturing jobs related to motorsports.



SAVE THE DATE

## 11th Annual Collector Car Appreciation Day to Be Celebrated July 10, 2020

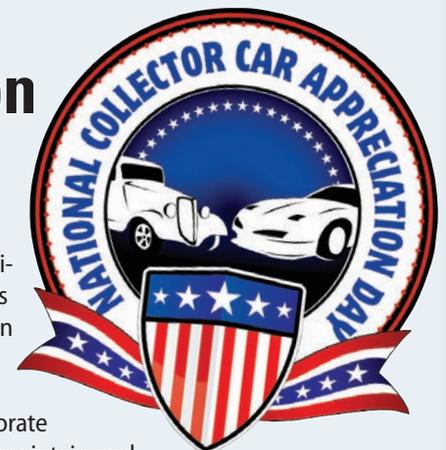
The SEMA Action Network (SAN) announced that the next Collector Car Appreciation Day (CCAD) will be celebrated on July 10, 2020. The date will mark the eleventh consecutive commemoration in what is now an annual event to raise awareness of the vital role automotive restoration and collection plays in American society.

Intended to celebrate the classics of the past and the future, the U.S. Congress helped launch CCAD by passing Resolutions each year since 2010 at the SAN's request. The previous resolutions were sponsored by co-chairs of the SEMA-supported Congressional Automotive Performance and Motorsports Caucus. These Congressional leaders are strong advocates for the automotive hobby in Washington, D.C., and recognize the integral role collector cars have played in fostering our nation's appreciation for the automobile's unique historical place in our history.

In preparation for the eleventh celebration of the nation's auto-

motive heritage, enthusiasts and related businesses are already planning open houses, car cruises, club gatherings and educational events to commemorate the day. The SAN will again maintain and publicize a list of scheduled events to commemorate America's time-tested love affair with the automobile at [www.semaSAN.com/CCAD](http://www.semaSAN.com/CCAD).

Individuals, car clubs and business owners interested in publicizing events can submit the details of their celebration. For questions, contact SAN Director Colby Martin at 909-978-6721 or [san@sema.org](mailto:san@sema.org). If you are unable to celebrate on July 10, the SAN encourages events to be scheduled throughout the month of July 2020.





# The Class of 2019

This year's recruiting effort has once again brought an impressive number of state and federal lawmakers into SEMA-supported groups. To follow is the complete roster of those who have become involved this year. Find out if your lawmakers are listed at [www.semaSAN.com/statecaucus](http://www.semaSAN.com/statecaucus) and [www.semaSAN.com/federalcaucus](http://www.semaSAN.com/federalcaucus). Locate your elected officials at [www.semaSAN.com](http://www.semaSAN.com) under the "Legislators" tab.

The American auto industry celebrated its centennial in 1996. To mark the occasion, SEMA helped formed the Congressional Automotive Performance and Motorsports Caucus to pay tribute to America's love affair with

the car and motorsports. More than two decades later, the caucus continues to raise the industry's profile in the nation's capital. Totalling more than 70 members, a dozen new members have registered their support for the hobby in 2019 by joining the Caucus.

With nearly 50 new members enlisting this year, the State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus now numbers approximately 675 members representing all 50 states. Founded in 2005, the Caucus is designed as a non-partisan group of state legislators whose common thread is an appreciation for automobiles.



## Congressional Automotive Performance and Motorsports Caucus



### ARIZONA

Representative Paul Gosar



### KANSAS

Representative Roger Marshall



### NEW JERSEY

Representative Josh Gottheimer



### CALIFORNIA

Representative Gil Cisneros



### MICHIGAN

Representative John Moolenaar



### OHIO

Representative Dave Joyce



### FLORIDA

Representative Mike Waltz



### NORTH CAROLINA

Representative Ted Budd



### OHIO

Representative Steve Stivers



### INDIANA

Representative Jim Baird



### NORTH CAROLINA

Representative George Holding



### TEXAS

Representative Henry Cuellar

## State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus



### CALIFORNIA

Assembly Member  
Tasha Boerner Horvath



### GEORGIA

Representative  
Katie Dempsey



### MINNESOTA

Representative Shelly  
Christensen



### NEW HAMPSHIRE

Representative  
Paul Somero



### CALIFORNIA

Assembly Member  
Kansen Chu



### INDIANA

Representative  
John Bartlett



### MISSOURI

Senator Wayne  
Wallingford



### NEW MEXICO

Representative Day  
Hochman-Vigil



### CALIFORNIA

Assembly Member  
Reggie Jones-Sawyer



### KANSAS

Senator Rob Olson



### MISSISSIPPI

Representative  
Chris Brown



### NEW YORK

Senator Leroy Comrie Jr.



### FLORIDA

Representative  
Chuck Clemons



### KANSAS

Senator Rick Billinger



### NORTH CAROLINA

Senator Eddie Gallimore



### NEW YORK

Assembly Member  
Donna Lupardo



### FLORIDA

Representative  
Chip LaMarca



### MINNESOTA

Representative  
Rob Ecklund



### NORTH CAROLINA

Senator Rick Horner



### OKLAHOMA

Representative  
Ross Ford



### GEORGIA

Representative  
Sheila Nelson



### MINNESOTA

Representative  
Ruth Richardson



### NORTH CAROLINA

Representative  
Stephen Ross



### SOUTH DAKOTA

Senator Gary Cammack

# SEMA Show 2019: State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus Dinner



**M**embers of the State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus gathered again this past November to meet with SAN staff and enjoy the 2019 SEMA Show in Las Vegas. In attendance were (back row, left to right) former Representative Chip Campbell (SD), Senator Mark Maynard (WV), Senator Dave Sybolt (WV), Representative Stan Blake (WY), Delegate Danny Hamrick (WV); (center row, left to right) Senator Jim Patrick (ID), Representative Allen Skillicorn (IL), Representative Leo Delperdang (KS), Senator Randall Hardy (KS); (near row, left to right) Representative Joe Pitre (NH), Representative Raye Felder (SC), Caucus Chairman Delegate Gary Howell (WV), Assembly Member Timothy Grayson (CA), Delegate Terri Sybolt (WV) and Assembly Member Marie Waldron (CA).

**SOUTH DAKOTA**  
Representative  
Taffy Howard

**VIRGINIA**  
Senator Amanda Chase

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
Delegate  
Brandon Steele

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
Delegate Caleb Hanna

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
Delegate Chris Toney

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
Delegate David Kelly

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
Delegate Joe Jeffries

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
Delegate John Hardy

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
Delegate Larry Kump

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
Delegate Lisa Zukoff

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
Delegate Scott Cadle

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
Delegate Terry Waxman

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
Delegate Thomas Bibby

**WYOMING**  
Senator Tom James

**WYOMING**  
Senator Mike Gierau

**WYOMING**  
Representative  
Clark Stith

**WYOMING**  
Representative  
Landon Brown

**WYOMING**  
Representative  
Andi Clifford

**WYOMING**  
Representative  
Joe MacGuire

**WYOMING**  
Representative Mike Yin

**WYOMING**  
Representative  
Sandy Newsome



**SEMA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OFFICE**

**Vice President, Government and Legal Affairs**  
Daniel Ingber

**Senior Director of Federal Government Affairs**  
Stuart Gosswein

**Director of Government and Public Affairs**  
Colby Martin

**Director of State Government Affairs**  
Christian Robinson

**Director of Congressional Affairs**  
Eric Snyder

**Legislative Analyst**  
Caroline Fletcher

**Technical Consultant**  
Jim McFarland

**PUBLICATION STAFF**

**Editor** Colby Martin

**Editorial Director** John Stewart

**Group Operations Manager** Janet Francisco Lee

**Managing Editor** Douglas McColloch

**Senior Graphic Designer** Mariciel Basallo Fuller

**Front-End Developer** Gordon Madison

**Email Production Specialist** John Chuechareun

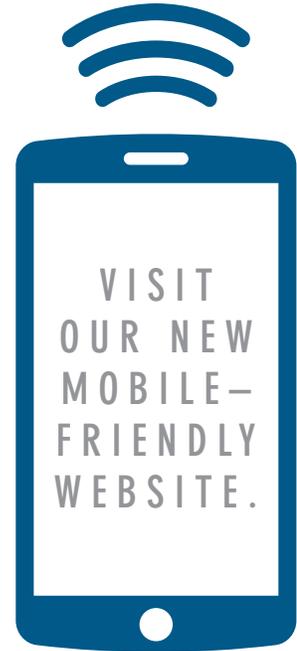


For more legislative and regulatory information,  
visit [semaSAN.com](http://semaSAN.com) or call 909-978-6721.



PROTECT YOUR  
AUTOMOTIVE  
FREEDOMS

[SEMASAN.COM](http://SEMASAN.COM)



**FEATURING:**  
CURRENT LEGISLATION TRACKING  
ACTION ALERT MESSAGES & NEWSLETTER  
STATE-BY-STATE STATUTE GUIDES  
SEMA-MODEL BILL TEMPLATES  
ONLINE RESOURCE COMPILATIONS

WINTER 2019

**DRIVING FORCE**

Voice of the SEMA Action Network

1575 S. Valley Vista Dr.  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

