

House Transportation, Housing & Local Government

02/17/2026 Upon Adjournment

HB26-1097 Register & Drive Surplus Military Vehicles

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Steve Schleiker For El Paso County Clerk and Recorder	<p>Chair and Members of the House Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee:</p> <p>On behalf of the Office of the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder, I am writing to express support for House Bill 26-1097, concerning the registration and operation of surplus military vehicles on Colorado roadways.</p> <p>HB26-1097 provides a clear and structured pathway for owners of eligible surplus military vehicles to register their vehicles for limited on-highway use, while maintaining appropriate safety standards and regulatory oversight. The bill establishes reasonable eligibility criteria, including weight limits, equipment restrictions, and a 1,500-mile annual use cap supported by owner affidavit. These guardrails ensure that public safety remains paramount.</p> <p>From an administrative standpoint, this legislation is workable and operationally manageable for county motor vehicle offices. While the bill will result in a small number of additional registration and title conversion transactions beginning in 2028, we anticipate that the workload increase will be minimal and absorbable within existing resources. The framework aligns with current registration and titling processes and does not create a significant fiscal or staffing burden at the county level.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill provides clarity regarding the status of surplus military vehicles used by counties, municipalities, and fire protection</p>

	<p>districts for firefighting or emergency purposes. This is a practical and beneficial provision, particularly in a state where wildfire mitigation and emergency response capabilities are critically important.</p> <p>HB26-1097 strikes an appropriate balance between recognizing private property rights, supporting historical and collector vehicle ownership, and maintaining responsible oversight of vehicles operating on public roadways. For these reasons, the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder’s Office respectfully supports this legislation.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of HB26-1097.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Steve Schleiker El Paso County Clerk and Recorder El Paso County, Colorado</p>
<p>Jeffrey Baran For himself</p>	<p>I fully support the legislation HB26-1097 to allow Surplus Military vehicle use on highway. Many of the vehicles in question are the precursor to the main Civilian Jeep type vehicles and when equipped with proper safety requirements should be allowed to operate on highway. This would allow for legal travel to off-highway trails as well.</p>
<p>Lewis Ladwig For International Flat Fender Club</p>	<p>The international Flat Fender Club has a membership of over 11,000 people. They own the original army jeeps made in the USA and licensed to be made in several other countries since 1941. These vehicles have been driven daily on public roads world wide. Absolutely no safety issues. The public loves seeing them on a daily basis. They are 10x safer and more robust than a model A Ford. Thousands are still in use world wide as daily drivers. Any military vehicle is built to be safe and reliable. Any ban on them from the roads is ridiculous. Keep in mind, the DOT didn’t even exist until 1967. There fore, ANY vehicle built prior should be fully street legal. Otherwise a 65 Mustang car would be banned by the same logic. This bill needs modified to allow ALL military vehicles for highway use. No limit on use either. That is just silly. Many construction companies us</p>

	<p>large military trucks for specialized work. If the state limits use, I fully intend to use the power of 11,000 members to sue and get the restrictions removed as that is government taking with no compensation.</p> <p>Please use logical thinking and realize military vehicles on the roads has NEVER been an issue.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lew Ladwig</p> <p>President, International Flat Fender Club and President of the Colorado Flat Fender Club.</p>
--	--