

CHAPTER 269

MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATION

HOUSE BILL 98-1075

BY REPRESENTATIVES May, June, and Mace;
also SENATOR Mutzebaugh.

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REQUIRING
THE PERIODIC REISSUANCE OF ALL MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES.

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

SECTION 1. 42-3-113 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended, and the said 42-3-113 is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION, to read:

42-3-113. Number plates furnished - style - periodic reissuance. (2) (a) Every number plate shall have displayed upon it the registration number assigned to the vehicle and to the owner thereof, the year number for which it is issued, the month in which it expires, and any other appropriate symbol, word, or words designated by the department. The department may adopt rules and regulations for the issuance of permanent number plates which do not display the year number for which it is issued or the month in which it expires. Such plate and the required letters and numerals thereon, except the year number for which issued, shall be of sufficient size to be plainly readable from a distance of one hundred feet during daylight.

(b) IF NUMBER PLATES ISSUED FOR VEHICLES INCLUDE THE COUNTY OF VEHICLE REGISTRATION, A VEHICLE OWNER SHALL HAVE THE OPTION OF OBTAINING A NUMBER PLATE THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE SUCH COUNTY DESIGNATION.

(5) (a) ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2000, ANY NEW OR REPLACEMENT LICENSE PLATE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, TO THE EXTENT THAT IT IS PRACTICAL, HAVE STANDARDIZED COLORING AND IDENTIFYING CHARACTERS LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN A TOTAL OF SIX NUMBERS AND LETTERS; EXCEPT THAT SUCH CHARACTER LIMITATION DOES NOT APPLY TO PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES ISSUED UNDER SECTION 42-3-114.

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

(b) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2002, THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IS AUTHORIZED TO REQUIRE THE REPLACEMENT OF ANY LICENSE PLATE AS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT LICENSE PLATES ARE LEGIBLE AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-123 (2). ON AND AFTER SUCH DATE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TAKE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO REPLACE ALL LICENSE PLATES ISSUED IN THE STATE OTHER THAN THE LICENSE PLATES THAT WERE ISSUED AFTER JANUARY 1, 2000, UNDER PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (5) OR LICENSE PLATES THAT HAVE BEEN REMANUFACTURED UNDER SECTION 42-3-113.5. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPLETE SUCH LICENSE PLATE REPLACEMENT ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2004.

(c) DURING THE 2002 REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE NUMBER OF LICENSE PLATES IN THE STATE THAT NEED TO BE REPLACED IF ANY, AND THE NUMBER OF CONFIGURATIONS STILL AVAILABLE. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE OUT OF THE HIGHWAY USERS TAX FUND, FOR FISCAL YEARS 2002-03 AND 2003-04, THE ADDITIONAL MONEYS NECESSARY, IF ANY, TO COMPLETE THE LICENSE PLATE REPLACEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (5).

SECTION 2. Article 3 of title 42, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

42-3-113.5. Remanufacture of certain license plates. A MOTOR VEHICLE OWNER WHO WISHES TO RETAIN A SET OF LICENSE PLATES THAT CONTAIN ONLY TWO ALPHABETIC FIGURES AND UP TO FOUR NUMERIC FIGURES MAY HAVE SUCH LICENSE PLATES REMANUFACTURED UPON APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT. ONLY NUMBER PLATES CURRENTLY ASSIGNED AND REGISTERED TO SUCH OWNER ARE ELIGIBLE FOR REMANUFACTURE. THE APPLICATION SHALL BE ON SUCH FORM AS IS DETERMINED BY THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES. NO ADDITIONAL FEE SHALL BE CHARGED FOR REMANUFACTURE BEYOND THE EXISTING TAXES AND FEES IMPOSED FOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION. REMANUFACTURE IS NOT AUTHORIZED FOR ANY LICENSE PLATES OTHER THAN THE PLATES DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.

SECTION 3. 42-3-114 (4), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

42-3-114. Issuance of personalized plates authorized. (4) (a) The personalized license plates shall be the same color and design as regular motor vehicle license plates, shall consist of numbers or letters, or any combination thereof, not exceeding seven positions and not less than two positions, and shall not conflict with existing passenger, commercial, trailer, motorcycle, or other special license plates series; except that personalized license plates bearing the words "street rod" shall be of a design determined by the executive director of the department, which design shall be different from those used by the state for regular motor vehicle license plates.

(b) IF NUMBER PLATES ISSUED FOR VEHICLES INCLUDE THE COUNTY OF VEHICLE REGISTRATION, A VEHICLE OWNER SHALL HAVE THE OPTION OF OBTAINING A PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATE THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE SUCH COUNTY DESIGNATION.

SECTION 4. 43-4-201 (3) (a) (II) (I), (3) (a) (II) (J), and (3) (a) (III) (C), Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended, and the said 43-4-201 (3) (a) (II) is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH, to read:

43-4-201. Funds created - repeal. (3) (a) (II) The general assembly shall not make any annual appropriation or statutory distribution from the highway users tax fund except as follows:

(I) To the department of personnel for costs related to the salaries and benefits of the departments or programs listed in sub-subparagraphs (A) to (G) of this subparagraph (II); ~~and~~

(J) To the department of local affairs for the provision of disaster emergency services that relate to the transportation of hazardous materials; AND

(K) TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE FOR COMPLETION OF THE LICENSE PLATE REPLACEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 42-3-113 (5) (b), C.R.S. THIS SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH (K) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004.

(III) (C) The general assembly shall not make any annual appropriation or statutory distribution from the highway users tax fund for the fiscal year 1997-98 or for any succeeding fiscal year authorized by subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (a), excluding the annual appropriation or statutory distribution to the Colorado state patrol and the ports of entry section AND EXCLUDING ANY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE FOR REPLACEMENT OF LICENSE PLATES AS AUTHORIZED BY SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH (K) OF SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH (a).

SECTION 5. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: June 1, 1998