A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE WHEN OWNERSHIP OF A MOTOR VEHICLE HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED.

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.)

The bill creates a program administered by the department of revenue that authorizes the owner of a motor vehicle to report a transfer of ownership of the motor vehicle. If the previous owner reports the transfer to the department, the previous owner is not subject to liability for the misuse of the vehicle. The department will notify owners of the option to report a transfer of ownership by placing a notice on registration
renewal information and the title and by notifying the public.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-6-109, add (3) as follows:

42-6-109. Sale or transfer of vehicle - program.

(3) (a) Beginning January 1, 2019, the department shall implement a program for an owner of a motor vehicle to notify the department or an authorized agent after ownership of the motor vehicle is transferred to another person.

(b) A report of ownership transfer is properly filed if the report is made in a manner, which may include by electronic means, approved by the department and received by the department or authorized agent within seventy-two hours after the transfer of ownership, and includes the following:

(I) The date of sale or transfer;

(II) The full name of the owner of the motor vehicle before the transfer;

(III) The vehicle identification number of the motor vehicle;

(IV) The full name of the person acquiring the motor vehicle; and

(V) The address information, as determined by the department, of the person acquiring the motor vehicle.

(c) The department shall:

(I) Provide or approve one or more methods for reporting the transfer of ownership;
(II) Notify, with the owner's registration renewal information, the owner of a motor vehicle of the option to report the transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle;

(III) Notify the public of the option to report a transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle; and

(IV) Place instructions on each certificate of title document issued on or after the effective date of this subsection for reporting the transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle.

(d) If an owner reports a bona fide transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle in accordance with this section, the owner is not liable in or subject to any civil or criminal action brought against the following after the motor vehicle was transferred:

(I) The operator of the motor vehicle, arising from the use of the motor vehicle; and

(II) The motor vehicle.

SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date - applicability. (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1(3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

(2) This act applies to motor vehicles sold on or after January 1, 2019.