

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

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 25-0753.02 Jery Payne x2157

HOUSE BILL 25-1281

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lindstedt and Suckla,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Hinrichsen and Pelton B.,

House Committees

Transportation, Housing & Local Government
Finance
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING KEI VEHICLES.**

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>.)

A kei vehicle is the smallest road-legal, 4-wheeled vehicle in Japan and is imported into the United States as a used vehicle. The bill defines a kei vehicle as a motor vehicle for the purposes of the "Uniform Motor Vehicle Law" and the "Certificate of Title Act". These acts govern issuing a certificate of title, registering a motor vehicle, and the rules of the road for motor vehicles. The bill authorizes a kei vehicle to operate on the roads and requires a kei vehicle to be issued a certificate of title, be registered, and obey motor vehicle traffic laws.

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

Driving a kei vehicle on a roadway that has a speed limit greater than 55 miles per hour or on a limited-access highway is prohibited.

For emissions testing, a kei vehicle is tested not using a dynamometer but using a 2-speed idle test. The vehicle must pass the emissions standards for the year it was manufactured.

The department of revenue, the Colorado state patrol, and the agents or contractors of these agencies may not require a vehicle to have an inspection because it is a kei vehicle or has the design or manufacturing parameters of a kei vehicle. And a kei vehicle may not be declared not roadworthy because of its design or manufacturing parameters.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 10-4-601, **amend** (6)
3 as follows:

4 **10-4-601. Definitions.** As used in this part 6, unless the context
5 otherwise requires:

6 (6) "Motor vehicle" means a "motor vehicle", A "KEI VEHICLE",
7 and a "low-power scooter", as ~~both~~ EACH OF THESE terms ~~are~~ IS defined
8 in section 42-1-102; ~~C.R.S.~~; except that "motor vehicle" does not include
9 a toy vehicle, snowmobile, off-highway vehicle, or vehicle designed
10 primarily for use on rails.

11 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-1-102, **amend**
12 (58)(a); and **add** (45.3) as follows:

13 **42-1-102. Definitions.** As used in articles 1 to 4 of this title 42,
14 unless the context otherwise requires:

15 (45.3) (a) "KEI VEHICLE" MEANS A VEHICLE THAT:

16 (I) IS POWERED BY AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE WITH A
17 DISPLACEMENT OF ONE THOUSAND CUBIC CENTIMETERS OR LESS OR AN
18 ELECTRICAL MOTOR OF FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND WATTS OR LESS;

19 (II) IS SIXTY-SEVEN INCHES OR LESS IN WIDTH;

- 1 (III) IS ONE HUNDRED FORTY INCHES OR LESS IN LENGTH;
2 (IV) TRAVELS ON FOUR OR MORE TIRES IN CONTACT WITH THE
3 GROUND;
4 (V) HAS A TOP SPEED OF APPROXIMATELY FIFTY-FIVE MILES PER
5 HOUR;
6 (VI) HAS AN ENCLOSED PASSENGER CAB;
7 (VII) WAS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES; AND
8 (VIII) IS AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD.

9 (b) "KEI VEHICLE" INCLUDES A VEHICLE THAT WAS TITLED AS A KEI
10 VEHICLE IN ANOTHER STATE IF IT IS AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD.

11 (c) "KEI VEHICLE" DOES NOT INCLUDE A VEHICLE THAT:

12 (I) IS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES AS AN OFF-ROAD
13 VEHICLE; AND

14 (II) HAS A PERMANENT SPEED LIMITER INSTALLED BEFORE BEING
15 IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES, AND THE SPEED LIMITER IS SET TO
16 STOP THE VEHICLE FROM EXCEEDING TWENTY-FIVE MILES PER HOUR.

17 (58) "Motor vehicle":

18 (a) Means ~~any~~ A self-propelled vehicle that is designed primarily
19 for travel on the public highways and that is generally and commonly
20 used to transport persons and property over the public highways, a
21 low-speed electric vehicle, A KEI VEHICLE, or an auticycle; except that the
22 term does not include electrical assisted bicycles, electric scooters,
23 low-power scooters except as provided in subsection (58)(b) of this
24 section, wheelchairs, or vehicles moved solely by human power;

25 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 42-4-109.7 as
26 follows:

27 **42-4-109.7. Kei vehicles.** (1) (a) A PERSON SHALL NOT DRIVE A

1 KEI VEHICLE ON A ROADWAY THAT HAS A SPEED LIMIT GREATER THAN
2 FIFTY-FIVE MILES PER HOUR; EXCEPT THAT A PERSON MAY DRIVE ACROSS
3 A ROADWAY WITH A SPEED LIMIT GREATER THAN FIFTY-FIVE MILES PER
4 HOUR AT AN AT-GRADE INTERSECTION.

5 (b) A PERSON SHALL NOT DRIVE A KEI VEHICLE ON A
6 LIMITED-ACCESS HIGHWAY.

7 (2) A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IS A CLASS B TRAFFIC
8 INFRACTION.

9 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-310, **amend**
10 (1)(a)(I) as follows:

11 **42-4-310. Periodic emissions control inspection required.**

12 (1)(a)(I) Subject to subsection (4) of this section AND SECTION 42-4-318,
13 a motor vehicle that is required to be registered in the program area shall
14 not be sold, registered for the first time without a certification of
15 emissions compliance, or reregistered unless the vehicle has passed a
16 clean screen test or has a valid certification of emissions control as
17 required by the appropriate county. ~~The provisions of This subsection~~
18 (1)(a) ~~do~~ DOES not apply to motor vehicle transactions at wholesale
19 between motor vehicle dealers licensed pursuant to part 1 of article 20 of
20 title 44. An inspection is not required prior to the sale of a motor vehicle
21 with at least twelve months remaining before the vehicle's certification of
22 emissions compliance expires if the certification was issued when the
23 vehicle was new.

24 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 42-4-318 as
25 follows:

26 **42-4-318. Applicability to kei vehicles.** THE REQUIREMENTS
27 THAT A MOTOR VEHICLE OBTAIN OR PASS AN EMISSIONS TEST OR OBTAIN

1 A CERTIFICATION OF EMISSIONS COMPLIANCE, AS EITHER IS REQUIRED IN
2 THIS PART 3, DO NOT APPLY TO A KEI VEHICLE.

3 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-5-202, **add** (5) as
4 follows:

5 **42-5-202. Vehicle identification number inspection.** (5) THE
6 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, THE AGENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
7 REVENUE, THE COLORADO STATE PATROL, THE AGENTS OF THE COLORADO
8 STATE PATROL, OR A PERSON THAT HAS CONTRACTED WITH THE
9 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE OR THE COLORADO STATE PATROL SHALL NOT
10 REQUIRE A VEHICLE TO HAVE AN INSPECTION BECAUSE IT IS A KEI VEHICLE,
11 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 42-1-102 (45.3), OR HAS THE DESIGN OR
12 MANUFACTURING PARAMETERS OF A KEI VEHICLE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
13 42-1-102 (45.3). THIS SUBSECTION (5) APPLIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF BOTH
14 ARTICLE 6 OF THIS TITLE 42 AND PART 3 OF ARTICLE 4 OF THIS TITLE 42.

15 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-6-102, **amend**
16 (6.5), (10) introductory portion, (11.5)(b)(I) introductory portion, and
17 (15); and **add** (6.6) and (6.7) as follows:

18 **42-6-102. Definitions.** As used in this part 1, unless the context
19 otherwise requires:

20 (6.5) ~~"Kit vehicle" means a passenger-type motor vehicle~~
21 ~~assembled, by other than a licensed manufacturer, from a manufactured~~
22 ~~kit that includes a prefabricated body and chassis and is accompanied by~~
23 ~~a manufacturer's statement of origin~~ "KEI VEHICLE" HAS THE MEANING SET
24 FORTH IN SECTION 42-1-102.

25 (6.6) "KEI OFF-ROAD VEHICLE" MEANS A VEHICLE THAT:

26 (a) IS POWERED BY AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE WITH A
27 DISPLACEMENT OF ONE THOUSAND CUBIC CENTIMETERS OR LESS OR AN

1 ELECTRICAL MOTOR OF FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND WATTS OR LESS;
2 (b) IS SIXTY-SEVEN INCHES OR LESS IN WIDTH;
3 (c) IS ONE HUNDRED FORTY INCHES OR LESS IN LENGTH;
4 (d) TRAVELS ON FOUR OR MORE TIRES IN CONTACT WITH THE
5 GROUND;
6 (e) HAS AN ENCLOSED PASSENGER CAB;
7 (f) WAS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES AS AN OFF-ROAD
8 VEHICLE; AND
9 (g) HAS A PERMANENT SPEED LIMITER INSTALLED BEFORE BEING
10 IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES, AND THE SPEED LIMITER IS SET TO
11 STOP THE VEHICLE FROM EXCEEDING TWENTY-FIVE MILES PER HOUR.
12 (6.7) "KIT VEHICLE" MEANS A PASSENGER-TYPE MOTOR VEHICLE
13 ASSEMBLED, BY OTHER THAN A LICENSED MANUFACTURER, FROM A
14 MANUFACTURED KIT THAT INCLUDES A PREFABRICATED BODY AND
15 CHASSIS AND IS ACCOMPANIED BY A MANUFACTURER'S STATEMENT OF
16 ORIGIN.
17 (10) "Motor vehicle" means ~~any~~ A self-propelled vehicle that is
18 designed primarily for travel on the public highways and is generally and
19 commonly used to transport persons and property over the public
20 highways, including autocycles, KEI VEHICLES, trailers, semitrailers, and
21 trailer coaches, without motive power. "Motor vehicle" does not include
22 the following:
23 (11.5) (b) (I) Except as described in subsection (11.5)(b)(II) of
24 this section, "off-highway vehicle" includes ~~vehicles commonly known~~
25 ~~as~~ all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, KEI OFF-ROAD VEHICLES, and surplus
26 military vehicles but does not include:
27 (15) (a) "Roadworthy" means a condition in which a motor

1 vehicle has sufficient power and is fit to operate on the roads and
2 highways of this state after visual inspection by appropriate law
3 enforcement authorities.

4 (b) In order to be roadworthy, ~~such~~ A vehicle, in accord with its
5 design and use, ~~shall~~ MUST have all major parts and systems permanently
6 attached and functioning and ~~shall~~ MUST not be repaired in such a manner
7 as to make the vehicle unsafe.

8 (c) ~~For purposes of this subsection (15),~~ AS USED IN THIS
9 SUBSECTION (15):

10 (I) "IN ACCORD WITH ITS DESIGN AND USE" PRECLUDES A KEI
11 VEHICLE FROM BEING DECLARED TO BE NOT ROADWORTHY BASED ON ITS
12 DESIGN OR MANUFACTURING PARAMETERS.

13 (II) "Major parts and systems" ~~shall include, but not be limited to,~~
14 INCLUDES the body of a motor vehicle with related component parts,
15 engine, transmission, tires, wheels, seats, exhaust, AND brakes and all
16 other equipment required by Colorado law for the particular vehicle.

17 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 44-20-102, **amend**
18 (16); and **add** (12.5) as follows:

19 **44-20-102. Definitions.** As used in this part 1, and in part 4 of this
20 article 20, unless the context or section 44-20-402 otherwise requires:

21 (12.5) "KEI ROAD VEHICLE" MEANS A "KEI VEHICLE" AS DEFINED
22 IN SECTION 42-1-102 (45.3).

23 (16) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle intended primarily for
24 use on the public highways that is self-propelled and every vehicle
25 intended primarily for operation on the public highways that is not
26 self-propelled but is designed to be attached to, become a part of, or be
27 drawn by a self-propelled vehicle, not including farm tractors and other

1 machines and tools used in the production, harvesting, and care of farm
2 products. "Motor vehicle" includes a KEI ROAD VEHICLE OR A low-power
3 scooter or autocycle as either is defined in section 42-1-102.

4 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 44-20-131.5 as
5 follows:

6 **44-20-313.5. Kei road vehicles - no liability for manufacturing**
7 **standards.** A PERSON LICENSED UNDER THIS PART 1 IS NOT LIABLE FOR
8 ANY DAMAGES THAT ARE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO
9 SELLING A KEI ROAD VEHICLE THAT IS NOT MANUFACTURED IN
10 ACCORDANCE WITH UNITED STATES FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS.

11 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 44-20-402, **amend**
12 (11)(b) and (11)(c); and **add** (6.5) and (11)(d) as follows:

13 **44-20-402. Definitions.** As used in this part 4, unless the context
14 otherwise requires:

15 (6.5) "KEI OFF-ROAD VEHICLE" MEANS A VEHICLE THAT:

16 (a) IS POWERED BY AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE WITH A
17 DISPLACEMENT OF ONE THOUSAND CUBIC CENTIMETERS OR LESS OR AN
18 ELECTRICAL MOTOR OF FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND WATTS OR LESS;

19 (b) IS SIXTY-SEVEN INCHES OR LESS IN WIDTH;

20 (c) IS ONE HUNDRED FORTY INCHES OR LESS IN LENGTH;

21 (d) TRAVELS ON FOUR OR MORE TIRES IN CONTACT WITH THE
22 GROUND;

23 (e) HAS AN ENCLOSED PASSENGER CAB;

24 (f) WAS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES AS AN OFF-ROAD
25 VEHICLE; AND

26 (g) HAS A PERMANENT SPEED LIMITER INSTALLED BEFORE BEING
27 IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES, AND THE SPEED LIMITER IS SET TO

1 STOP THE VEHICLE FROM EXCEEDING TWENTY-FIVE MILES PER HOUR.

2 (11) "Powersports vehicle" means any of the following:

3 (b) A personal watercraft; or

4 (c) A snowmobile; OR

5 (d) A KEI OFF-ROAD VEHICLE.

6 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 44-20-432.5 as
7 follows:

8 **44-20-432.5. Kei off-road vehicles - no liability for**
9 **manufacturing standards.** A PERSON LICENSED UNDER THIS PART 4 IS
10 NOT LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES THAT ARE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY
11 ATTRIBUTABLE TO SELLING A KEI OFF-ROAD VEHICLE THAT IS NOT
12 MANUFACTURED IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNITED STATES FEDERAL SAFETY
13 STANDARDS.

14 **SECTION 12. Act subject to petition - effective date -**
15 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect July 1, 2027; except that, if a
16 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
17 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
18 within the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general
19 assembly, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless
20 approved by the people at the general election to be held in November
21 2026 and, in such case, will take effect July 1, 2027.

22 (2) This act applies to applications submitted or offenses
23 committed on or after January 1, 2028.