

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

REVISED

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

LLS NO. 25-0753.02 Jery Payne x2157

HOUSE BILL 25-1281

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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.

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
April 30, 2025

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 14, 2025

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 11, 2025

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) **"KEI 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;

- 1 (c) IS ONE HUNDRED FORTY INCHES OR LESS IN LENGTH;
2 (d) TRAVELS ON FOUR OR MORE TIRES IN CONTACT WITH THE
3 GROUND;
4 (e) HAS A TOP SPEED OF AT LEAST FIFTY MILES PER HOUR;
5 (f) HAS AN ENCLOSED PASSENGER CAB;
6 (g) WAS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES; AND
7 (h) (I) WAS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD OR OLDER WHEN IMPORTED
8 INTO THE UNITED STATES; OR
9 (II) IS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD OR OLDER AND WAS PREVIOUSLY
10 ISSUED A TITLE IN THE UNITED STATES.

11 (58) "Motor vehicle":

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

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

21 **42-4-109.7. Kei vehicles.** (1) (a) A PERSON SHALL NOT DRIVE A
22 KEI VEHICLE ON A ROADWAY THAT HAS A SPEED LIMIT GREATER THAN
23 FIFTY-FIVE MILES PER HOUR; EXCEPT THAT A PERSON MAY DRIVE ACROSS
24 A ROADWAY WITH A SPEED LIMIT GREATER THAN FIFTY-FIVE MILES PER
25 HOUR AT AN AT-GRADE INTERSECTION.

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

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

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

5 **42-4-304. Definitions relating to motor vehicle inspection and**
6 **readjustment program.** As used in sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316,
7 unless the context otherwise requires:

8 (19) (b) (II) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 42-4-310 (2)(a)(II),
9 inspection procedures used by a motor vehicle dealer test facility pursuant
10 to this ~~paragraph (b) shall~~ SUBSECTION (19)(b) MUST include a loaded
11 mode transient dynamometer test cycle in combination with appropriate
12 idle short tests pursuant to rules ~~and regulations~~ of the commission.

13 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-309, **amend**
14 (3)(b) as follows:

15 **42-4-309. Vehicle fleet owners - motor vehicle dealers -**
16 **authority to conduct inspections - fleet inspection stations - motor**
17 **vehicle dealer test facilities - contracts with licensed inspection-only**
18 **entities.** (3) (b) Within the enhanced emissions program, motor vehicle
19 dealers licensed pursuant to part 1 of article 20 of title 44 may contract for
20 used motor vehicle inspection services by a licensed motor vehicle dealer
21 test facility. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 42-4-310 (2)(a)(II) AND
22 pursuant to rules of the commission, inspection procedures ~~shall~~ MUST
23 include a loaded mode transient dynamometer test cycle in combination
24 with appropriate idle short tests.

25 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-310, **amend**
26 (2)(a) as follows:

27 **42-4-310. Periodic emissions control inspection required.**

1 (2) (a) (I) TO DETERMINE WHETHER A MOTOR VEHICLE QUALIFIES FOR
2 ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATION OF EMISSIONS COMPLIANCE, the emissions
3 inspection required under this section ~~shall~~ MUST include:

4 (A) An analysis of ~~tail pipe~~ TAILPIPE and evaporative emissions;

5 (B) ~~After January 1, 1994, such inspection shall include~~ An
6 analysis of emissions control equipment, including on-board diagnostic
7 systems, chlorofluorocarbons, and visible smoke emissions for the basic
8 emissions program area and the enhanced emissions program area; ~~and~~

9 (C) Emissions testing that meets the performance standards set by
10 federal requirements for the enhanced emissions program area by means
11 of procedures specified by ~~regulation~~ RULE of the commission; ~~to~~
12 ~~determine whether the motor vehicle qualifies for issuance of a~~
13 ~~certification of emissions compliance.~~ AND

14 (D) For motor vehicles of the model year 1975 or later, not tested
15 under a transient load on a dynamometer, ~~said inspection shall also~~
16 ~~include~~ a visual inspection of emissions control equipment pursuant to
17 rules of the commission.

18 (II) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION, A
19 KEI VEHICLE IS NOT TESTED USING A DYNAMOMETER. A KEI VEHICLE MUST
20 BE TESTED USING A TWO-SPEED IDLE TEST. TO BE ISSUED A CERTIFICATE
21 OF EMISSIONS COMPLIANCE, A KEI VEHICLE MUST PASS THE EMISSIONS
22 STANDARDS FOR THE MODEL YEAR IT WAS MANUFACTURED.

23 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-5-202, **add** (5) as
24 follows:

25 **42-5-202. Vehicle identification number inspection.** (5) THE
26 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, THE AGENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
27 REVENUE, THE COLORADO STATE PATROL, THE AGENTS OF THE COLORADO

1 STATE PATROL, OR A PERSON THAT HAS CONTRACTED WITH THE
2 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE OR THE COLORADO STATE PATROL SHALL NOT
3 REQUIRE A VEHICLE TO HAVE AN INSPECTION BECAUSE IT IS A KEI VEHICLE,
4 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 42-1-102 (45.3), OR HAS THE DESIGN OR
5 MANUFACTURING PARAMETERS OF A KEI VEHICLE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
6 42-1-102 (45.3). THIS SUBSECTION (5) APPLIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF BOTH
7 ARTICLE 6 OF THIS TITLE 42 AND PART 3 OF ARTICLE 4 OF THIS TITLE 42.

8 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-6-102, **amend**
9 (6.5), (10) introductory portion, (11.5)(b)(I) introductory portion, and
10 (15); and **add** (6.6) and (6.7) as follows:

11 **42-6-102. Definitions.** As used in this part 1, unless the context
12 otherwise requires:

13 (6.5) ~~"Kit vehicle" means a passenger-type motor vehicle~~
14 ~~assembled, by other than a licensed manufacturer, from a manufactured~~
15 ~~kit that includes a prefabricated body and chassis and is accompanied by~~
16 ~~a manufacturer's statement of origin "KEI VEHICLE" HAS THE MEANING SET~~
17 FORTH IN SECTION 42-1-102.

18 (6.6) "KEI OFF-ROAD VEHICLE" MEANS A VEHICLE THAT:

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

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

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

24 (d) TRAVELS ON FOUR OR MORE TIRES IN CONTACT WITH THE
25 GROUND;

26 (e) HAS AN ENCLOSED PASSENGER CAB;

27 (f) WAS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES; AND

1 (g) DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 42-1-102
2 (45.3)(h).

3 (6.7) "KIT VEHICLE" MEANS A PASSENGER-TYPE MOTOR VEHICLE
4 ASSEMBLED, BY OTHER THAN A LICENSED MANUFACTURER, FROM A
5 MANUFACTURED KIT THAT INCLUDES A PREFABRICATED BODY AND
6 CHASSIS AND IS ACCOMPANIED BY A MANUFACTURER'S STATEMENT OF
7 ORIGIN.

8 (10) "Motor vehicle" means ~~any~~ A self-propelled vehicle that is
9 designed primarily for travel on the public highways and is generally and
10 commonly used to transport persons and property over the public
11 highways, including autocycles, KEI VEHICLES, trailers, semitrailers, and
12 trailer coaches, without motive power. "Motor vehicle" does not include
13 the following:

14 (11.5) (b) (I) Except as described in subsection (11.5)(b)(II) of
15 this section, "off-highway vehicle" includes ~~vehicles commonly known~~
16 ~~as~~ all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, KEI OFF-ROAD VEHICLES, and surplus
17 military vehicles but does not include:

18 (15) (a) "Roadworthy" means a condition in which a motor
19 vehicle has sufficient power and is fit to operate on the roads and
20 highways of this state after visual inspection by appropriate law
21 enforcement authorities.

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

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

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

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

8 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 44-20-102, **amend**
9 (16); and **add** (12.5) as follows:

10 **44-20-102. Definitions.** As used in this part 1, and in part 4 of this
11 article 20, unless the context or section 44-20-402 otherwise requires:

12 (12.5) "KEI ROAD VEHICLE" MEANS A "KEI VEHICLE" AS DEFINED
13 IN SECTION 42-1-102 (45.3).

14 (16) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle intended primarily for
15 use on the public highways that is self-propelled and every vehicle
16 intended primarily for operation on the public highways that is not
17 self-propelled but is designed to be attached to, become a part of, or be
18 drawn by a self-propelled vehicle, not including farm tractors and other
19 machines and tools used in the production, harvesting, and care of farm
20 products. "Motor vehicle" includes a KEI ROAD VEHICLE OR A low-power
21 scooter or autocycle as either is defined in section 42-1-102.

22 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 44-20-131.5 as
23 follows:

24 **44-20-313.5. Kei road vehicles - no liability for manufacturing**
25 **standards.** A PERSON LICENSED UNDER THIS PART 1 IS NOT LIABLE FOR
26 ANY DAMAGES THAT ARE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO
27 SELLING A KEI ROAD VEHICLE THAT IS NOT MANUFACTURED IN

1 ACCORDANCE WITH UNITED STATES FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS.

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

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

6 (6.5) "KEI OFF-ROAD VEHICLE" MEANS A VEHICLE THAT:

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

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

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

12 (d) TRAVELS ON FOUR OR MORE TIRES IN CONTACT WITH THE
13 GROUND;

14 (e) HAS AN ENCLOSED PASSENGER CAB;

15 (f) WAS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES; AND

16 (g) DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 42-1-102
17 (45.3)(h).

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

19 (b) A personal watercraft; ~~or~~

20 (c) A snowmobile; OR

21 (d) A KEI OFF-ROAD VEHICLE.

22 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 44-20-432.5 as
23 follows:

24 **44-20-432.5. Kei off-road vehicles - no liability for**
25 **manufacturing standards.** A PERSON LICENSED UNDER THIS PART 4 IS
26 NOT LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES THAT ARE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY
27 ATTRIBUTABLE TO SELLING A KEI OFF-ROAD VEHICLE THAT IS NOT

1 MANUFACTURED IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNITED STATES FEDERAL SAFETY
2 STANDARDS.

3 **SECTION 13. Act subject to petition - effective date -**
4 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect July 1, 2027; except that, if a
5 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
6 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
7 within the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general
8 assembly, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless
9 approved by the people at the general election to be held in November
10 2026 and, in such case, will take effect July 1, 2027.

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