

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 25-0753.02 Jery Payne x2157

HOUSE BILL 25-1281

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lindstedt and Suckla,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Hinrichsen and Pelton B.,

House Committees

Transportation, Housing & Local Government
Finance

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING KEI VEHICLES.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

A kei vehicle is the smallest road-legal, 4-wheeled vehicle in Japan and is imported into the United States as a used vehicle. The bill defines a kei vehicle as a motor vehicle for the purposes of the "Uniform Motor Vehicle Law" and the "Certificate of Title Act". These acts govern issuing a certificate of title, registering a motor vehicle, and the rules of the road for motor vehicles. The bill authorizes a kei vehicle to operate on the roads and requires a kei vehicle to be issued a certificate of title, be registered, and obey motor vehicle traffic laws.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

Driving a kei vehicle on a roadway that has a speed limit greater than 55 miles per hour or on a limited-access highway is prohibited.

For emissions testing, a kei vehicle is tested not using a dynamometer but using a 2-speed idle test. The vehicle must pass the emissions standards for the year it was manufactured.

The department of revenue, the Colorado state patrol, and the agents or contractors of these agencies may not require a vehicle to have an inspection because it is a kei vehicle or has the design or manufacturing parameters of a kei vehicle. And a kei vehicle may not be declared not roadworthy because of its design or manufacturing parameters.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 10-4-601, **amend** (6)
3 as follows:

4 **10-4-601. Definitions.** As used in this part 6, unless the context
5 otherwise requires:

6 (6) "Motor vehicle" means a "motor vehicle", A "KEI VEHICLE",
7 and a "low-power scooter", as ~~both~~ EACH OF THESE terms ~~are~~ IS defined
8 in section 42-1-102; ~~C.R.S.~~; except that "motor vehicle" does not include
9 a toy vehicle, snowmobile, off-highway vehicle, or vehicle designed
10 primarily for use on rails.

11 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-1-102, **amend**
12 (58)(a); and **add** (45.3) as follows:

13 **42-1-102. Definitions.** As used in articles 1 to 4 of this title 42,
14 unless the context otherwise requires:

15 (45.3) (a) "KEI VEHICLE" MEANS A VEHICLE THAT:

16 (I) IS POWERED BY AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE WITH A
17 DISPLACEMENT OF ONE THOUSAND CUBIC CENTIMETERS OR LESS OR AN
18 ELECTRICAL MOTOR OF FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND WATTS OR LESS;

19 (II) IS SIXTY-SEVEN INCHES OR LESS IN WIDTH;

- 1 (III) IS ONE HUNDRED FORTY INCHES OR LESS IN LENGTH;
- 2 (IV) TRAVELS ON FOUR OR MORE TIRES IN CONTACT WITH THE
- 3 GROUND;
- 4 (V) HAS A TOP SPEED OF APPROXIMATELY FIFTY-FIVE MILES PER
- 5 HOUR;
- 6 (VI) HAS AN ENCLOSED PASSENGER CAB;
- 7 (VII) WAS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES; AND
- 8 (VIII) IS AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD.

9 (b) "KEI VEHICLE" INCLUDES A VEHICLE THAT WAS TITLED AS A KEI
10 VEHICLE IN ANOTHER STATE IF IT IS AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD.

11 (c) "KEI VEHICLE" DOES NOT INCLUDE A VEHICLE THAT:

- 12 (I) IS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES AS AN OFF-ROAD
- 13 VEHICLE; AND
- 14 (II) HAS A PERMANENT SPEED LIMITER INSTALLED BEFORE BEING
- 15 IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES, AND THE SPEED LIMITER IS SET TO
- 16 STOP THE VEHICLE FROM EXCEEDING TWENTY-FIVE MILES PER HOUR.

17 (58) "Motor vehicle":

18 (a) Means ~~any~~ A self-propelled vehicle that is designed primarily
19 for travel on the public highways and that is generally and commonly
20 used to transport persons and property over the public highways, a
21 low-speed electric vehicle, A KEI VEHICLE, or an auticycle; except that the
22 term does not include electrical assisted bicycles, electric scooters,
23 low-power scooters except as provided in subsection (58)(b) of this
24 section, wheelchairs, or vehicles moved solely by human power;

25 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 42-4-109.7 as
26 follows:

27 **42-4-109.7. Kei vehicles.** (1) (a) A PERSON SHALL NOT DRIVE A

1 KEI VEHICLE ON A ROADWAY THAT HAS A SPEED LIMIT GREATER THAN
2 FIFTY-FIVE MILES PER HOUR; EXCEPT THAT A PERSON MAY DRIVE ACROSS
3 A ROADWAY WITH A SPEED LIMIT GREATER THAN FIFTY-FIVE MILES PER
4 HOUR AT AN AT-GRADE INTERSECTION.

5 (b) A PERSON SHALL NOT DRIVE A KEI VEHICLE ON A
6 LIMITED-ACCESS HIGHWAY.

7 (2) A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IS A CLASS B TRAFFIC
8 INFRACTION.

9 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-304, **amend**
10 (19)(b)(II) as follows:

11 **42-4-304. Definitions relating to motor vehicle inspection and**
12 **readjustment program.** As used in sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316,
13 unless the context otherwise requires:

14 (19) (b) (II) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 42-4-310 (2)(a)(II),
15 inspection procedures used by a motor vehicle dealer test facility pursuant
16 to this ~~paragraph (b) shall~~ SUBSECTION (19)(b) MUST include a loaded
17 mode transient dynamometer test cycle in combination with appropriate
18 idle short tests pursuant to rules ~~and regulations~~ of the commission.

19 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-309, **amend**
20 (3)(b) as follows:

21 **42-4-309. Vehicle fleet owners - motor vehicle dealers -**
22 **authority to conduct inspections - fleet inspection stations - motor**
23 **vehicle dealer test facilities - contracts with licensed inspection-only**
24 **entities.** (3) (b) Within the enhanced emissions program, motor vehicle
25 dealers licensed pursuant to part 1 of article 20 of title 44 may contract for
26 used motor vehicle inspection services by a licensed motor vehicle dealer
27 test facility. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 42-4-310 (2)(a)(II) AND

1 pursuant to rules of the commission, inspection procedures ~~shall~~ MUST
2 include a loaded mode transient dynamometer test cycle in combination
3 with appropriate idle short tests.

4 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-310, **amend**
5 (2)(a) as follows:

6 **42-4-310. Periodic emissions control inspection required.**

7 (2) (a) (I) TO DETERMINE WHETHER A MOTOR VEHICLE QUALIFIES FOR
8 ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATION OF EMISSIONS COMPLIANCE, the emissions
9 inspection required under this section ~~shall~~ MUST include:

10 (A) An analysis of ~~tail pipe~~ TAILPIPE and evaporative emissions;

11 (B) ~~After January 1, 1994, such inspection shall include~~ An
12 analysis of emissions control equipment, including on-board diagnostic
13 systems, chlorofluorocarbons, and visible smoke emissions for the basic
14 emissions program area and the enhanced emissions program area; ~~and~~

15 (C) Emissions testing that meets the performance standards set by
16 federal requirements for the enhanced emissions program area by means
17 of procedures specified by ~~regulation~~ RULE of the commission; ~~to~~
18 ~~determine whether the motor vehicle qualifies for issuance of a~~
19 ~~certification of emissions compliance.~~ AND

20 (D) For motor vehicles of the model year 1975 or later, not tested
21 under a transient load on a dynamometer, ~~said inspection shall also~~
22 ~~include~~ a visual inspection of emissions control equipment pursuant to
23 rules of the commission.

24 (II) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION, A
25 KEI VEHICLE IS NOT TESTED USING A DYNAMOMETER. A KEI VEHICLE MUST
26 BE TESTED USING A TWO-SPEED IDLE TEST. TO BE ISSUED A CERTIFICATE
27 OF EMISSIONS COMPLIANCE, A KEI VEHICLE MUST PASS THE EMISSIONS

1 STANDARDS FOR THE MODEL YEAR IT WAS MANUFACTURED.

2 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-5-202, **add** (5) as
3 follows:

4 **42-5-202. Vehicle identification number inspection.** (5) THE
5 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, THE AGENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
6 REVENUE, THE COLORADO STATE PATROL, THE AGENTS OF THE COLORADO
7 STATE PATROL, OR A PERSON THAT HAS CONTRACTED WITH THE
8 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE OR THE COLORADO STATE PATROL SHALL NOT
9 REQUIRE A VEHICLE TO HAVE AN INSPECTION BECAUSE IT IS A KEI VEHICLE,
10 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 42-1-102 (45.3), OR HAS THE DESIGN OR
11 MANUFACTURING PARAMETERS OF A KEI VEHICLE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
12 42-1-102 (45.3). THIS SUBSECTION (5) APPLIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF BOTH
13 ARTICLE 6 OF THIS TITLE 42 AND PART 3 OF ARTICLE 4 OF THIS TITLE 42.

14 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-6-102, **amend**
15 (6.5), (10) introductory portion, (11.5)(b)(I) introductory portion, and
16 (15); and **add** (6.6) and (6.7) as follows:

17 **42-6-102. Definitions.** As used in this part 1, unless the context
18 otherwise requires:

19 (6.5) ~~"Kit vehicle" means a passenger-type motor vehicle~~
20 ~~assembled, by other than a licensed manufacturer, from a manufactured~~
21 ~~kit that includes a prefabricated body and chassis and is accompanied by~~
22 ~~a manufacturer's statement of origin "KEI VEHICLE" HAS THE MEANING SET~~
23 FORTH IN SECTION 42-1-102.

24 (6.6) "KEI OFF-ROAD VEHICLE" MEANS A VEHICLE THAT:

25 (a) IS POWERED BY AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE WITH A
26 DISPLACEMENT OF ONE THOUSAND CUBIC CENTIMETERS OR LESS OR AN
27 ELECTRICAL MOTOR OF FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND WATTS OR LESS;

- 1 (b) IS SIXTY-SEVEN INCHES OR LESS IN WIDTH;
- 2 (c) IS ONE HUNDRED FORTY INCHES OR LESS IN LENGTH;
- 3 (d) TRAVELS ON FOUR OR MORE TIRES IN CONTACT WITH THE
- 4 GROUND;
- 5 (e) HAS AN ENCLOSED PASSENGER CAB;
- 6 (f) WAS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES AS AN OFF-ROAD
- 7 VEHICLE; AND
- 8 (g) HAS A PERMANENT SPEED LIMITER INSTALLED BEFORE BEING
- 9 IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES, AND THE SPEED LIMITER IS SET TO
- 10 STOP THE VEHICLE FROM EXCEEDING TWENTY-FIVE MILES PER HOUR.

11 (6.7) "KIT VEHICLE" MEANS A PASSENGER-TYPE MOTOR VEHICLE

12 ASSEMBLED, BY OTHER THAN A LICENSED MANUFACTURER, FROM A

13 MANUFACTURED KIT THAT INCLUDES A PREFABRICATED BODY AND

14 CHASSIS AND IS ACCOMPANIED BY A MANUFACTURER'S STATEMENT OF

15 ORIGIN.

16 (10) "Motor vehicle" means ~~any~~ A self-propelled vehicle that is

17 designed primarily for travel on the public highways and is generally and

18 commonly used to transport persons and property over the public

19 highways, including autcycles, KEI VEHICLES, trailers, semitrailers, and

20 trailer coaches, without motive power. "Motor vehicle" does not include

21 the following:

22 (11.5) (b) (I) Except as described in subsection (11.5)(b)(II) of

23 this section, "off-highway vehicle" includes ~~vehicles commonly known~~

24 ~~as all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, KEI OFF-ROAD VEHICLES, and surplus~~

25 ~~military vehicles but does not include:~~

26 (15) (a) "Roadworthy" means a condition in which a motor

27 vehicle has sufficient power and is fit to operate on the roads and

1 highways of this state after visual inspection by appropriate law
2 enforcement authorities.

3 (b) In order to be roadworthy, ~~such~~ A vehicle, in accord with its
4 design and use, ~~shall~~ MUST have all major parts and systems permanently
5 attached and functioning and ~~shall~~ MUST not be repaired in such a manner
6 as to make the vehicle unsafe.

7 (c) ~~For purposes of this subsection (15),~~ AS USED IN THIS
8 SUBSECTION (15):

9 (I) "IN ACCORD WITH ITS DESIGN AND USE" PRECLUDES A KEI
10 VEHICLE FROM BEING DECLARED TO BE NOT ROADWORTHY BASED ON ITS
11 DESIGN OR MANUFACTURING PARAMETERS.

12 (II) "Major parts and systems" ~~shall include, but not be limited to,~~
13 INCLUDES the body of a motor vehicle with related component parts,
14 engine, transmission, tires, wheels, seats, exhaust, AND brakes and all
15 other equipment required by Colorado law for the particular vehicle.

16 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 44-20-102, **amend**
17 (16); and **add** (12.5) as follows:

18 **44-20-102. Definitions.** As used in this part 1, and in part 4 of this
19 article 20, unless the context or section 44-20-402 otherwise requires:

20 (12.5) "KEI ROAD VEHICLE" MEANS A "KEI VEHICLE" AS DEFINED
21 IN SECTION 42-1-102 (45.3).

22 (16) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle intended primarily for
23 use on the public highways that is self-propelled and every vehicle
24 intended primarily for operation on the public highways that is not
25 self-propelled but is designed to be attached to, become a part of, or be
26 drawn by a self-propelled vehicle, not including farm tractors and other
27 machines and tools used in the production, harvesting, and care of farm

1 products. "Motor vehicle" includes a KEI ROAD VEHICLE OR A low-power
2 scooter or autocycle as either is defined in section 42-1-102.

3 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 44-20-131.5 as
4 follows:

5 **44-20-313.5. Kei road vehicles - no liability for manufacturing**
6 **standards.** A PERSON LICENSED UNDER THIS PART 1 IS NOT LIABLE FOR
7 ANY DAMAGES THAT ARE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO
8 SELLING A KEI ROAD VEHICLE THAT IS NOT MANUFACTURED IN
9 ACCORDANCE WITH UNITED STATES FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS.

10 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 44-20-402, **amend**
11 (11)(b) and (11)(c); and **add** (6.5) and (11)(d) as follows:

12 **44-20-402. Definitions.** As used in this part 4, unless the context
13 otherwise requires:

14 (6.5) "KEI OFF-ROAD VEHICLE" MEANS A VEHICLE THAT:

15 (a) IS POWERED BY AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE WITH A
16 DISPLACEMENT OF ONE THOUSAND CUBIC CENTIMETERS OR LESS OR AN
17 ELECTRICAL MOTOR OF FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND WATTS OR LESS;

18 (b) IS SIXTY-SEVEN INCHES OR LESS IN WIDTH;

19 (c) IS ONE HUNDRED FORTY INCHES OR LESS IN LENGTH;

20 (d) TRAVELS ON FOUR OR MORE TIRES IN CONTACT WITH THE
21 GROUND;

22 (e) HAS AN ENCLOSED PASSENGER CAB;

23 (f) WAS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES AS AN OFF-ROAD
24 VEHICLE; AND

25 (g) HAS A PERMANENT SPEED LIMITER INSTALLED BEFORE BEING
26 IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES, AND THE SPEED LIMITER IS SET TO
27 STOP THE VEHICLE FROM EXCEEDING TWENTY-FIVE MILES PER HOUR.

1 (11) "Powersports vehicle" means any of the following:

2 (b) A personal watercraft; or

3 (c) A snowmobile; OR

4 (d) A KEI OFF-ROAD VEHICLE.

5 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 44-20-432.5 as
6 follows:

7 **44-20-432.5. Kei off-road vehicles - no liability for**
8 **manufacturing standards.** A PERSON LICENSED UNDER THIS PART 4 IS
9 NOT LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES THAT ARE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY
10 ATTRIBUTABLE TO SELLING A KEI OFF-ROAD VEHICLE THAT IS NOT
11 MANUFACTURED IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNITED STATES FEDERAL SAFETY
12 STANDARDS.

13 **SECTION 13. Act subject to petition - effective date -**
14 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect July 1, 2027; except that, if a
15 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
16 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
17 within the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general
18 assembly, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless
19 approved by the people at the general election to be held in November
20 2026 and, in such case, will take effect July 1, 2027.

21 (2) This act applies to applications submitted or offenses
22 committed on or after January 1, 2028.