

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

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 21-0065.01 Jery Payne x2157

HOUSE BILL 21-1141

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A LICENSE PLATE FOR PLUG-IN**
102 **ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
103 **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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 establishes the electric vehicle license plate, which is issued for use on plug-in electric motor vehicles. The electric vehicle license plates are issued to the owner of a plug-in electric motor vehicle upon registration of the vehicle and payment of applicable fees and taxes, unless the owner elects an alternative license plate. A person may be

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

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
May 21, 2021

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 29, 2021

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 28, 2021

issued personalized electric vehicle license plates. The requirement for decals to identify plug-in electric motor vehicles applies only if a person has not obtained the electric vehicle license plate.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 hereby finds that:

4 (a) Colorado has an ambitious carbon reduction goal, and the
5 transportation sector accounts for the highest amount of greenhouse gas
6 emissions of any sector;

7 (b) To support its clean energy and carbon reduction goals, the
8 state has an aggressive goal of nine hundred forty thousand electric
9 vehicles in use by 2030;

10 (c) Awareness of electric vehicles in Colorado is low. In the
11 market research study commissioned by the Colorado energy office, only
12 nine percent of Coloradans are "very familiar" with electric vehicles.
13 Without this familiarity, a person will be unlikely to consider an electric
14 vehicle as his or her next vehicle purchase.

15 (d) In that same research study, respondents had difficulty
16 recognizing electric vehicle models. This lack of awareness translates into
17 people not considering an electric vehicle in their upcoming purchase
18 decisions.

19 (e) Behavior and social science recognize that buyers are strongly
20 influenced by what they see as social norms. As people see more electric
21 vehicles on the road, with people like themselves driving them, these
22 social, and sometimes subconscious, nudges can move markets forward
23 in powerful ways.

24 (f) Because people do not readily recognize electric vehicles on

1 the road, where their existence promotes their wider use, it would benefit
2 Colorado to provide obvious and practical identification of electric
3 vehicles. Electric vehicle license plates stand out as unique and practical
4 identifiers of electric vehicles.

5 (2) The general assembly hereby declares that:

6 (a) Clear identification of electric vehicles with a dedicated
7 license plate is a low-cost and practical way to reap the benefits of greater
8 public awareness of electric vehicles;

9 (b) Electric vehicle license plates will make it easier for the public
10 and law enforcement to regulate who parks in electric vehicle parking
11 places that are dedicated charging stations; and

12 (c) Electric vehicles can be driven in special lanes as an incentive
13 to buy cleaner energy, and cities may designate roadways where only
14 electric vehicles are allowed to mitigate local noise and pollution issues.

15 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 42-3-255 as
16 follows:

17 **42-3-255. Electric vehicle license plates.** (1) THE ELECTRIC
18 VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED. ON OR AFTER JANUARY
19 1, 2022, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN THE PLATE TO INDICATE THAT
20 THE MOTOR VEHICLE TO WHICH THE PLATE IS ATTACHED IS A PLUG-IN
21 ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE.

22 (2) (a) UPON REGISTERING A PLUG-IN ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE,
23 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE ELECTRIC VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES FOR
24 THE MOTOR VEHICLE UNLESS THE OWNER ELECTS TO USE DIFFERENT
25 LICENSE PLATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS
26 SECTION. AN OWNER THAT IS ISSUED THE PLATES SHALL DISPLAY THE
27 PLATES ON THE MOTOR VEHICLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42-3-202.

1 (b) THE OWNER OF THE PLUG-IN ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE MAY
2 ELECT TO USE DIFFERENT LICENSE PLATES ISSUED UNDER THIS ARTICLE 3
3 OR THE RULES PROMULGATED UNDER THIS ARTICLE 3, NOT INCLUDING THE
4 LICENSE PLATES ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42-3-203. IF THIS
5 ARTICLE 3 OR THE RULES PROMULGATED UNDER THIS ARTICLE 3 REQUIRE
6 DIFFERENT LICENSE PLATES TO BE ISSUED FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE, THE
7 DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE THE DIFFERENT LICENSE PLATES FOR THE
8 MOTOR VEHICLE. IF A PLUG-IN ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE IS NOT ISSUED
9 ELECTRIC VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES, THE OWNER SHALL USE THE DECAL
10 ISSUED IN SECTION 42-3-304 (25) TO IDENTIFY THE PLUG-IN ELECTRIC
11 MOTOR VEHICLE.

12 (3) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 42-3-304 (25)(a), THE
13 AMOUNT OF THE TAXES AND FEES FOR THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE LICENSE
14 PLATES ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION IS THE SAME AS THE AMOUNT OF THE
15 TAXES AND FEES FOR REGULAR MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES.

16 (4) AN OWNER MAY APPLY FOR PERSONALIZED ELECTRIC VEHICLE
17 LICENSE PLATES. UPON PAYMENT OF THE ADDITIONAL FEE REQUIRED BY
18 SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) FOR PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES, THE
19 DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE THE PLATES IF THE APPLICANT COMPLIES WITH
20 SECTION 42-3-211. IF AN APPLICANT HAS EXISTING PERSONALIZED LICENSE
21 PLATES FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE, THE APPLICANT MAY TRANSFER THE
22 COMBINATION OF LETTERS OR NUMBERS TO A NEW SET OF ELECTRIC
23 VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES FOR THE PLUG-IN ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE
24 UPON PAYING THE FEE REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) AND UPON
25 TURNING IN THE EXISTING PLATES TO THE DEPARTMENT. AN OWNER THAT
26 HAS OBTAINED PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION
27 (4) MUST PAY THE ANNUAL FEE IMPOSED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(b) FOR

1 RENEWAL OF THE PERSONALIZED PLATES. THE FEES UNDER THIS
2 SUBSECTION (4) ARE IN ADDITION TO ALL OTHER APPLICABLE TAXES AND
3 FEES.

4 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-304, **amend**
5 (25)(b) as follows:

6 **42-3-304. Registration fees - passenger and passenger-mile**
7 **taxes - clean screen fund - definitions.** (25) (b) The department of
8 revenue shall create an electric vehicle decal, which an authorized agent
9 shall give to each person ~~who~~ THAT pays the fee charged under subsection
10 (25)(a) of this section AND THAT IS NOT ISSUED AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE
11 LICENSE PLATE UNDER SECTION 42-3-255 FOR THE PLUG-IN ELECTRIC
12 MOTOR VEHICLE. The decal must be attached to the upper right-hand
13 corner of the front windshield on the motor vehicle for which it was
14 issued. If there is a change of vehicle ownership, the decal is transferable
15 to the new owner.

16 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 42-3-255 as**
17 **follows:**

18 **42-3-255. Electric vehicle license plates.** (1) THE ELECTRIC
19 VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED. ON OR AFTER JANUARY
20 1, 2022, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN THE PLATE TO INDICATE THAT
21 THE MOTOR VEHICLE TO WHICH THE PLATE IS ATTACHED IS AN ELECTRIC
22 MOTOR VEHICLE.

23 (2) (a) UPON REGISTERING AN ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE, THE
24 DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE ELECTRIC VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES FOR THE
25 MOTOR VEHICLE UNLESS THE OWNER ELECTS TO USE DIFFERENT LICENSE
26 PLATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION. AN
27 OWNER THAT IS ISSUED THE PLATES SHALL DISPLAY THE PLATES ON THE

1 ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42-3-202.

2 (b) THE OWNER OF THE ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE MAY ELECT TO
3 USE DIFFERENT LICENSE PLATES ISSUED UNDER THIS ARTICLE 3 OR THE
4 RULES PROMULGATED UNDER THIS ARTICLE 3, NOT INCLUDING THE
5 LICENSE PLATES ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42-3-203. IF THIS
6 ARTICLE 3 OR THE RULES PROMULGATED UNDER THIS ARTICLE 3 REQUIRE
7 DIFFERENT LICENSE PLATES TO BE ISSUED FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE, THE
8 DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE THE DIFFERENT LICENSE PLATES FOR THE
9 MOTOR VEHICLE. IF AN ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE IS NOT ISSUED ELECTRIC
10 VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES, THE OWNER SHALL USE THE DECAL ISSUED IN
11 SECTION 42-3-304 (25) TO IDENTIFY THE ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE.

12 (3) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 42-3-304 (25), THE AMOUNT
13 OF THE TAXES AND FEES FOR THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES
14 ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION IS THE SAME AS THE AMOUNT OF THE TAXES
15 AND FEES FOR REGULAR MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES.

16 (4) AN OWNER MAY APPLY FOR PERSONALIZED ELECTRIC VEHICLE
17 LICENSE PLATES. UPON PAYMENT OF THE ADDITIONAL FEE REQUIRED BY
18 SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) FOR PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES, THE
19 DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE THE PLATES IF THE APPLICANT COMPLIES WITH
20 SECTION 42-3-211. IF AN APPLICANT HAS EXISTING PERSONALIZED LICENSE
21 PLATES FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE, THE APPLICANT MAY TRANSFER THE
22 COMBINATION OF LETTERS OR NUMBERS TO A NEW SET OF ELECTRIC
23 VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES FOR THE ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE UPON PAYING
24 THE FEE REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) AND UPON TURNING IN THE
25 EXISTING PLATES TO THE DEPARTMENT. AN OWNER THAT HAS OBTAINED
26 PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (4) MUST PAY
27 THE ANNUAL FEE IMPOSED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(b) FOR RENEWAL OF

1 THE PERSONALIZED PLATES. THE FEES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (4) ARE IN
2 ADDITION TO ALL OTHER APPLICABLE TAXES AND FEES.

3 SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-304, amend
4 (25)(b) as follows:

5 42-3-304. Registration fees - passenger and passenger-mile
6 taxes - clean screen fund - definitions. (25) (b) The department of
7 revenue shall create an electric vehicle decal, which an authorized agent
8 shall give to each person who THAT pays the fee charged under subsection
9 (25)(a) of this section AND THAT IS NOT ISSUED AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE
10 LICENSE PLATE UNDER SECTION 42-3-255 FOR THE ELECTRIC MOTOR
11 VEHICLE. The decal must be attached to the upper right-hand corner of the
12 front windshield on the motor vehicle for which it was issued. If there is
13 a change of vehicle ownership, the decal is transferable to the new owner.

14 SECTION 6. Appropriation. (1) For the 2021-22 state fiscal
15 year, \$91,636 is appropriated to the department of revenue for use by the
16 division of motor vehicles. This appropriation consists of \$38,600 from
17 the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account in the highway users tax
18 fund created in section 42-1-211 (2)(b)(I), C.R.S., and \$53,036 from the
19 license plate cash fund created in section 42-3-301 (1)(b), C.R.S. To
20 implement this act, the division may use this appropriation as follows:

21 (a) \$38,600 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account
22 in the highway users tax fund for DRIVES maintenance and support; and

23 (b) \$53,036 from the license plate cash fund for license plate
24 ordering.

25 SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date. (1) Except
26 as otherwise provided in this section, this act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on
27 the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final

1 adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition
2 is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution
3 against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period,
4 then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by
5 the people at the general election to be held in November 2022 and, in
6 such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the
7 vote thereon by the governor.

8 (2) Sections 2 and 3 of this act take effect only if Senate Bill
9 21-260 does not become law.

10 (3) Sections 4 and 5 of this act take effect only if Senate Bill
11 21-260 becomes law and takes effect either upon the effective date of this
12 act or Senate Bill 21-260, whichever is later.