

First Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**ENGROSSED**

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

LLS NO. 21-0065.01 Jery Payne x2157

**HOUSE BILL 21-1141**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hooton and Valdez A.,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Bridges,**

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**House Committees**

Energy & Environment  
Finance  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A LICENSE PLATE FOR PLUG-IN**  
102 **ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**  
103 **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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**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>.)*

The bill establishes the electric vehicle license plate, which is issued for use on plug-in electric motor vehicles. The electric vehicle license plates are issued to the owner of a plug-in electric motor vehicle upon registration of the vehicle and payment of applicable fees and taxes, unless the owner elects an alternative license plate. A person may be

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

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 28, 2021

issued personalized electric vehicle license plates. The requirement for decals to identify plug-in electric motor vehicles applies only if a person has not obtained the electric vehicle license plate.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 hereby finds that:

4 (a) Colorado has an ambitious carbon reduction goal, and the  
5 transportation sector accounts for the highest amount of greenhouse gas  
6 emissions of any sector;

7 (b) To support its clean energy and carbon reduction goals, the  
8 state has an aggressive goal of nine hundred forty thousand electric  
9 vehicles in use by 2030;

10 (c) Awareness of electric vehicles in Colorado is low. In the  
11 market research study commissioned by the Colorado energy office, only  
12 nine percent of Coloradans are "very familiar" with electric vehicles.  
13 Without this familiarity, a person will be unlikely to consider an electric  
14 vehicle as his or her next vehicle purchase.

15 (d) In that same research study, respondents had difficulty  
16 recognizing electric vehicle models. This lack of awareness translates into  
17 people not considering an electric vehicle in their upcoming purchase  
18 decisions.

19 (e) Behavior and social science recognize that buyers are strongly  
20 influenced by what they see as social norms. As people see more electric  
21 vehicles on the road, with people like themselves driving them, these  
22 social, and sometimes subconscious, nudges can move markets forward  
23 in powerful ways.

24 (f) Because people do not readily recognize electric vehicles on

1 the road, where their existence promotes their wider use, it would benefit  
2 Colorado to provide obvious and practical identification of electric  
3 vehicles. Electric vehicle license plates stand out as unique and practical  
4 identifiers of electric vehicles.

5 (2) The general assembly hereby declares that:

6 (a) Clear identification of electric vehicles with a dedicated  
7 license plate is a low-cost and practical way to reap the benefits of greater  
8 public awareness of electric vehicles;

9 (b) Electric vehicle license plates will make it easier for the public  
10 and law enforcement to regulate who parks in electric vehicle parking  
11 places that are dedicated charging stations; and

12 (c) Electric vehicles can be driven in special lanes as an incentive  
13 to buy cleaner energy, and cities may designate roadways where only  
14 electric vehicles are allowed to mitigate local noise and pollution issues.

15 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 42-3-255 as  
16 follows:

17 **42-3-255. Electric vehicle license plates.** (1) THE ELECTRIC  
18 VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED. ON OR AFTER JANUARY  
19 1, 2022, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN THE PLATE TO INDICATE THAT  
20 THE MOTOR VEHICLE TO WHICH THE PLATE IS ATTACHED IS A PLUG-IN  
21 ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE.

22 (2) (a) UPON REGISTERING A PLUG-IN ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE,  
23 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE ELECTRIC VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES FOR  
24 THE MOTOR VEHICLE UNLESS THE OWNER ELECTS TO USE DIFFERENT  
25 LICENSE PLATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS  
26 SECTION. AN OWNER THAT IS ISSUED THE PLATES SHALL DISPLAY THE  
27 PLATES ON THE MOTOR VEHICLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42-3-202.

1           (b) THE OWNER OF THE PLUG-IN ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE MAY  
2 ELECT TO USE DIFFERENT LICENSE PLATES ISSUED UNDER THIS ARTICLE 3  
3 OR THE RULES PROMULGATED UNDER THIS ARTICLE 3, NOT INCLUDING THE  
4 LICENSE PLATES ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42-3-203. IF THIS  
5 ARTICLE 3 OR THE RULES PROMULGATED UNDER THIS ARTICLE 3 REQUIRE  
6 DIFFERENT LICENSE PLATES TO BE ISSUED FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE, THE  
7 DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE THE DIFFERENT LICENSE PLATES FOR THE  
8 MOTOR VEHICLE. IF A PLUG-IN ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE IS NOT ISSUED  
9 ELECTRIC VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES, THE OWNER SHALL USE THE DECAL  
10 ISSUED IN SECTION 42-3-304 (25) TO IDENTIFY THE PLUG-IN ELECTRIC  
11 MOTOR VEHICLE.

12           (3) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 42-3-304 (25)(a), THE  
13 AMOUNT OF THE TAXES AND FEES FOR THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE LICENSE  
14 PLATES ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION IS THE SAME AS THE AMOUNT OF THE  
15 TAXES AND FEES FOR REGULAR MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES.

16           (4) AN OWNER MAY APPLY FOR PERSONALIZED ELECTRIC VEHICLE  
17 LICENSE PLATES. UPON PAYMENT OF THE ADDITIONAL FEE REQUIRED BY  
18 SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) FOR PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES, THE  
19 DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE THE PLATES IF THE APPLICANT COMPLIES WITH  
20 SECTION 42-3-211. IF AN APPLICANT HAS EXISTING PERSONALIZED LICENSE  
21 PLATES FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE, THE APPLICANT MAY TRANSFER THE  
22 COMBINATION OF LETTERS OR NUMBERS TO A NEW SET OF ELECTRIC  
23 VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES FOR THE PLUG-IN ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE  
24 UPON PAYING THE FEE REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) AND UPON  
25 TURNING IN THE EXISTING PLATES TO THE DEPARTMENT. AN OWNER THAT  
26 HAS OBTAINED PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION  
27 (4) MUST PAY THE ANNUAL FEE IMPOSED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(b) FOR

1 RENEWAL OF THE PERSONALIZED PLATES. THE FEES UNDER THIS  
2 SUBSECTION (4) ARE IN ADDITION TO ALL OTHER APPLICABLE TAXES AND  
3 FEES.

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

6 **42-3-304. Registration fees - passenger and passenger-mile**  
7 **taxes - clean screen fund - definitions.** (25) (b) The department of  
8 revenue shall create an electric vehicle decal, which an authorized agent  
9 shall give to each person ~~who~~ THAT pays the fee charged under subsection  
10 (25)(a) of this section AND THAT IS NOT ISSUED AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE  
11 LICENSE PLATE UNDER SECTION 42-3-255 FOR THE PLUG-IN ELECTRIC  
12 MOTOR VEHICLE. The decal must be attached to the upper right-hand  
13 corner of the front windshield on the motor vehicle for which it was  
14 issued. If there is a change of vehicle ownership, the decal is transferable  
15 to the new owner.

16 **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2021-22 state fiscal  
17 year, \$91,636 is appropriated to the department of revenue for use by the  
18 division of motor vehicles. This appropriation consists of \$38,600 from  
19 the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account in the highway users tax  
20 fund created in section 42-1-211 (2)(b)(I), C.R.S., and \$53,036 from the  
21 license plate cash fund created in section 42-3-301 (1)(b), C.R.S. To  
22 implement this act, the division may use this appropriation as follows:

23 (a) \$38,600 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account  
24 in the highway users tax fund for DRIVES maintenance and support; and

25 (b) \$53,036 from the license plate cash fund for license plate  
26 ordering.

27 **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act

1 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
2 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
3 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
4 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
5 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
6 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
7 November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
8 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.