



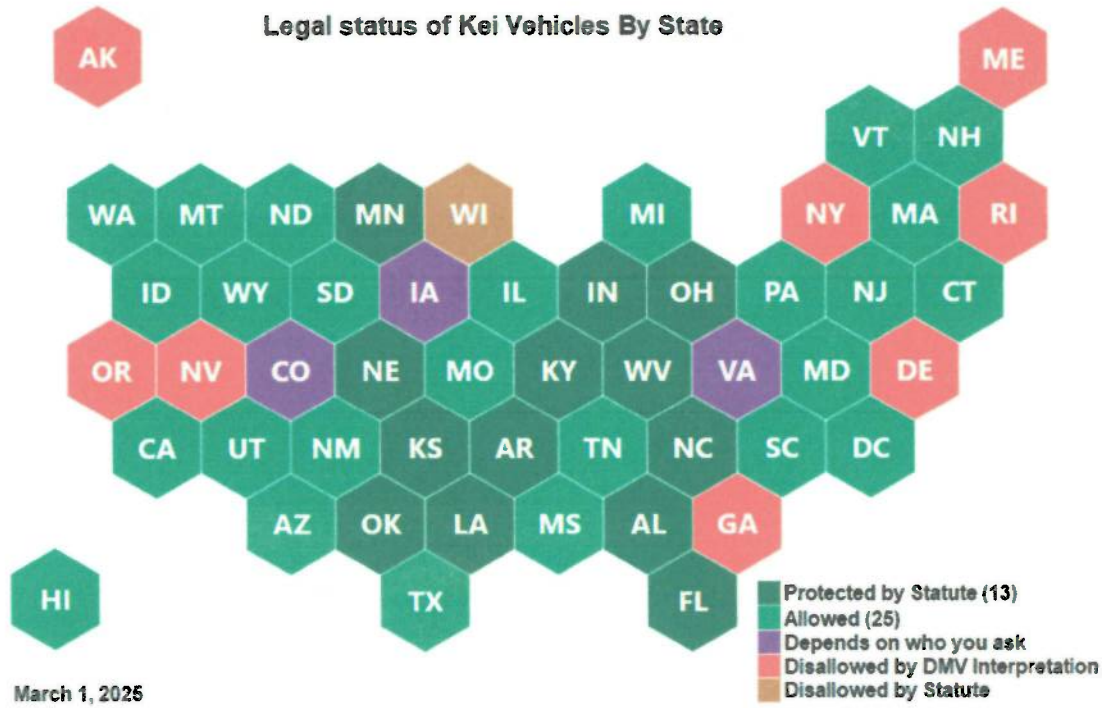
Title, Register & Drive Kei Vehicles HB25-1281

Reps. Lindstedt, Suckla
Sens. Hinrichsen, Pelton

What is a Kei Vehicle? Kei (pronounced "K") are smaller, four-wheeled vehicles produced by the major Japanese automotive manufacturers Honda, Mitsubishi, Suzuki, Subaru, and Toyota for on-road use. Kei vehicles are 2.6 feet longer than the "Smart Car" that was sold in the US during the 2010s. While they come in car and van configurations, the Kei Truck configuration is the most popular in the US.



Are Kei Vehicles legal in the US? Federal law permits 25-year-old, on-road, foreign-market vehicles to be imported exempt from federal regulations (FMVSS and EPA). Vehicle title, registration, and road rules are regulated by the states. Currently 38 states permit on-road use of Kei Vehicles or Mini-trucks, with 13 of those states having enacted statutes explicitly permitting Kei, like the bill proposed here. No state legislature has had second thoughts and rolled back a Kei Vehicle statute.





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What is the trend nationally? The trend over the past 15 years is entirely toward the normalization of these vehicles. Kei vehicles have surged in popularity in recent years as the federal 25-year import window has grown to include model years with increased conveniences and safety features. Thirteen states now have laws on the books explicitly permitting them. All of these statutes restrict Kei Vehicles vehicles from Interstates and other roads with speed limits no higher than 55 mph. No Kei statute has been repealed.

As recently as last year, four state DMVs (CO, MA, MI, TX) made unilateral moves to ban these vehicles causing swift public outcry and reversals in all four states. While the other three states resumed plating these vehicles in short order, in Colorado only the formal rule-making process was abandoned; the effort to quietly refuse to title or plate these vehicles without legal explanation has only increased.

What HB25-1281 does:

1. Re-establish that Kei Vehicles can be titled, registered, plated and driven in CO
2. Prohibit Kei Vehicles from roads with speed limits above 55 mph and from limited-access highways like Interstates.

Kei Vehicles and Emissions?

- Kei Vehicles achieve 30-45 miles per gallon and come equipped with standard emissions equipment including o2 sensors and catalytic converters.
- Kei Vehicles currently plated in the state of Colorado have met the emissions requirements for their county.

Do Kei Vehicles compete with US motor vehicle sales? Kei vehicles are a small niche market. The following factors that keep them from competing with US sales:

- Must be at least 25 years old
- Can't travel long distances or on major highways
- Off-road ability is limited; no more than basic farm chores
- Importing any vehicle is time consuming and expensive (+\$2k to +\$5k)
- Sourcing repairs and parts is not trivial, often requiring a DIY mindset
- Auto insurance sometimes comes with restrictions similar to that of classic cars
- Since 1964, all light duty trucks are subject to a 25% federal tax on import