First Regular Session Seventy-first General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 17-0696.01 Yelana Love x2295

HOUSE BILL 17-1277

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Mitsch Bush,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Martinez Humenik,

House Committees

Senate Committees

Judiciary

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A BILL FOR AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO SUSPEND THE DRIVER'S LICENSE OF A DRIVER WHO LEAVES THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING SERIOUS BODILY INJURY.

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.)

Currently, the department of revenue (department) is required to revoke the driver's license of a driver convicted of leaving the scene of an accident involving serious bodily injury or death. The bill allows the department to also suspend the license when, based on a preponderance of the evidence, a driver left the scene of an accident involving serious bodily injury or death. If both the suspension and revocation are imposed as a result of the same episode of driving, the bill requires the department to run the suspension and the revocation concurrently.

The bill establishes a procedure by which a driver may contest the suspension of his or her license.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:* 2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 42-2-127.9 as 3 follows: 4 42-2-127.9. Authority to suspend driver's license - leaving the 5 scene of an accident. (1) (a) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SUSPEND THE 6 DRIVER'S LICENSE OF ANY PERSON UPON THE DEPARTMENT'S 7 DETERMINATION THAT THERE IS PROOF BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE 8 EVIDENCE THAT THE PERSON WAS THE DRIVER OF A VEHICLE DIRECTLY 9 INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT RESULTING IN SERIOUS BODILY INJURY TO OR 10 DEATH OF ANY PERSON AND FAILED TO IMMEDIATELY STOP THE VEHICLE 11 AT THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT, OR AS CLOSE TO THE SCENE AS POSSIBLE, 12 OR IMMEDIATELY RETURN TO THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT, AS REQUIRED 13 BY SECTION 42-4-1601. 14 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE A DETERMINATION OF THE 15 FACTS ON THE BASIS OF THE DOCUMENTS AND AFFIDAVIT OF AN OFFICER 16 AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, AND THIS 17 DETERMINATION SHALL BE FINAL UNLESS A HEARING IS REQUESTED AND 18 HELD AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTIONS (6) AND (7) OF THIS SECTION. 19 (c) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION: (I) "LICENSE" INCLUDES ANY DRIVING PRIVILEGE. 20 21 (II) "OFFICER" MEANS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. 22 (2) Whenever an officer determines that a person has 23 VIOLATED SECTION 42-4-1601, THE OFFICER MAKING THE DETERMINATION

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SHALL FORWARD TO THE DEPARTMENT AN AFFIDAVIT THAT INCLUDES A

STATEMENT OF THE OFFICER'S PROBABLE CAUSE THAT THE PERSON

COMMITTED THE VIOLATION AND A COPY OF THE CITATION AND

COMPLAINT, IF ANY, FILED WITH THE COURT. THE AFFIDAVIT SHALL BE

DATED, SIGNED, AND SWORN TO BY THE OFFICER UNDER PENALTY OF

PERJURY, BUT NEED NOT BE NOTARIZED OR SWORN TO BEFORE ANY OTHER

PERSON.

- (3) (a) Upon receipt by the department of the affidavit of the officer and the relevant documents required by subsection (2) of this section, the department shall make the determination described in subsection (1) of this section based upon the information contained in the affidavit and the relevant documents. If the department determines that the person is subject to license suspension, the department may issue a notice of suspension if such notice has not already been served upon the person by the officer in accordance with subsection (4) of this section.
- (b) The department shall mail the notice of suspension in accordance with section 42-2-119 (2) to the person at the last-known address shown on the department's records, if any, and to any address provided in the officer's affidavit if that address differs from the address of record. The notice is deemed received three days after mailing.
- (c) THE NOTICE OF SUSPENSION MUST CLEARLY SPECIFY THE REASON AND STATUTORY GROUNDS FOR THE SUSPENSION, THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE SUSPENSION, THE RIGHT OF THE PERSON TO REQUEST A HEARING, THE PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING A HEARING, AND THE DATE BY

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1	WHICH THAT REQUEST FOR A HEARING MUST BE MADE.
2	(d) If the department determines that the person is not
3	SUBJECT TO LICENSE SUSPENSION:
4	(I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY THE PERSON OF ITS
5	DETERMINATION AND SHALL RESCIND ANY ORDER OF SUSPENSION SERVED
6	UPON THE PERSON BY THE OFFICER;
7	(II) IF THE PERSON'S LICENSE WAS CONFISCATED BY AN OFFICER
8	UNDER SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION, THE PERSON MAY OBTAIN THE
9	LICENSE BY THE PAYMENT OF A FEE TO THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO
10	SUBSECTION (5)(b) OF THIS SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE
11	THE FEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42-2-114.5.
12	(4) (a) If an officer determines that a person has violated
13	SECTION 42-4-1601, THE OFFICER, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE
14	DEPARTMENT, MAY SERVE THE NOTICE OF SUSPENSION PERSONALLY ON
15	THE PERSON. IF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SERVES THE NOTICE OF
16	SUSPENSION, THE OFFICER SHALL CONFISCATE ANY DRIVER'S LICENSE
17	ISSUED BY THIS STATE OR ANY OTHER STATE THAT IS HELD BY THE PERSON.
18	WHEN THE OFFICER TAKES POSSESSION OF A VALID LICENSE, THE OFFICER,
19	ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL ISSUE A TEMPORARY
20	PERMIT THAT IS VALID FOR SEVEN DAYS AFTER ITS DATE OF ISSUANCE.
21	(b) The officer shall forward a copy of the completed
22	NOTICE OF SUSPENSION FORM, A COPY OF ANY COMPLETED TEMPORARY
23	PERMIT FORM, AND ANY DRIVER'S, MINOR DRIVER'S, OR TEMPORARY
24	DRIVER'S LICENSE OR ANY INSTRUCTION PERMIT TAKEN INTO POSSESSION
25	UNDER THIS SECTION ALONG WITH THE AFFIDAVIT AND DOCUMENTS
26	REQUIRED IN SUBSECTIONS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SECTION.
27	(c) The department shall provide forms for notice of

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1	SUSPENSION AND FOR TEMPORARY PERMITS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
2	AGENCIES. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A FORMAT FOR THE
3	AFFIDAVITS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION AND SHALL GIVE NOTICE OF SUCH
4	FORMAT TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THAT SUBMIT AFFIDAVITS
5	TO THE DEPARTMENT. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SHALL FOLLOW THE
6	FORMAT DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.
7	(d) A TEMPORARY PERMIT SHALL NOT BE ISSUED TO ANY PERSON
8	WHO IS ALREADY DRIVING WITH A TEMPORARY PERMIT ISSUED PURSUANT
9	TO SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION.
10	(5) (a) A LICENSE SUSPENSION IS EFFECTIVE SEVEN DAYS AFTER
11	THE SUBJECT PERSON HAS RECEIVED THE NOTICE OF SUSPENSION AS
12	PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION OR IS DEEMED TO HAVE
13	RECEIVED THE NOTICE OF SUSPENSION BY MAIL AS PROVIDED IN
14	SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION. IF A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR A HEARING
15	IS RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN THAT SAME SEVEN-DAY PERIOD,
16	THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE SUSPENSION IS STAYED UNTIL A FINAL ORDER
17	IS ISSUED FOLLOWING THE HEARING; EXCEPT THAT ANY DELAY IN THE
18	HEARING THAT IS CAUSED OR REQUESTED BY THE SUBJECT PERSON OR
19	COUNSEL REPRESENTING THAT PERSON SHALL NOT RESULT IN A STAY OF
20	THE SUSPENSION DURING THE PERIOD OF DELAY.
21	(b) The period of License suspension under subsection (1)(a)
22	OF THIS SECTION IS ONE YEAR. AFTER THE SUSPENSION PERIOD IS
23	COMPLETE, THE PERSON MAY HAVE HIS OR HER DRIVER'S LICENSE
24	RESTORED BY PAYING THE REQUIRED RESTORATION FEE PURSUANT TO
25	SECTION 42-2-132 (4).
26	(6) (a) ANY PERSON WHO HAS RECEIVED A NOTICE OF SUSPENSION
27	MAY MAKE A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR A REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT'S

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1	DETERMINATION AT A HEARING. THE REQUEST MAY BE MADE ON A FORM
2	AVAILABLE AT EACH OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT.
3	(b) The request for a hearing must be made in writing
4	WITHIN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE DAY THE PERSON RECEIVED THE NOTICE
5	OF SUSPENSION AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION OR IS
6	DEEMED TO HAVE RECEIVED THE NOTICE BY MAIL AS PROVIDED IN
7	SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION. IF WRITTEN REQUEST FOR A HEARING IS
8	NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THE SEVEN-DAY PERIOD, THE RIGHT TO A HEARING
9	IS WAIVED, AND THE DETERMINATION OF THE DEPARTMENT THAT IS BASED
10	UPON THE DOCUMENTS AND AFFIDAVIT REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (1)
11	AND (2) OF THIS SECTION BECOMES FINAL.
12	(c) At the time that a person requests a hearing, the
13	DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE TO THE PERSON WRITTEN NOTICE ADVISING
14	THE PERSON:
15	(I) OF THE RIGHT TO SUBPOENA THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
16	FOR THE HEARING AND THAT THE SUBPOENA MUST BE SERVED UPON THE
17	LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AT LEAST FIVE CALENDAR DAYS PRIOR TO THE
18	HEARING;
19	(II) OF THE PERSON'S RIGHT TO NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT IN
20	WRITING THAT THE PERSON DESIRES THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S
21	PRESENCE AT THE HEARING AND THAT, UPON RECEIVING THE
22	NOTIFICATION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A WRITTEN NOTICE FOR THE
23	LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING;
24	(III) THAT, IF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IS NOT REQUIRED
25	TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING, DOCUMENTS AND AN AFFIDAVIT PREPARED
26	AND SUBMITTED BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WILL BE USED AT
27	THE HEARING; AND

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(IV) THAT THE AFFIDAVIT AND DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER MAY BE REVIEWED BY THE PERSON PRIOR TO THE HEARING.

(d) If a written request for a hearing is made after expiration of the seven-day period and is accompanied by the person's verified statement explaining the failure to make a timely request for a hearing, the department shall receive and consider the request. If the department finds that the person was unable to make a timely request due to lack of actual notice of the suspension, factors of physical incapacity such as hospitalization, or incarceration, the department shall waive the period of limitation, reopen the matter, and grant the hearing request. In such case, a stay of the suspension pending issuance of the final order following the hearing shall not be granted.

(e) (I) The Hearing shall be scheduled to be held as soon as practicable but not more than sixty days after the day that the request for a hearing is received by the department; except that, if a hearing is rescheduled because of the unavailability of a hearing officer in accordance with subsection (6)(e)(II) of this section, the hearing may be rescheduled more than sixty days after the day that the request for the hearing is received by the department, and the department shall continue any temporary driving privileges held by the person who requested the hearing until the date that such hearing is rescheduled. The department shall provide a written notice of the time and place of the hearing to the person who requested the hearing in the manner

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- PROVIDED IN SECTION 42-2-119 (2) AT LEAST TEN DAYS BEFORE THE

 SCHEDULED OR RESCHEDULED HEARING UNLESS THE PARTIES AGREE TO

 WAIVE THIS REQUIREMENT. NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 42-2-119, THE

 LAST-KNOWN ADDRESS OF THE PERSON WHO REQUESTED THE HEARING FOR

 PURPOSES OF NOTICE FOR ANY HEARING PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS THE

 ADDRESS STATED ON THE HEARING REQUEST FORM.
 - (II) IF A HEARING OFFICER CANNOT APPEAR AT ANY ORIGINAL OR RESCHEDULED HEARING BECAUSE OF MEDICAL REASONS, A CONFLICTING OBLIGATION TO CONDUCT ANOTHER ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING, OR ANY OTHER LEGITIMATE JUST CAUSE, THE HEARING OFFICER OR THE DEPARTMENT MAY RESCHEDULE THE HEARING AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME WHEN THE HEARING OFFICER WILL BE AVAILABLE.

(f) If a hearing is held pursuant to this subsection (6), the department shall review the matter and make a final determination on the basis of the documents and affidavit submitted to the department pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of this section. The officer who submitted the affidavit need not be present at the hearing unless requested in accordance with subsection (6)(c) of this section. The department shall consider all other relevant evidence at the hearing, including the reports of other officers that are submitted to the department. The reports of other officers are not required to be made under oath, but each such report must identify the officer making the report. The department may consider evidence contained in affidavits from persons other than the person requesting the hearing, so long as each such affidavit includes the affiant's home or work address and telephone number and is dated.

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- 1 SIGNED, AND SWORN TO BY THE AFFIANT UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY.
- THE AFFIDAVIT NEED NOT BE NOTARIZED OR SWORN TO BEFORE ANY
- 3 OTHER PERSON. THE PERSON REQUESTING THE HEARING MUST PRESENT
- 4 EVIDENCE IN PERSON.

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- 5 (7) (a) The Hearing shall be held in the district office of
 6 The department closest to the residence of the person; except
 7 That all or part of the hearing may, at the discretion of the
 8 Department, be conducted by telephone or other electronic
 9 Means, in real time, in accordance with section 42-1-218.5.
 - (b) THE PRESIDING HEARING OFFICER SHALL BE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OR AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. THE PRESIDING HEARING OFFICER MAY ADMINISTER OATHS AND AFFIRMATIONS; CONSIDER THE AFFIDAVIT OF THE OFFICER FILING SUCH AFFIDAVIT AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION; CONSIDER OTHER OFFICERS' REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6)(f) OF THIS SECTION; EXAMINE AND CONSIDER DOCUMENTS AND COPIES OF DOCUMENTS CONTAINING RELEVANT EVIDENCE; CONSIDER OTHER AFFIDAVITS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6)(f) OF THIS SECTION; TAKE JUDICIAL NOTICE AS DEFINED BY RULE 201 OF ARTICLE II OF THE COLORADO RULES OF EVIDENCE, SUBJECT TO SECTION 24-4-105 (8), INCLUDING JUDICIAL NOTICE OF GENERAL, TECHNICAL, OR SCIENTIFIC FACTS WITHIN THE HEARING OFFICER'S KNOWLEDGE; COMPEL WITNESSES TO TESTIFY OR PRODUCE BOOKS, RECORDS, OR OTHER EVIDENCE; EXAMINE WITNESSES AND TAKE TESTIMONY; RECEIVE AND CONSIDER ANY RELEVANT EVIDENCE NECESSARY TO PROPERLY PERFORM THE HEARING OFFICER'S DUTIES AS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION; ISSUE SUBPOENAS DUCES TECUM

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1	TO PRODUCE BOOKS, DOCUMENTS, RECORDS, OR OTHER EVIDENCE; ISSUE
2	SUBPOENAS FOR THE ATTENDANCE OF WITNESSES; TAKE DEPOSITIONS, OR
3	CAUSE DEPOSITIONS OR INTERROGATORIES TO BE TAKEN; REGULATE THE
4	COURSE AND CONDUCT OF THE HEARING; AND MAKE A FINAL RULING ON
5	THE ISSUES.
6	(c) (I) When a license is suspended under subsection (1)(a)
7	OF THIS SECTION, THE SOLE ISSUE AT THE HEARING SHALL BE WHETHER,
8	BASED ON A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE, THE PERSON WAS THE
9	DRIVER OF A VEHICLE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT RESULTING IN
10	SERIOUS BODILY INJURY TO OR DEATH OF ANY PERSON AND FAILED TO
11	IMMEDIATELY STOP THE VEHICLE AT THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT, OR AS
12	CLOSE TO THE SCENE AS POSSIBLE, OR IMMEDIATELY RETURN TO THE
13	SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-4-1601. IF THE
14	PRESIDING HEARING OFFICER FINDS IN THE AFFIRMATIVE ON THAT ISSUE,
15	THE SUSPENSION ORDER SHALL BE SUSTAINED. IF THE PRESIDING HEARING
16	OFFICER FINDS IN THE NEGATIVE ON THAT ISSUE, THE SUSPENSION ORDER
17	SHALL BE RESCINDED.
18	(II) THE PRESIDING HEARING OFFICER SHALL NOT CONSIDER ANY
19	ISSUE NOT SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBSECTION (7)(c).
20	(d) THE HEARING SHALL BE RECORDED. THE PRESIDING HEARING
21	OFFICER SHALL RENDER AN OPINION IN WRITING, AND A COPY SHALL BE
22	PROVIDED TO THE PERSON WHO REQUESTED THE HEARING.
23	(e) IF THE PERSON WHO REQUESTED THE HEARING FAILS TO APPEAR
24	WITHOUT JUST CAUSE, THE RIGHT TO A HEARING IS WAIVED, AND THE
25	DETERMINATION OF THE DEPARTMENT BASED UPON THE DOCUMENTS AND
26	AFFIDAVIT REQUIRED IN SUBSECTIONS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SECTION IS
27	FINAL.

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1	(8) (a) WITHIN THIRTY-FIVE DAYS AFTER THE ISSUANCE OF THE
2	FINAL DETERMINATION OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS SECTION, A
3	PERSON AGGRIEVED BY THE DETERMINATION HAS THE RIGHT TO FILE A
4	PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN THE COUNTY OF
5	THE PERSON'S RESIDENCE.
6	(b) JUDICIAL REVIEW SHALL BE BASED ON THE RECORD WITHOUT
7	TAKING ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY. IF THE COURT FINDS THAT THE
8	DEPARTMENT EXCEEDED ITS CONSTITUTIONAL OR STATUTORY AUTHORITY,
9	MADE AN ERRONEOUS INTERPRETATION OF THE LAW, ACTED IN AN
10	ARBITRARY AND CAPRICIOUS MANNER, OR MADE A DETERMINATION THAT
11	IS UNSUPPORTED BY THE EVIDENCE IN THE RECORD, THE COURT MAY
12	REVERSE THE DEPARTMENT'S DETERMINATION.
13	(c) THE FILING OF A PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW DOES NOT
14	RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC STAY OF THE SUSPENSION ORDER. THE COURT
15	MAY GRANT A STAY OF THE ORDER ONLY UPON MOTION AND HEARING AND
16	UPON A FINDING THAT THERE IS A REASONABLE PROBABILITY THAT THE
17	PERSON WILL PREVAIL ON THE MERITS AND THAT THE PERSON WILL SUFFER
18	IRREPARABLE HARM IF THE ORDER IS NOT STAYED.
19	(9) THE "STATE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT", ARTICLE 4 OF
20	TITLE 24, APPLIES TO THIS SECTION TO THE EXTENT IT IS CONSISTENT WITH
21	SUBSECTIONS (6), (7), AND (8) OF THIS SECTION RELATING TO
22	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.
23	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-1601, amend
24	(3) as follows:
25	42-4-1601. Accidents involving death or personal injuries -
26	duties. (3) The department shall revoke the driver's license of the person
27	so convicted. A REVOCATION PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3) RUNS

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1	CONCURRENTLY WITH ANY SUSPENSION IMPOSED PURSUANT TO SECTION
2	42-2-127.9, IF IMPOSED AS A RESULT OF THE SAME EPISODE OF DRIVING.
3	SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date -
4	applicability. (1) This act takes effect January 1, 2018; except that, if a
5	referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
6	state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
7	within the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general
8	assembly, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless
9	approved by the people at the general election to be held in November
10	2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official
11	declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.
12	(2) This act applies to offenses committed on or after the
13	applicable effective date of this act.

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