A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING CLARIFYING WHETHER A VETERAN WITH A DISABILITY NEEDS TO OBTAIN A DISABLED VETERAN LICENSE PLATE TO QUALIFY FOR THE CURRENT EXEMPTION FROM PAYING VEHICLE ASSESSMENTS.

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.)

Current law provides 2 means by which veterans with qualifying disabilities may be exempted from paying vehicle ownership tax and registration fees: The first exemption is associated with the issuance of a
disabled veteran license plate, but the second exemption is not specifically associated with the issuance of the disabled veteran license plate. The bill clarifies that a veteran who is disabled need not obtain the disabled veteran license plate to qualify for the second exemption.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-104, amend (5) as follows:

42-3-104. Exemptions - specific ownership tax - registration - domicile and residency - rules - definitions. (5) One Class B or Class C motor vehicle weighing less than sixteen thousand pounds empty weight owned by a person who is a veteran and has established rights to benefits under the provisions of Public Law 663, 79th Congress, as amended, and Public Law 187, 82nd Congress, as amended, or is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States who incurred a disability and is receiving compensation from the veterans administration or any branch of the armed forces of the United States for a fifty percent or more, service-connected, permanent disability, or for loss of use of one or both feet or one or both hands, or for permanent impairment or loss of vision in both eyes that constitutes virtual blindness shall be exempt from the imposition of the annual specific ownership tax imposed by this article. ARTICLE 3. Only one such Class B or Class C motor vehicle per veteran shall be exempted. TO QUALIFY FOR THE EXEMPTION PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION (5), THE VETERAN WITH A DISABILITY NEED NOT OBTAIN A DISABLED VETERAN LICENSE PLATE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 42-3-213. THE VETERAN WHO IS APPLYING FOR THE EXEMPTION IN THIS SUBSECTION (5) FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE THAT IS ALREADY REGISTERED DOES NOT RECEIVE ANY CREDIT OR REFUND FOR ANY TAXES AND FEES
SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-304, amend (3) introductory portion and (3)(a) as follows:

42-3-304. Registration fees - passenger and passenger-mile taxes - clean screen fund - definitions. (3) No fee shall be payable A FEE NEED NOT BE PAID for the annual registration of a vehicle when:

(a) The owner of such THE vehicle is a veteran who in an application for registration shows that the owner has established such THE owner's rights to benefits under the provisions of Public Law 663, 79th Congress, as amended, and Public Law 187, 82nd Congress, as amended, or is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States who incurred a disability and who is, at ON the date of such THE application, receiving compensation from the veterans administration or any branch of the armed forces of the United States for a fifty percent or more, service-connected, permanent disability, or for loss of use of one or both feet or one or both hands, or for permanent impairment or loss of vision in both eyes that constitutes virtual or actual blindness. The exemption provided in this paragraph (a) shall apply SUBSECTION (3)(a) APPLIES to the original qualifying vehicle and to any vehicle subsequently purchased and owned by the same veteran but shall DOES not apply to more than one vehicle at a time. TO QUALIFY FOR THE EXEMPTION PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION (3)(a), THE VETERAN WITH A DISABILITY NEED NOT OBTAIN A DISABLED VETERAN LICENSE PLATE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 42-3-213. THE VETERAN WHO IS APPLYING FOR THE EXEMPTION IN THIS SUBSECTION (3)(a) FOR A VEHICLE THAT IS ALREADY REGISTERED DOES NOT RECEIVE ANY CREDIT OR REFUND FOR ANY TAXES AND FEES PREVIOUSLY PAID ON THE VEHICLE.
SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date - applicability. (1) This act takes effect January 1, 2021; 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 the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly, 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 2020 and, in such case, will take effect January 1, 2021, or on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor, whichever is later.

(2) This act applies to registrations completed or renewed on or after the applicable effective date of this act.