

## TITLE 42

### VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

**Editor's note:** This title was numbered as numerous articles within chapter 13, C.R.S. 1963. The provisions of this title were amended with relocations in 1994, effective January 1, 1995, resulting in the addition, relocation, and elimination of sections as well as subject matter. For amendments to this title prior to 1994, consult the Colorado statutory research explanatory note and the table itemizing the replacement volumes and supplements to the original volume of C.R.S. 1973 beginning on page vii in the front of this volume. Former C.R.S. section numbers are shown in editor's notes following those sections that were relocated. For a detailed comparison of this title, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

**Cross references:** For the provisions providing for the manufacture of license plates and highway signs by state correctional facilities, see article 24 of title 17; for registration and use of snowmobiles, see article 14 of title 33; for the regulation of commercial driving schools, see article 2 of this title; for provisions relating to highway safety, see article 5 of title 43; for licensing and regulation of automobile dealers, see part 1 of article 20 of title 44; for the antimonopoly financing law, see part 2 of article 20 of title 44; for the Sunday closing law, see part 3 of article 20 of title 44.

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## GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

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## PART 1

### DEFINITIONS AND CITATION

#### **42-1-101. Short title.**

Articles 1 to 4 of this title shall be known and may be cited as the "Uniform Motor Vehicle Law".

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2094, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

#### **42-1-102. Definitions.**

As used in articles 1 to 4 of this title 42, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Acceleration lane" means a speed-change lane, including tapered areas, for the purpose of enabling a vehicle entering a roadway to increase its speed to a rate at which it can more safely merge with through traffic.

(1.5) "Accredited testing laboratory" means a testing laboratory that is recognized by the federal occupational safety and health administration or an independent laboratory that has been certified by an accrediting body to the standard ISO 17025 or standard ISO 17065 of the International Organization for Standardization.

(2) "Administrator" means the property tax administrator.

(3) "Alley" means a street or highway intended to provide access to the rear or side of lots or buildings in urban areas and not intended for the purpose of through vehicular traffic.

(4) "Apportioned registration" means registration of a vehicle pursuant to a reciprocal agreement under which the fees paid for registration of such vehicle are ultimately divided among the several jurisdictions in which the vehicle travels, based upon the number of miles traveled by the vehicle in each jurisdiction or upon some other agreed criterion.

(4.5) "Appurtenance" means a piece of equipment that is affixed or attached to a motor vehicle or trailer and is used for a specific purpose or task, including awnings, support hardware, and extractable equipment. "Appurtenance" does not include any item or equipment that is temporarily affixed or attached to the exterior of a motor vehicle for the purpose of transporting such vehicle.

(5) "Authorized agent" means the county clerk and recorder in each county in the state of Colorado, the clerk and recorder in the city and county of Broomfield, and the manager of revenue or such other official of the city and county of Denver as may be appointed by the mayor

to perform functions related to the registration of, titling of, or filing of liens on motor vehicles, wheeled trailers, semitrailers, trailer coaches, special mobile machinery, off-highway vehicles, and manufactured homes.

(6) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means such vehicles of the fire department, police vehicles, ambulances, and other special-purpose vehicles as are publicly owned and operated by or for a governmental agency to protect and preserve life and property in accordance with state laws regulating emergency vehicles; said term also means the following if equipped and operated as emergency vehicles in the manner prescribed by state law:

(a) Privately owned vehicles as are designated by the state motor vehicle licensing agency necessary to the preservation of life and property; or

(b) Privately owned tow trucks approved by the public utilities commission to respond to vehicle emergencies.

(7) "Authorized service vehicle" means such highway or traffic maintenance vehicles as are publicly owned and operated on a highway by or for a governmental agency the function of which requires the use of service vehicle warning lights as prescribed by state law and such other vehicles having a public service function, including, but not limited to, public utility vehicles and tow trucks, as determined by the department of transportation under section 42-4-214 (5). Some vehicles may be designated as both an authorized emergency vehicle and an authorized service vehicle.

(7.5) (a) "Autocycle" means a three-wheeled motor vehicle in which the driver and each passenger ride in a fully or partly enclosed seating area that is equipped with safety belts for all occupants that constitute a safety belt system, as defined in section 42-4-237 (1)(b).

(b) As used in this subsection (7.5), "partly enclosed seating area" means a seating area that is entirely or partly surrounded on the sides by the frame or body of a vehicle but is not fully enclosed.

(7.7) "Automated driving system" means hardware and software that are collectively capable, without any intervention or supervision by a human operator, of performing all aspects of the dynamic driving task for a vehicle on a part-time or full-time basis, described as levels 4 and 5 automation in SAE International's standard J3016, as it existed in September 2016.

(8) "Automobile" means any motor vehicle.

(8.5) "BAC" means either:

(a) A person's blood alcohol content, expressed in grams of alcohol per one hundred milliliters of blood as shown by analysis of the person's blood; or

(b) A person's breath alcohol content, expressed in grams of alcohol per two hundred ten liters of breath as shown by analysis of the person's breath.

(9) "Base jurisdiction" means the state, province, or other jurisdiction which receives, apportions, and remits to other jurisdictions moneys paid for registration of a vehicle pursuant to a reciprocal agreement governing registration of vehicles.

(10) "Bicycle" means a vehicle propelled by human power applied to pedals upon which a person may ride having two tandem wheels or two parallel wheels and one forward wheel, all of which are more than fourteen inches in diameter.

(10.3) "Bicycle lane" means a portion of the roadway that has been designated by striping, signage, or pavement markings for the exclusive use of bicyclists and other authorized users of bicycle lanes. "Bicycle lane" includes an intersection if the bicycle lane is marked on opposite sides of the intersection.

(10.5) "Bulk electronic transfer" means the mass electronic transfer of files, updated files, or portions thereof, in the same form as those files exist within the department.

(11) "Business district" means the territory contiguous to and including a highway when within any six hundred feet along such highway there are buildings in use for business or industrial purposes, including but not limited to motels, banks, office buildings, railroad stations, and public buildings which occupy at least three hundred feet of frontage on one side or three hundred feet collectively on both sides of the highway.

(12) "Calendar year" means the twelve calendar months beginning January 1 and ending December 31 of any year.

(13) "Camper coach" means an item of mounted equipment, weighing more than five hundred pounds, which when temporarily or permanently mounted on a motor vehicle adapts such vehicle for use as temporary living or sleeping accommodations.

(14) "Camper trailer" means a wheeled vehicle having an overall length of less than twenty-six feet, without motive power, which is designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle over the public highways and which is generally and commonly used for temporary living or sleeping accommodations.

(15) "Chauffeur" means every person who is employed for the principal purpose of operating a motor vehicle and every person who drives a motor vehicle while in use as a public or common carrier of persons or property.

(16) "Classified personal property" means any personal property which has been classified for the purpose of imposing thereon a graduated annual specific ownership tax.

(16.5) "Colorado DRIVES" is an acronym that stands for "Colorado driver's license, record, identification, and vehicle enterprise solution" and means the driver and vehicle services information technology system that the department uses to provide driver, identification, and vehicle title and registration services to Colorado residents.

(17) "Commercial carrier" means any owner of a motor vehicle, truck, laden or unladen truck tractor, trailer, or semitrailer used in the business of transporting persons or property over the public highways for profit, hire, or otherwise in any business or commercial enterprise.

(17.5) "Commercial vehicle" means a vehicle used to transport cargo or passengers for profit, hire, or otherwise to further the purposes of a business or commercial enterprise. This subsection (17.5) shall not apply for purposes of sections 42-4-235 and 42-4-707 (1).

(18) "Controlled-access highway" means every highway, street, or roadway in respect to which owners or occupants of abutting lands and other persons have no legal right of access to or from the same except at such points only and in such manner as may be determined by the public authority having jurisdiction over such highway, street, or roadway.

(19) "Convicted" or "conviction" means:

- (a) A plea of guilty or nolo contendere;
- (b) A verdict of guilty;
- (c) An adjudication of delinquency under title 19, C.R.S.;
- (d) The payment of a penalty assessment under section 42-4-1701 if the summons states clearly the points to be assessed for the offense; and
- (e) As to a holder of a commercial driver's license as defined in section 42-2-402 or the operator of a commercial motor vehicle as defined in section 42-2-402:
  - (I) An unvacated adjudication of guilt or a determination by an authorized administrative hearing that a person has violated or failed to comply with the law;
  - (II) An unvacated forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure the person's appearance in court;
  - (III) The payment of a fine or court cost or violation of a condition of release without bail, regardless of whether or not the penalty is rebated, suspended, or probated; or
  - (IV) A deferred sentence.

(20) "Court" means any municipal court, county court, district court, or any court having jurisdiction over offenses against traffic regulations and laws.



(20.5) "Crash" means a traffic, transportation, or vehicle collision or incident occurring on public or private property in the state, including events involving motor vehicles, vulnerable road users as defined in section 42-4-1402.5 (1), or other transportation devices.

(21) "Crosswalk" means that portion of a roadway ordinarily included within the prolongation or connection of the lateral lines of sidewalks at intersections or any portion of a roadway distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other marking on the surface.

(22) "Dealer" means every person engaged in the business of buying, selling, or exchanging vehicles of a type required to be registered under articles 1 to 4 of this title and who has an established place of business for such purpose in this state.

(23) "Deceleration lane" means a speed-change lane, including tapered areas, for the purpose of enabling a vehicle that is to make an exit to turn from a roadway to slow to the safe speed on the ramp ahead after it has left the mainstream of faster-moving traffic.

(23.5) "Declared gross vehicle weight" means the combined weight of the vehicle or combination vehicle and its cargo when operated on the public highways of this state. Such weight shall be declared by the vehicle owner at the time the vehicle is registered. Accurate records shall be kept of all miles operated by each vehicle over the public highways of this state by the owner of each vehicle.

(24) "Department" means the department of revenue acting directly or through a duly authorized officer, agent, or third-party provider.

(24.3) "Discharged LGBT veteran" has the same meaning as set forth in section 28-5-100.3.

(24.5) "Distinctive special license plate" means a special license plate that is issued to a person because such person has an immutable characteristic or special achievement honor. Such special achievement honor shall not include a common achievement such as graduating from an institution of higher education. Such special achievement shall include honorable service in the armed forces of the United States. "Distinctive special license plate" shall include a license plate that is issued to a person or the person's family to honor such person's service in the armed forces.

(25) "Divided highway" means a highway with separated roadways usually for traffic moving in opposite directions, such separation being indicated by depressed dividing strips, raised curbs, traffic islands, or other physical barriers so constructed as to impede vehicular traffic or otherwise indicated by standard pavement markings or other official traffic control devices as prescribed in the state traffic control manual.

(26) "Drive-away transporter" or "tow-away transporter" means every person engaged in the transporting of vehicles which are sold or to be sold and not owned by such transporter, by the

drive-away or tow-away methods, where such vehicles are driven, towed, or transported singly, or by saddlemount, towbar, or fullmount methods, or by any lawful combination thereof.

(27) "Driver" means every person, including a minor driver under the age of twenty-one years, who drives or is in actual physical control of a vehicle.

(27.3) "DUI" means driving under the influence, as defined in section 42-4-1301 (1)(f), and use of the term shall incorporate by reference the offense described in section 42-4-1301 (1)(a).

(27.5) "DUI per se" means driving with a BAC of 0.08 or more, and use of the term shall incorporate by reference the offense described in section 42-4-1301 (2)(a).

(27.7) "DWAI" means driving while ability impaired, as defined in section 42-4-1301 (1)(g), and use of the term shall incorporate by reference the offense described in section 42-4-1301 (1)(b).

(27.8) (a) "Dynamic driving task" means all of the following aspects of driving:

(I) Operational aspects, including steering, braking, accelerating, and monitoring the vehicle and the roadway; and

(II) Tactical aspects, including responding to events, determining when to change lanes, turning, using signals, and other related actions.

(b) "Dynamic driving task" does not include strategic aspects, including determining destinations or way points, of driving.

(28) "Effective date of registration period certificate" means the month in which a fleet owner must register all fleet vehicles.

(28.5) (a) "Electrical assisted bicycle" means a vehicle having two or three wheels, fully operable pedals, and an electric motor not exceeding seven hundred fifty watts of power. Electrical assisted bicycles are further required to conform to certain classes as follows:

(I) "Class 1 electrical assisted bicycle" means an electrical assisted bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of twenty miles per hour.

(II) "Class 2 electrical assisted bicycle" means an electrical assisted bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance regardless of whether the rider is pedaling but ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of twenty miles per hour.

(III) "Class 3 electrical assisted bicycle" means an electrical assisted bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of twenty-eight miles per hour.

(b) "Electrical assisted bicycle" does not include:

(I) A vehicle that is modified so that it no longer meets the requirements for any class of electrical assisted bicycle; or

(II) A vehicle that is designed, manufactured, or intended by the manufacturer or seller to be easily configured so as not to meet the requirements of an electrical assisted bicycle, whether by a mechanical switch or button, by changing a setting in software controlling the drive system, by use of an online application, or through other means intended by the manufacturer or seller.

(28.7) "Electric personal assistive mobility device" or "EPAMD" means a self-balancing, nontandem two-wheeled device, designed to transport only one person, that is powered solely by an electric propulsion system producing an average power output of no more than seven hundred fifty watts.

(28.8) (a) "Electric scooter" means a device:

(I) Weighing less than one hundred pounds;

(II) With handlebars and an electric motor;

(III) That is powered by an electric motor; and

(IV) That has a maximum speed of twenty miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor.

(b) "Electric scooter" does not include an electrical assisted bicycle, EPAMD, motorcycle, or low-power scooter.

(29) "Empty weight" means the weight of any motor vehicle or trailer or any combination thereof, including the operating body and accessories, as determined by weighing on a scale approved by the department.

(30) "Essential parts" means all integral parts and body parts, the removal, alteration, or substitution of which will tend to conceal the identity or substantially alter the appearance of the vehicle.

(31) "Established place of business" means the place actually occupied either continuously or at regular periods by a dealer or manufacturer where such dealer's or manufacturer's books and records are kept and a large share of his or her business transacted.

(31.5) "Exceptions processing" means the procedures the department uses to assist persons who are unable for reasons beyond their control to present all the necessary documents required by the department and must rely on alternative documents to establish identity, date of birth, or United States citizenship in lieu of lawful presence in the United States.

(32) "Explosives and hazardous materials" means any substance so defined by the code of federal regulations, title 49, chapter 1, parts 173.50 through 173.389.

(33) "Farm tractor" means every implement of husbandry designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows and mowing machines and other implements of husbandry.

(34) "Flammable liquid" means any liquid which has a flash point of seventy degrees Fahrenheit or less, as determined by a Tagliabue or equivalent closed-cup test device.

(35) "Fleet operator" means any resident who owns or leases ten or more motor vehicles, trailers, or pole trailers and who receives from the department a registration period certificate in accordance with article 3 of this title.

(36) "Fleet vehicle" means any motor vehicle, trailer, or pole trailer owned or leased by a fleet operator and registered pursuant to section 42-3-125.

(37) "Foreign vehicle" means every motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer which is brought into this state otherwise than in the ordinary course of business by or through a manufacturer or dealer and which has not been registered in this state.

(38) "Fullmount" means a vehicle which is mounted completely on the frame of the first vehicle or last vehicle in a saddlemount combination.

(39) "Garage" means any public building or place of business for the storage or repair of automobiles.

(39.5) "Golf car" means a self-propelled vehicle not designed primarily for operation on roadways and that has:

- (a) A design speed of less than twenty miles per hour;
- (b) At least three wheels in contact with the ground;
- (c) An empty weight of not more than one thousand three hundred pounds; and
- (d) A carrying capacity of not more than four persons.

(40) "Graduated annual specific ownership tax" means an annual tax imposed in lieu of an ad valorem tax upon the personal property required to be classified by the general assembly pursuant to the provisions of section 6 of article X of the state constitution.

(41) "Gross dollar volume" means the total contracted cost of work performed or put in place in a given county by the owner or operator of special mobile machinery.

(41.5) "Group special license plate" means a special license plate that is not a distinctive plate and is issued to a group of people because such people have a common interest or affinity.

(41.7) Repealed.

(42) "High occupancy vehicle lane" means a lane designated pursuant to the provisions of section 42-4-1012 (1).

(43) "Highway" means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel or the entire width of every way declared to be a public highway by any law of this state.

(43.3) "Human operator" means a natural person in the vehicle with immediate access to controls for steering, braking, and acceleration.

(43.5) "Immediate family" means a person who is related by blood, marriage, or adoption.

(44) (a) On and after July 1, 2000, "implement of husbandry" means every vehicle that is designed, adapted, or used for agricultural purposes. It also includes equipment used solely for the application of liquid, gaseous, and dry fertilizers. Transportation of fertilizer, in or on the equipment used for its application, shall be deemed a part of application if it is incidental to such application. It also includes hay balers, hay stacking equipment, combines, tillage and harvesting equipment, agricultural commodity handling equipment, and other heavy movable farm equipment primarily used on farms or in a livestock production facility and not on the highways. Trailers specially designed to move such equipment on highways shall, for the purposes of part 5 of article 4 of this title, be considered as component parts of such implements of husbandry.

(b) Effective July 1, 2013, for purposes of this section, "implements of husbandry" includes personal property valued by the county assessor as silvicultural.

(44.5) "Inoperable vehicle" means a vehicle that is not roadworthy, as defined in section 42-6-102 (15).

(45) "Intersection" means the area embraced within the prolongation of the lateral curb lines or, if none, then the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two highways which join one another at, or approximately at, right angles, or the area within which vehicles traveling upon different highways joining at any other angle may come in conflict. Where a highway includes two roadways thirty feet or more apart, every crossing of each roadway of such divided highway by an intersecting highway shall be regarded as a separate intersection. In the event such intersecting highway also includes two roadways thirty feet or more apart, every crossing of two roadways of such highways shall be regarded as a separate intersection. The junction of an alley with a street or highway does not constitute an intersection.

(45.3) ***[Editor's note: Subsection (45.3) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of this subsection (45.3) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]***  
"Kei vehicle" means a vehicle that:

(a) Is powered by an internal combustion engine with a displacement of one thousand cubic centimeters or less or an electrical motor of fifty-six thousand watts or less;

(b) Is sixty-seven inches or less in width;

(c) Is one hundred forty inches or less in length;

- (d) Travels on four or more tires in contact with the ground;
- (e) Has a top speed of at least fifty miles per hour;
- (f) Has an enclosed passenger cab;
- (g) Was imported into the United States; and
- (h) (I) Was twenty-five years old or older when imported into the United States; or  
(II) Is twenty-five years old or older and was previously issued a title in the United States.

(45.5) "Kit vehicle" means a passenger-type motor vehicle assembled, by other than a licensed manufacturer, from a manufactured kit that includes a prefabricated body and chassis and is accompanied by a manufacturer's statement of origin.

(46) "Lane" means the portion of a roadway for the movement of a single line of vehicles.

(47) "Laned highway" means a highway the roadway of which is divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for vehicular traffic.

(47.3) "Last-known address" means:

(a) For notifications regarding motor vehicles, the most recent mailing address provided on a vehicle registration or vehicle registration mailing address change notification provided in accordance with section 42-3-113 or the corrected address as reported by an address correction service licensed by the United States postal service;

(b) For notifications regarding driving privileges, driver's licenses, or identification cards when there is a driver's license or identification card on file with the department, the most recent of either:

(I) The mailing address provided by an applicant for a driver's license or identification card;

(II) The mailing address stated on an address change notification provided to the department pursuant to subsection (47.3)(a) of this section; or

(III) The corrected address as reported by an address correction service licensed by the United States postal service;

(c) For notifications regarding driving privileges or identification cards when there is no driver's license or identification card on file with the department, the most recent address shown on any other record on file with the department pursuant to this article 1 and as may be corrected by an address correction service licensed by the United States postal service.

(47.5) "Lien" means a security interest in a motor or off-highway vehicle under article 9 of title 4, C.R.S., and this article.

(47.7) "Lithium-ion battery" means a rechargeable battery with an organic solvent electrolyte and positive and negative electrodes that utilize an intercalation compound in which lithium is stored.

(48) "Local authorities" means every county, municipal, and other local board or body having authority to adopt local police regulations under the constitution and laws of this state.

(48.5) (a) "Low-power scooter" means a self-propelled vehicle designed primarily for use on the roadways with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, no manual clutch, and either of the following:

(I) A cylinder capacity not exceeding fifty cubic centimeters if powered by internal combustion; or

(II) A wattage not exceeding four thousand four hundred seventy-six if powered by electricity.

(b) "Low-power scooter" does not include a toy vehicle, bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, wheelchair, or any device designed to assist people with mobility impairments who use pedestrian rights-of-way.

(48.6) "Low-speed electric vehicle" means a vehicle that:

(a) Is self-propelled utilizing electricity as its primary propulsion method;

(b) Has at least three wheels in contact with the ground;

(c) Does not use handlebars to steer; and

(d) Exhibits the manufacturer's compliance with 49 CFR 565 or displays a seventeen-character vehicle identification number as provided in 49 CFR 565.

(48.8) "Manufactured home" means any preconstructed building unit or combination of preconstructed building units, without motive power, where such unit or units are manufactured in a factory or at a location other than the residential site of the completed home, which is designed and commonly used for occupancy by persons for residential purposes, in either temporary or permanent locations, and which unit or units are not licensed as a vehicle.

(49) "Manufacturer" means any person, firm, association, corporation, or trust, whether resident or nonresident, who manufactures or assembles new and unused motor vehicles of a type required to be registered under articles 1 to 4 of this title.

(50) "Manufacturer's suggested retail price" means the retail price of such motor vehicle suggested by the manufacturer plus the retail price suggested by the manufacturer for each accessory or item of optional equipment physically attached to such vehicle prior to the sale to the retail purchaser.

(51) "Markings" means all lines, patterns, words, colors, or other devices, except signs, set into the surface of, applied upon, or attached to the pavement or curbing or to objects within or adjacent to the roadway, conforming to the state traffic control manual and officially placed for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic.

(52) "Metal tires" means all tires the surface of which in contact with the highway is wholly or partly of metal or other hard, nonresilient material.

(52.5) "Military vehicle" means a vehicle of any size or weight that is valued for historical purposes, that was manufactured for use by any nation's armed forces, and that is maintained in a condition that represents its military design and markings.

(53) "Minor driver's license" means the license issued to a person who is at least sixteen years of age but who has not yet attained the age of twenty-one years.

(54) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2010, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1486, § 1, effective October 1, 2010.)

(55) (a) "Motorcycle" means a motor vehicle that:

(I) Uses handlebars connected to the front wheel or wheels to steer;

(II) Has a seat the rider sits astride; and

(III) Is designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground.

(b) "Motorcycle" does not include a farm tractor, low-speed electric vehicle, or low-power scooter.

(56) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1260, § 22, effective October 1, 2009.)

(57) "Motor home" means a vehicle designed to provide temporary living quarters and which is built into, as an integral part of or a permanent attachment to, a motor vehicle chassis or van.

(58) "Motor vehicle":

(a) **[Editor's note: This version of subsection (58)(a) is effective until July 1, 2027.]** Means any self-propelled vehicle that is designed primarily for travel on the public highways and that is generally and commonly used to transport persons and property over the public highways, a low-speed electric vehicle, or an autocycle; except that the term does not include electrical assisted bicycles, electric scooters, low-power scooters except as provided in subsection (58)(b) of this section, wheelchairs, or vehicles moved solely by human power;

(a) **[Editor's note: This version of subsection (58)(a) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of this subsection (58)(a) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]** Means a self-propelled vehicle that is designed primarily for travel on



the public highways and that is generally and commonly used to transport persons and property over the public highways, a low-speed electric vehicle, a kei vehicle, or an autocycle; except that the term does not include electrical assisted bicycles, electric scooters, low-power scooters except as provided in subsection (58)(b) of this section, wheelchairs, or vehicles moved solely by human power;

(b) Includes a low-power scooter for the purposes of sections 42-2-127, 42-2-127.7, 42-2-128, 42-2-138, 42-2-206, 42-4-1301, and 42-4-1301.1; and

(c) Does not include a farm tractor or an off-highway vehicle, except for the purposes of the offenses described in sections 42-2-128, 42-4-1301, 42-4-1301.1, and 42-4-1401, when operated on streets and highways.

(59) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1260, § 22, effective October 1, 2009.)

(60) "Mounted equipment" means any item weighing more than five hundred pounds that is permanently mounted on a vehicle, including mounting by means such as welding or bolting the equipment to a vehicle.

(60.1) "Multifunction school activity bus" means a motor vehicle that is designed and used specifically for the transportation of school children to or from a school-related activity, whether the activity occurs within or outside the territorial limits of a school district and whether or not the activity occurs during school hours. A "multifunction school activity bus" must comply with all federal motor vehicle safety standards and regulations applicable to school buses, except any standard or regulation requiring the installation of official traffic control devices.

(60.2) "Multiple mode electrical assisted bicycle" means an electrical assisted bicycle equipped with switchable or programmable modes that provide for operation as two or more of a class 1, class 2, or class 3 electrical assisted bicycle in conformance with the definition under this section for each respective class.

(60.3) "Multipurpose trailer" means a wheeled vehicle, without motive power, that is designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle over the public highways. A "multipurpose trailer" is generally and commonly used for temporary living or sleeping accommodation and transporting property wholly upon its own structure and is registered as a vehicle.

(60.5) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (SB 09-075), ch. 418, p. 2320, § 4, effective August 5, 2009.)

(61) "Noncommercial or recreational vehicle" means a truck, or unladen truck tractor, operated singly or in combination with a trailer or utility trailer or a motor home, which truck, or unladen truck tractor, or motor home is used exclusively for personal pleasure, enjoyment, other recreational purposes, or personal or family transportation of the owner, lessee, or occupant and

is not used to transport cargo or passengers for profit, hire, or otherwise to further the purposes of a business or commercial enterprise.

(62) "Nonresident" means every person who is not a resident of this state.

(63) "Off-highway vehicle" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 33-14.5-101 (3), C.R.S.

(64) "Official traffic control devices" means all signs, signals, markings, and devices, not inconsistent with this title, placed or displayed by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction, for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic.

(65) "Official traffic control signal" means any device, whether manually, electrically, or mechanically operated, by which traffic is alternately directed to stop and to proceed.

(66) "Owner" means a person who holds the legal title of a vehicle; or, if a vehicle is the subject of an agreement for the conditional sale or lease thereof with the right of purchase upon performance of the conditions stated in the agreement and with an immediate right of possession vested in the conditional vendee or lessee or if a mortgagor of a vehicle is entitled to possession, then such conditional vendee or lessee or mortgagor shall be deemed the owner for the purpose of articles 1 to 4 of this title. The term also includes parties otherwise having lawful use or control or the right to use or control a vehicle for a period of thirty days or more.

(67) "Park" or "parking" means the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, other than very briefly for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading property or passengers.

(68) "Pedestrian" means any person afoot or any person using a wheelchair.

(68.5) (a) "Persistent drunk driver" means any person who:

(I) Has been convicted of or had his or her driver's license revoked for two or more alcohol-related driving violations;

(II) Continues to drive after a driver's license or driving privilege restraint has been imposed for one or more alcohol-related driving offenses;

(III) Drives a motor vehicle while the amount of alcohol in such person's blood, as shown by analysis of the person's blood or breath, was 0.15 or more grams of alcohol per one hundred milliliters of blood or 0.15 or more grams of alcohol per two hundred ten liters of breath at the time of driving or within two hours after driving; or

(IV) Refuses to take or complete, or to cooperate in the completing of, a test of his or her blood, breath, saliva, or urine as required by section 18-3-106 (4) or 18-3-205 (4), C.R.S., or section 42-4-1301.1 (2).

(b) Nothing in this subsection (68.5) shall be interpreted to affect the penalties imposed under this title for multiple alcohol- or drug-related driving offenses, including, but not limited to, penalties imposed for violations under sections 42-2-125 (1)(g) and (1)(i) and 42-2-202 (2).

(69) "Person" means a natural person, estate, trust, firm, copartnership, association, corporation, or business entity.

(69.5) "Plug-in electric motor vehicle" means:

(a) A motor vehicle that has received an acknowledgment of certification from the federal internal revenue service that the vehicle qualifies for the plug-in electric drive vehicle credit set forth in 26 U.S.C. sec. 30D, as amended, or any successor statute; or

(b) Any motor vehicle that can be recharged from an external source of electricity and that uses electricity stored in a rechargeable battery pack to propel or contribute to the propulsion of the vehicle's drive wheels.

(70) "Pneumatic tires" means all tires inflated with compressed air.

(71) "Pole", "pipe trailer", or "dolly" means every vehicle of the trailer type having one or more axles not more than forty-eight inches apart and two or more wheels used in connection with a motor vehicle solely for the purpose of transporting poles or pipes and connected with the towing vehicle both by chain, rope, or cable and by the load without any part of the weight of said dolly resting upon the towing vehicle. All the registration provisions of articles 1 to 4 of this title shall apply to every pole, pipe trailer, or dolly.

(72) "Police officer" means every officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of traffic regulations.

(72.2) "Power takeoff equipment" means equipment that is attached to a motor vehicle and is powered by the motor that powers the locomotion of the motor vehicle.

(72.5) "Primary user" means an organization that collects bulk data for the purpose of in-house business use.

(72.7) "Principal office" means the office in this state designated by a fleet owner as its principal place of business.

(73) "Private road" or "driveway" means every road or driveway not open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

(74) Repealed.

(75) "Railroad sign or signal" means any sign, signal, or device erected by authority of a public body or official or by a railroad and intended to give notice of the presence of railroad tracks or the approach of a railroad train.

(76) "Reciprocal agreement" or "reciprocity" means an agreement among two or more states, provinces, or other jurisdictions for coordinated, shared, or mutual enforcement or administration of laws relating to the registration, operation, or taxation of vehicles and other personal property in interstate commerce. The term includes without limitation the "international registration plan" and any successor agreement providing for the apportionment, among participating jurisdictions, of vehicle registration fees or taxes.

(77) "Reconstructed vehicle" means any vehicle which has been assembled or constructed largely by means of essential parts, new or used, derived from other vehicles or makes of vehicles of various names, models, and types or which, if originally otherwise constructed, has been materially altered by the removal of essential parts or by the addition or substitution of essential parts, new or used, derived from other vehicles or makes of vehicles.

(78) "Registration period" or "registration year" means any consecutive twelve-month period.

(79) "Registration period certificate" means the document issued by the department to a fleet owner, upon application of a fleet owner, which states the month in which registration is required for all motor vehicles owned by the fleet owner.

(80) "Residence district" means the territory contiguous to and including a highway not comprising a business district when the frontage on such highway for a distance of three hundred feet or more is mainly occupied by dwellings or by dwellings and buildings in use for business.

(81) "Resident" means any person who owns or operates any business in this state or any person who has resided within this state continuously for a period of ninety days or has obtained gainful employment within this state, whichever shall occur first.

(82) "Right-of-way" means the right of one vehicle operator or pedestrian to proceed in a lawful manner in preference to another vehicle operator or pedestrian approaching under such circumstances of direction, speed, and proximity as to give rise to danger of collision unless one grants precedence to the other.

(83) "Road" means any highway.

(84) "Road tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry any load thereon independently or any part of the weight of a vehicle or load so drawn.

(85) "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the sidewalk, berm, or shoulder even though such sidewalk, berm, or shoulder is used by persons riding bicycles or other human-powered vehicles and exclusive of that portion of a highway designated for exclusive use as a bicycle path or reserved for the exclusive use of bicycles, human-powered vehicles, or pedestrians. In the event that a highway

includes two or more separate roadways, "roadway" refers to any such roadway separately but not to all such roadways collectively.

(85.5) "Roughed-in road" means an area of ground that has been cut with the intention to make a highway but which has not been improved enough to make the area qualify as a highway.

(86) "Saddlemount combination" means a combination of vehicles in which a truck or laden or unladen truck tractor tows one or more additional trucks or laden or unladen truck tractors and in which each such towed truck or laden or unladen truck tractor is connected by a saddle to the frame or fifth wheel of the vehicle immediately in front of such truck or laden or unladen truck tractor. For the purposes of this subsection (86), "saddle" means a mechanism which connects the front axle of a towed vehicle to the frame or fifth wheel of a vehicle immediately in front of such towed vehicle and which functions like a fifth wheel kingpin connection. A saddlemount combination may include one fullmount.

(87) "Safety zone" means the area or space officially set aside within a highway for the exclusive use of pedestrians and which is so plainly marked or indicated by proper signs as to be plainly visible at all times while set apart as a safety zone.

(88) "School bus" means a motor vehicle that is designed and used specifically for the transportation of school children to or from a public or private school or a school-related activity, whether the activity occurs within or outside the territorial limits of a school district and whether or not the activity occurs during school hours. A school bus must comply with all federal motor vehicle safety standards and regulations applicable to school buses.

(88.5) (a) "School vehicle" means a motor vehicle, including, but not limited to, a school bus or multifunction school activity bus, that is owned by or under contract to a public or private school and operated for the transportation of school children to or from school or a school-related activity.

(b) "School vehicle" does not include:

(I) Informal or intermittent arrangements, such as sharing of actual gasoline expense or participation in a car pool, for the transportation of school children to or from a public or private school or a school-related activity; or

(II) A motor vehicle that is owned by or under contract to a child care center, as defined in section 26-6-903 or 26.5-5-303, and that is used for the transportation of children who are served by the child care center.

(88.7) "Second-use lithium-ion battery" means a lithium-ion battery that has been assembled, refurbished, repaired, repurposed, or reconditioned using cells removed from used batteries.

(89) "Semitrailer" means any wheeled vehicle, without motor power, designed to be used in conjunction with a laden or unladen truck tractor so that some part of its own weight and that of

its cargo load rests upon or is carried by such laden or unladen truck tractor and that is generally and commonly used to carry and transport property over the public highways.

(90) "Sidewalk" means that portion of a street between the curb lines or the lateral lines of a roadway and the adjacent property lines intended for the use of pedestrians.

(90.5) (a) "Signature" means either a written signature or an electronic signature.

(b) "Electronic signature" has the same meaning as set forth in section 24-71-101.

(91) "Snowplow" means any vehicle originally designed for highway snow and ice removal or control or subsequently adapted for such purposes which is operated by or for the state of Colorado or any political subdivision thereof.

(92) "Solid rubber tires" means every tire made of rubber other than a pneumatic tire.

(93) "Specially constructed vehicle" means any vehicle which has not been originally constructed under a distinctive name, make, model, or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of vehicles.

(93.5) (a) "Special mobile machinery" means machinery that is pulled, hauled, or driven over a highway and is either:

(I) A vehicle or equipment that is not designed primarily for the transportation of persons or cargo over the public highways; or

(II) A motor vehicle that may have been originally designed for the transportation of persons or cargo over the public highways, and has been redesigned or modified by the addition of mounted equipment or machinery, and is only incidentally operated or moved over the public highways.

(b) "Special mobile machinery" includes vehicles commonly used in the construction, maintenance, and repair of roadways, the drilling of wells, and the digging of ditches.

(94) "Stand" or "standing" means the halting of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, other than momentarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in receiving or discharging passengers.

(95) "State" means a state, territory, organized or unorganized, or district of the United States.

(96) "State motor vehicle licensing agency" means the department of revenue.

(97) "State traffic control manual" means the most recent edition of the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways", including any supplement thereto, as adopted by the transportation commission.

(98) "Steam and electric trains" includes:

(a) "Railroad", which means a carrier of persons or property upon cars, other than street cars, operated upon stationary rails;

(b) "Railroad train", which means a steam engine, electric, or other motor, with or without cars coupled thereto, operated upon rails, except streetcars;

(c) "Streetcar", which means a car other than a railroad train for transporting persons or property upon rails principally within a municipality.

(99) "Stinger-steered" means a semitrailer combination configuration wherein the fifth wheel is located on a drop frame located behind and below the rearmost axle of the power unit.

(100) "Stop" or "stopping" means, when prohibited, any halting, even momentarily, of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or official traffic control device.

(101) "Stop line" or "limit line" means a line which indicates where drivers shall stop when directed by an official traffic control device or a police officer.

(101.5) "Street rod vehicle" means a vehicle manufactured in 1948 or earlier with a body design that has been modified for safe road use.

(102) "Supervisor" means the executive director of the department of revenue or head of a group, division, or subordinate department appointed by the executive director in accordance with article 35 of title 24, C.R.S.

(102.5) "Surge brakes" means a system whereby the brakes of a trailer are actuated as a result of the forward pressure of the trailer against the tow vehicle during deceleration.

(102.7) "Temporary special event license plate" means a special license plate valid for a limited time period that is issued to a person or group of people in connection with a special event. "Temporary special event license plate" does not mean a special plate for the purposes of section 42-3-207.

(102.8) "Third-party provider" means an electronic vehicle or special mobile machinery registration, lien, or titling service provider that is approved by the department to perform the registration, lien, and titling functions set forth in articles 1 to 6 of this title 42.

(103) "Through highway" means every highway or portion thereof on which vehicular traffic is given preferential right-of-way and at the entrances to which other vehicular traffic from intersecting highways is required by law to yield the right-of-way to vehicles on such through highway in obedience to a stop sign, yield sign, or other official traffic control device when such signs or devices are erected as provided by law.

(103.5) (a) "Toy vehicle" means any vehicle that has wheels and is not designed for use on public highways or for off-road use.

(b) "Toy vehicle" includes, but is not limited to, gas-powered or electric-powered vehicles commonly known as mini bikes, "pocket" bikes, kamikaze boards, go-peds, and stand-up scooters.

(c) "Toy vehicle" does not include electric scooters, off-highway vehicles, or snowmobiles.

(104) "Traffic" means pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, and vehicles, streetcars, and other conveyances either singly or together while using any highway for the purposes of travel.

(105) "Trailer" means any wheeled vehicle, without motive power, which is designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle and to carry its cargo load wholly upon its own structure and that is generally and commonly used to carry and transport property over the public highways. The term includes, but is not limited to, multipurpose trailers as defined in subsection (60.3) of this section.

(106) "Trailer coach" means a wheeled vehicle having an overall length, excluding towing gear and bumpers, of not less than twenty-six feet, without motive power, that is designed and generally and commonly used for occupancy by persons for residential purposes, in temporary locations, and that may occasionally be drawn over the public highways by a motor vehicle and is licensed as a vehicle.

(107) "Transporter" means every person engaged in the business of delivering vehicles of a type required to be registered under articles 1 to 4 of this title from a manufacturing, assembling, or distributing plant to dealers or sales agents of a manufacturer.

(108) "Truck" means any motor vehicle equipped with a body designed to carry property and which is generally and commonly used to carry and transport property over the public highways.

(109) "Truck tractor - laden" or "laden truck tractor" means any motor vehicle carrying cargo that is generally and commonly designed and used to draw, and is drawing, a semitrailer or trailer and its cargo load over the public highways.

(109.5) "Truck tractor - unladen" or "unladen truck tractor" means any motor vehicle not carrying cargo that is generally used to draw a semitrailer or trailer and its cargo load over the public highways.

(109.7) "UDD" means underage drinking and driving, and use of the term shall incorporate by reference the offense described in section 42-4-1301 (2)(d).

(110) "Used vehicle" means every motor vehicle which has been sold, bargained for, exchanged, or given away, or has had the title transferred from the person who first acquired it



from the manufacturer or importer, and has been so used as to have become what is commonly known as "secondhand" within the ordinary meaning thereof.

(111) "Utility trailer" means any wheeled vehicle weighing two thousand pounds or less, without motive power, which is designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle and which is generally and commonly used to carry and transport personal effects, articles of household furniture, loads of trash and rubbish, or not to exceed two horses over the public highways.

(112) "Vehicle" means a device that is capable of moving itself, or of being moved, from place to place upon wheels or endless tracks. "Vehicle" includes a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or EPAMD, but does not include a wheelchair, off-highway vehicle, snowmobile, farm tractor, or implement of husbandry designed primarily or exclusively for use and used in agricultural operations or any device moved exclusively over stationary rails or tracks or designed to move primarily through the air.

(112.5) "Vendor" means an organization that collects bulk data for the purpose of reselling the data.

(113) "Wheelchair" means a motorized or nonmotorized wheeled device designed for use by a person with a physical disability.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2094, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (17), (86), (89), and (109) amended and (109.5) added, p. 470, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 96:** (102.5) added, p. 629, § 1, effective January 1, 1997. **L. 97:** (58) amended and (60.5) added, p. 392, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 98:** (68.5) added, p. 1239, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 99:** (10.5), (72.5), and (112.5) added, p. 1239, § 1, effective August 4. **L. 2000:** (88) amended, p. 20, § 1, effective March 9; (96) and (102) amended, p. 1639, § 21, effective June 1; (44) amended, p. 548, § 1, effective July 1; (58) amended, p. 698, § 16, effective July 1; (53) and (74) amended, p. 1348, § 13, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (17.5) added and (61) amended, p. 504, § 1, effective May 18; (24.5) and (41.5) added, p. 729, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2002:** (35) and (36) amended, p. 1, § 1, effective March 1; (27) amended, p. 1033, § 72, effective June 1; (4.5) added, p. 404, § 2, effective August 7. **L. 2003:** (102.7) added, p. 1847, § 1, effective May 21; (72.7) added, p. 809, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2005:** (19) and (69) amended, p. 640, § 1, effective May 27; (103.5) added, p. 1241, § 1, effective June 3; (43.5) added, p. 335, § 4, effective July 1; (23.5) and (101.5) added and (36) amended, p. 1071, § 1, effective August 8; (24.5) amended, p. 665, § 3, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (102.7) amended, p. 1509, § 62, effective June 1; (17.5) amended, p. 43, § 2, effective July 1; (24.5) amended, p. 1753, § 4, effective January 1, 2007; (68.5) amended, p. 1366, § 1, effective January 1, 2007; (45.5) added, p. 1411, § 1, effective July 1, 2007. **L. 2007:** (109) and (109.5) amended, p. 282, § 1, effective March 29. **L. 2008:** (6) amended, p. 2083, § 8, effective June 3; (8.5), (27.3), (27.5), (27.7), (41.7), and (109.7) added, p. 243, § 2, effective July 1; (19)(e) added, p. 473, § 2, effective July 1; (60.3) added and (105) and

(106)(a) amended, p. 637, § 1, effective August 5; (69) amended, p. 2271, § 1, effective January 1, 2009. **L. 2009:** (39.5) and (48.6) added and (55), (58), and (60.5) amended, (SB 09-075), ch. 418, p. 2320, § 4, effective August 5; (10), (55), (56), (58), (59), (103.5), and (112) amended and (28.5), (28.7), and (48.5) added, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1260, § 22, effective October 1. **L. 2010:** (88) amended and (88.5) added, (HB 10-1232), ch. 163, p. 572, § 10, effective April 28; (72.2) added, (SB 10-144), ch. 289, p. 1345, § 1, effective July 1; (44) amended, (SB 10-177), ch. 392, p. 1861, § 2, effective August 11; (52.5) added, (SB 10-075), ch. 169, p. 597, § 1, effective August 11; (33), (41), (54), and (60) amended and (93.5) added, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1486, § 1, effective October 1. **L. 2011:** (55) amended, (HB 11-1188), ch. 175, p. 663, § 6, effective May 13. **L. 2013:** (41.7) repealed, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1879, § 4, effective May 28; (47.5) added, (HB 13-1289), ch. 380, p. 2224, § 2, effective June 5; (47.5) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2396, § 40, effective June 5; (68.5) amended, (HB 13-1240), ch. 361, p. 2112, § 2, effective January 1, 2014. **L. 2014:** (31.5) added, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1541, § 1, effective June 5; (7.5) added and (55) amended, (HB 14-1367), ch. 303, p. 1285, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2015:** (109.7) amended, (HB 15-1043), ch. 262, p. 996, § 5, effective August 5. **L. 2016:** (88.5)(b)(II) amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 797, § 118, effective June 6. **L. 2017:** (7.5) and (55) amended, (HB 17-1044), ch. 72, p. 228, § 1, effective March 23; IP amended and (7.7), (27.8), and (43.3) added, (SB 17-213), ch. 277, p. 1517, § 2, effective August 9; (5) amended and (16.5) and (47.3) added, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 358, § 1, effective August 9; (28.5) and (58) amended, (HB 17-1151), ch. 98, p. 295, § 1, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** (24) amended and (90.5) and (102.8) added, (HB 18-1299), ch. 297, p. 1808, § 1, effective July 1, 2019. **L. 2019:** (28.8) added and (48.5)(b), (58), (103.5)(c), and (112) amended, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2557, § 1, effective May 23; (69.5) added, (HB 19-1298), ch. 384, p. 3438, § 1, effective August 2. **L. 2020:** (10.3) added, (SB 20-061), ch. 30, p. 101, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2021:** (85.5) added, (SB 21-084), ch. 50, p. 213, § 1, effective September 7; (24.3) added, (SB 21-026), ch. 42, p. 177, § 16, effective November 11. **L. 2022:** (88.5)(b)(II) amended, (HB 22-1295), ch. 123, p. 869, § 132, effective July 1; (48.8) added and (106) amended, (SB 22-212), ch. 421, p. 2986, § 89, effective August 10; (58) amended, (SB 22-179), ch. 485, p. 3526, § 6, effective August 10; (7.5), (55), and (58) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2579, § 1, effective January 1, 2023; (44.5) added, (HB 22-1388), ch. 475, p. 3460, § 1, effective January 1, 2023. **L. 2025:** (60.1) added and (88) and (88.5)(a) amended, (HB 25-1320), ch. 236, p. 1175, § 25, effective May 23; (1.5), (47.7), (60.2), and (88.7) added and (28.5) amended, (HB 25-1197), ch. 279, p. 1450, § 2, effective August 6; (45.3) added and (58)(a) amended, (HB 25-1281), ch. 176, p. 735, § 2, effective July 1, 2027. **L. 2026:** (20.5) added, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 473, § 30, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) Subsection (74)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (74), effective July 1, 2006. (See L. 2000, p. 1348.)

(2) Amendments to subsections (55) and (58) by Senate Bill 09-075 and House Bill 09-1026 were harmonized.

(3) Amendments to subsection (58) by HB 22-1043 and SB 22-179 were harmonized, effective January 1, 2023.

(4) Section 13(2) of chapter 176 (HB 25-1281), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to applications submitted or offenses committed on or after January 1, 2028.

**Cross references:** (1) For the legislative declaration contained in the 1998 act amending subsection (68.5), see section 1 of chapter 295, Session Laws of Colorado 1998. For the legislative declaration in the 2013 act adding subsection (47.5), see section 1 of chapter 380, Session Laws of Colorado 2013. For the legislative declaration in SB 17-213, see section 1 of chapter 277, Session Laws of Colorado 2017. For the legislative declaration in HB 25-1320, see section 1 of chapter 236, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

(2) Section 1 of chapter 412, Session Laws of Colorado 2008, provides that the act amending subsection (6) shall be known and may be cited as the "Charles Mather Highway Safety Act".

(3) For the short title ("Restoration of Honor Act") in SB 21-026, see section 1 of chapter 42, Session Laws of Colorado 2021.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Scope of the Right-of-Way Privilege", see 19 Dicta 122 (1942).

**This article is general, uniform in its operation, and not special** within the meaning of § 25 of art. V, Colo. Const. *Driverless Car Co. v. Armstrong*, 91 Colo. 334, 14 P. 2d 1098 (1932).

**Definition of "chauffeur" constitutional.** The statutory definition of "chauffeur" is not irrational. Moreover, it relates to a legitimate government purpose and, thus, must be upheld as constitutional.

*Bedell v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 655 P.2d 849 (Colo. App. 1982).

**"Automobile" is not limited to passenger cars.** Word "automobile" should be given its ordinary and generally accepted meaning, and not limited to passenger cars only. *Lombardi v. Bd. of Adjustment*, 675 P.2d 21 (Colo. App. 1983).

**"Crosswalk", as defined in this section, does not include a wheelchair ramp or curb cut.** *May v. Petersen*, 2020 COA 75, 465 P.3d 589.

**"Driver".** Person who was in the driver's seat of an automobile which had its motor

running and its parking lights on and which was located in a private parking lot was in actual physical control of the automobile and thus was driving a motor vehicle. *Motor Vehicle Div. v. Warman*, 763 P.2d 558 (Colo. 1988).

"Driver" includes a person seated behind a steering wheel with the seat belt fastened with the key in the ignition turned to "on", even though the car is not running. *Caple v. Dept. of Rev.*, 804 P.2d 873 (Colo. App. 1990).

Based on the definition of "driver" in subsection (27), the terms "drive" and "drove", for purposes of the DUI statute, include "actual physical control" of a vehicle. Thus, a person may be deemed to be driving a vehicle even if the vehicle is not actually moving. *People v. Swain*, 959 P.2d 426 (Colo. 1998).

**Car qualifies as "emergency vehicle".** *Clark v. Fellin*, 126 Colo. 519, 251 P.2d 940 (1952).

**A police car is an "emergency vehicle"** for purposes of the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act. *Fogg v. Macaluso*, 870 P.2d 525 (Colo. App. 1993), *aff'd in part, rev'd in part*, 892 P.2d 271 (Colo. 1995).

**The point at which a crossroad enters the main highway is an "intersection"** within the statutory definition of that term. *General Foods Sales Co. v. Smith*, 105 Colo. 305, 97 P.2d 429 (1939).

**The board of county commissioners falls within the statutory definition of "local authority".** *Asphalt Paving Co. v.*

*Bd. of County Comm'rs*, 162 Colo. 254, 425 P.2d 289 (1967).

**The definition of "motor vehicle" in § 24-10-106 and "mobile machinery" in this section are mutually exclusive.** *Henderson v. City & County of Denver*, 2012 COA 152, 300 P.3d 977.

The definitions of motor vehicle and mobile machinery each combine two factors, design and use. A motor vehicle is primarily designed to travel on public highways and is generally and commonly used to transport persons and property over those highways. Mobile machinery is not primarily designed to transport persons or cargo over the public highways and is commonly used in the maintenance of roadways. *Henderson v. City & County of Denver*, 2012 COA 152, 300 P.3d 977.

**The definitions of "motor vehicle" and "special mobile machinery" in this section are mutually exclusive.** *Roper v. Carneal*, 2015 COA 13, 411 P.3d 889.

**Definition of "motor vehicle" in this section does not include a street sweeper for purposes of the Colorado governmental immunity act.** For purposes of the act, a street sweeper fits under the definition of "special mobile machinery" as defined in this section. *Henderson v. City & County of Denver*, 2012 COA 152, 300 P.3d 977.

**Definition of "motor vehicle" in this section did not apply to road grader operating on highway and fell within the motor vehicle exception to the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act.** For

purposes of the Act, "motor vehicle" includes any "vehicle on wheels having its own motor and not running on rails or tracks, for use on streets or highways". *Bertrand v. Bd. of County Comm'rs*, 873 P.2d 223 (Colo. 1994).

**Definition of "motor vehicle" in this section includes a snowplow.** A snowplow meets both elements of the motor vehicle definition in that it is designed primarily for travel on the public highways and is used to transport persons or property over such highways. *Roper v. Carneal*, 2015 COA 13, 411 P.3d 889.

**A vehicle does not have to transport both "persons and property" to meet the definition of "motor vehicle" in this section.** Such an interpretation would exclude a vehicle that only transports people or that only transports property over the public highways, which would be absurd and unreasonable. A vehicle that transports either persons or property over the public highways may qualify as a "motor vehicle". *Roper v. Carneal*, 2015 COA 13, 411 P.3d 889.

**Use of "county" with "municipal" indicates intent for county to have police powers.** The fact that the term "county" was included in this section along with "municipal" units indicates that the general assembly intended such county governmental units, functioning through their boards of county commissioners, to have at least certain police powers. *Asphalt Paving Co. v. Bd. of County Comm'rs*, 162 Colo. 254, 425 P.2d 289 (1967).

**The provision relating to "other local board or body" can apply only to the numerous units of local government other than counties and municipalities, which overlap our state in profusion.** *Asphalt Paving Co. v. Bd. of County Comm'rs*, 162 Colo. 254, 425 P.2d 289 (1967).

**Presumption in § 42-2-126 (8)(e)(II) does not apply to determination of whether a person is a "persistent drunk driver".** Presumption that favors the accuracy of a blood alcohol content analysis done on behalf of a law enforcement agency when a driver submits conflicting test results applies only to revocation determinations. *Garcia v. Huber*, 252 P.3d 486 (Colo. App. 2010).

**Definition of "police officer" is not limited to state, county, or municipal personnel.** Air Force security police are law enforcement officers who can request testing pursuant to the express consent law under § 42-4-1301 (6). *Eggleston v. Dept. of Rev. Motor Veh. Div.*, 895 P.2d 1169 (Colo. App. 1995).

**A "public highway" is defined as (a) the entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel; or (b) the entire width of every way declared to be a public highway by any law of this state.** *Curtis v. Lawley*, 140 Colo. 476, 346 P.2d 579 (1959).

**A "private roadway" is defined as every road or driveway not open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.**

Curtis v. Lawley, 140 Colo. 476, 346 P.2d 579 (1959).

**When a highway is closed to the use of the public, its status is within the definition of a private road or driveway.** Curtis v. Lawley, 140 Colo. 476, 346 P.2d 579 (1959).

**For example, under this section, a highway under construction and not open to the public use is a private roadway.** Curtis v. Lawley, 140 Colo. 476, 346 P.2d 579 (1959).

**Applied** in Lorenzini v. Rucker, 95 Colo. 246, 35 P.2d 865 (1936); Ferguson v. Hurford, 132 Colo. 507, 290 P.2d 229 (1955); Britto v. People, 178 Colo. 216, 497 P.2d 325 (1972); State, Motor Vehicle Div. v. Dayhoff, 199 Colo. 363, 609 P.2d 119 (1980); Fuqua Homes, Inc. v. Western Sur. Co., 44 Colo. App. 257, 616 P.2d 163 (1980); Smith v. Charnes, 649 P.2d 1089 (Colo. 1982); Lombardi v. Bd. of Adjustment, 675 P.2d 21 (Colo. App. 1983).

## PART 2

### ADMINISTRATION

#### **42-1-201. Administration - supervisor.**

The executive director of the department is empowered to administer and enforce the provisions of articles 1 to 4 of this title. There shall be at least one supervisor who shall be employed under section 13 of article XII of the state constitution.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2106, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1639, § 22, effective June 1.

### ANNOTATION

**These provisions vest authority in the executive director** to hold hearings, make findings and determinations, and upon a proper showing revoke the driving

privileges of a person found to have violated § 42-4-1202. Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. District Court ex rel. County of Adams, 172 Colo. 144, 470 P.2d 864 (1970).

#### **42-1-202. Have charge of all divisions.**

The supervisor shall have charge of all divisions as provided in articles 1 to 4 of this title to carry out the purposes of said articles.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2106, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**42-1-203. Executive director to cooperate with others - local compliance required.**

(1) The executive director of the department shall coordinate motor vehicle enforcement throughout the state by cooperating with other officials connected with traffic enforcement, as may appear to the executive director as advantageous. The executive director shall bring to the attention of proper officials information and statistics in connection with enforcement and shall urge the desirability and necessity of uniformity. It is the executive director's duty to cooperate and confer with officials of other states charged with like duties, and the executive director is authorized to attend conferences called among said officials, and the executive director's necessary traveling expenses in attending said meetings shall be paid as are other traveling expenses of said department.

(2) In the coordination of motor vehicle law enforcement reporting throughout the state, the executive director, upon the failure of any local jurisdiction to take the necessary steps to achieve uniformity, may order such local jurisdiction to come into conformity with state coordination plans, including all information and statistics relating thereto.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2106, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**42-1-204. Uniform rules and regulations.**

The executive director of the department has the power to make uniform rules and regulations not inconsistent with articles 1 to 4 of this title and to enforce the same.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2107, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Cross references:** For rule-making procedures, see article 4 of title 24.

**ANNOTATION**

|                                                                                 |                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Rules and regulations must be consistent with statutes authorizing such.</b> | Agency rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the statutes under which |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

they are promulgated are invalid. *A & A Auto Wrecking, Inc. v. Dept. of Rev.*, 43 Colo. App. 85, 602 P.2d 10 (1979).

**Applied** in *Dept. of Rev. v. A & A Auto Wrecking, Inc.*, 43 Colo. 85, 625 P.2d 1021 (1981); *Martinez v. Indus. Comm'n*, 632 P.2d 1044 (Colo. App. 1981).

#### **42-1-205. Record of official acts - seal.**

The executive director of the department shall keep a record of all the executive director's official acts and shall preserve a copy of all decisions, rules, and orders made by the executive director, and the executive director shall adopt an official seal for the department. Copies of any act, rule, order, or decision made by the executive director or of any paper or papers filed in the executive director's office may be authenticated by the executive director or the executive director's deputy under said seal at a cost not exceeding one dollar for each authentication and when so authenticated shall be evidence equally with and in like manner as the originals and may be received by the courts of this state as evidence of the contents.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2107, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Cross references:** For use of a rubber stamp that produces a facsimile of the seal, see § 42-2-121 (3).

#### **42-1-206. Records open to inspection - furnishing of copies - rules.**

(1) (a) Except as provided in part 2 of article 72 of title 24, C.R.S., and subsection (6) of this section, all records made public records by any provision of this title and kept in the office of the department shall be open to inspection by the public during business hours under such reasonable rules relating thereto as the executive director of the department may prescribe.

(b) (I) For purposes of subsections (1) to (3) and (5) of this section, "law" means the federal "Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994", 18 U.S.C. sec. 2721 et seq., the federal "Fair Credit Reporting Act", 15 U.S.C. sec. 1681 et seq., part 2 of article 72 of title 24, part 21 of article 30 of title 24, article 74 of title 24, and this section. The department shall prepare a requester release form and make the form available to the department's authorized agents. The form must include the following:

(A) A statement indicating whether the requester will use the motor vehicle or driver records or transfer or resell such records to another person for any purpose prohibited by law;



(B) A warning that any person using motor vehicle or driver records, or obtaining, reselling, or transferring these records, for purposes prohibited by law may be subject to civil or criminal penalties under federal and state law; and

(C) An affidavit of intended use that states that such requester shall not obtain, use, resell, or transfer the information for any purpose prohibited by law.

(II) The department or an authorized agent shall require any person, other than a person in interest as defined in section 24-72-202 (4), C.R.S., or a federal, state, or local government agency carrying out its official functions, requesting inspection of a motor vehicle or driver record from the department or agent individually or in bulk, to sign a requester release form and, under penalty of perjury, an affidavit of intended use prior to providing the record to such person. The department or authorized agent may allow inspection of motor vehicle and driver records only as authorized under section 24-72-204 (7), C.R.S.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, upon written application and the payment of a fee per copy, or a record search for each copy requested, the department shall furnish to any person a photostatic copy of any specified record or crash report specifically made a public record by this title and shall, if requested, certify the same. The department shall set the fee in accordance with section 42-2-114.5. The department shall transfer the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(b) An authorized agent of the department shall not provide the service of furnishing copies of certain records to members of the public if copies of such records are available to the public directly from the department.

(3) Repealed. / (Deleted by amendment, L. 99, p. 345, § 3, effective April 16, 1999.)

(3.5) (a) The department shall not sell, permit the sale of, or otherwise release to anyone other than the person in interest any photograph, electronically stored photograph, digitized image, fingerprint, or social security number filed with, maintained by, or prepared by the department of revenue pursuant to section 42-2-121 (2)(c)(I)(F) or (2)(c)(I)(H).

(b) Nothing in this subsection (3.5) shall prevent the department from sharing any information with a criminal justice agency as defined in section 24-72-302 (3); except that this subsection (3.5) does not apply to a request made for the purpose of investigating for, participating in, or assisting in federal immigration enforcement, including enforcement of civil immigration laws, 8 U.S.C. sec. 1325 and 8 U.S.C. sec. 1326, except as required by federal law or state law or as required to comply with a court-issued subpoena, warrant, or order.

(c) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2000, p. 1340, § 2, effective May 30, 2000.)

(d) The department of revenue shall make every effort to retrieve all copies of photographs, electronically stored photographs, or digitized images that may have been sold by the department under subsection (3), as said subsection existed prior to its repeal in 1999, of this section.

(e) Notwithstanding subsection (3.5)(a) of this section or part 3 of article 72 of title 24, the department may transmit the driver or cardholder image from its driver's license and identification card records to the driver licensing agency of any other state for the purposes of identifying driver's license applicants and violators. The department may promulgate rules to implement this provision.

(3.7) (a) The department shall establish a system to allow bulk electronic transfer of information to primary users and vendors who are permitted to receive such information pursuant to section 24-72-204 (7), C.R.S. Bulk transfers to vendors shall be limited strictly to vendors who transfer or resell such information for purposes permitted by law. Such information shall consist of the information contained in a driver's license application under section 42-2-107, a driver's license renewal application under section 42-2-118, a duplicate driver's license application under section 42-2-117, a commercial driver's license application under section 42-2-403, an identification card application under section 42-2-302, a motor vehicle title application under section 42-6-116, a motor vehicle registration application under section 42-3-113, or other official record or document maintained by the department under section 42-2-121.

(b) The department shall promulgate rules governing annual contracts with primary users and vendors for the purpose of establishing bulk electronic transfer of information to primary users and vendors pursuant to an annual affidavit and release form and shall require that the contracts include, at a minimum:

(I) A provision for a reasonable fee that encompasses all direct costs of the department related to the bulk electronic transfer of information to that primary user or vendor;

(II) A provision that prohibits any use not otherwise authorized by law;

(III) A provision that requires the primary user or vendor to specify the designated use and recipients of the information; and

(IV) A provision that prohibits any resale or transfer of the information other than as specified in the contract or in a manner that is prohibited by law.

(c) Repealed.

(d) The department shall provide bulk electronic transfer in accordance with the limitations and restrictions regarding release of information in this section as well as section 24-72-204, C.R.S. The department shall not release photographs, electronically stored photographs, digitized images, or fingerprints filed with, maintained by, or prepared by the department through bulk electronic transfer.

(e) The department shall forward all fees collected pursuant to contracts entered into with primary users or vendors pursuant to this subsection (3.7) to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund. The general assembly shall make annual appropriations from the general fund for the costs associated with the administration of this subsection (3.7).

(f) The executive director of the department shall promulgate rules as are consistent with current law and necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection (3.7).

(4) Notwithstanding the amount specified for any fee in this section, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may reduce the amount of one or more of the fees if necessary pursuant to section 24-75-402 (3), C.R.S., to reduce the uncommitted reserves of the fund to which all or any portion of one or more of the fees is credited. After the uncommitted reserves of the fund are sufficiently reduced, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may increase the amount of one or more of the fees as provided in section 24-75-402 (4), C.R.S.

(5) A person who willfully and knowingly obtains, resells, transfers, or uses information in violation of law:

(a) Is liable to any injured party for treble damages, reasonable attorney fees, and costs;

(b) Is subject to being denied access to the records by the department. The department may temporarily or permanently deny access to or place restrictions on the access of a person who violates this subsection (5).

(6) The record of conviction and actions taken by the department for violating section 18-13-122 or 44-3-901 (1)(d), held by the department of revenue, shall not be a public record after the period of revocation imposed under such sections has been concluded; except that this subsection (6) shall not prevent the department from sharing such information with a criminal justice agency as defined in section 24-72-302 (3).

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2107, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (3) added, p. 1178, § 2, effective July 1; entire section amended, p. 1051, § 3, effective September 1. **L. 98:** (4) added, p. 1351, § 92, effective June 1. **L. 99:** (3) amended and (3.5) added, p. 345, § 3, effective April 16; (3) repealed and (3.7) added, pp. 1241, 1239, §§ 4, 2, effective August 4. **L. 2000:** (1)(b)(I)(A), (2)(a), (3.5)(c), and (3.7)(a) amended, p. 1340, § 2, effective May 30. **L. 2001:** (1)(b), (3.7)(a), IP(3.7)(b), (3.7)(b)(I), and (3.7)(b)(IV) amended and (5) added, p. 587, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2003:** (2)(a) amended, p. 1978, § 2, effective May 22. **L. 2005:** (1)(a) and (2)(a) amended and (6) added, p. 673, § 1, effective June 1; (3.5)(d) amended, p. 782, § 75, effective June 1; (3.7)(a) amended, p. 1171, § 3, effective August 8. **L. 2014:** (2)(a) amended, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1541, § 2, effective June 5. **L. 2017:** (3.5)(e) added, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 359, § 2, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** (6) amended, (HB 18-

1025), ch. 152, p. 1082, § 22, effective October 1; IP(1)(b)(I), (1)(b)(I)(B), and (5) amended, (HB 18-1299), ch. 297, p. 1808, § 2, effective July 1, 2019. **L. 2021:** IP(1)(b)(I) and (3.5)(b) amended, (SB 21-131), ch. 353, p. 2299, § 3, effective June 25. **L. 2022:** (2)(a) amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 910, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2026:** (2)(a) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 473, § 31, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (3.7)(c)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (3.7)(c), effective July 1, 2000. (See L. 99, p. 1239.)

**Cross references:** (1) For public records and the inspection, copying, or photographing thereof, see part 2 of article 72 of title 24.

(2) For the legislative declaration contained in the 1997 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 201, Session Laws of Colorado 1997.

#### **42-1-207. No supplies for private purposes - penalty.**

An officer or employee shall not, at any time, use for private or pleasure purposes any of the equipment or supplies furnished for the discharge of such officer or employee's duties. The use of equipment for private or personal use is a civil infraction punishable by both fine and dismissal.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2107, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3299, § 705, effective March 1, 2022.

#### **42-1-208. Information on crashes - published.**

The department shall receive crash reports required to be made by law and shall tabulate and analyze such reports and publish annually, or at more frequent intervals, statistical information based thereon as to the number, cause, and location of highway crashes. The statistical information must be issued in accordance with the provisions of section 24-1-136.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2108, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2007:** Entire section amended, p. 30, § 2, effective August 3. **L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 473, § 32, effective August 12.

**42-1-209. Copies of law published. (Repealed)**

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2108, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2007:** Entire section repealed, p. 30, § 3, effective August 3.

**42-1-210. Authorized agents - legislative declaration - fee.**

(1) (a) (I) Authorized agents are hereby designated as the authorized agents of the department, under direction of the executive director of the department, for the administration of articles 1, 3, 4, 6, and 12 of this title and rules adopted under those articles relating to the performance of their duties; for the enforcement of section 42-6-139 relating to the registering and titling of motor vehicles; and for the enforcement of section 38-29-120 relating to the titling of manufactured homes.

(II) [*Editor's note: This version of subsection (1)(a)(II) is effective until July 1, 2027.*] An authorized agent may appoint and employ such motor vehicle registration and license clerks as are actually necessary in the issuance of motor vehicle licenses and may retain for the purpose of defraying these expenses, including mailing, a sum equal to four dollars per paid motor vehicle registration and registration requiring a license plate or plates; individual temporary registration number plates; or a validation tab, sticker, decal, or certificate as provided in sections 42-3-201 and 42-3-203. This fee of four dollars applies to every registration of a motor vehicle except motor vehicles that are specifically exempted from payment of any registration fee by article 3 of this title 42, and is required in addition to the annual registration fee prescribed by law for a motor vehicle. When the department collects the fee, the department shall transfer the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211; except that, if the fee is collected by a third-party provider, the department shall transmit the fee to the authorized agent where the vehicle or special mobile machinery is registered. Authorized agents serve under this part 2 without additional remuneration or fees, except as otherwise provided in articles 1 to 6 of this title 42.

(II) [*Editor's note: This version of subsection (1)(a)(II) is effective July 1, 2027.*]

(A) An authorized agent may appoint and employ such motor vehicle registration and license clerks as are actually necessary in the issuance of motor vehicle licenses and may retain for the purpose of defraying these expenses, including mailing, a sum equal to four dollars per paid motor vehicle registration and registration requiring a license plate or plates; individual temporary registration number plates; or a validation tab, sticker, decal, or certificate as provided in sections 42-3-201 and 42-3-203. This fee of four dollars applies to every registration of a

motor vehicle except motor vehicles that are specifically exempted from payment of any registration fee by article 3 of this title 42, and the fee is required in addition to the annual registration fee prescribed by law for a motor vehicle. The state treasurer shall credit the fee to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211; except that, if the fee is collected by a third-party provider, the department shall transmit the fee to the authorized agent where the vehicle or special mobile machinery is registered. Authorized agents serve under this part 2 without additional remuneration or fees, except as otherwise provided in articles 1 to 6 of this title 42.

(B) The department shall annually adjust for inflation the fee imposed in subsection (1)(a)(II)(A) of this section; except that the department shall not raise the fee by more than five percent per year or lower the fee. Inflation is measured by the annual percentage increase in the United States department of labor's bureau of labor statistics consumer price index, or a successor index, for Denver-Aurora-Lakewood for all items paid for by urban consumers. The department may round the fee to the nearest dollar.

(b) The fee established by subsection (1)(a) of this section does not apply to a shipping and handling fee for the mailing of a license plate, individual temporary registration number plate, and certificate, decal, or validation tab or sticker pursuant to section 42-3-105 (1)(a).

(2) The general assembly hereby finds that, since it is the government that requires citizens to register, license, and undertake other actions concerning their motor vehicles, it is thus the duty of government to provide convenient and easily accessible motor vehicle services to the public.

(3) (a) An authorized agent is responsible for the preservation of title and registration paperwork processed in the agent's office until each document has been converted to a digital image and verified by the department.

(b) The department is responsible for the preservation of title and registration paperwork digitally stored in Colorado DRIVES.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2108, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** Entire section amended, p. 1053, § 5, effective September 1. **L. 98:** (1) amended, p. 136, § 1, effective March 30; (1) amended, p. 1019, § 2, effective May 27. **L. 2000:** (1)(b) amended, p. 824, § 1, effective May 24. **L. 2001:** (1)(a) amended, p. 269, § 18, effective November 15. **L. 2003:** (1)(a) amended, p. 562, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (1)(a) and (1)(b) amended, p. 1171, § 4, effective August 8. **L. 2007:** (1)(a) amended, p. 976, § 1, effective September 1. **L. 2017:** (1) amended and (3) added, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 359, § 3, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** (1)(a)(II) amended, (HB 18-1299), ch. 297, p. 1809, § 3, effective July 1, 2019. **L. 2025:** (1)(a)(II) amended, (HB 25-1189), ch. 395, p. 2226, § 1, effective July 1, 2027.

**Editor's note:** (1) Amendments to subsection (1) by House Bill 98-1064 and House Bill 98-1070 were harmonized.

(2) Section 7(2) of chapter 395 (HB 25-1189), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to titles issued and fees incurred on or after July 1, 2027.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 1997 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 201, Session Laws of Colorado 1997.

#### ANNOTATION

**One purpose of this section** and §§ 42-1-211, 42-3-104, 42-3-105, and 42-3-107 to 42-3-110 is to add security to motor vehicle titles. *Bd. of Comm'rs v. Morris*, 104 Colo. 139, 89 P.2d 248 (1939).

**Authority of clerk is not a personal right or privilege.** The authority to make registrations, give examinations, collect

specific ownership taxes, and receive the statutory fees provided therefor, is conferred upon the county clerk and recorder, not in his individual capacity but by virtue of his office. The authority follows the office, and is by no means a personal right or privilege of the incumbent. *Flanders v. Kochenberger*, 118 Colo. 104, 193 P.2d 281 (1948).

**42-1-211. Driver's license, record, identification, and vehicle enterprise solution - DRIVES vehicle services account - Colorado DRIVES county governance committee - definition.**

(1) The department is hereby authorized to coordinate the management of a statewide system, referred to as Colorado DRIVES. The department shall provide the necessary hardware, software, and support and training to aid the authorized agents in the performance of their duties.

(1.5) and (1.7) Repealed.

(1.9) (a) In accordance with section 24-21-521 (2), the department of revenue and the department of state shall allow for the exchange of information on legal names and signatures between the systems used by the department of revenue and the notary public filing system maintained by the department of state for the purpose of electronic filing of notary applications and renewals.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (1.9), "systems used by the department of revenue" means Colorado DRIVES.

(2) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (2) is effective until July 1, 2027.]***

(a) The Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account is created in the highway users tax fund for the purpose of providing funds for the development and operation of Colorado DRIVES, including operations performed under articles 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 12 of this title 42, to cover the costs of administration and enforcement of the motorist insurance identification database program created in section 42-7-604, and to purchase and issue license plates, decals, and validating tabs in accordance with article 3 of this title 42. The state treasurer shall credit money received from the fees imposed by sections 38-29-138 (1), (2), (4), and (5), 42-1-206 (2)(a), 42-1-210 (1)(a)(II), 42-1-231, 42-1-233 (3)(b), 42-2-107 (1)(a)(I), 42-2-114 (2)(b), (2)(c)(I), (2)(c)(II), (2)(e), and (4)(a), 42-2-114.5 (1), 42-2-117 (1), 42-2-118 (1)(b)(I)(C) and (1.5)(b), 42-2-133 (2), 42-2-306 (2), 42-2-406 (1), (2), (3)(d), and (6), 42-2-508 (1), 42-3-107 (22), 42-3-211 (7), 42-3-213 (1)(b)(IV), 42-3-304 (18)(d)(I)(B), 42-3-306 (14), 42-3-312, 42-3-313 (2)(c)(I), 42-6-110 (1.7)(c), 42-6-137 (1), (2), (4), (5), and (6), and 42-6-138 (1)(a), (2), and (4) and any money received through gifts, grants, and donations to the account from private or public sources for the purposes of this section to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account. The general assembly shall appropriate annually the money in the account for the purposes of this subsection (2). If any unexpended and unencumbered money remains in the account at the end of a fiscal year, the balance remains in the account and is not transferred to the general fund or any other fund.

(b) (I) For state fiscal years commencing on or before July 1, 2024, and on or after July 1, 2026, the state treasurer shall credit all interest and income derived from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account.

(II) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(a) of this section, for the state fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2025, in accordance with section 24-36-114 (1), the state treasurer shall credit all interest and income derived from the deposit and investment of money in the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account to the general fund.

(III) Repealed.

(2) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (2) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of subsection (2) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]***

(a) The Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account is created in the highway users tax fund for the purpose of providing funds for the development and operation of Colorado DRIVES, including operations performed under articles 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 12 of this title 42, to cover the costs of administration and enforcement of the motorist insurance identification database program created in section 42-7-604, and to purchase and issue license plates, decals, and validating tabs in accordance with article 3 of this title 42. The state treasurer shall credit money received from the fees imposed by sections 38-29-138 (1), (2), (4), and (5), 42-1-206 (2)(a), 42-



1-210 (1)(a)(II), 42-1-231, 42-1-233 (3)(b), 42-2-107 (1)(a)(I), 42-2-114 (2)(b), (2)(c)(I), (2)(c)(II), (2)(e), and (4)(a), 42-2-114.5 (1), 42-2-117 (1), 42-2-118 (1)(b)(I)(C) and (1.5)(b), 42-2-133 (2), 42-2-306 (2), 42-2-406 (1), (2), (3)(d), and (6), 42-2-508 (1), 42-3-107 (22), 42-3-112 (2), 42-3-211 (7), 42-3-213 (1)(b)(IV), 42-3-304 (18)(d)(I)(B), 42-3-306 (14), 42-3-312, 42-3-313 (2)(c)(I), 42-3-315, 42-6-110 (1.7)(c), 42-6-137 (1), (2), (4), (5), and (6), and 42-6-138 (1)(a), (2), and (4) and any money received through gifts, grants, and donations to the account from private or public sources for the purposes of this section to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account. The general assembly shall appropriate annually the money in the account for the purposes of this subsection (2). If any unexpended and unencumbered money remains in the account at the end of a fiscal year, the balance remains in the account and is not transferred to the general fund or any other fund.

(b) (I) For state fiscal years commencing on or before July 1, 2024, and on or after July 1, 2026, the state treasurer shall credit all interest and income derived from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account.

(II) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(a) of this section, for the state fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2025, in accordance with section 24-36-114 (1), the state treasurer shall credit all interest and income derived from the deposit and investment of money in the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account to the general fund.

(III) Repealed.

(3) Repealed.

(4) (a) There is hereby created the Colorado DRIVES county governance committee. The committee consists of the following nine members:

(I) Six authorized agents appointed by the executive director of the department of revenue based on recommendations of an association representing authorized agents, which agents have the following qualifications:

(A) Two authorized agents from a category I or category II county as established in section 30-2-102 (1)(a) and (1)(b);

(B) Two authorized agents from a category III or category IV county as established in section 30-2-102 (1)(c) and (1)(d);

(C) Two authorized agents from a category V or category VI county as established in section 30-2-102 (1)(e) and (1)(f);

(II) Two employees of the department of revenue, appointed by the executive director of the department of revenue; and

(III) One employee of the governor's office of information technology who is familiar with the division of motor vehicle systems and process and who is appointed by the executive director of the governor's office of information and technology.

(b) Notwithstanding subsections (4)(a)(I)(A) to (4)(a)(I)(C) of this section, the executive director of the department of revenue may appoint, at the discretion of the executive director, an authorized agent to represent a category of county that the authorized agent is not from if an authorized agent from that category of county is not recommended or available for appointment or for other reasons as determined by the executive director.

(c) An act of the committee is void unless a majority of the appointed members has voted in favor of the act.

(d) The committee has the following powers and duties:

(I) To approve the annual operation budget proposal for the appropriations for the following categories of Colorado DRIVES:

(A) Personal services;

(B) Operating expenses;

(C) County office asset maintenance; and

(D) County office improvements;

(II) To fix the time when and place where meetings are held; and

(III) To establish subcommittees and working groups to report to the committee.

(5) and (6) Repealed.

(7) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2001, p. 815, § 3, effective July 1, 2001.)

(8) Repealed.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2108, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** IP(1) and (4)(a) amended, p. 182, § 1, effective April 8. **L. 2001:** (1)(b) amended, p. 516, § 3, effective May 18; (8) added, p. 521, § 2, effective May 22; IP(1), (2), IP(4)(a), (4)(a)(I), (4)(a)(II), (5), and (7) amended, p. 815, § 3, effective July 1; (1)(b) and IP(4)(a) amended, p. 270, § 19, effective November 15; (4)(b) repealed, p. 516, § 4, effective January 1, 2002. **L. 2002:** (1.5) added, p. 1642, § 38, effective June 7. **L. 2003:** (1.5)(a) amended and (1.5)(c) added, p. 2080, § 17, effective May 22; (2) amended, p. 1979, § 6, effective May 22; IP(4)(a) amended, p. 563, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (1.5)(c) amended, p. 18, § 3, effective July 1; (2) amended, p. 1172, § 5, effective August 8. **L. 2009:** (1.5)(a) amended, (HB 09-1160), ch. 263, p. 1208, § 3,

effective May 15. **L. 2010:** (2) amended, (SB 10-055), ch. 152, p. 526, § 1, effective April 21; (1.7) added, (HB 10-1045), ch. 317, p. 1478, § 2, effective July 1, 2011. **L. 2012:** (1.9) added, (HB 12-1274), ch. 214, p. 924, § 11, effective August 8. **L. 2014:** (2) amended, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1542, § 3, effective June 5. **L. 2017:** (2) amended, (SB 17-176), ch. 12, p. 36, § 1, effective March 1; (1), (1.9)(b), and (2) amended and (1.5), (1.7), and (3) repealed, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 360, § 4, effective August 9; (1.9)(a) amended, (SB 17-132), ch. 207, p. 808, § 6, effective July 1, 2018 (see editor's note); (4)(a) amended, (4)(b) RC&RE, and (4)(c) and (4)(d) added, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 363, § 5, effective July 1, 2018; (5)(b) and (6)(b) added by revision, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, pp. 363, 377, §§ 5, 36. **L. 2018:** (2)(a) and (2)(b)(II) amended, (SB 18-253), ch. 293, p. 1798, § 1, effective May 29. **L. 2022:** (2) amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 908, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2025:** (2) amended, (SB 25-317), ch. 385, p. 2166, § 51, effective June 3; (2) amended, (HB 25-1121), ch. 392, p. 2215, § 4, effective July 1, 2027. **L. 2026:** (2)(a) amended, (HB 26-1102), ch. 266, p. 1479, § 1, effective June 3; (2)(a) amended, (HB 26-1102), ch. 266, p. 1480, § 2, effective July 1, 2027.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-1-210.1 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-1-211 was relocated to § 42-1-213.

(2) Amendments to subsection (1)(b) by House Bill 01-1307 and Senate Bill 01-102 were harmonized. Amendments to the introductory portion to subsection (4)(a) by Senate Bill 01-102 and House Bill 01-1100 were harmonized.

(3) Subsection (8)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (8), effective July 1, 2002. (See L. 2001, p. 521.)

(4) The effective date for changes to subsection (1.9)(a) by Senate Bill 17-132 was changed from August 9, 2017, to July 1, 2018, by section 121 of Senate Bill 17-294. (See L. 2017, p. 1418.)

(5) Amendments to this section by SB 17-176 and HB 17-1107 were harmonized.

(6) Subsections (5)(b) and (6)(b) provided for the repeal of subsections (5) and (6), respectively, effective July 30, 2018. (See L. 2017, pp. 363, 377.)

(7) Subsections (2)(a)(II) and (2)(b)(II)(B) provided for the repeal of subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b)(II), respectively, effective July 1, 2020. (See L. 2018, p. 1798.)

(8) Amendments to subsection (2) by SB 25-317 and HB 25-1121 were harmonized, effective July 1, 2027.

(9) Section 5(2) of chapter 392 (HB 25-1121), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to registrations made on or after January 1, 2028.

(10) Subsection (2)(b)(III)(B) provided for the repeal of subsection (2)(b)(III), effective July 1, 2026. (See L. 2025, p. 2166.)

(11) Section 5 of chapter 266 (HB 26-1102), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section takes effect only if section 21 of HB 26-1289 becomes law, in which case section 1 of HB 26-1102 takes effect upon the passage of HB 26-1102 or on the effective date of HB 26-1289, whichever is later, and section 2 of HB 26-1102 takes effect July 1, 2027. Section 21 of HB 26-1289 became law and took effect June 3, 2026. HB 26-1102 became law June 1, 2026, and section 1 of HB 26-1102 took effect June 3, 2026, and section 2 of HB 26-1102 took effect July 1, 2027.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 25-317, see section 1 of chapter 385, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

#### **42-1-212. Consolidated data processing system - voter registration. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2110, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2001:** (1) and (2)(a) amended, p. 816, § 4, effective July 1; entire section repealed, p. 516, § 5, effective January 1, 2002.

#### **42-1-213. Commission of authorized agents.**

Authorized agents may retain fifty cents out of the money collected by them on each transaction in which specific ownership tax is collected, which fifty cents is the only remuneration an authorized agent is allowed to retain for collecting specific ownership taxes and issuing receipts. In counties of the fifth class, the authorized agent shall use the retained funds to defray the necessary expenses in connection with the collection and administration of specific ownership taxes as directed by articles 1 to 4 of this title 42. Authorized agents in all other counties above the fifth class shall deposit in the general fund of said city and county, or of said county, all such sums so retained under this section.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2111, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2003:** Entire section amended, p. 563, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** Entire section amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 364, § 6, effective August 9.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-1-211 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-1-213 was relocated to § 42-1-215.

#### **42-1-214. Duties of authorized agents.**

(1) Every authorized agent, on or before the fifteenth day of each calendar month, shall transmit to the department all fees and money collected by the agent under articles 1 to 4 (except part 3 of article 2) of this title 42 during the preceding calendar month, except such sums as are specifically authorized to be retained by the authorized agent.

(2) The authorized agents shall deposit all money received in the administration of any motor vehicle license law with the county treasurers of their respective counties and take a receipt. The authorized agent shall deposit the money in a separate fund administered by the county treasurers, and the authorized agents are not liable for the safekeeping of the funds after depositing them. The county treasurers shall accept all money tendered to them by the authorized agents for deposit as provided in this section.

(3) On or before the fifteenth day of each calendar month, the county treasurer shall send the money collected for the department by the authorized agent to the department by:

(a) An electronic funds transfer covering the funds that have been deposited with the county treasurer during the previous month; or

(b) A warrant drawn on the county treasurer of their county, payable to the department on demand, covering the amount of the funds that may have been deposited with the county treasurer during the previous month, and the county treasurer shall pay the warrant on demand and presentation.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2111, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2017:** Entire section amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 365, § 7, effective August 9.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-1-212 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-1-214 was relocated to § 42-1-216.

#### **ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-1-214 is similar to § 42-1-212 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by

SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Authority of clerk is not a personal right or privilege.** The authority to make registrations, give examinations, collect specific ownership taxes, and receive the statutory fees provided therefor, is conferred upon the county clerk and recorder, not in

his individual capacity but by virtue of his office. The authority follows the office, and is by no means a personal right or privilege of the incumbent. *Flanders v. Kochenberger*, 118 Colo. 104, 193 P.2d 281 (1948).

#### **42-1-215. Oaths.**

The executive director of the department, the deputy director of the department, the supervisor, and the authorized agents of the department are empowered to administer oaths or affirmations as provided in articles 1 to 4 of this title.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2112, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-1-213 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-1-215 was relocated to § 42-1-217.

#### **42-1-216. Destruction of obsolete records.**

The department is empowered to destroy or otherwise dispose of all obsolete motor and other vehicle records, number plates, and badges after the same have been in its possession for twelve calendar months; but all records of crashes must be preserved by the department for a period of six years.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2112, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 474, § 33, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-1-214 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-1-217. Disposition of fines and surcharges.**

(1) All judges, clerks of a court of record, or other officers imposing or receiving fines, penalties, or forfeitures, except those moneys received pursuant to sections 42-4-313 (3), 42-4-

413, 42-4-1409, 42-4-1701 (5)(a), 42-8-105, and 42-8-106, collected pursuant to or as a result of a conviction of any persons for a violation of articles 1 to 4 (except part 3 of article 2) of this title, shall transmit, within ten days after the date of receipt of any such fine, penalty, or forfeiture, all such moneys so collected in the following manner:

(a) The aggregate amount of such fines, penalties, or forfeitures, except for a violation of section 42-4-1301 or 42-4-237, shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, credited to the highway users tax fund, and allocated and expended as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(a), C.R.S.

(b) Fifty percent of any fine, penalty, or forfeiture for a violation of section 42-4-1301 occurring within the corporate limits of a city or town shall be transmitted to the treasurer or chief financial officer of said city or town, and the remaining fifty percent shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, credited to the highway users tax fund, and allocated and expended as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(a), C.R.S.; except that twenty-five percent of any fine, penalty, or forfeiture for a violation of section 42-4-1301 occurring on a state or federal highway shall be transmitted to the treasurer or chief financial officer of said city or town, and the remaining seventy-five percent shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, credited to the highway users tax fund, and allocated and expended as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(a), C.R.S.

(c) Any other provision of law notwithstanding, all moneys collected pursuant to section 42-4-1301.3 shall be transmitted to the state treasurer to be credited to the account of the alcohol and drug driving safety program fund.

(d) Fifty percent of any fine, penalty, or forfeiture for a violation of section 42-4-1301 occurring outside the corporate limits of a city or town shall be transmitted to the treasurer of the county in which the city or town is located, and the remaining fifty percent shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, credited to the highway users tax fund, and allocated and expended as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(a), C.R.S.; except that twenty-five percent of any fine, penalty, or forfeiture for a violation of section 42-4-1301 occurring on a state or federal highway shall be transmitted to the treasurer of the county in which the city or town is located, and the remaining seventy-five percent shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, credited to the highway users tax fund, and allocated and expended as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(a), C.R.S.

(e) Any fine, penalty, or forfeiture collected for a violation of section 42-4-237 shall be transmitted to the treasurer of the local jurisdiction in which the violation occurred; except that:

(I) If the citing officer was an officer of the Colorado state patrol, the fine, penalty, or forfeiture shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, credited to the highway users tax fund, and allocated and expended as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(a), C.R.S.; or

(II) If the violation occurred on a state or federal highway, fifty percent of the fine, penalty, or forfeiture shall be transmitted to the treasurer of the local jurisdiction in which the violation occurred and the remaining fifty percent shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, credited to the

highway users tax fund, and allocated and expended as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(a), C.R.S.

(2) Except for the first fifty cents of any penalty for a traffic infraction, which shall be retained by the department and used for administrative purposes, moneys collected by the department pursuant to section 42-4-1701 (5)(a) shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(a), C.R.S.; except that moneys collected pursuant to section 42-4-1701 (5)(a) for a violation of section 42-4-237 shall be allocated pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Failure, refusal, or neglect on the part of any judicial or other officer or employee to comply with the provisions of this section shall constitute misconduct in office and shall be grounds for removal therefrom.

(4) (a) All moneys collected by the department as surcharges on penalty assessments issued for violations of a class A or a class B traffic infraction or a class 1 or a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense, pursuant to section 42-4-1701, shall be transmitted to the court administrator of the judicial district in which the offense or infraction was committed and credited fifty percent to the victims and witnesses assistance and law enforcement fund established in that judicial district and fifty percent to the crime victim compensation fund established in that judicial district.

(b) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2112, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** IP(1) amended, p. 385, § 1, effective April 17. **L. 2002:** (1)(c) amended, p. 1921, § 15, effective July 1. **L. 2003:** (4) amended, p. 1550, § 9, effective May 1; (1)(c) amended, p. 2003, § 71, effective May 22. **L. 2004:** IP(1) amended, p. 792, § 1, effective January 1, 2005. **L. 2005:** (1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(d), (1)(e), and (2) amended, p. 141, § 6, effective April 5. **L. 2007:** (4) amended, p. 1114, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** IP(1), (1)(b), (1)(d), (1)(e), and (2) amended, p. 2085, § 2, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-1-215 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-1-217 was relocated to § 42-1-218.

(2) Subsection (4)(b)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (4)(b), effective July 1, 2008. (See L. 2007, p. 1114.)



**Cross references:** For costs levied on traffic offenses pursuant to the "Colorado Crime Victim Compensation Act", see § 24-4.1-119; for costs levied on alcohol- and drug-related traffic offenses, see §§ 42-4-1301.3 (4)(a), 42-4-1301.4 (5), 42-4-1307, and 43-4-402; for establishment of the victims and witnesses assistance and law enforcement fund and the authority for levying of surcharges, see §§ 24-4.2-103 and 24-4.2-104.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-1-217 is similar to § 42-1-215 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**For the legislative history of this section,** see *State v. Beckman*, 149 Colo. 54, 368 P.2d 793 (1961).

#### **42-1-218. Revocations and suspensions of licenses published. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2113, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2007:** Entire section repealed, p. 30, § 4, effective August 3.

#### **42-1-218.5. Electronic hearings.**

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title to the contrary, at the discretion of the department, any hearing held by the department pursuant to this title may be conducted in whole or in part, in real time, by telephone or other electronic means.

(2) The general assembly recognizes that there is an increase in the number of hearings conducted by the department; that a licensee has the right to appear in person at a hearing; and that a licensee or a law enforcement officer may not be able to appear in person at a hearing. The general assembly therefore directs the department to consider the circumstances of the licensee when a licensee requests to appear in person, and grant the request whenever possible. The general assembly further directs the department to consider the circumstances of the licensee and the law enforcement officer when either may not be able to appear in person, and allow the appearance by electronic means whenever possible.

(3) and (4) Repealed.

**Source: L. 2001:** Entire section added, p. 552, § 2, effective May 23. **L. 2003:** (3) and (4) repealed, p. 2620, § 2, effective June 5.

#### **ANNOTATION**

**Applied in** Shafron v. Cooke, 190 P.3d 812 (Colo. App. 2008).

#### **42-1-219. Appropriations for administration of title.**

The general assembly shall make appropriations for the expenses of administration of this title.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2113, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-1-218 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-1-220. Identification security fund - repeal. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2001:** Entire section added, p. 940, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2002:** (1) amended, p. 535, § 1, effective May 24. **L. 2006:** (2) and (3) amended, p. 656, § 2, effective April 24. **L. 2009:** (3) amended, (SB 09-025), ch. 266, p. 1215, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2014:** (1) amended and (2) repealed, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1542, § 4, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (3) provided for the repeal of this section, effective July 1, 2014. (See L. 2009, p. 1215.)

#### **42-1-221. Fuel piracy computer reprogramming cash fund - repeal. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire section added, p. 1132, § 3, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (3) provided for the repeal of this section, effective July 1, 2003. (See L. 2002, p. 1132.)

**42-1-222. Motor vehicle investigations unit.**

(1) The department shall establish a motor vehicle investigations unit to investigate and prevent fraud concerning the use of official documents, as defined in section 18-5-121 (1)(b), issued by the department or the department's agents. The unit shall also assist victims of identity theft by means of such documents.

(2) The motor vehicle investigations unit may cancel, deny, or deny the issuance or reissuance of an official document, as defined in section 18-5-121 (1)(b), upon determining that the person was not entitled to the issuance of the official document for:

(a) Failure to give the required or correct information in an application for the official document or for committing fraud in making the application or in submitting any proof for the application; or

(b) Permitting an unlawful or fraudulent use of the official document or for being convicted of an offense involving misuse of the official document.

(3) If the motor vehicle investigations unit cancels, denies, or denies the issuance or reissuance of an official document, as defined in section 18-5-121 (1)(b), the affected person may request a hearing pursuant to section 24-4-105.

**Source:** L. 2004: Entire section added, p. 1736, § 1, effective July 1. L. 2025: Entire section amended, (HB 25-1076), ch. 16, p. 66, § 17, effective August 6.

**42-1-223. Monitoring driving improvement schools - fund - rules - repeal. (Repealed)**

**Source:** L. 2009: Entire section added, (HB 09-1246), ch. 346, p. 1811, § 1, effective August 5. L. 2014: (1) to (3) repealed and (4) and (5) added, (HB 14-1228), ch. 337, p. 1501, § 1, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (5) provided for the repeal of this section, effective July 1, 2015. (See L. 2014, p. 1501.)

#### **42-1-224. Record check.**

(1) The department may submit fingerprints of an employee or prospective employee to the Colorado bureau of investigation to obtain a fingerprint-based criminal history record check if the employee's duties do or will provide them with access to Colorado driver's licenses and identification cards issued pursuant to article 2 of this title 42 or personal identifying information collected or stored by the department in order to issue driver's licenses or identification cards. The department of revenue shall require all such employees hired on or after April 15, 2010, to obtain a fingerprint-based criminal history record check prior to performing their official duties, and shall require all such employees hired before April 15, 2010, to obtain a fingerprint-based criminal history record check by July 1, 2011. The department may use this information to make employment decisions concerning such employees. Upon receipt of fingerprints and payment for the costs, the Colorado bureau of investigation shall conduct a state and national fingerprint-based criminal history record check utilizing records of the Colorado bureau of investigation and the federal bureau of investigation. The department shall be the authorized agency to receive information regarding the result of the national criminal history record check. The Colorado bureau of investigation shall charge the department a fee for record checks conducted pursuant to this section. The Colorado bureau of investigation shall set such fee at a level sufficient to cover the direct and indirect costs of processing requests made pursuant to this section. Money collected by the bureau pursuant to this section is subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly for the administration of this section.

(2) When the results of a fingerprint-based criminal history record check of a person performed pursuant to this section reveal a record of arrest without a disposition, the department shall require the person to submit to a name-based judicial record check, as defined in section 22-2-119.3 (6)(d). The department shall pay the costs associated with a name-based judicial record check.

**Source: L. 2010:** Entire section added, (HB 10-1011), ch. 110, p. 367, § 1, effective April 15. **L. 2019:** Entire section amended, (HB 19-1166), ch. 125, p. 558, § 51, effective April 18. **L. 2022:** (2) amended, (HB 22-1270), ch. 114, p. 534, § 55, effective April 21.

#### **42-1-225. Commercial vehicle enterprise tax fund - creation - repeal.**

- (1) (a) The commercial vehicle enterprise tax fund is hereby created in the state treasury.
- (b) Repealed.

(c) On or after July 1, 2025, but before July 1, 2027, the fund consists of money collected and transmitted to the fund pursuant to section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(II). The general assembly shall annually appropriate the money in the fund to cover the actual cost of administering section 39-30-104 (1)(b). After receiving the statement pursuant to section 39-30-104 (1)(b)(VI), the state treasurer shall credit the total cost of the amount of the tax credits stated therein to the general fund. Any money remaining in the commercial vehicle enterprise tax fund at the end of the state fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(2) (a) and (b) Repealed.

(c) On July 1, 2025, and on July 1, 2026, the department shall allocate the fund balance, not including the amount appropriated to cover the actual cost of administering section 39-30-104 (1)(b), to offset the income tax credit granted in section 39-30-104 (1)(b).

(3) On July 1, 2027, the state treasurer shall transfer all of the money in the fund to the Colorado economic development fund, created in section 24-46-105 (1)(a).

(4) This section is repealed, effective July 1, 2031.

**Source:** **L. 2010:** Entire section added, (HB 10-1285), ch. 423, p. 2187, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** (1) amended, (SB 12-041), ch. 165, p. 576, § 1, effective May 9. **L. 2024:** Entire section amended, (HB 24-1036), ch. 373, p. 2529, § 17, effective August 7. **L. 2026:** (1)(c) and (2)(c) amended and (3) and (4) added, (HB 26-1289), ch. 364, p. 2220, § 36, effective June 3.

**Editor's note:** (1) Subsections (1)(a), (1)(b)(I), (1)(b)(II), and (1)(c) were numbered as subsections (1), (1)(a)(I), (1)(a)(II), and (1)(b), respectively, in HB 24-1036 but were renumbered on revision for ease of location.

(2) Subsections (2)(a)(II) and (2)(b)(II) provided for the repeal of subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b), respectively, effective July 1, 2025. (See L. 2024, p. 373.)

(3) Subsection (1)(b)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (1)(b), effective July 1, 2026. (See L. 2024, p. 2529.)

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in HB 24-1036, see section 1 of chapter 373, Session Laws of Colorado 2024. For the legislative declaration in HB 26-1289, see section 1 of chapter 364, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

**42-1-226. Disabled parking education and enforcement fund - created - transfer - repeal. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 2010:** Entire section added, (HB 10-1019), ch. 400, p. 1917, § 1, effective January 1, 2011. **L. 2020:** Entire section amended, (HB 20-1392), ch. 132, p. 575, § 5, effective June 26. **L. 2022:** Entire section amended, (SB 22-217), ch. 378, p. 2684, § 8, effective August 10. **L. 2025:** Entire section amended, (HB 25-1215), ch. 312, p. 1634, § 15, effective May 30. **L. 2026:** (3) added, (HB 26-1382), ch. 301, p. 1713, § 13, effective June 2.

**Editor's note:** (1) Subsection (2)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (2), effective July 1, 2026. (See L. 2025, p. 1634.)

(2) For subsection (3) in HB 26-1382 in effect from June 2, 2026, to July 1, 2026, see chapter 301, Session Laws of Colorado 2026. (L. 2026, p. 1713.)

(3) Subsection (3)(b) provided for the repeal of this section, effective July 1, 2026. (See L. 2026, p. 1713.)

**42-1-227. Disabled parking education program - repeal. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 2010:** Entire section added, (HB 10-1019), ch. 400, p. 1917, § 1, effective January 1, 2011. **L. 2014:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 14-1029), ch. 252, p. 990, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2018:** IP(1) amended and (2) added, (HB 18-1364), ch. 351, p. 2083, § 10, effective July 1. **L. 2020:** Entire section repealed, (HB 20-1392), ch. 132, p. 575, § 2, effective June 26. **L. 2022:** Entire section RC&RE, (SB 22-217), ch. 378, p. 2684, § 9, effective August 10. **L. 2024:** IP(1) amended, (HB 24-1360), ch. 324, p. 2167, § 11, effective July 1. **L. 2026:** (2) added, (HB 26-1382), ch. 301, p. 1713, § 14, effective June 2.

**Editor's note:** (1) For subsection (2) in HB 26-1382 in effect from June 2, 2026, to July 1, 2026, see chapter 301, Session Laws of Colorado 2026. (L. 2026, p. 1713.)

(2) Subsection (2) provided for the repeal of this section, effective July 1, 2026. (See L. 2026, p. 1713.)

**42-1-228. Revocation hearings - right of driver to challenge validity of initial traffic stop.**

In any administrative proceeding for a revocation of a driver's license pursuant to article 2 of this title, where the hearing officer is engaged in finding facts and applying law for an incident or offense reported directly to the department by a law enforcement officer, and where the revocation was not triggered in whole or in part by a record of a conviction, the driver may challenge the validity of the law enforcement officer's initial contact with the driver and subsequent arrest of the driver. If a driver so challenges the validity of the law enforcement officer's initial contact, and the evidence does not establish that the initial contact or arrest was constitutionally and statutorily valid, the driver is not subject to license revocation.

**Source: L. 2013:** Entire section added, (HB 13-1077), ch. 196, p. 798, § 2, effective May 11.  
**L. 2015:** Entire section amended, (HB 15-1073), ch. 92, p. 263, § 2, effective August 5.

**42-1-229. Report - repeal. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2014:** Entire section added, (SB 14-087), ch. 306, p. 1297, § 1, effective August 6.  
**L. 2017:** (2) added, (HB 17-1137), ch. 45, p. 135, § 7, effective August 9.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (2) provided for the repeal of this section, effective July 2, 2018. (See L. 2017, p. 135.)

**42-1-230. Exceptions processing - rules.**

Beginning September 1, 2014, the department of revenue shall provide the opportunity for exceptions processing in person at a minimum of four regional offices that are actually operated by the department of revenue and that issue driver's licenses. The department shall promulgate rules to implement exceptions processing for documents issued under parts 1, 2, 3, and 5 of article 2 of this title. The department shall not use exceptions processing for noncitizens to establish lawful status in the United States.

**Source: L. 2014:** Entire section added, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1543, § 5, effective June 5.

**42-1-231. Kiosk program.**

(1) An authorized agent may conduct a kiosk program using a private provider to provide services concerning any function the authorized agent performs under article 2, 3, or 6 of this title 42, not including part 5 of article 2 of this title 42. The kiosk program may include mobile telephone and web solutions to provide services. An authorized agent shall:

(a) Allow a resident in the county's jurisdiction to use a kiosk in another county for any purpose authorized under this section; and

(b) Allow a resident of another county to use a kiosk in the county's jurisdiction for any purpose authorized under this section.

(2) (a) The authorized agent may use a competitive bid process to select the private provider.

(b) The authorized agent may assess a convenience fee, as negotiated between the authorized agent and the private provider, for the services provided in the kiosk program. The authorized agent may authorize the private provider to retain a portion or all of the convenience fee.

(3) (a) The department may accept financial assistance from an authorized agent or a private party to implement this program, so long as the financial assistance is directly related to the kiosk program and does not stipulate a condition that conflicts with state law.

(b) Repealed.

(c) (I) The department shall transfer any money accepted under this subsection (3) to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211. The department shall use any money accepted under this subsection (3) to implement this section.

(II) Repealed.

(4) To implement this program, the authorized agent and the department shall coordinate with each other to ensure that the program will operate successfully and in accordance with state law.

(5) Any private provider participating in the kiosk program is not excluded from any competitive bid process associated with motor vehicle registration, issuing certificates of title, or issuing driver's licenses.

(6) To be qualified to be a private provider, a person must:

(a) Meet the security requirements established by rule by the office of information technology; and

(b) Operate in accordance with a service-level agreement with the authorized agent.



(7) (a) The private provider shall not retain the information obtained from a transaction authorized under this section for any purpose other than the purposes of this section and as required in the service-level agreement with the authorized agent.

(b) The private provider shall not transfer to another person or use or copy information obtained from a transaction authorized under this section for any purpose other than the purposes of this section and as required in the service-level agreement with the authorized agent.

**Source: L. 2016:** Entire section added, (SB 16-138), ch. 162, p. 513, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2017:** (3) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 366, § 8, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** (3)(b)(II) and (3)(c)(II) amended, (SB 18-253), ch. 293, p. 1799, § 2, effective May 29. **L. 2020:** (1), (2)(b), (3)(a), (4), and (5) amended and (6) and (7) added, (SB 20-035), ch. 240, p. 1160, § 1, effective July 6.

**Editor's note:** (1) Subsection (3)(b)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (3)(b), effective July 1, 2019. (See L. 2018, p. 1799.)

(2) Subsection (3)(c)(II)(B) provided for the repeal of subsection (3)(c)(II), effective July 1, 2020. (See L. 2018, p. 1799.)

#### **42-1-232. Third-party VIN inspection program - rules - definitions.**

(1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Chief" means the chief of the Colorado state patrol.

(b) "Convicted" means a conviction of, or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to, a violation of the law.

(c) "Permit" means authority for an organization to employ people to verify information, including a VIN, that may be required to register a commercial vehicle under article 3 of this title 42 or to be issued a certificate of title under article 6 of this title 42.

(d) "VIN" means vehicle identification number.

(2) The chief shall create a program that authorizes a transportation association or organization to verify commercial vehicle information, including a VIN, as a vehicle-related entity if the transportation association or organization demonstrates to the satisfaction of the chief that it and any individuals it may employ to verify information meet the requirements of this section and any rules promulgated to implement this section. Upon determining that a

transportation association or organization meets the requirements of this section and any rules promulgated to implement this section, the chief may issue a permit to the applicant.

(3) To be issued a permit to verify information, including a VIN, as a vehicle-related entity, an applicant must:

(a) Employ verifiers who demonstrate knowledge of the process and standards and who have not been convicted of violating article 4 of title 18 within the last ten years;

(b) Submit the name, background, experience, location of operation, contact information, and any other information required by the chief of each employed verifier;

(c) Furnish evidence of a savings account or deposit in a certificate of deposit meeting the requirements of section 11-35-101 or a surety bond that:

(I) Holds harmless any person who suffers loss or damage arising from the issuance of a certificate of title that included a verification done by the permit holder; and

(II) Is in the amount of at least ten thousand dollars.

(4) A vehicle-related entity shall not employ a verifier until the chief has approved the verifier. The permit holder shall submit to the chief the name, background, experience, location of operation, contact information, and any other information required by the chief of each verifier. Within seven days after ceasing to employ a verifier, the vehicle-related entity shall notify the chief that the individual no longer verifies information for the vehicle-related entity.

(5) A vehicle-related entity shall not charge more than twenty-five dollars per transaction to verify information.

(6) The chief may deny or cancel a permit for:

(a) Failing to comply with this section;

(b) Failing to maintain in full force the savings account, deposit in a certificate of deposit, or surety bond required by subsection (3) of this section;

(c) Misrepresentations in applying for a permit;

(d) Being convicted under, or employing a verifier who is convicted under, article 4 of title 18;

(e) Incompetence or failing to adequately verify information, including a VIN, as a vehicle-related entity.

(7) The chief may promulgate rules reasonably necessary to implement this section, including establishing application procedures and any required forms and establishing procedures, in compliance with article 4 of title 24, for canceling a permit. The chief may

summarily suspend a permit for up to sixty days pending a hearing to cancel a permit if the chief determines that irreparable harm may occur if the permit holder continues to verify information, including a VIN, as a vehicle-related entity.

(8) For the purposes of verifying information in accordance with articles 1 to 5 of this title 42, a permit holder is a vehicle-related entity.

**Source: L. 2017:** Entire section added, (HB 17-1105), ch. 44, p. 130, § 4, effective March 16.  
**L. 2020:** Entire section RC&RE, (SB 20-011), ch. 7, p. 11, § 1, effective March 5.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (9) provided for the repeal of this section, effective January 1, 2020. (See L. 2017, p. 130.) However, the entire section was recreated March 5, 2020.

**42-1-233. Expedited registration program - private vendor providing services to register Class A commercial vehicles - rules.**

(1) Beginning January 1, 2019, the department shall create and implement an expedited registration program. The expedited registration program authorizes private providers to register commercial vehicles that are classified as Class A personal property in section 42-3-106. This includes collecting and remitting the taxes and fees for the registration to the department.

(2) (a) The department shall promulgate rules authorizing a private provider to participate in the expedited registration program if the provider:

(I) Has been approved by the department;

(II) Uses software that is approved by the department to calculate the amount of taxes and fees imposed in this title 42 and that is updated regularly to take into account any changes to the taxes and fees imposed in this title 42; and

(III) Procures and files with the department evidence of any of the following in an amount determined by rule by the department:

(A) A savings account, deposit, or certificate of deposit meeting the requirements of section 11-35-101; or

(B) A bond issued by a licensed corporate surety.

(b) The financial commitment required in subsection (2)(a)(III) of this section must provide for the reimbursement of any damages caused to the state of Colorado, a political subdivision of

Colorado, or the owner of personal property registered through the expedited registration program by an act or omission of the private provider.

(c) A private provider may collect and retain a convenience fee for the services provided in the expedited registration program.

(3) (a) The department may accept financial assistance from a private party to implement the expedited registration program if the financial assistance is directly related to the expedited registration program and is not conditional upon an act or circumstance that conflicts with state law.

(b) The department shall transfer any money accepted under this subsection (3) to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(c) The department shall use any money accepted under this subsection (3) to implement this section.

(4) To implement the expedited registration program, the department shall ensure that the expedited registration program:

(a) Operates efficiently;

(b) Provides additional services or increases the speed or quality of services at an overall cost savings to the state; and

(c) Registers commercial vehicles and collects and remits taxes and fees in compliance with state law.

(5) To implement this section, the department may promulgate rules in addition to the rules required under subsection (2)(a) of this section and may enter into contracts with private providers.

(6) Subject to article 4 of title 24, the department may approve, deny approval, suspend approval, or revoke approval of a private provider who:

(a) Violates the law in the provision of services approved under this section;

(b) Makes a material misstatement to the department or any county in seeking approval to provide expedited registration services;

(c) Fails to comply with this section or any rules promulgated under this section; or

(d) Fails to satisfactorily provide expedited registration services or to collect or remit appropriate taxes and fees.

**Source:** L. 2018: Entire section added, (HB 18-1042), ch. 375, p. 2277, § 1, effective August 8. L. 2022: (3)(b) amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 910, § 6, effective July 1.

**42-1-234. Electronic vehicle registration and titling - electronic transmission of vehicle lien information - authority - rules - report - electronic transactions fund - gifts, grants, and donations - notice to revisor of statutes - repeal.**

(1) (a) On or before March 31, 2026, the department shall establish a system to allow the electronic transmission of registration, lien, and titling information for motor vehicles, off-highway vehicles, or special mobile machinery. On or before March 31, 2026, the system must support the ability to generate a title and registration for new leased vehicles and support the ability to generate a title for a lessee who purchases the lessee's leased vehicle without affecting the lessee's existing registration. On or before January 1, 2027, the system must support the ability to generate a new registration for a vehicle to a new lessee without modifying the title. Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the department may adopt rules necessary for the implementation of this section, including rules to allow the department to:

(I) Maintain titling information electronically and to produce paper titles only upon request of a party;

(II) Accept electronic signatures on any documents, including title transfers, odometer disclosures, and powers of attorney, required to issue a certificate of title to a new owner;

(III) Eliminate any notarization requirements for document signatures;

(IV) Allow all parties to electronically file and release lien information;

(V) Authorize approved third-party providers to:

(A) Electronically process registration, lien, and titling information and transmit the information to the department as authorized by the department;

(B) Order, manage, and distribute the department's license plate inventory to a client; and

(C) Access, print, and distribute the department's registration information to a client on demand.

(b) The department's approval of a third-party provider to register a vehicle or special mobile machinery, file or release liens, or issue any type of certificate of title must be evidenced by an agreement between the department and the third-party provider.

(c) In registering a vehicle or special mobile machinery, filing or releasing liens, or issuing any type of certificate of title, the third-party provider is acting as an agent of the department. The third-party provider shall collect and remit to the department all taxes and fees imposed by

law to issue any type of certificate of title, to file or release a lien, or to register the vehicle or special mobile machinery.

(d) A third-party provider may charge its clients a fee for each electronic registration transaction, lien transaction, or titling transaction. The client may charge a consumer the fee the client paid to the third-party provider if the fee charged to the consumer does not exceed the fee charged to the client.

(e) The department shall ensure that the addresses of program participants under part 21 of article 30 of title 24 are not released to third-party providers or the clients of third-party providers.

(f) (I) Beginning in January 2025, and every year thereafter, the department shall include, as part of its presentation during its "SMART Act" hearing required by section 2-7-203, information concerning the implementation of the electronic titling and registration system required by subsection (1)(a) of this section.

(II) Beginning in January 2025, and every year thereafter, the department shall submit an annual report to the joint budget committee concerning the implementation of the electronic titling and registration system required by subsection (1)(a) of this section.

(2) (a) The department is authorized to seek and accept gifts, grants, or donations from private or public sources, including from third-party providers, for the purposes of this section; except that the department may not accept a gift, grant, or donation that is subject to conditions that are inconsistent with this section or any other law of the state. The department shall ensure that any funds contributed to the department for the implementation of the system for the electronic transmission of registration, lien, and titling information for motor vehicles, vehicles, off-highway vehicles, and special mobile machinery are:

(I) Used only for the implementation of the system; and

(II) Transferred to the state treasurer, who shall credit the funds to the electronic transactions fund.

(b) (I) In addition to the fees described in subsection (1)(c) of this section, a third-party provider shall pay the department a fee of up to three dollars for each of the following types of transactions completed by the third-party provider:

(A) Issuance of or transfer of a certificate of title for a motor vehicle or an off-highway vehicle;

(B) Issuance of or renewal of a registration for a motor vehicle, a vehicle, or special mobile machinery; and

(C) A transaction that includes both the transactions described in subsections (2)(b)(I)(A) and (2)(b)(I)(B) of this section.

(II) The third-party provider may charge its client the fee imposed in subsection (2)(b)(I) of this section.

(III) The department shall set the fee imposed in subsection (2)(b)(I) of this section to:

(A) Offset the direct and indirect costs of administering the electronic transmission of registration, lien, and titling information in accordance with this section.

(B) Repealed.

(IV) The department shall remit all fees collected under this subsection (2)(b) to the state treasurer, who shall credit:

(A) Repealed.

(B) All other money collected from the fees to the electronic transactions fund.

(V) and (VI) Repealed.

(3) (a) The department need not promulgate rules, under subsection (1) of this section, that implement electronic transactions until the department has adequate money in the electronic transactions fund to implement the promulgated rules. The department shall, upon having adequate money in the fund, phase in implementation of this section as reasonable. The general assembly may appropriate money from the general fund or the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201 to implement this section.

(b) This subsection (3) does not affect any rules promulgated, or appropriations made, before July 1, 2019.

(4) (a) The electronic transactions fund, referred to in this subsection (4) as the "fund", is hereby created in the state treasury. The fund consists of money that the general assembly may appropriate or transfer to the fund and money credited to the fund under this section.

(b) The state treasurer shall credit all interest and income derived from the deposit and investment of money in the fund to the fund.

(c) Subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly, the department may expend state money from the fund to implement and administer electronic transmission of registration, lien, and titling information in accordance with this section.

(5) (a) Subsections (2)(a) and (3) of this section and this subsection (5) will be repealed if the department fully implements this section. Upon fully implementing this section, the executive director of the department shall notify the revisor of statutes in writing of the date on which the

condition specified in this subsection (5)(a) has occurred by e-mailing the notice to [revisorofstatutes.ga@coleg.gov](mailto:revisorofstatutes.ga@coleg.gov).

(b) Subsections (2)(a) and (3) of this section and this subsection (5) are repealed, effective upon the date identified in the notice that this section was fully implemented or, if the notice does not specify that date, upon the date of the notice to the revisor of statutes.

**Source:** **L. 2018:** Entire section added with relocations, (HB 18-1299), ch. 297, p. 1809, § 4, effective July 1, 2019. **L. 2021:** (2) and (3)(a) amended and (4) and (5) added, (SB 21-076), ch. 475, p. 3400, § 1, effective July 7. **L. 2024:** IP(1)(a) amended and (1)(f) added, (HB 24-1089), ch. 329, p. 2227, § 5, effective June 3.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-113.5 as it existed prior to 2019.

(2) As of publication date, the revisor of statutes has not received the notice referred to in subsection (5).

(3) Subsection (2)(b)(VI) provided for the repeal of subsections (2)(b)(III)(B), (2)(b)(IV)(A), (2)(b)(V), and (2)(b)(VI), effective July 1, 2024. (See L. 2021, p. 3400.)

#### **42-1-235. Electronic records, documents, and signatures.**

A record covered by article 3 of this title 42, including a signature on the record or document, may not be denied legal effect, validity, or enforceability solely because it is in the form of an electronic record, document, or signature. Except as otherwise provided in article 3 of this title 42, if a rule of law requires a record to be in writing or provides consequences if it is not, an electronic record satisfies that rule of law. This section applies to and in a court of law. For a record, document, or signature to be legally effective, valid, or enforceable, a person need not obtain a written power of attorney solely because the record, document, or signature is in an electronic form.

**Source:** **L. 2018:** Entire section added with relocations, (HB 18-1299), ch. 297, p. 1811, § 6, effective July 1, 2019; entire section amended, (SB 18-255), ch. 405, p. 2387, § 3, effective July 1, 2019.



**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-102 (5)(b) as it existed prior to 2019.

(2) Section 4 of chapter 405 (SB 18-255), Session Laws of Colorado 2018, provides that the act changing this section takes effect only if HB 18-1299 becomes law and takes effect upon the effective date of HB 18-1299. HB 18-1299 became law and has an effective date of July 1, 2019.

**42-1-236. Electronic notification of transactions involving vehicles - rules.**

(1) No later than March 31, 2026, the department shall create a process for an owner to request to receive and for the department to provide electronic notification, in lieu of written notification, of department notices and transactions under article 2, 3, or 6 of this title 42.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b) of this section, if an owner requests electronic notification of the impending expiration of the vehicle's registration, the department may issue notices or otherwise communicate with the owner electronically concerning vehicle transactions under article 2, 3, or 6 of this title 42. The vehicle transaction notices or other communications may include:

(I) Notices regarding:

(A) Vehicle registration expiration;

(B) Identifying plate and identifying placard, as defined in section 42-3-204 (1)(g) and (1)(f), renewal;

(C) Vehicle certificate of title issuance;

(D) Fleet vehicle registration renewal;

(E) Hearings;

(F) Driver's licenses; and

(G) Dealer license plate and depot tag issuance; and

(II) Communications about missing documentation.

(b) The department shall not use electronic means to notify an owner of the revocation of a vehicle registration due to dishonored payment pursuant to section 42-3-123 or the revocation of an identifying plate or identifying placard pursuant to section 42-3-204 (7).

(c) On or before December 31, 2024, the department shall promulgate rules for implementing the electronic notification process described in subsection (2)(a) of this section.

(3) Any electronic communication made pursuant to this section must include any notification information required by article 2, 3, or 6 of this title 42.

(4) Repealed.

**Source: L. 2024:** Entire section added, (HB 24-1089), ch. 329, p. 2225, § 1, effective June 3.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (4)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (4), effective July 1, 2026. (See L. 2024, p. 2225.)

**42-1-237. "Uniform Power of Attorney Act" applies to motor vehicle documents.**

The "Uniform Power of Attorney Act", part 7 of article 14 of title 15, applies to power of attorney forms created by the department under article 1, 3, 6, or 12 of this title 42.

**Source: L. 2025:** Entire section added, (HB 25-1076), ch. 16, p. 62, § 6, effective August 6.

**42-1-238. Comprehensive contingency plan - rules - repeal.**

(1) (a) The department of revenue shall develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive contingency plan to ensure continuity of operations and the protection of critical services in the event of a disruption in vehicle licensing operations.

(b) (I) The department shall implement the contingency plan required in subsection (1)(a) of this section on or before December 31, 2027.

(II) This subsection (1)(b) is repealed, effective July 1, 2029.

(2) To comply with this section, the contingency plan must:

(a) Identify the functions that are critical to vehicle licensing operations and the resources required to support them;

(b) Establish procedures for backup, recovery, and reconstitution of systems and services;

(c) Designate roles and responsibilities during contingency operations;

(d) Identify alternate processing sites during contingency operations;

- (e) Be tested and updated annually or upon changes to critical functions and the systems that provide and support critical functions;
- (f) Be annually reviewed and, when helpful, enhanced; and
- (g) Be established through consultation with, consideration of, recommendations by, and unanimous acceptance from stakeholders that include:
  - (I) An association of county clerks in Colorado that has existed and has been active for at least ten years; and
  - (II) The governor's office of information technology created in section 24-37.5-103.
- (3) The governor's office of information technology shall provide the appropriate network and equipment support to the department.
- (4) The department shall adopt rules necessary for the implementation of this section.

**Source: L. 2026:** Entire section added, (HB 26-1053), ch. 347, p. 2108, § 2, effective August 12.

### PART 3

#### GREEN TRUCK GRANT PROGRAM

##### **42-1-301 to 42-1-305. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2012:** Entire part repealed, (HB 12-1315), ch. 224, p. 984, § 55, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This part 3 was added in 2009 and was not amended prior to its repeal in 2012. For the text of this part 3 prior to 2012, consult the 2011 Colorado Revised Statutes and the Colorado statutory research explanatory note beginning on page vii in the front of this volume.

**PART 4**  
**LICENSE PLATE AUCTIONS**

**42-1-401 to 42-1-407. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2016:** Entire part repealed, (HB 16-1362), ch. 319, p. 1296, § 2, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This part 4 was added in 2011. For amendments to this part 4 prior to its repeal in 2016, consult the 2015 Colorado Revised Statutes and the Colorado statutory research explanatory note beginning on page vii in the front of this volume. This part 4 was relocated to part 22 of article 30 of title 24. Former C.R.S. section numbers are shown in editor's notes following those sections that were relocated.

**DRIVER'S LICENSES**

**ARTICLE 2**

**Driver's Licenses**

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| 42-2-102.                   | Persons exempt from license.                                                     | 42-2-107.                                     | Application for license or<br>instruction permit -<br>anatomical gifts -<br>donations to Emily Keyes<br>- John W. Buckner organ<br>and tissue donation<br>awareness fund -<br>legislative declaration -<br>rules - annual report. |
| 42-2-103.                   | Motorcycles - autocycles -<br>low-power scooters -<br>driver's license required. | 42-2-108.                                     | Application of minors - rules.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| 42-2-105.                   | Special restrictions on certain<br>drivers.                                      |                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 42-2-105.5.                 | Restrictions on minor drivers<br>under eighteen years of                         |                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|             |                                                                                                                                                                       |             |                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| 42-2-114.   | License issued - voluntary disability identifier symbol - fees - rules - report - definitions.                                                                        |             |                                                                                                                                                                           |
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|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| 42-2-127.4. | Authority to suspend license -<br>forgery of a penalty<br>assessment notice issued<br>to minor under the age of<br>eighteen years.<br>(Repealed) | 42-2-131.5. | Revocation of license or<br>permit for convictions<br>involving defacing<br>property. (Repealed)                                               |
| 42-2-127.5. | Authority to suspend license -<br>violation of child support<br>order.                                                                           | 42-2-132.   | Period of suspension or<br>revocation.                                                                                                         |
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| 42-2-127.7. | Authority to suspend driver's<br>license - uninsured                                                                                             |             |                                                                                                                                                |







42-2-602. Equipment of vehicles.

42-2-603. Rules.

42-2-602.5. Criminal history of  
commercial driving  
instructors - rules -  
definition - repeal.

42-2-604. Violations - penalty.

## PART 1

### DRIVER'S LICENSES

**Cross references:** For the short title of this part 1 ("Uniform Safety Code of 1935"), see § 42-4-101.

**Law reviews:** For article, "There Must Be Fifty Ways to Lose Your (Driver's) License", see 22 Colo. Law. 2385 (1993).

#### **42-2-101. Licenses for drivers required - penalty - definition.**

(1) Except as otherwise provided in part 4 of this article for commercial drivers, no person shall drive any motor vehicle upon a highway in this state unless such person has been issued a currently valid driver's or minor driver's license or an instruction permit by the department under this article.

(2) No person shall drive any motor vehicle upon a highway in this state if such person's driver's or minor driver's license has been expired for one year or less and such person has not been issued another such license by the department or by another state or country subsequent to such expiration.

(3) No person shall drive any motor vehicle upon a highway in this state unless such person has in his or her immediate possession a current driver's or minor driver's license or an instruction permit issued by the department under this article.

(4) No person who has been issued a currently valid driver's or minor driver's license or an instruction permit shall drive a type or general class of motor vehicle upon a highway in this state for which such person has not been issued the correct type or general class of license or permit.

(5) No person who has been issued a currently valid driver's or minor driver's license or an instruction permit shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway in this state without having such license or permit in such person's immediate possession.

(6) A charge of a violation of subsection (2) of this section shall be dismissed by the court if the defendant elects not to pay the penalty assessment and, at or before the defendant's scheduled court appearance, exhibits to the court a currently valid driver's or minor driver's license.

(7) A charge of a violation of subsection (5) of this section shall be dismissed by the court if the defendant elects not to pay the penalty assessment and, at or before the defendant's scheduled court appearance, exhibits to the court a currently valid license or permit issued to such person or an officially issued duplicate thereof if the original is lost, stolen, or destroyed.

(8) The conduct of a driver of a motor vehicle which would otherwise constitute a violation of this section is justifiable and not unlawful when:

(a) It is necessary as an emergency measure to avoid an imminent public or private injury which is about to occur by reason of a situation occasioned or developed through no conduct of said driver and which is of sufficient gravity that, according to ordinary standards of intelligence and morality, the desirability and urgency of avoiding the injury clearly outweigh the desirability of avoiding the injury sought to be prevented by this section; or

(b) The applicable conditions for exemption, as set forth in section 42-2-102, exist.

(9) The issue of justification or exemption is an affirmative defense. As used in this subsection (9), "affirmative defense" means that, unless the state's evidence raises the issue involving the particular defense, the defendant, to raise the issue, shall present some credible evidence on that issue. If the issue involved in an affirmative defense is raised, then the liability of the defendant must be established beyond a reasonable doubt as to that issue as well as all other elements of the traffic infraction.

(10) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (1) or (4) of this section commits a class A traffic infraction. Any person who violates any provision of subsection (2), (3), or (5) of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(11) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a second or subsequent conviction under subsection (1) or (4) of this section, when a person receiving such conviction has not subsequently obtained a valid Colorado driver's license or the correct type or general class of license, shall result in the assessment by the department of six points against the driving privilege of the person receiving such second or subsequent conviction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2114, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (1) to (6) amended, p. 1349, § 14, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2021:** (10) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3300, § 706, effective March 1, 2022.

## ANNOTATION

**Principal purpose of this section** and § 42-2-110 is the promotion of public safety by assuring that drivers are qualified to operate their vehicles. *Tomasi v. Thompson*, 635 P.2d 538 (Colo. 1981).

**Interpretation of § 42-2-130 (3) in context of other relevant sections.** § 42-2-130 (3), which authorizes the department to extend the period of suspension or revocation whenever drivers whose licenses have been suspended or revoked commit additional traffic offenses, should be read and considered in the context of other relevant provisions of article 2 of the uniform motor vehicle law. *Allen v. Charnes*, 674 P.2d 378 (Colo. 1984).

**Police have authority to make custodial arrest for driving without a license under this section and § 42-4-1501.** *People v. Meredith*, 763 P.2d 562 (Colo. 1988) (overruling *People v. Clyne*, 189 Colo. 412, 541 P.2d 71 (1975) and *People v. Stark*, 682 P.2d 1240 (Colo. App. 1984)).

**Police had authority under this section to arrest defendant for driving without a valid Colorado driver's license and the arrest did not violate the fourth amendment.** Defendant produced a Mexican driver's license but not a valid Colorado license. Although it was unclear from the record whether the Mexican driver's license was authentic, testimony reflected that defendant had been present in the United States for more than thirty days and therefore was not exempt under § 42-2-102 from obtaining a Colorado driver's license. *United States v. Rubio-Sepulveda*, 237 F. Supp. 3d 1116 (D. Colo. 2017).

**Search of an automobile incident to an arrest for driving without a license under this section and § 42-4-1501 is lawful.** *People v. Meredith*, 763 P.2d 562 (Colo. 1988).

**Applied** in *People v. Pinyan*, 190 Colo. 304, 546 P.2d 488 (1976); *Ruth v. County Court*, 198 Colo. 6, 595 P.2d 237 (1979).

### **42-2-102. Persons exempt from license.**

(1) The following persons need not obtain a Colorado driver's license:

(a) Any person who operates a federally owned military motor vehicle while serving in the armed forces of the United States;

(b) Any person who temporarily drives or operates any road machine, farm tractor, or other implement of husbandry on a highway;

(c) Any nonresident who is at least sixteen years of age and who has in his or her immediate possession a valid driver's license issued to such nonresident by his or her state or country of residence. A nonresident who is at least sixteen years of age and whose state or country of residence does not require the licensing of drivers may operate a motor vehicle as a driver for not more than ninety days in any calendar year, if said nonresident is the owner of the vehicle driven and if the motor vehicle so operated is duly registered in such nonresident's state or country of residence and such nonresident has in his or her immediate possession a registration card evidencing such ownership and registration in his or her own state or country.

(d) A nonresident on active duty in the armed forces of the United States if that person has in his or her possession a valid driver's license issued by such nonresident's state of domicile or, if returning from duty outside the United States, has a valid driver's license in his or her possession issued by the armed forces of the United States in foreign countries, but such armed forces license shall be valid only for a period of forty-five days after the licensee has returned to the United States;

(e) The spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States who is accompanying such member on military or naval assignment to this state, who has a valid driver's license issued by another state, and whose right to drive has not been suspended or revoked in this state;

(f) Any nonresident who is temporarily residing in Colorado for the principal purpose of furthering such nonresident's education, is at least sixteen years of age, has a valid driver's license from his or her state of residence, and is considered a nonresident for tuition purposes by the educational institution at which such nonresident is furthering his or her education.

(2) Any person who has in his or her possession a valid driver's license issued by such person's previous state of residence shall be exempt, for thirty days after becoming a resident of the state of Colorado, from obtaining a license, as provided in section 42-2-101.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2115, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

## ANNOTATION

**Effect of subsection (1)(d) under § 42-2-107 (1).** Section 42-2-107 (1) only requires that the licensee be accompanied at the hearing by the person who signed the application of the minor, unless that person submits a verified statement. However, where licensees have never been required to

apply for licenses in the state of Colorado, by virtue of subsection (1)(d), and since no person was required to sign their applications, no one is required to attend the hearing other than the licensees themselves. *Lopez v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 189 Colo. 133, 538 P.2d 446 (1975).

**42-2-103. Motorcycles - autocycles - low-power scooters - driver's license required.**

(1) (a) The department shall establish a motorcycle endorsement program for driver's licenses, minor driver's licenses, and instruction permits issued pursuant to this article.

(b) The department shall require an applicant for a general motorcycle endorsement to demonstrate the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable care and control in the operation of a motorcycle. The department shall also require an applicant for a limited three-wheel motorcycle endorsement to demonstrate the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable care and control in the operation of a three-wheel motorcycle.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this subsection (1), a person shall not drive a two-wheel motorcycle on a roadway without a general motorcycle endorsement, but a person who possesses a general motorcycle endorsement may drive any motorcycle on the roadway.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (1)(e) of this section, a person with only a limited three-wheel motorcycle endorsement may drive a three-wheel motorcycle but shall not drive a two-wheel motorcycle on a roadway.

(e) A driver of an autocycle shall possess a valid driver's license or minor driver's license. The driver of an autocycle need not obtain a two- or three-wheel motorcycle endorsement.

(2) (a) An operator of a low-power scooter shall possess a valid driver's license or minor driver's license.

(b) No low-power scooter shall be operated on any interstate system as described in section 43-2-101 (2), C.R.S., except where a bicycle may be operated on such interstate system, on any limited-access road of the state highway system as described in section 43-2-101 (1), C.R.S., or on any sidewalk, unless such operation is specifically designated. Low-power scooters may be operated upon roadways, except as provided in this section, and in bicycle lanes included within such roadways.

(2.5) Repealed.

(3) A person who operates a motorcycle in violation of subsection (1) of this section commits the offense of driving a motor vehicle without the correct class of license in violation of section 42-2-101 (4) and shall be punished as provided in section 42-2-101 (10).

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2116, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1349, § 15, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2008:** Entire section

amended, p. 79, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (2) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1262, § 23, effective October 1. **L. 2015:** (1)(c) and (1)(d) amended and (1)(e) added, (HB 15-1345), ch. 330, p. 1346, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2017:** (1)(b), (1)(d), and IP(1)(e) amended and (2.5) added, (HB 17-1044), ch. 72, p. 229, § 2, effective March 23. **L. 2022:** (1)(b), (1)(d), and (1)(e) amended and (2.5) repealed, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2580, § 2, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-102.5 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-103 was relocated to § 42-2-104.

#### **42-2-104. Licenses issued - denied.**

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this article, the department may license the following persons in the manner prescribed in this article:

- (a) Any person twenty-one years of age or older, as a driver;
- (b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2000, p. 1348, § 11, effective July 1, 2001.)
- (c) Any person sixteen years of age or older who has not reached his or her twenty-first birthday, as a minor driver.
- (1.5) Repealed.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this article 2, the department shall not license a person to operate any motor vehicle in this state:

- (a) and (b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2007, p. 504, § 2, effective July 1, 2007.)
- (b.5) While the person's privilege to drive is under restraint;
- (c) Who has been adjudged or determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to have a substance use disorder, as defined in section 27-81-102, with respect to a controlled substance, as defined in section 18-18-102 (5);
- (d) Who has been adjudged or determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be afflicted with or suffering from any mental disability or disease and who has not at the time of application been restored to competency in the manner prescribed by law.

(3) The department shall not issue a license to:

- (a) Any person required by this article to take an examination until such person has successfully passed the examination;

(b) Any person required under the provisions of any motor vehicle financial safety or responsibility law to deposit or furnish proof of financial responsibility until such person has deposited or furnished such proof;

(c) Any person whose license is subject to suspension or revocation or who does not have a license but would be subject to suspension or revocation pursuant to section 42-2-125, 42-2-126, or 42-2-127;

(d) Any person not submitting proof of age or proof of identity, or both, as required by the department;

(e) A person whose presence in the United States is in violation of federal immigration laws;

(f) A person who, while under the age of sixteen, was convicted of any offense that would have subjected the person to a revocation of driving privileges under section 42-2-125 for the period of such revocation if such person had possessed a driver's license.

(4) (a) ***[Editor's note: For the applicability of this subsection (4)(a) on or after January 1, 2027, see the editor's note following this section.]*** The department shall not issue a driver's license, including a temporary driver's license under section 42-2-106 (5), to an individual under eighteen years of age unless the individual has:

(I) Applied for, been issued, and possessed an appropriate instruction permit for at least twelve months; and

(II) Submitted a log or other written evidence on a standardized form approved by the department certifying that the individual has completed not less than fifty hours of actual driving experience with a driving supervisor listed in section 42-2-106 (2)(b)(II) of which not less than ten hours must have been completed while driving at night, which form must be signed by:

(A) The individual's parent or guardian or a responsible adult;

(B) The instructor of a driver education course approved by the department; or

(C) Any individual who is twenty-one years of age or older, who holds a valid driver's license, and who instructed the applicant if the applicant is a foster child.

(b) In no event shall the department issue a minor driver's license to anyone under sixteen years of age.

(5) The department shall not issue a driver's license to a person under sixteen years and six months of age unless the person has either:

(a) Received a minimum of twelve hours of driving-behind-the-wheel training directed by a parent, a legal guardian, or an alternate permit supervisor, which training shall be in addition to the driving experience required by subsection (4) of this section, if no entity offers approved

behind-the-wheel driver training at least twenty hours a week from a permanent location with an address that is within thirty miles of the permit holder's residence; or

(b) Received a minimum of six hours of driving-behind-the-wheel training with a driving instructor employed or associated with an approved driver education course.

(6) The department shall not issue a driver's license, minor driver's license, or instruction permit to an individual whose authorization to be present in the United States is temporary unless the individual applies under and complies with part 5 of this article.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2116, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (3)(f) amended, p. 1537, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 99:** (3)(f) amended, p. 392, § 3, effective July 1; (4) amended, p. 1379, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (1) amended and (1.5) added, p. 1348, § 11, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2003:** (3)(f) amended, p. 1904, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** IP(4)(a) and (4)(a)(I) amended, p. 1264, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (3)(f) amended, p. 640, § 2, effective May 27. **L. 2006:** IP(4)(a) and (4)(a)(II) amended, p. 733, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2007:** (5) added, p. 588, § 2, effective April 20; IP(2), (2)(a), and (2)(b) amended and (2)(b.5) added, p. 504, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2010:** IP(4)(a), (4)(a)(II), and (5) amended, (SB 10-015), ch. 60, p. 217, § 1, effective August 11. **L. 2012:** (2)(c) amended, (HB 12-1311), ch. 281, p. 1631, § 87, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** IP(3) and (3)(e) amended and (6) added, (SB 13-251), ch. 402, p. 2351, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2017:** IP(2) and (2)(c) amended, (SB 17-242), ch. 263, p. 1380, § 305, effective May 25. **L. 2019:** (4)(a) amended, (HB 19-1023), ch. 239, p. 2364, § 3, effective August 2. **L. 2020:** (2)(c) amended, (SB 20-007), ch. 286, p. 1417, § 55, effective July 13. **L. 2021:** IP(4)(a), IP(4)(a)(II), and (4)(a)(II)(A) amended, (HB 21-1139), ch. 177, p. 968, § 3, effective May 24. **L. 2024:** (4)(a) amended, (HB 24-1021), ch. 174, p. 946, § 1, effective April 1, 2026. **L. 2025:** (4)(a)(II)(A) amended, (HB 25-1076), ch. 16, p. 63, § 10, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-103 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-104 was relocated to § 42-2-105.

(2) Subsection (1.5)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (1.5), effective July 1, 2006. (See L. 2000, p. 1348.)

(3) Section 5(2) of chapter 174 (HB 24-1021), Session Laws of Colorado 2024, provides that the act changing this section applies to applications for instruction permits and driver's licenses submitted on or after January 1, 2027.



**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 1999 act amending subsection (4), see section 1 of chapter 334, Session Laws of Colorado 1999. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2004 act amending the introductory portion to subsection (4)(a) and subsection (4)(a)(I), see section 1 of chapter 323, Session Laws of Colorado 2004. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2007 act enacting subsection (5), see section 1 of chapter 155, Session Laws of Colorado 2007. For the legislative declaration in SB 17-242, see section 1 of chapter 263, Session Laws of Colorado 2017.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Drinking and Driving: An Update on the 1989 Legislation", see 18 Colo. Law. 1943 (1989).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-104 is similar to § 42-2-103 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by

SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Applied** in *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981); *Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. Smith*, 640 P.2d 1143 (Colo. 1982).

### **42-2-105. Special restrictions on certain drivers.**

(1) A person under the age of eighteen years shall not drive any motor vehicle used to transport explosives or inflammable material or any motor vehicle used as a school vehicle for the transportation of pupils to or from school. A person under the age of eighteen years shall not drive a motor vehicle used as a commercial, private, or common carrier of persons or property unless such person has experience in operating motor vehicles and has been examined on such person's qualifications in operating such vehicles. The examination shall include safety regulations of commodity hauling, and the driver shall be licensed as a driver or a minor driver who is eighteen years of age or older.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, no person under the age of twenty-one years shall drive a commercial motor vehicle as defined in section 42-2-402 (4) except as provided in section 42-2-404 (4).

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2117, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** Entire section amended, p. 1355, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2002:** (1) amended, p. 1034, §

73, effective June 1. **L. 2010:** (1) amended, (HB 10-1232), ch. 163, p. 572, § 11, effective April 28.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-104 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-105 was relocated to § 42-2-106.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class A traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3).

**42-2-105.5. Restrictions on minor drivers under eighteen years of age - penalties - legislative declaration.**

(1) The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that:

(a) Teenage drivers, in order to become safe and responsible drivers, need behind-the-wheel driving experience before they can begin to drive without restrictions;

(b) Providing additional behind-the-wheel training with a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult before obtaining a minor driver's license is the beginning of the young driver's accumulation of experience;

(c) Once a teenage driver begins to drive without a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult in the vehicle, it is necessary to place restrictions on a teenage driver who holds a minor driver's license until such driver turns eighteen years of age in order to give that driver time to exercise good judgment in the operation of a vehicle while keeping that driver, his or her passengers, and the public safe;

(d) Penalties for the violation of these restrictions on minor drivers under eighteen years of age, including the assessment of points where they may not otherwise be assessed, should be sufficient to ensure that chronic violations would result in swift and severe repercussions to reinforce the importance of obeying the driving laws in order to keep the minor driver, his or her passengers, and the public safe.

(2) Repealed.

(3) Occupants in motor vehicles driven by persons under eighteen years of age shall be properly restrained or wear seat belts as required in sections 42-4-236 and 42-4-237.

(4) No more than one passenger shall occupy the front seat of the motor vehicle driven by a person under eighteen years of age, and the number of passengers in the back seat of such vehicle shall not exceed the number of seat belts.

(5) (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (5), any person who violates this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

(b) A violation of subsection (3) of this section is a traffic infraction, and, notwithstanding the provisions of section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(D), a person convicted of violating subsection (3) of this section shall be punished as follows:

(I) By the imposition of not less than eight hours nor more than twenty-four hours of community service for a first offense and not less than sixteen hours nor more than forty hours of community service for a subsequent offense;

(II) By the levying of a fine of not more than sixty-five dollars for a first offense, a fine of not more than one hundred thirty dollars for a second offense, and a fine of one hundred ninety-five dollars for a subsequent offense; and

(III) By an assessment of two license suspension points pursuant to section 42-2-127 (5)(hh).

**Source:** **L. 99:** Entire section added, p. 1379, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (2) repealed, p. 334, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2006:** (1)(c), (1)(d), (3), (4), and (5) amended, p. 438, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (5)(b)(II) amended, p. 2086, § 3, effective July 1.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 1999 act enacting this section, see section 1 of chapter 334, Session Laws of Colorado 1999.

#### **42-2-106. Instruction permits and temporary licenses - penalty.**

***[Editor's note: For the applicability of this section on or after January 1, 2027, see the editor's note following this section.]***

(1) (a) The department shall issue an instruction permit to a minor who is fifteen years of age or older and under eighteen years of age and who:

(I) Has successfully completed within the last six months a thirty-hour driver education course that is approved by the department, which course may be completed online; and

(II) Meets the requirements to be issued an instruction permit in accordance with sections 42-2-107 and 42-2-108.

(b) The department shall issue an instruction permit to a minor who is eighteen years of age or older and who:

(I) Has successfully completed within the last six months a thirty-hour driver education course that is approved by the department, which course may be online, or a four-hour prequalification driver awareness program that is approved by the department; and

(II) Qualifies for an instruction permit in accordance with section 42-2-107.

(c) The department shall issue an instruction permit to a minor who is qualified under subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) of this section and who has a disability that requires the person to use a special vehicle or that qualifies the minor for parking privileges under section 42-3-204, but the department may set additional reasonable requirements on the use of the instruction permit.

(d) The department shall issue an instruction permit to an individual who is twenty-one years of age or older and who meets the requirements to be issued an instruction permit in accordance with sections 42-2-107 and 42-2-108.

(e) The department shall not issue an instruction permit or endorsement to a minor who is under twenty-one years old to drive a motorcycle unless the applicant has successfully completed an instruction program in motorcycle safety that is approved by the Colorado state patrol.

(f) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(a) of this section, the department shall not issue an instruction permit to a minor who is under eighteen years old to drive a motorcycle unless the minor has written permission of the minor's parent or legal guardian to drive a motorcycle. The written permission requirement in this subsection (1)(f) does not apply to an emancipated minor.

(2) (a) An instruction permit entitles the holder to drive a motor vehicle on a roadway if the minor complies with subsection (2)(b) of this section.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (2)(c), (2)(d), or (2)(e) of this section, an instruction permit holder shall not drive a motor vehicle on a roadway unless:

(I) The permit is in the holder's immediate possession; and

(II) One of the following individuals who holds a valid Colorado driver's license is supervising the permit holder from the front passenger seat or, if the motor vehicle is a motorcycle, in close proximity to where the permit holder is driving:

(A) The minor's parent or stepparent;

(B) The minor's grandparent with power of attorney;

(C) The guardian who signed the affidavit of liability;

(D) The foster parent who signed the affidavit of liability;

(E) An approved driver education instructor if the motor vehicle complies with section 42-2-602;

- (F) An individual authorized to supervise a foster child in subsection (2)(c) of this section;
- (G) An alternate permit supervisor appointed in accordance with subsection (2)(e)(I) of this section;
- (H) An individual described in subsection (2)(e)(II) of this section;
- (I) An individual authorized to supervise the minor under subsection (2)(d) of this section; or
- (J) An individual who is twenty-one years of age or older and who assumed the obligations under this article 2 by signing the affidavit of liability for the minor.

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(d) of this section, a foster child may drive with and fulfill the fifty-hour driving requirement established in section 42-2-104 (4)(a)(II) with any individual who:

- (I) Holds a valid Colorado driver's license; and
- (II) Is twenty-one years of age or older.

(d) The individual who signed the affidavit of liability may allow the minor to drive with an individual who holds a valid driver's license and is twenty-one years of age or older.

(e) (I) If the individual who signed the affidavit of liability does not have a Colorado driver's license, the individual may appoint an alternate permit supervisor who holds a Colorado driver's license.

(II) If the individual who signed the affidavit of liability for the minor is in the United States military and does not have a Colorado driver's license, the individual may supervise the instruction permit holder if the individual holds a valid driver's license from another state, is authorized to drive a motor vehicle or motorcycle, and has proper military identification.

(3) (a) To be an approved driving instructor, the instructor must have a valid Colorado driver's license.

(b) To be an approved driving instructor who gives instruction in motorcycles, the instructor must have a valid motorcycle driver's license or endorsement and have successfully completed an instruction program in motorcycle safety that is approved by the Colorado state patrol.

(4) An instruction permit expires three years after the date of issuance; except that a temporary instruction permit to drive a commercial motor vehicle, as defined in section 42-2-402 (4), expires one year after the date of issuance.

(5) (a) The department, in its discretion, may issue a temporary minor driver's license or temporary driver's license to an applicant who:

- (I) Is not a first-time applicant in Colorado; or

(II) Is under eighteen years of age and is accompanied by a person who signs an affidavit of liability in accordance with section 42-2-108 (1) that will permit the applicant to operate a motor vehicle while the department completes its verification of all facts relative to the applicant's right to receive a minor driver's license or driver's license.

(b) The department shall issue a temporary minor driver's license or temporary driver's license to a first-time applicant in Colorado for a minor driver's license or driver's license that will permit the applicant to operate a motor vehicle while the department completes its verification of all facts relative to the applicant's right to receive a minor driver's license or driver's license, including the age, identity, and residency of the applicant, unless the applicant is under eighteen years of age and is accompanied by a person who signs an affidavit of liability in accordance with section 42-2-108 (1). The verification must include a comparison of existing driver's license and identification card images in department files with the applicant's images to ensure the applicant has only one identity.

(c) A temporary driver's license or temporary minor driver's license is valid for up to one year as determined by the department, unless extended by the department, and must be in the applicant's immediate possession while operating a motor vehicle. A temporary driver's license or temporary minor driver's license immediately becomes invalid when the permanent driver's license has been issued or has been refused for good cause.

(6) A person who violates this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2118, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** Entire section amended, p. 1355, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 99:** (1)(a) and (1)(b) amended, p. 1380, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (2) amended, p. 1348, § 12, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (2) amended, p. 937, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (1)(a) and (1)(b) amended and (1)(d) and (1)(e) added, p. 1265, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (1)(b), (1)(c), and (1)(d) amended, p. 641, § 3, effective May 27. **L. 2006:** (1)(b) and (1)(d) amended, p. 582, § 1, effective April 24; (1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), and (1)(d) amended, p. 733, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2007:** (1)(b)(I) amended, p. 589, § 3, effective April 20. **L. 2008:** (1)(f) added, p. 474, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (1) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1262, § 24, effective October 1. **L. 2010:** (1)(b)(I) amended, (HB 10-1059), ch. 38, p. 156, § 1, effective August 11. **L. 2017:** (1)(g) added, (SB 17-286), ch. 388, p. 2007, § 1, effective August 9. **L. 2019:** (1)(h) added, (HB 19-1023), ch. 239, p. 2364, § 4, effective August 2. **L. 2024:** Entire section R&RE, (HB 24-1021), ch. 174, p. 947, § 2, effective April 1, 2026. **L. 2025:** (1)(a)(I), (1)(b)(I), and (1)(d) amended, (HB 25-1076), ch. 16, p. 63, § 11, effective August 6. **L. 2026:** (1)(e) amended, (HB 26-1076), ch. 265, p. 1468, § 5, effective August 12; (1)(f) added, (HB 26-1079), ch. 149, p. 833, § 3, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-105 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-106 was relocated to § 42-2-107.

(2) Subsection (1)(e)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (1)(e), effective July 1, 2006. (See L. 2004, p. 1265.)

(3) Amendments to subsections (1)(b) and (1)(d) by Senate Bill 06-083 and House Bill 06-1107 were harmonized.

(4) Section 5(2) of chapter 174 (HB 24-1021), Session Laws of Colorado 2024, provides that the act changing this section applies to applications for instruction permits and driver's licenses submitted on or after January 1, 2027.

(5) Section 4(2) of chapter 149 (HB 26-1079), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to applications for instruction permits submitted on or after August 12, 2026.

**Cross references:** (1) For the penalty for a class A traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3).

(2) For the legislative declaration contained in the 1999 act amending subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b), see section 1 of chapter 334, Session Laws of Colorado 1999. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2004 act amending subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) and enacting subsections (1)(d) and (1)(e), see section 1 of chapter 323, Session Laws of Colorado 2004. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2007 act amending subsection (1)(b)(I), see section 1 of chapter 155, Session Laws of Colorado 2007.

(3) For the short title ("Cole Bradley Act") and the legislative declaration in HB 26-1079, see sections 1 and 2 of chapter 149, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

## ANNOTATION

**The department of motor vehicles did not violate § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, and intentionally discriminate against blind mother** when it required a "parent, stepparent, or guardian" with a valid driver's license to supervise

minor daughter's driving practice, as required by minor's instruction permit. *Barber v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 562 F.3d 1222 (10th Cir. 2009) (decided under law in effect prior to the 2005 amendment).

**42-2-107. Application for license or instruction permit - anatomical gifts - donations to Emily Keyes - John W. Buckner organ and tissue donation awareness fund - legislative declaration - rules - annual report.**

(1) (a) (I) To be acceptable, every application for an instruction permit or for a driver's or minor driver's license must be made upon forms furnished by the department and accompanied by the required fee. The department shall set the fee in accordance with section 42-2-114.5 (2). The department shall transfer the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2). Every applicant shall submit with the application proof of age or proof of identity, or both, as the department may require.

(II) *[Editor's note: For the applicability of this subsection (1)(a)(II) on or after January 1, 2027, see the editor's note following this section.]* If an applicant is applying for an instruction permit, driver's license, or minor driver's license for the first time in Colorado and the applicant otherwise meets the requirements for the license or permit, the applicant shall receive a temporary license, temporary minor driver's license, or temporary instruction permit pursuant to section 42-2-106 (5) until the department verifies all facts relative to the applicant's right to receive an instruction permit, minor driver's license, or driver's license, including the age, identity, and residency of the applicant.

(b) (I) An applicant who submits proof of age or proof of identity issued by an entity other than a state or the United States shall also submit such proof as the department may require that the applicant is lawfully present in the United States.

(II) An applicant who submits, as proof of age or proof of identity, a driver's license or identification card issued by a state that issues drivers' licenses or identification cards to persons who are not lawfully present in the United States shall also submit such proof as the department may require that the applicant is lawfully present in the United States.

(c) The department shall not issue a driver's or minor driver's license to a person who is not lawfully present in the United States.

(d) The department may not issue a driver's or minor driver's license to any person who is not a resident of the state of Colorado. The department shall issue such a license only upon the furnishing of such evidence of residency as the department may require.

(2) (a) (I) Every application shall state the full name, date of birth, sex, and residence address of the applicant; briefly describe the applicant; be signed by the applicant with such applicant's usual signature; have affixed thereon the applicant's fingerprint; and state whether the applicant has ever been licensed as a minor driver or driver and, if so, when and by what state or country and whether any such license has ever been denied, suspended, or revoked, the reasons therefor, and the date thereof. These statements shall be verified by the applicant's signature thereon.



(II) The department shall issue a new driver's license to a person who has a gender different from the sex denoted on that person's driver's license when the department receives a new birth certificate issued pursuant to section 25-2-113.8 or when the department receives:

(A) A statement, in a form or format designated by the department, from the person, or from the person's parent if the person is a minor, or from the person's guardian or legal representative, signed under penalty of law, confirming the sex designation on the person's driver's license does not align with the person's gender identity; and

(B) If the person is a minor under the age of eighteen, a statement, in a form or format designated by the department, signed under penalty of law, from a professional medical or mental health-care provider licensed in good standing in Colorado or with an equivalent license in good standing from another jurisdiction, stating that the sex designation on the driver's license does not align with the minor's gender identity. This subsection (2)(a)(II)(B) does not require a minor to undergo any specific surgery, treatment, clinical care, or behavioral health care.

(III) The department may only amend a sex designation for an individual's driver's license three times upon the individual's request. Any further requests from the individual for additional sex designation changes require the submission of a court order indicating that the sex designation change is required.

(IV) In addition to the information required by subsection (2)(a)(I) of this section, every application shall include the opportunity for the applicant to self-identify his or her race or ethnicity. The race or ethnicity information that may be identified on the application shall not be printed on the driver's license but shall be maintained in the stored information as defined by section 42-2-114 (1)(b). That information must be accessible to a law enforcement officer through magnetic or electronic readers.

(b) (I) In addition to the requirements of subsection (2)(a) of this section, an application must state that:

(A) The applicant understands that, as a resident of the state of Colorado, any motor vehicle owned by the applicant must be registered in Colorado pursuant to the laws of the state and the applicant may be subject to criminal penalties, civil penalties, and liability for any unpaid registration fees and specific ownership taxes if the applicant fails to comply with such registration requirements.

(B) Repealed.

(II) The applicant shall verify the statements required by this paragraph (b) by the applicant's signature on the application.

(2.5) (a) Any male United States citizen or immigrant who applies for an instruction permit or a driver's license or a renewal of any such permit or license and who is at least eighteen years

of age but less than twenty-six years of age shall be registered in compliance with the requirements of section 3 of the "Military Selective Service Act", 50 U.S.C. App. sec. 453, as amended.

(b) The department shall forward in an electronic format the necessary personal information of the applicants identified in paragraph (a) of this subsection (2.5) to the selective service system. The applicant's submission of an application shall serve as an indication that the applicant either has already registered with the selective service system or that he is authorizing the department to forward to the selective service system the necessary information for such registration. The department shall notify the applicant that his submission of an application constitutes consent to registration with the selective service system, if so required by federal law.

(3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (3), an application for a driver's or minor driver's license shall include the applicant's social security number, which shall remain confidential and shall not be placed on the applicant's driver's or minor driver's license; except that such confidentiality shall not extend to the state child support enforcement agency, the department, or a court of competent jurisdiction when requesting information in the course of activities authorized under article 13 of title 26, C.R.S., or article 14 of title 14, C.R.S. If the applicant does not have a social security number, the applicant shall submit a sworn statement made under penalty of law, together with the application, stating that the applicant does not have a social security number.

(b) If federal law is changed to prohibit the collection of social security numbers on driver's license applications, the department shall automatically stop its practice of including applicants' social security numbers on applications for driver's and minor driver's licenses as specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection (3).

(c) A sworn statement that is made under penalty of perjury shall be sufficient evidence of the applicant's social security number required by this subsection (3) and shall authorize the department to issue a driver's or minor driver's license to the applicant. Nothing in this paragraph (c) shall be construed to prevent the department from canceling, denying, recalling, or updating a driver's or minor driver's license if the department learns that the applicant has provided a false social security number.

(4) (a) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2004, p. 1891, § 4, effective August 4, 2004.)

(b) (I) (A) The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that the availability of human organs and tissue by voluntary designation of donors under the provisions of the "Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act", part 2 of article 19 of title 15, is critical for advancements in medical science to occur and for the successful use of various medical treatments to save and prolong lives.

(B) The general assembly further finds, determines, and declares that state government should play a role in increasing the availability of human organs and tissue to procurement organizations, as defined in section 15-19-202, by acting as a conduit to make money available for promoting organ and tissue donation and that this role constitutes a public purpose.

(II) There is hereby created in the state treasury the Emily Keyes - John W. Buckner organ and tissue donation awareness fund, which shall consist of all moneys credited thereto from all sources including but not limited to moneys collected from voluntary contributions for organ and tissue donation pursuant to subparagraph (V) of this paragraph (b) and section 42-2-118 (1)(a)(II). All moneys in the fund are hereby continuously appropriated to the department of the treasury and shall remain in the fund to be used for the purposes set forth in subparagraph (III) of this paragraph (b) and shall not revert to the general fund or any other fund. All interest derived from the deposit and investment of this fund shall be credited to the fund. At least quarterly, the state treasurer shall transfer all available moneys in the Emily Keyes - John W. Buckner organ and tissue donation awareness fund to Donor Alliance, Inc., or its successor organization, as directed by sub-subparagraph (A) of subparagraph (III) of this paragraph (b).

(III) At least quarterly, the state treasurer shall transfer all available money from the Emily Keyes - John W. Buckner organ and tissue donation awareness fund:

(A) To Donor Alliance, Inc., or its successor organization, to provide funding for activities to promote organ and tissue donation through the creation and dissemination, by means of electronic media and otherwise, of educational information including public service announcements and information to increase awareness in the medical professions and related fields. Donor Alliance, Inc., or its successor organization, shall create, by amendment to its articles of incorporation or bylaws or otherwise, as appropriate, an advisory group to allocate moneys received pursuant to this sub-subparagraph (A). Such advisory body shall include a representative of any qualified transplant organization. Such organizations shall include those for organs, tissue, and living donations. The advisory body created under this sub-subparagraph (A) shall report in writing in a form and manner determined by the department and at such intervals as required by the department on the use of moneys received under this sub-subparagraph (A). No moneys made available pursuant to this paragraph (b) shall be used to encourage fetal tissue donation.

(B) (Deleted by amendment, L. 98, p. 1172, § 9, effective June 1, 1998.)

(C) Before any payment to Donor Alliance, Inc., or its successor organization, from the Emily Keyes - John W. Buckner organ and tissue donation awareness fund may be made for any purpose, to the department for the reasonable costs associated with the initial installation of the organ and tissue donor registry, the setup for electronic transfer of the donor information for the organ and tissue donor registry to the federally designated organ procurement organization, and

computer programming, reprogramming, and form changes necessary as a result of the creation or modification of the organ and tissue donor registry.

(D) To Donor Alliance, Inc., or its successor organization, for the costs associated with educating the public about the organ and tissue donor registry pursuant to section 15-19-220.

(IV) Appropriations made by the general assembly pursuant to subparagraph (III) of this paragraph (b) shall not exceed moneys in the Emily Keyes - John W. Buckner organ and tissue donation awareness fund that are available for appropriation.

(V) An applicant may make a donation of one dollar or more to the Emily Keyes - John W. Buckner organ and tissue donation awareness fund, created in subsection (4)(b)(II) of this section, to promote the donation of organs and tissues under the "Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act", part 2 of article 19 of title 15. The department shall collect the financial donations and transmit them to the state treasurer, who shall credit them to the Emily Keyes - John W. Buckner organ and tissue donation awareness fund. The donation prescribed in this subsection (4)(b)(V) is voluntary and may be refused by the applicant. The department shall make available informational booklets or other informational sources on the importance of organ and tissue donations to applicants as designed and approved by the advisory body created under subsection (4)(b)(III)(A) of this section. The department shall inquire of each applicant at the time the completed application is presented whether the applicant is interested in making a donation of one dollar or more and shall also specifically inform the applicant of the option for organ and tissue donations. The department shall also provide written information designed and approved by the advisory body created under subsection (4)(b)(III)(A) of this section to each applicant volunteering to become an organ and tissue donor. The written information shall disclose that the applicant's name shall be transmitted to the organ and tissue donor registry authorized in section 15-19-220, and that the applicant shall notify the federally designated organ procurement organization of any changes to the applicant's donor status. The issuance of an identification card, a driver's license, or an instruction permit with a donor's designation completes the donation process and is effective unless revoked pursuant to section 15-19-206 of the "Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act", part 2 of article 19 of title 15.

(V.5) Designation on a donor's driver's license or permit shall fulfill the release requirements set forth in section 24-72-204 (7)(b), C.R.S.

(VI) The provisions of article 16 of title 6, C.R.S., shall not apply to the activities of the department under this paragraph (b).

(VII) By October 1, 2017, and by each October 1 thereafter, Donor Alliance, Inc., or its successor organization, shall submit to the department an annual report detailing the amounts and specific uses of all funds received by Donor Alliance, Inc., from the Emily Keyes - John W. Buckner organ and tissue donation awareness fund.

(VIII) Repealed.

(5) Repealed.

(6) Notwithstanding the amount specified for any fee in this section, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may reduce the amount of one or more of the fees if necessary pursuant to section 24-75-402 (3), C.R.S., to reduce the uncommitted reserves of the fund to which all or any portion of one or more of the fees is credited. After the uncommitted reserves of the fund are sufficiently reduced, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may increase the amount of one or more of the fees as provided in section 24-75-402 (4), C.R.S.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2119, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (5) added, p. 1003, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 96:** IP(15)(b) amended, p. 1201, § 1, effective June 1; (4) amended, p. 1132, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 97:** (5)(a) amended, p. 1669, § 2, effective June 5; (2) amended, p. 1000, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 98:** (4)(a), (4)(b)(II), (4)(b)(III)(B), and (4)(b)(VII) amended, p. 1172, § 9, effective June 1; (6) added, p. 1351, § 93, effective June 1; (1) amended, p. 294, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 99:** (4)(b)(II) amended, p. 630, § 46, effective August 4. **L. 2000:** (3) amended, p. 1715, § 11, effective July 1; (4)(b)(III)(C), (4)(b)(III)(D), and (4)(b)(V.5) added and (4)(b)(V) and (4)(b)(VII) amended, pp. 730, 731, 733, §§ 8, 9, 14, effective July 1; (1)(a), (1)(c), (1)(d), (2)(a), (3), and (5)(a)(I) amended, p. 1349, § 16, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (1)(a) amended, p. 938, § 2, effective July 1; (2.5) added, p. 646, § 1, effective August 8; (3)(a) amended and (3)(c) added, p. 782, § 1, effective August 8. **L. 2002:** (1)(b) amended, p. 171, § 1, effective April 2. **L. 2004:** (4)(a), (4)(b)(II), (4)(b)(III)(C), and (4)(b)(V) amended, p. 1891, § 4, effective August 4. **L. 2005:** (3)(a) amended, p. 642, § 4, effective May 27. **L. 2007:** (4)(b)(II), IP(4)(b)(III), (4)(b)(III)(A), (4)(b)(III)(C), (4)(b)(III)(D), (4)(b)(IV), (4)(b)(V), and (4)(b)(VII) amended, p. 307, § 1, effective, March 30; (1)(a)(I) amended, p. 1570, § 2, effective July 1; (4)(b)(I), (4)(b)(III)(C), (4)(b)(III)(D), and (4)(b)(V) amended, p. 799, § 10, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (1)(a)(I) amended, (SB 09-274), ch. 210, p. 951, § 1, effective May 1. **L. 2010:** (1)(a)(I) amended, (HB 10-1387), ch. 205, p. 886, § 1, effective May 5. **L. 2011:** (4)(b)(II) and (4)(b)(III) amended, (HB 11-1303), ch. 264, p. 1177, § 99, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** (1)(a)(I) amended, (HB 12-1216), ch. 80, p. 263, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** (1)(c) amended, (SB 13-251), ch. 402, p. 2351, § 2, effective August 7. **L. 2014:** (1)(a)(I) amended, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1543, § 6, effective June 5. **L. 2016:** (2)(a) amended, (HB 16-1021), ch. 322, p. 1307, § 1, effective June 10. **L. 2017:** (4)(b)(I)(A), (4)(b)(I)(B), IP(4)(b)(III), (4)(b)(III)(D), and (4)(b)(V) amended, (SB 17-223), ch. 158, p. 564, § 18, effective August 9; (4)(b)(II), IP(4)(b)(III), (4)(b)(III)(A), (4)(b)(III)(C), (4)(b)(IV), (4)(b)(V), and (4)(b)(VII) amended and (4)(b)(VIII) added, (HB 17-1027), ch. 329, p. 1759, § 1, effective September 15. **L. 2019:** (2)(a) amended, (HB 19-1039), ch. 377, p. 3405, § 3, effective January 1, 2020. **L. 2020:** (2)(a)(II) amended, (SB 20-166), ch. 280, p. 1371, § 2, effective July 13. **L.**

**2021:** (2)(a)(I) and (2)(a)(II)(B) amended, (SB 21-266), ch. 423, p. 2807, § 41, effective July 2; IP(2)(b)(I) and (2)(b)(I)(A) amended and (5) repealed, (HB 21-1314), ch. 460, p. 3094, § 3, effective January 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (1)(a)(I) amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 910, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2024:** (1)(a)(II) amended, (HB 24-1021), ch. 174, p. 950, § 3, effective April 1, 2026. **L. 2025:** (4)(b)(VIII) repealed, (SB 25-122), ch. 447, p. 2569, § 2, effective June 4; (2)(b)(I)(B) repealed, (HB 25-1076), ch. 16, p. 64, § 12, effective August 6; (2)(a)(III) amended, (HB 25-1312), ch. 205, p. 930, § 11, effective October 1, 2026.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-106 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-107 was relocated to § 42-2-108.

(2) Amendments to subsection (3) by Senate Bill 00-145 and Senate Bill 00-011 were harmonized, effective July 1, 2001.

(3) Amendments to subsections (4)(b)(III)(C), (4)(b)(III)(D), and (4)(b)(V) by Senate Bill 07-037 and House Bill 07-1266 were harmonized.

(4) Amendments to subsections IP(4)(b)(III) and (4)(b)(V) by SB 17-223 and HB 17-1027 were harmonized.

(5) Section 5(2) of chapter 174 (HB 24-1021), Session Laws of Colorado 2024, provides that the act changing this section applies to applications for instruction permits and driver's licenses submitted on or after January 1, 2027.

**Cross references:** (1) For the legislative declaration in SB 25-122, see section 1 of chapter 447, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

(2) For the short title ("Kelly Loving Act") in HB 25-1312, see section 1 of chapter 205, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Organ Donation Update", see 13 Colo. Law. 612 (1984).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-107 is similar to § 42-2-106 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that

provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Subsection (3) not unconstitutional when applied to individuals whose religion prohibits the taking of photographs.** Johnson v. Motor Vehicle Div., 197 Colo. 455, 593 P.2d 1363 (1979).

**Suspension of a license is not synonymous with suspension of the privilege to drive.** Therefore, failure of an applicant to disclose suspension of her

driving privilege does not violate the provision that requires disclosure of any license suspension. *Edge v. Dept. of Rev.*, 53 P.3d 652 (Colo. App. 2001).

#### **42-2-108. Application of minors - rules.**

(1) (a) (I) The application of any person under eighteen years of age for an instruction permit or minor driver's license must be accompanied by either:

(A) An affidavit of liability signed and verified by the parent, stepparent, foster parent, grandparent with power of attorney, guardian, spouse of the applicant if the spouse is eighteen years of age or older, or any other responsible adult who assumes the obligation imposed under this article 2 by signing the affidavit of liability for a minor; or

(B) Proof of financial responsibility for the future, as defined in section 42-7-103 (14), held in the name of the minor if the minor is a foster child.

(II) When an applicant has been made a ward of any court in the state for any reason and has been placed in foster care, the foster parents or parent may sign the affidavit of liability for the minor. If the parent or foster parent is unwilling or unable to sign the affidavit of liability, a guardian ad litem or counsel for youth, an official of the county department of human or social services having custody of the applicant, or an official of the division of youth services in the state department of human services having custody of the applicant may sign the application for an instruction permit without signing the affidavit of liability for the minor if the requirements of subsection (1)(b) of this section are met; except that, prior to signing the application for an instruction permit, the guardian ad litem or counsel for youth or other official shall notify the court of the guardian ad litem's or counsel for youth's or other official's intent to sign the application, and except that the guardian ad litem or counsel for youth or official shall not sign the application for an instruction permit for a minor who is placed in foster care and is under seventeen years of age without first obtaining the consent of the foster parent. If the minor is seventeen years of age or older and is in the care of a foster parent, in order to prepare the minor for emancipation from foster care and to assist the minor in obtaining important life skills, the guardian ad litem or counsel for youth or official shall consult with the foster parent of the minor about the opportunity for the minor to learn driving skills under the restrictions provided in subsection (1)(b) of this section prior to signing an application for an instruction permit. The guardian ad litem or counsel for youth or official shall solicit the opinion of the minor's foster parent concerning the minor's ability to exercise good judgment and make decisions as well as the minor's overall capacity to drive.

(III) When a minor to whom an instruction permit or minor driver's license has been issued is required to appear before the department for a hearing in accordance with this article 2, the person who signed the affidavit of liability for the minor or the guardian ad litem or counsel for youth or official who signed the application for an instruction permit for the minor shall accompany the minor. If the person who signed the minor's affidavit of liability or application for an instruction permit is unable to attend the hearing, the person shall submit to the department a verified signed statement certifying under oath that the person is aware of the purpose of the hearing but cannot attend.

(b) The department shall issue an instruction permit to an applicant under eighteen years of age who is otherwise eligible to obtain an instruction permit and who has been made a ward of the court and who is in out-of-home placement without the requirement of a person signing an affidavit of liability if the following requirements are met:

(I) The guardian ad litem or counsel for youth, an official of the county department of human or social services having custody of the applicant, or an official of the division of youth services in the state department of human services having custody of the applicant signs the application for an instruction permit; and

(II) (A) If the minor is in the care of a foster parent and is under seventeen years of age, the foster parent consents to the minor learning driving skills under the restrictions provided in this subsection (1); or

(B) If the minor is in the care of a foster parent and is at least seventeen years of age, the guardian ad litem or counsel for youth or the official has consulted with the foster parent prior to signing the application for an instruction permit.

(III) and (IV) Repealed.

(1.5) (a) The application of any person under the age of eighteen years for an instruction permit or minor driver's license shall include the option for a minor to be an organ or tissue donor.

(b) Repealed.

(c) Any person under the age of eighteen years who volunteers to donate anatomical gifts by designation on an instructional permit or minor driver's license shall include a notice of consent signed and verified by the father or the mother of the applicant, or, in the event neither parent is living, by the person or guardian having proof of legal custody of such minor, or by the spouse of the applicant if the spouse of the applicant is eighteen years of age or older.

(d) If the person under the age of eighteen years who volunteers to donate anatomical gifts by designation on an instructional permit or minor driver's license is an emancipated minor, a notice of consent is not necessary for an anatomical gift to be valid.



(e) Each county department of human or social services having custody of a foster child or ward of the court may implement a program that provides the services authorized under subsection (1)(b) of this section. The county department of human or social services may:

(I) Assess the child's or ward's mental, emotional, and physical ability to safely drive a motor vehicle and, based on that assessment, approve or deny the provision of services under subsection (1)(b) of this section; and

(II) Seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from private or public sources for the purposes of this subsection (1.5).

(2) (a) Any negligence or willful misconduct of a minor under eighteen years of age who drives a motor vehicle upon a highway is imputed to the person who signed the affidavit of liability that accompanied the minor's application for an instruction permit or a minor driver's license. The person is jointly and severally liable with the minor for any damages caused by the minor's negligence or willful misconduct, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(b) A guardian ad litem or a counsel for youth, an official of a county or district department of human or social services, or an official of the division of youth services in the state department of human services who signs a minor's application for an instruction permit or a minor driver's license but does not sign an affidavit of liability does not impute liability on themselves, on the county, or on the state for any damages caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the applicant.

(c) Nothing in this section waives or limits the governmental immunity of a county or district department of human or social services, as described in article 10 of title 24.

(3) (a) The department shall accept the application of a qualified minor if:

(I) A minor under eighteen years of age has deposited, or there is deposited on the minor's behalf, proof of financial responsibility covering the operation of a motor vehicle owned by the minor or, if the minor is not the owner of a motor vehicle, covering the operation of another motor vehicle; and

(II) The application is accompanied by an affidavit of liability signed by one parent or the guardian of the minor unless, under subsection (1) or (1.5) of this section, the minor need not have a responsible adult sign the affidavit of liability.

(b) While proof of financial responsibility is maintained, the parent, foster parent, or guardian is not subject to the liability imposed under subsection (2) of this section. Nothing in this section requires a foster parent to sign an affidavit of liability for a foster child and nothing in this section precludes a foster parent from obtaining a named driver's exclusion on the foster parent's insurance policy.

(4) Repealed.

(5) An individual who is in the custody of the state department of human services or a county or district department of human or social services who does not possess all of the required documents to apply for an instruction permit or a minor driver's license pursuant to this section may be eligible for exception processing pursuant to rules of the executive director of the department of revenue.

(6) On or before November 1, 2021, the executive director of the department of revenue shall promulgate rules establishing, to the extent permissible under federal law, forms of documentation that are acceptable for the purpose of allowing individuals who are in the custody of the state department of human services or a county or district department of human or social services to verify their legal residence in the United States, establish identity, and satisfy any other prerequisites for the acquisition of an instruction permit or a minor driver's license.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2119, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (1.5) added, p. 731, § 10, effective July 1; (3) and (4) amended, p. 1350, § 17, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2002:** Entire section amended, p. 392, § 1, effective May 2. **L. 2004:** (1)(a) and IP(1)(b) amended, p. 1266, § 4, effective July 1; (1.5)(b) repealed, p. 1892, § 5, effective August 4. **L. 2005:** (1)(a) amended, p. 642, § 5, effective May 27. **L. 2006:** (1)(a) amended, p. 738, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** (1)(a) and (1)(b)(I) amended, (HB 17-1329), ch. 381, p. 1985, § 68, effective June 6. **L. 2018:** (1)(a) and (1)(b)(I) amended, (SB 18-092), ch. 38, p. 453, § 142, effective August 8. **L. 2019:** (1)(a), IP(1)(b), (1)(b)(I), (1)(b)(II), and (3) amended, (1)(b)(III) and (1)(b)(IV) repealed, and (1.5)(e) added, (HB 19-1023), ch. 239, p. 2361, § 2, effective August 2. **L. 2021:** (2) amended and (5) and (6) added, (HB 21-1084), ch. 203, p. 1069, § 2, effective September 7. **L. 2022:** (1)(a)(II), (1)(a)(III), (1)(b)(I), (1)(b)(II)(B), and (2)(b) amended, (HB 22-1038), ch. 92, p. 445, § 36, effective January 9, 2023.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-107 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-108 was relocated to § 42-2-109.

(2) Subsection (4)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (4), effective July 1, 2006. (See L. 2000, p. 1350.)

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2004 act repealing subsection (1.5)(b), see section 1 of chapter 385, Session Laws of Colorado 2004. For the legislative declaration in SB 18-092, see section 1 of chapter 38, Session Laws of Colorado 2018. For the legislative declaration in HB 22-1038, see section 1 of chapter 92, Session Laws of Colorado 2022.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-108 is similar to § 42-2-107 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations this section.

**Legislative intent.** While granting minors under the age of 18 the opportunity to gain experience in driving an automobile and granting them the privilege of using the public highways, the general assembly sought by this section to safeguard against the indiscretions of the inexperienced, youthful driver by requiring a financially responsible adult to assume the liability for accidents negligently or willfully caused by the youth. This was done, first, with the hope, that, having assumed the liability, the parent or guardian would exercise some degree of control over the minor's driving habits, and, second, to insure that the innocent victim of such negligence would be compensated for his injuries. *Bilsten v. Porter*, 33 Colo. App. 208, 516 P.2d 656 (1973); *Lahey v. Benjou*, 759 P.2d 855 (Colo. App. 1988).

**Strict construction.** This section, in derogation of the common law, is to be strictly construed. *Bilsten v. Porter*, 33 Colo. App. 208, 516 P.2d 656 (1973).

**The statutory language of this section itself contains no express limitations on the parent's liability**, and this is true whether or not the minor has disobeyed the terms of his temporary instruction license. *Bilsten v. Porter*, 33 Colo. App. 208, 516 P.2d 656 (1973).

**Subsection (1) does not provide for notice** but merely requires that the person who signed the application attend the hearing. *Lopez v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 189 Colo. 133, 538 P.2d 446 (1975).

**Effect of § 42-2-102 (1)(d).** Subsection (1) only requires that the licensee be accompanied at the hearing by the person who signed the application of the minor, unless that person submits a verified statement. However, where licensees have never been required to apply for licenses in the state of Colorado, by virtue of § 42-2-102 (1)(d), and since no person was required to sign their applications, no one is required to attend the hearing other than the licensees themselves. *Lopez v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 189 Colo. 133, 538 P.2d 446 (1975).

**Applied** in *Bilsten v. Porter*, 37 Colo. App. 389, 547 P.2d 255 (1976).

### **42-2-109. Release from liability.**

(1) Any person who has signed the affidavit of liability which accompanied the application of a minor for a minor driver's license or permit may thereafter file with the department a

verified written request that the license of said minor be canceled. Upon receipt of such request, the department shall cancel the license of said minor, unless the minor has already reached the age of eighteen years, and the person who signed the affidavit of liability for such minor shall be relieved from all liability imposed by section 42-2-108 (2).

(2) When such minor reaches the age of eighteen years, the person who signed the minor's affidavit of liability is relieved of all liability imposed by section 42-2-108 (2).

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2120, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2000:** (1) amended, p. 1351, § 18, effective July 1, 2001.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-108 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-109 was relocated to § 42-2-110.

#### **42-2-110. Revocation upon death of signer for minor.**

(1) The department, upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of the death of the person who signed the affidavit of liability which accompanied the application for a license of such minor, shall cancel such license, unless the minor has already reached the age of eighteen years, and shall not issue a new license until such time as a new application is made pursuant to the provisions of this article.

(2) In the event of the death of the signer, a licensee under the age of eighteen years shall notify the department and secure the necessary new signer.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2120, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1351, § 19, effective July 1, 2001.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-109 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-110 was relocated to § 42-2-111.

#### **42-2-111. Examination of applicants and drivers - when required.**

(1) (a) The department shall examine every applicant for a driver's or minor driver's license. The executive director of the department, in the director's discretion, may conduct the

examination in any county convenient for the applicant. The examination shall include a test of the applicant's eyesight, his or her ability to read and understand highway signs that regulate, warn, and direct traffic, and his or her knowledge of the traffic laws of this state, an actual demonstration of the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable care and control in the operation of a motor vehicle, and such further physical and mental examination as the department finds necessary to determine the applicant's fitness to operate a motor vehicle safely upon the highways; except that an applicant seeking renewal of a driver's license by mail under section 42-2-118 need only submit the information required by that section.

(b) The department, in issuing the drivers' licenses for certain types or general classes of vehicles, may waive any examination required by paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) for applicants and may certify certain employers, governmental agencies, or other appropriate organizations to train and examine all applicants for such certain types or general classes of licenses, if such training and examination is equal to the training and examination of the department.

(2) Repealed.

(3) (a) If the department has evidence that indicates that a licensed driver or minor driver is incompetent or otherwise not qualified to be licensed, it may, upon written notice of at least ten days to the licensee, require such driver to submit to an examination.

(b) If a fatal motor vehicle crash involving one or more licensed drivers or minor drivers occurs, the department, if deemed appropriate, shall mail a written notice to all such drivers involved in the crash requiring such drivers to submit to examination. If the department has not mailed a written notice to any driver involved in a fatal crash within ninety days after the department receives notice regarding such crash, the department shall not require an examination of such driver based upon such crash.

(c) Upon the conclusion of an examination required under this subsection (3), the department shall take such action as it deems appropriate and may deny, cancel, suspend, or revoke the license of such person or permit that person to retain such license subject to the restrictions under section 42-2-116. Refusal or failure of the licensee to submit to such examination shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of such person's license. Such decision of the department shall be reviewed by a court of record upon appeal to that court by the party aggrieved.

(4) The department shall prepare and print rules, requirements, and regulations for the mandatory use of license examiners, and the same shall be strictly adhered to in the examination of all drivers.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2121, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 96:** (2) repealed, p. 1203, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 97:** (1)(a) amended, p. 141, § 1, effective

March 28; (3) amended, p. 135, § 1, effective January 1, 1998. **L. 99:** (1)(a) amended, p. 631, § 47, effective August 4. **L. 2000:** (1)(a), (3)(a), and (3)(b) amended, p. 1343, § 5, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2026:** (3)(b) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 474, § 34, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-110 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-111 was relocated to § 42-2-113.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-111 is similar to § 42-2-110 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Principal purpose of this section** and § 42-2-101 is the promotion of public safety by assuring that drivers are qualified to operate their vehicles. *Tomasi v. Thompson*, 635 P.2d 538 (Colo. 1981).

### **42-2-112. Medical advice - use by department - provider immunity - rules.**

(1) In order to determine whether a licensed driver or an applicant for a driver's license is physically or mentally able to operate a motor vehicle safely upon the highways of this state, the department is authorized, upon the adoption of rules concerning medical criteria for driver licensing, to seek and receive a written medical opinion from any physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or optometrist licensed in this state. The department may use the written medical opinion in regard to the renewal, suspension, revocation, or cancellation of driver's licenses pursuant to this article 2. The department shall not require a person to obtain a written medical opinion unless the department has reason to believe that the driver or applicant is physically or mentally unable to operate a motor vehicle safely upon the highways of this state.

(2) In addition to the written medical opinion sought and received pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the department may consider a written medical opinion received from the personal physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or optometrist of an individual driver or applicant. A written medical opinion requested by the applicant or driver from a personal physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or optometrist must be provided to the department at the expense of the applicant or driver. A written medical opinion required by the department must also be at the expense of the applicant or driver.

(3) A person shall not bring a civil or criminal action against a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or optometrist licensed to practice in this state for providing a written medical opinion pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) of this section if the physician,

physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or optometrist acts in good faith and without malice.

(4) A written medical opinion received by the department which relates to an individual applicant or driver is for the confidential use of the department in making decisions on the individual's qualifications as a driver, and the written medical opinion shall not be divulged to any person, except to the applicant or driver, or used in evidence in any trial or proceeding except in matters concerning the individual's qualifications to receive or retain a driver's license.

(5) Written medical opinions received by the department pursuant to this section, in addition to other sources of information, may be used by the department in the adoption of administrative rules concerning medical criteria for driver licensing.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2122, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 643, § 6, effective May 27. **L. 2016:** (1), (2), and (3) amended, (SB 16-158), ch. 204, p. 731, § 25, effective August 10. **L. 2025:** (1), (2), and (3) amended, (HB 25-1076), ch. 16, p. 64, § 13, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-110.5 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-112 was relocated to § 42-2-114.

(2) Although the amending clause to section 6 of Senate Bill 05-047 stated that all of § 42-2-112 was amended, only subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section were amended and appeared in the bill.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 16-158, see section 1 of chapter 204, Session Laws of Colorado 2016.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "1986 Colorado Tort Reform Legislation", see 15 Colo. Law. 1363 (1986). For article, "Advocating for

Senior Drivers And Their Families", see 34 Colo. Law. 63 (Oct. 2005).

#### **42-2-113. License examiners appointed.**

The department may appoint license examiners for any county in this state to conduct local examinations for all types of drivers' licenses. The officers of the department shall conduct the examination as prescribed by law for all drivers in the county and collect the fees as provided in section 42-2-114 and remit the same to the department, which shall transfer the same to the credit of the highway users tax fund.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2122, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1640, § 23, effective June 1. **L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (SB 09-274), ch. 210, p. 951, § 2, effective May 1. **L. 2010:** Entire section amended, (HB 10-1387), ch. 205, p. 886, § 2, effective May 5. **L. 2012:** Entire section amended, (HB 12-1216), ch. 80, p. 263, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2022:** Entire section amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 911, § 8, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-111 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-113 was relocated to § 42-2-115.

#### **42-2-114. License issued - voluntary disability identifier symbol - fees - rules - report - definitions.**

(1) (a) (I) The department, upon payment of the required fee and the surrender or cancellation of any previously issued Colorado identification card, shall issue to every applicant, who is not a first time applicant in Colorado or who is under eighteen years of age and is accompanied by a responsible adult meeting the requirements of section 42-2-108 (1), qualifying therefor either a driver's or minor driver's license according to the qualification for either license.

(II) The department, after payment of the required fee and the surrender or cancellation of any previously issued Colorado identification card, shall issue an instruction permit or minor driver's or driver's license to a first time applicant in Colorado only after the department completes its verification of all facts relative to such applicant's right to receive an instruction permit or minor driver's or driver's license including the age, identity, and residency of the applicant, unless such applicant is under eighteen years of age and is accompanied by a responsible adult meeting the requirements of section 42-2-108 (1). By July 1, 2002, such verification shall utilize appropriate and accurate technology and techniques. Such verification shall include a comparison of existing driver's license and identification card images in department files with the applicant's images to ensure such applicant has only one identity. Only



one fee shall be assessed for the issuance of a temporary license and a subsequent minor driver's or driver's license issued as a result of the same application.

(III) Such license shall bear thereon the following:

(A) The photograph of the licensee, which shall be taken and processed with equipment leased or owned by the department;

(B) A distinguishing number assigned to the licensee;

(C) The full name, date of birth, and residence address and a brief description of the licensee;

(D) The type or general class of vehicles the licensee may drive;

(E) Any restrictions applicable to the licensee;

(F) The expiration date of the license;

(G) The official seal of the department;

(H) A reference to the previous license issued to the licensee;

(I) The usual signature of the licensee;

(J) Repealed.

(K) One or more security features that are not visible and are capable of authenticating such license and any information contained therein.

(IV) The department shall promulgate rules that shall not allow the access and use of images, unless such images are used for the following:

(A) To aid a federal, state, or local government agency in carrying out such agency's official functions pursuant to section 24-72-204 (7), C.R.S.;

(B) To aid the department to ascertain a person's correct identity; or

(C) To aid the department to prevent the issuance of multiple driver's licenses or identification cards to the same person.

(V) The department shall promulgate rules that shall not allow the access and use of image comparison technology, unless such technology is used for the following:

(A) To aid a federal, state, or local government agency in carrying out such agency's official functions pursuant to section 24-72-204 (7), C.R.S., so long as such federal, state, or local government agency has a reasonable suspicion that a crime has been committed or will be committed and a reasonable suspicion that the image requested is either the perpetrator of such crime or a victim of such crime;

(B) To aid the department to ascertain a person's correct identity when there is reasonable suspicion that the person has used a driver's license or identification card to create a false identity. Nothing in this sub-subparagraph (B) shall be construed to prohibit the department from ascertaining an applicant's correct identity upon application for a driver's license or identification card.

(C) To aid the department to prevent the issuance of multiple driver's licenses or identification cards to the same person.

(VI) Nothing in subparagraph (IV) or (V) of this paragraph (a) shall be construed to require the department to purchase or implement a system that can be used by a person who is not an employee, officer, or agent of the department to access image comparison technology.

(b) (I) If the department issues a driver's license that contains stored information, the department shall include in the stored information only the information that is specifically referenced in subsection (1)(a) of this section, that appears in printed form on the face of the license issued by the department to the licensee, or that is any race or ethnicity information identified on the application under section 42-2-107 (2)(a)(II); except that the department shall not include in the stored information:

(A) The licensee's social security number; or

(B) The fact that the licensee has requested that a disability identifier symbol be placed on the licensee's driver's license in accordance with subsection (12) of this section.

(II) As used in this paragraph (b), "stored information" includes information that is stored on the driver's license by means of magnetic or electronic encoding, or by any other technology designed to store retrievable information.

(2) (a) A fee is required for the issuance of a driver's license to a person twenty-one years of age or older. The department shall set the fee in accordance with section 42-2-114.5. Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the license expires on the applicant's birthday in the fifth year after issuance of the license.

(b) The department shall transfer the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(b) of this section:

(I) If the driver's license is issued by the office of a county clerk and recorder in a county with a population of at least one hundred thousand individuals, the county clerk and recorder shall retain the sum set forth in subsection (2)(c)(I.5) of this section and forward the remainder to the department for transmission to the state treasurer, who shall credit the remainder of the fee to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(I.5) The county clerk and recorder shall retain the following amounts under subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (c):

(A) For a driver's license issued prior to July 1, 2016, eight dollars;

(B) For a driver's license issued on or after July 1, 2016, but prior to July 1, 2017, ten dollars;

(C) For a driver's license issued on or after July 1, 2017, but prior to July 1, 2018, twelve dollars; and

(D) For a driver's license issued on or after July 1, 2018, thirteen dollars.

(II) If the driver's license is issued by an office of a county clerk and recorder in a county with a population of fewer than one hundred thousand individuals, the county clerk and recorder shall retain the sum set forth in subsection (2)(c)(II.5) of this section and forward the remainder to the department for transmission to the state treasurer, who shall credit the remainder of the fee to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(II.5) The county clerk and recorder shall retain the following amounts under subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (c):

(A) For a driver's license issued prior to July 1, 2016, thirteen dollars and sixty cents;

(B) For a driver's license issued on or after July 1, 2016, but prior to July 1, 2017, fifteen dollars;

(C) For a driver's license issued on or after July 1, 2017, but prior to July 1, 2018, seventeen dollars; and

(D) For a driver's license issued on or after July 1, 2018, eighteen dollars.

(d) In addition to the fee established in paragraph (a) of this subsection (2), a surcharge of two dollars is added for issuance of a driver's or minor driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement. The department shall transfer the surcharge to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the motorcycle operator safety training fund, created in section 43-5-504, C.R.S.

(e) In addition to the fee established in subsection (2)(a) of this section, a surcharge is added for issuance of a driver's or minor driver's license, or instruction permit, when an applicant retakes either the examination of knowledge of the traffic laws of this state or the demonstration of the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable care and control in the operation of a motor vehicle. The surcharge applies regardless of whether the applicant retakes the examination or demonstration with the department or a vendor approved by the department. The department shall set the surcharge by rule in an amount to offset the direct and indirect cost of giving the failed examination or demonstration. The department shall transfer the surcharge to the state

treasurer, who shall credit it to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(2.5) The department shall charge a fee for issuing any probationary license. Such fee shall be set by rule by the department.

(3) Driver's licenses required by the "Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986", Public Law 99-570, shall expire on the birthday of the applicant in the fourth year after the issuance thereof.

(4) (a) A fee is required for the issuance of a minor driver's license, which expires twenty days after the twenty-first birthday of the licensee. The department shall set the fee in accordance with section 42-2-114.5 (2). The department shall transfer the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2). In the case of the issuance of any minor driver's license by the office of the county clerk and recorder, the fee for the minor driver's license is apportioned in the same manner as for the issuance of a driver's license in accordance with subsection (2)(c) of this section.

(b) Repealed.

(5) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2007, p. 1571, § 3, effective July 1, 2007.)

(6) (a) A photograph showing the full face of the licensee shall be affixed to every driver's license and minor driver's license issued under this section.

(b) Every minor driver's license issued shall graphically emphasize the age group of the licensee on the face of such license, as prescribed by the department.

(7) Any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, no liability or other sanctions shall be imparted to any person who relies upon the date of birth or identification as set out on any license issued pursuant to this article if such date of birth or identification should be later proved incorrect or fraudulently entered upon said license.

(8) Repealed.

(9) Notwithstanding the amount specified for any fee in this section, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may reduce the amount of one or more of the fees if necessary pursuant to section 24-75-402 (3), C.R.S., to reduce the uncommitted reserves of the fund to which all or any portion of one or more of the fees is credited. After the uncommitted reserves of the fund are sufficiently reduced, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may increase the amount of one or more of the fees as provided in section 24-75-402 (4), C.R.S.

(10) (a) At the applicant's voluntary request, the department shall issue a driver's license bearing an identifier of a branch of the United States armed forces, such as "Marine Corps",

"Navy", "Army", "Air Force", "Space Force", or "Coast Guard", if the applicant possesses a currently valid military identification document, a DD214 form issued by the United States government, or any other document accepted by the department that demonstrates that the applicant is an active member or a veteran of the branch of service that the applicant has requested be placed on the driver's license. The applicant shall not be required to provide documentation that the applicant is an active member or a veteran of a branch of the United States armed forces to renew or be reissued a driver's license bearing an identifier issued pursuant to this subsection (10). The department shall not place more than one branch of the United States armed forces identifier on an applicant's driver's license.

(b) and (c) Repealed.

(11) (a) Upon the applicant presenting a DD214 form issued by the United States government or any other document accepted by the department that demonstrates that the applicant is a veteran of the United States armed forces, the department shall print the word "Veteran" on the driver's license.

(b) The holder of a driver's license bearing the word "Veteran" need not present documentation that the holder is a veteran of the United States armed forces to renew or reissue the driver's license.

(c) The department shall not issue a driver's license bearing the word "Veteran" if the applicant's documentation shows that the applicant received a dishonorable discharge.

(12) (a) (I) At an applicant's request, and upon completion of the application pursuant to subsection (12)(a)(II)(A) of this section, the department shall issue to the applicant a driver's license bearing a disability identifier symbol if the applicant has a disability as defined in the federal "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990", 42 U.S.C. sec. 12101 et seq., and the disability interferes with the person's ability to effectively communicate with a peace officer.

(II) (A) The department shall promulgate a rule creating an application and renewal form that is signed by a professional, under penalty of perjury, to affirm that an applicant meets the eligibility requirements for a disability identifier symbol and setting out the penalties for authorizing a disability identifier symbol before verifying that the applicant has a disability that interferes with the applicant's ability to effectively communicate with a peace officer.

(B) As used in this subsection (12)(a)(II), "professional" means a physician licensed to practice medicine under article 240 of title 12 or practicing medicine under section 12-240-107 (3)(i), a physician assistant licensed under section 12-240-113, a mental health professional licensed or certified pursuant to article 245 of title 12, an advanced practice registered nurse registered under section 12-255-111, a person with a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling, or a physician, physician assistant, mental health professional, or advanced practice registered

nurse authorized to practice professionally by another state that shares a common border with Colorado.

(b) The disability identifier symbol placed on a driver's license in accordance with this subsection (12) must be discreet and must represent all types of disabilities, including cognitive disabilities, neurological diversities, mental health disorders, sensory needs, chronic illness, chronic pain, and physical disabilities. The department shall develop the symbol by rule.

(c) The department shall not charge a fee for placing a disability identifier symbol on a driver's license.

(d) The department shall notify peace officers in Colorado about the voluntary disability identifier symbol created in this subsection (12), noting that the symbol is not the exclusive or only determination of disability, and directing peace officers to relevant P.O.S.T. curriculum resources, including training in recognizing persons with disabilities, appropriate interactions with persons with disabilities, resources available to persons with disabilities and to those interacting with persons with disabilities, and the requirements of the federal "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990", 42 U.S.C. sec. 12101 et seq., as amended.

(e) A person may choose to no longer have the disability identifier symbol on the person's driver's license. The department shall issue a person a new driver's license without a disability identifier symbol at the request of the person. The department shall not charge a fee for the issuance of a new driver's license without the disability identifier symbol. The department shall not retain any information regarding a person's disability when the person chooses to remove the disability identifier symbol from the person's driver's license.

(f) By January 15, 2023, and each year thereafter, the department shall report to the house of representatives health and human services committee and transportation, housing, and local government committee and the senate health and human services committee and transportation and energy committee, or their successor committees, on the percentage of persons issued a driver's license who have requested a disability identifier symbol issued in accordance with this subsection (12) in the previous calendar year.

**Source:** **L. 94:** (1) and (4) amended, p. 1452, § 1, effective May 25; (2)(a) amended, p. 539, § 1, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2123, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** (2.5) added, p. 1101, § 21, effective June 1; (9) added, p. 1351, § 94, effective June 1. **L. 2000:** (1)(a), (2), (4), (5), and (6) amended, p. 1343, § 6, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (1)(a) and (2)(a)(I)(E) amended and (2)(a)(I)(F) added, p. 938, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2002:** IP(1)(a)(IV) amended and (1)(a)(V) and (1)(a)(VI) added, p. 369, § 1, effective April 25; (2)(a)(I)(E) repealed, p. 869, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2005:** (1)(a)(III)(J) and (8) repealed and (2)(a)(I)(A) and (2)(a)(I)(B) amended, p. 644, §§ 7, 8, effective May 27. **L. 2006:** (2)(a)(I)(F)

amended, p. 656, § 1, effective April 24. **L. 2007:** (2)(a)(I)(A), (2)(a)(I)(C), (2)(a)(I)(D), (4)(a), and (5) amended, p. 1571, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (2)(a)(I)(A), (2)(a)(I)(D), and (4)(a) amended, (SB 09-274), ch. 210, p. 952, § 3, effective May 1; (2)(a)(I)(F) amended, (SB 09-025), ch. 266, p. 1215, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2010:** (2)(a)(I)(A), (2)(a)(I)(D), and (4)(a) amended, (HB 10-1387), ch. 205, p. 887, § 3, effective May 5; (10) added, (HB 10-1209), ch. 322, p. 1497, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** (2)(a)(I)(A), (2)(a)(I)(D), and (4)(a) amended, (HB 12-1216), ch. 80, p. 264, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** (10)(b)(I) repealed, (HB 13-1011), ch. 90, p. 291, § 1, effective August 7; (11) added, (HB 13-1119), ch. 177, p. 653 § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2014:** (2) R&RE and (4)(a) amended, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1543, § 7, effective June 5; (2) R&RE and (4)(b) repealed, (HB 14-1066), ch. 290, p. 1188, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2016:** (2)(c) and (2)(e) amended and (2)(c)(I.5) and (2)(c)(II.5) added, (HB 16-1415), ch. 139, p. 411, § 2, effective May 4; (1)(b)(I) amended, (HB 16-1021), ch. 322, p. 1307, § 2, effective June 10. **L. 2021:** (10)(a) amended, (HB 21-1231), ch. 206, p. 1079, § 13, effective May 28; (1)(b)(I) amended and (12) added, (HB 21-1014), ch. 406, p. 2694, § 2, effective July 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (2)(b), IP(2)(c), (2)(c)(I), (2)(c)(II), (2)(e), and (4)(a) amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 911, § 9, effective July 1. **L. 2026:** (12)(f) amended, (SB 26-169), ch. 311, p. 1816, § 67, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-112 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-114 was relocated to § 42-2-116.

(2) Amendments to subsections (1) and (4) by House Bill 94-1346 and amendments to subsection (2)(a) by House Bill 94-1028 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

(3) Subsection (2)(a)(II)(B) provided for the repeal of subsection (2)(a)(II), effective July 1, 2006. (See L. 2000, p. 1343.)

(4) Subsection (10)(c)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (10)(c), effective July 1, 2011. (See L. 2010, p. 1497.)

(5) Subsection (10)(b)(II)(B) provided for the repeal of subsection (10)(b)(II), effective July 1, 2012. (See L. 2010, p. 1497.)

(6) Subsection (2) was repealed and reenacted in SB 14-194. Those amendments were superseded by the repeal and reenactment of subsection (2) in HB 14-1066, effective July 1, 2014.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in HB 21-1014, see section 1 of chapter 406, Session Laws of Colorado 2021.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Advocating for Senior Drivers And Their Families", see 34 Colo. Law. 63 (Oct. 2005).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-114 is similar to § 42-2-112 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Photograph requirement constitutional.** State has compelling interest in having drivers' licenses with photographs because police officers need to be able to identify, instantly, the operators of vehicles at traffic stops. *Johnson v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 197

Colo. 455, 593 P.2d 1363 (1979) (decided under former § 42-2-106 (3)).

**County clerk's authority is not personal.** The authority to make registrations, give examinations, collect specific ownership taxes, and receive the statutory fees provided therefor, is conferred upon the county clerk and recorder, not in his individual capacity but by virtue of his office. The authority follows the office, and is by no means a personal right or privilege of the incumbent. *Flanders v. Kochenberger*, 118 Colo. 104, 193 P.2d 281 (1948) (decided prior to § 13-4-12, C.R.S. 1963, as amended, 1973).

### **42-2-114.5. Fees for driver's licenses, identification cards, and related services - crediting to DRIVES account - fee setting procedures - rules.**

(1) All net revenue received by the department from the fees specified in subsection (2) of this section, as such fees may be raised or lowered by the department in accordance with subsection (3) of this section, shall be credited to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the following fees must be paid for the following functions:

- (a) The fee for a driving record under section 42-1-206 (2) is nine dollars;
- (b) The fee for a certified driving record under section 42-1-206 (2) is ten dollars;
- (c) The application fee for an instruction permit under section 42-2-107 is fourteen dollars;
- (d) The fee for a driver's license or minor driver's license under section 42-2-114 (2)(a) or (4)(a), respectively, is:
  - (I) Twenty-six dollars beginning July 1, 2016, but before July 1, 2017;
  - (II) Twenty-seven dollars beginning July 1, 2017, but before July 1, 2018; and
  - (III) Twenty-eight dollars beginning July 1, 2018;



(e) The fee for retaking either the examination of knowledge or the demonstration of ability under section 42-2-114 (2)(e) is set by the department not to exceed fifteen dollars;

(f) The fee for a duplicate permit or minor driver's license under section 42-2-117 (1) is twelve dollars for the first duplicate and fourteen dollars for a subsequent duplicate;

(g) The fee for a driver's license extension under section 42-2-118 (1)(b)(I) is six dollars and fifty cents;

(h) The fee for the return of a license under section 42-2-127.7 (4)(d)(II) is five dollars;

(i) The fee for a replacement license under section 42-2-133 (2) is five dollars;

(j) The fee for issuing or renewing an identification card under section 42-2-306 (1)(a) is ten dollars and fifty cents;

(k) The fee for reissuance of an identification card that has been canceled or denied under section 42-2-306 (1)(b) is twenty dollars;

(l) The fee for issuing a commercial driver's license under section 42-2-406 (1) and (2) is thirty-five dollars;

(m) The fee for administering driving tests under section 42-2-406 (3) is one hundred dollars;

(n) The fee for licensing testing units under section 42-2-406 (4) is three thousand ninety-four dollars for the initial license and one thousand fifty-two dollars for each subsequent annual license renewal;

(o) The fee for licensing driving testers under section 42-2-406 (5) is one hundred forty-eight dollars for the initial license and one hundred forty dollars for each subsequent annual license renewal; and

(p) The fee for issuing an identification document under part 5 of this article.

(3) The department may raise or lower the fees listed in subsection (2) of this section, but the department shall not increase the fee by more than five percent per year. The department may round a fee increase to the nearest dollar.

(4) A rule promulgated under this section that increases fees shall not take effect until thirty days after the department has issued a report to the joint budget committee. The report must:

(a) List the fees being changed and the amounts of the changes; and

(b) Provide an explanation of the reasons for the changes and an analysis of why the changes are needed.

(5) to (7) Repealed.

(8) If there is money available from the appropriation made pursuant to section 25-4-2208 (3) or the gifts, grants, or donations accepted pursuant to section 25-4-2208 (5), the department shall not charge or collect the fees established in this section from an individual who demonstrates eligibility to receive assistance under the necessary document program established in section 25-4-2208 and administered by the office of health equity in the department of public health and environment.

**Source:** **L. 2007:** Entire section added, p. 1570, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (SB 09-279), ch. 367, p. 1933, § 26, effective June 1. **L. 2010:** (1) amended, (HB 10-1387), ch. 205, p. 888, § 4, effective May 5. **L. 2014:** Entire section amended, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1544, § 8, effective June 5. **L. 2015:** (2)(h) amended, (SB 15-264), ch. 259, p. 968, § 93, effective August 5. **L. 2016:** (1) amended, (HB 16-1415), ch. 139, p. 413, § 3, effective May 4; (2)(a), (2)(b), (2)(d), (2)(f), (2)(g), (2)(n), (2)(o), and (3) amended, (HB 16-1415), ch. 139, p. 413, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2018:** (2)(o) amended, (HB 18-1375), ch. 274, p. 1723, § 86, effective May 29. **L. 2022:** (7) added, (HB 22-1004), ch. 165, p. 1024, § 2, effective May 16; (1) and (3) amended and (5) and (6) added, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 909, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2025:** (3) amended, (HB 25-1076), ch. 16, p. 65, § 14, effective August 6; (7) repealed, (SB 25-300), ch. 428, p. 2460, § 70, effective August 6; (8) added, (SB 25-008), ch. 207, p. 936, § 3, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** (1) Subsection (5)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (5), effective July 1, 2023. (See L. 2022, p. 909.)

(2) Subsection (6)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (6), effective July 1, 2024. (See L. 2022, p. 909.)

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in HB 22-1004, see section 1 of chapter 165, Session Laws of Colorado 2022. For the legislative declaration in SB 25-008, see section 1 of chapter 207, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

#### **42-2-115. License, permit, or identification card to be exhibited on demand - penalty.**

(1) No person who has been issued a driver's or minor driver's license or an instruction permit or an identification card as defined in section 42-2-301 (2), who operates a motor vehicle in this state, and who has such license, permit, or identification card in such person's immediate possession shall refuse to remove such license, permit, or identification card from any billfold, purse, cover, or other container and to hand the same to any peace officer who has requested

such person to do so if such peace officer reasonably suspects that such person is committing, has committed, or is about to commit a violation of article 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 of this title.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2124, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (1) amended, p. 1351, § 20, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2021:** (2) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3300, § 707, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-113 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-115 was relocated to § 42-2-117.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class A traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3).

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-115 is similar to § 42-2-113 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**The clear intent of this section** is simply to permit the officer to demand the license of the driver whose vehicle has been stopped for an otherwise proper purpose. *People v. McPherson*, 191 Colo. 81, 550 P.2d 311 (1976).

**This section requires an operator of a motor vehicle to display his operator's license upon demand** by a police officer. *Martinez v. People*, 169 Colo. 366, 456 P.2d 275 (1969) (decided prior to § 13-4-13, C.R.S. 1963, as amended, 1973).

**This section does not confer upon a police officer unlimited discretionary authority to stop any car at any time for any reason** as long as he asked contemporaneously for display of a driver's license. *People v. McPherson*, 191 Colo. 81, 550 P.2d 311 (1976).

A construction of this section which would give to police officers carte blanche authority in stopping cars would be inconsistent with section 16-3-103, which specifically limits an officer's authority to stop persons for investigation in the absence of probable cause to arrest. *People v. McPherson*, 191 Colo. 81, 550 P.2d 311 (1976).

**When demand to present license proper.** The demand for defendant to present his license was proper only if the

officers properly stopped him in the first place. *People v. McPherson*, 191 Colo. 81, 550 P.2d 311 (1976).

**There is no requirement that an individual must produce a driver's license when such individual is not the driver of a**

vehicle. *Enright v. Groves*, 39 Colo. App. 39, 560 P.2d 851 (1977).

**Applied** in *People v. Pinyan*, 190 Colo. 304, 546 P.2d 488 (1976); *People v. Clements*, 665 P.2d 624 (Colo. 1983).

#### **42-2-116. Restricted license.**

(1) The department, upon issuing a driver's or minor driver's license or an instruction permit, has authority, whenever good cause appears, to impose restrictions, limitations, or conditions which are suitable to the licensee's driving ability with respect to the type of special mechanical control device required on a motor vehicle which the licensee may operate or which limit the right of the licensee to drive a motor vehicle except when such licensee is required to drive to and from the licensee's place of employment or to perform duties within the course of employment or to impose such other restrictions applicable to the licensee as the department may determine to be appropriate to assure the safe operation of a motor vehicle by the licensee.

(2) The department either may issue a special restricted license or must set forth such restrictions, limitations, or conditions upon the usual license form issued to the applicant.

(3) The department, upon receiving satisfactory evidence of any violation of the restrictions, limitations, or conditions of such license, may cancel or suspend such restricted license, but the licensee shall be entitled to a hearing as upon a suspension or revocation under this article.

(4) No person shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or elsewhere within this state in any manner in violation of the restrictions, limitations, or conditions imposed in a special restricted license, in a driver's or minor driver's license, or in an instruction permit issued to such person by the department or by another state or country.

(5) The department is authorized after examination to issue a restricted license to a person with a behavioral or mental health disorder or an intellectual and developmental disability, containing such restrictions as may be imposed upon said person by a court pursuant to part 3 or part 4 of article 14 of title 15 or section 27-65-110 (4) or 27-65-127.

(6) (a) A person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

(b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2012.)

(7) and (8) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2124, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (6) amended, p. 1357, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (6) amended and (7) and (8) added, p. 1078, § 8, effective July 1; (1) and (4) amended, p. 1351, § 21, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2006:** (5) amended, p. 1409, § 79, effective August 7; (6)(b) and (8) amended, p. 1368, § 4, effective January 1, 2007. **L. 2010:** (5) amended, (SB 10-175), ch. 188, p. 807, § 84, effective April 29. **L. 2012:** (6) amended and (7) and (8) repealed, (HB 12-1168), ch. 278, p. 1482, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2017:** (5) amended, (SB 17-242), ch. 263, p. 1380, § 306, effective May 25. **L. 2022:** (5) amended, (HB 22-1256), ch. 451, p. 3238, § 50, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-114 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-116 was relocated to § 42-2-118.

**Cross references:** (1) For the penalty for a class A traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

(2) For the legislative declaration in SB 17-242, see section 1 of chapter 263, Session Laws of Colorado 2017.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-116 is similar to § 42-2-114 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Motorcycle requires special licensing.** Although a motorcycle is a motor vehicle, the general assembly has occasionally

treated it as a class apart from other motor vehicles. This section requires a special licensing for the operators of motorcycles. *Love v. Bell*, 171 Colo. 27, 465 P.2d 118 (1970) (decided prior to § 13-4-14, C.R.S. 1963, as amended, 1973).

**Applied** in *Tomasi v. Thompson*, 635 P.2d 538 (Colo. 1981).

### **42-2-117. Duplicate permits and minor licenses - replacement licenses.**

(1) If an instruction permit or a minor driver's license issued under this article is lost, stolen, or destroyed, the person to whom it was issued, upon request and the payment of a fee to the department, may obtain a duplicate or substitute upon furnishing satisfactory proof to the department that the permit or minor license was lost, stolen, or destroyed and that the applicant is qualified to have a permit or license. The department shall set the fees for a first duplicate and for any subsequent duplicate in accordance with section 42-2-114.5. The department shall transfer

either fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(1.5) Upon furnishing satisfactory proof to the department that a driver's license issued under this article 2 has been lost, stolen, or destroyed, the person to whom it was issued may apply for a duplicate or replacement of the license pursuant to section 42-2-118. The new driver's license expires as provided in section 42-2-114 if issued under this part 1 or as provided in section 42-2-509 (1) if issued under part 5 of this article 2.

(2) Notwithstanding the amount specified for the fee in this section, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may reduce the amount of the fee if necessary pursuant to section 24-75-402 (3), C.R.S., to reduce the uncommitted reserves of the fund to which all or any portion of the fee is credited. After the uncommitted reserves of the fund are sufficiently reduced, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may increase the amount of the fee as provided in section 24-75-402 (4), C.R.S.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2125, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** Entire section amended, p. 1351, § 95, effective June 1. **L. 2000:** (1) amended and (1.5) added, p. 1346, § 7, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** (1.5) amended, p. 644, § 9, effective May 27. **L. 2007:** (1) amended, p. 1572, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (1) amended, (SB 09-274), ch. 210, p. 953, § 4, effective May 1. **L. 2010:** (1) amended, (HB 10-1387), ch. 205, p. 888, § 5, effective May 5. **L. 2012:** (1) amended, (HB 12-1216), ch. 80, p. 265, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2014:** (1) amended, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1546, § 9, effective June 5. **L. 2018:** (1.5) amended, (SB 18-108), ch. 260, p. 1596, § 4, effective January 1, 2019. **L. 2022:** (1) amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 912, § 10, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-115 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-117 was relocated to § 42-2-119.

**42-2-118. Renewal of license in person, by mail, or electronically - donations to Emily Keyes - John W. Buckner organ and tissue donation awareness fund - rules - definitions.**

(1) (a) (I) Except as provided in subsection (1)(a)(I.5) of this section, every license issued pursuant to section 42-2-114 or part 5 of this article 2 is renewable prior to its expiration, upon application in person, by mail as provided in subsection (1.3) of this section, or by electronic means as provided in subsection (1.5) of this section; payment of the required fee; passing of an eye test; and passing of such other examinations as the applicant's physical limitations or driver's record indicates to be desirable. If a person renews his or her license pursuant to this subsection

(1)(a)(I) by electronic means, the person must attest under penalty of perjury that he or she has had an eye examination by an optometrist or an ophthalmologist within one year before the date of application.

(I.5) If an applicant applies to renew their license within a year after it has expired, the renewed license will have the same expiration date as if it had been renewed on time, so long as the photo the department has on file will meet the requirements of 6 CFR 37.25 (a)(1) for the federal "Real ID Act of 2005" at the time of the next expiration. This subsection (1)(a)(I.5) does not apply to provisions of subsection (1)(b)(I) of this section, authorizing extensions.

(II) (A) An applicant may make a donation of one dollar or more to the Emily Keyes - John W. Buckner organ and tissue donation awareness fund, created in section 42-2-107 (4)(b)(II), to promote the donation of organs and tissues under the provisions of the "Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act", part 2 of article 19 of title 15. The department shall collect the donations and transmit them to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the Emily Keyes - John W. Buckner organ and tissue donation awareness fund. The donation prescribed in this subsection (1)(a)(II)(A) is voluntary and may be refused by the applicant. The department shall make available informational booklets or other informational sources on the importance of organ and tissue donations to applicants as designed and approved by the advisory body created under section 42-2-107 (4)(b)(III)(A). The department shall inquire of each applicant at the time the completed application is presented whether the applicant is interested in making a donation of one dollar or more to the fund. If the applicant has not already made a donor designation, the department shall also specifically inform the applicant of the option for organ and tissue donations by having a "Y" placed in the donor field on the front of the document. The department shall advise each applicant volunteering to become an organ and tissue donor that the applicant's name shall be transmitted to the organ and tissue donor registry authorized in section 15-19-220 and that the applicant shall notify the federally designated organ procurement organization of any changes to the applicant's donation.

(B) Repealed.

(b) (I) (A) A license issued under section 42-2-114 that, at the time of its expiration, is held by a resident of this state who is temporarily outside of this state or is prevented by disability from complying with subsection (1)(a) of this section may be extended for a period of one year if the licensee applies to the department for an extension of the expiration date prior to the date the license expires and pays a fee set by the department in accordance with section 42-2-114.5 (2).

(B) A license issued under part 5 of this article 2 that, at the time of its expiration, is held by a resident of this state who is prevented by disability from complying with subsection (1)(a) of this section may be extended for a period of one year if the licensee applies to the department for an extension of the expiration date prior to the date the license expires and pays a fee set by the department in accordance with section 42-2-114.5 (2).

(C) The department shall transfer the fees paid in accordance with this subsection (1)(b) to the state treasurer, who shall credit them to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2). The extensions authorized in this subsection (1)(b) become null and void ninety days after the licensee renews his or her residency in the state or otherwise becomes able to comply with subsection (1)(a) of this section. The department shall grant no more than one extension under this subsection (1)(b) unless a resident of this state, other than a resident who had been issued a license under part 5 of this article 2, is temporarily residing in a foreign country, in which case the department may grant no more than two one-year extensions.

(II) A surcharge of one dollar shall be added to any extension sought for a license for which a motorcycle endorsement is requested which shall be credited to the motorcycle operator safety training fund created in section 43-5-504, C.R.S.

(1.3) (a) The department may, in its discretion, allow renewal of a driver's license issued under section 42-2-114 or 42-2-505 by mail subject to the following requirements:

(I) Renewal by mail shall be available only to drivers twenty-one years of age or older;

(II) Renewal by mail is available only if the photo of the person that is on file with the department is at least as recent as required by 6 CFR 37.25 (a)(1) for purposes of the federal "REAL ID Act of 2005", Pub.L. 109-13, as amended;

(III) A person who is under eighty years of age renewing by mail shall attest under penalty of law that the person has had an eye examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist within one year before the renewal. A person who is eighty years of age or older renewing by mail shall obtain, on a form as required by the department, a signed statement from an optometrist or ophthalmologist attesting that the person has had an eye examination within the preceding six months and attesting to the results of the eye examination.

(IV) A person renewing by mail who requires vision correction shall attest under penalty of law to his or her prescription for vision correction.

(b) Every applicant for renewal of a driver's license by mail shall submit payment of the required fee to the department.

(c) The department may promulgate rules necessary for the implementation of this subsection (1.3).

(1.5) (a) The department may allow renewal of a driver's license issued under section 42-2-114 or 42-2-505 by electronic means subject to the following requirements:

(I) Electronic renewal is available only to drivers twenty-one years of age or older;



(II) A person may renew a driver's license electronically only if the photo of the person that is on file with the department is at least as recent as required by 6 CFR 37.25 (a)(1) for purposes of the federal "REAL ID Act of 2005", Pub.L. 109-13, as amended;

(III) A person who is under eighty years of age renewing electronically shall attest under penalty of law that the person has had an eye examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist within one year before the renewal. A person who is eighty years of age or older renewing electronically shall obtain, on a form as required by the department, a signed statement from an optometrist or ophthalmologist attesting that the person has had an eye examination within the preceding six months and attesting to the results of the eye examination.

(IV) A person renewing electronically who requires vision correction shall attest under penalty of law to his or her prescription for vision correction.

(b) Pursuant to sections 24-19.5-103 (3) and 29-11.5-103 (3), the department shall not allow any third-party charges that may be assessed to complete the electronic transaction to reduce the amount of revenue that would otherwise be required to be distributed to the highway users tax fund or the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(c) Every applicant for renewal of a driver's license by electronic means shall submit the following to the department:

(I) Payment of the required fee.

(II) Repealed.

(d) To implement electronic renewal of a driver's license pursuant to this section, the department shall:

(I) Submit to the office of information technology created in the office of the governor for review and approval the department's plan for the renewal of a driver's license by electronic means;

(II) Develop and implement electronic renewal of a driver's license in a manner that is consistent with the nation's policy on national security and in conformance with federal and state law for homeland security;

(III) Develop and implement an information security program and utilize a layered security approach, which shall consist of the following:

(A) A business impact analysis that assesses the criticality of services;

(B) A risk or security assessment that identifies vulnerabilities of the system;

(C) A risk management process;

(D) A contingency plan for disaster recovery of information and services and business continuity;

(E) Procedures that identify security safeguards for asset protection;

(F) A secure architectural design;

(G) Security awareness and training programs; and

(H) Monitoring and audit systems for back-end reviews to evaluate efficiency and efficacy;

(IV) Develop security policies that address, at a minimum, the following:

(A) System protection from viruses and system virus detection;

(B) Firewall security;

(C) Logging capability;

(D) Server security;

(E) Intrusion detection;

(F) Encryption;

(G) Physical security; and

(H) Secure remote access communication, if applicable; and

(V) Develop a migration plan that sets out the department's goals and objectives and establishes priorities and the department's timeline for achieving such requirements.

(e) Failure to comply with the requirements of paragraph (d) of this subsection (1.5) may result in the department being removed from or denied access to the state network or mainframe computer until all of the provisions of paragraph (d) of this subsection (1.5) are demonstrated by the department.

(f) Repealed.

(g) The department may promulgate any necessary rules for the implementation of this subsection (1.5).

(2) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (2) is effective until January 1, 2027.]*** Every license referred to in this section which is at the time of its expiration, as provided in subsection (1) of this section, held by a member of the armed forces of the United States, then serving on active duty outside of this state, shall not expire as provided in subsection (1) of this section, but such expiration date shall be extended for a period of three years or until ninety days after such licensee returns to this state, whichever occurs first.

(2) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (2) is effective January 1, 2027.]* Every license referred to in this section which is at the time of its expiration, as provided in subsection (1) of this section, held by a service member, then serving on active duty outside of this state, or their dependent, does not expire as provided in subsection (1) of this section, but the expiration date is extended for three years or until ninety days after the licensee returns to this state, whichever occurs first.

(3) (a) (I) Prior to the renewal of a permanent driver's license or the issuance or renewal of a probationary license, the department shall determine if the applicant has issued a check or order to the department for the payment of a penalty assessment and such check or order was returned for insufficient funds or a closed account and remains unpaid as set forth in section 42-4-1709 (7).

(II) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2021.)

(b) (I) If the applicant has not issued a check or order to the department that was returned for insufficient funds or a closed account and that remains unpaid as set forth in section 42-4-1709 (7) and if all other conditions for renewal pursuant to articles 1 to 4 of this title 42 are met, the department shall renew the applicant's permanent driver's license.

(II) If the defendant has not issued a check or order to the department that was returned for insufficient funds or a closed account and that remains unpaid as set forth in section 42-4-1709 (7) and if all other conditions for renewal pursuant to articles 1 to 4 of this title 42 are met, the department may issue or renew the applicant's probationary license.

(c) Any person who makes payment for a check or order to the department that had been returned for insufficient funds or a closed account pursuant to section 42-4-1709 (7) shall pay to the court or to the department a thirty-dollar administrative processing cost for each check or order in addition to all other penalties, costs, or forfeitures. If the court collects an administrative processing fee, the court shall remit fifty percent of the administrative processing fee to the department of revenue, and the other fifty percent of that fee is to be retained by the issuing court. If the department collects an administrative processing fee, the department shall retain the fee.

(d) and (e) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2021.)

(f) There is a twenty-day period to appeal any penalty under this section when it can be shown by the applicant or defendant that sufficient funds were in the financial institution and the error was that of the financial institution. In this event the department shall review the documentation and, if it was the fault of the financial institution that the check or order was returned, the department shall not impose a penalty or fee.

(4) Notwithstanding the amount specified for any fee in this section, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may reduce the amount of one or more of

the fees if necessary pursuant to section 24-75-402 (3), C.R.S., to reduce the uncommitted reserves of the fund to which all or any portion of one or more of the fees is credited. After the uncommitted reserves of the fund are sufficiently reduced, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may increase the amount of one or more of the fees as provided in section 24-75-402 (4), C.R.S.

(5) Repealed.

(6) **[Editor's note: Subsection (6) is effective January 1, 2027.]** As used in this section:

(a) "Dependent" means:

(I) A service member's spouse;

(II) A service member's child; and

(III) An individual for whom a service member has provided more than one-half of the individual's support for at least one hundred eighty days immediately preceding the expiration of a license referred to in this section.

(b) "Service member" means a member of the United States armed forces.

**Source: L. 94:** (1)(a) amended, p. 694, § 1, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2125, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (1)(a) amended, p. 1134, § 2, effective July 1; (3)(a), (3)(b), and (3)(c) amended, p. 1203, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 97:** (1)(a)(I) amended and (1.3) added, p. 141, § 2, effective March 28; (3)(a) amended, p. 1669, § 3, effective June 5; (3)(a) to (3)(c) amended and (3)(f) added, p. 1382, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (1)(a)(II) amended, p. 1174, § 10, effective June 1; (4) added, p. 1352, § 96, effective June 1. **L. 2000:** (1)(a)(II) amended, p. 732, § 11, effective July 1; (1.3)(b)(II)(B) added by revision, pp. 1342, 1362, §§ 4, 49. **L. 2002:** (3)(d) amended, p. 869, § 2, effective August 7. **L. 2004:** (1)(a)(I) and (1.3)(a)(II) amended and (1.5) added, p. 1268, § 1, effective May 28. **L. 2005:** (1.3)(a)(I) amended and (1.3)(a)(III) and (1.3)(a)(IV) added, p. 645, § 10, effective May 27. **L. 2006:** (1.5)(d)(I) amended, p. 1737, § 27, effective June 6. **L. 2007:** (1)(a)(II) amended, p. 309, § 2, effective March 30; (1.5)(d)(I) amended, p. 918, § 20, effective May 17; (1)(a)(II)(A) amended, p. 800, § 11, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (1.3)(a)(I), (1.3)(a)(II), (1.3)(a)(III), and (1.5)(a) amended, p. 629, § 1, effective August 5; (1.5)(f) repealed, p. 1915, § 135, effective August 5. **L. 2009:** (1.5)(b) amended, (SB 09-274), ch. 210, p. 953, § 5, effective May 1. **L. 2014:** (1)(b)(I) and (1.5)(a)(II) amended, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1546, § 10, effective June 5. **L. 2017:** (1)(a)(II)(A) amended, (SB 17-223), ch. 158, p. 565, § 19, effective August 9; (1)(a)(II) amended, (HB 17-1027), ch. 329, p. 1761, § 2, effective September 15. **L. 2018:** (1)(a)(I), (1)(b)(I), IP(1.3)(a), (1.3)(a)(II), IP(1.5)(a), and (1.5)(a)(II) amended, (SB 18-108), ch. 260, p. 1596, § 5, effective January 1, 2019. **L. 2021:** (1.3)(a)(II), (1.3)(a)(III), IP(1.5)(a), (1.5)(a)(I),

(1.5)(a)(II), and (1.5)(a)(III) amended and (5) added, (HB 21-1139), ch. 177, p. 966, § 1, effective May 24; (1)(a)(I), (1.3)(b), and (3) amended and (1.5)(c)(II) repealed, (HB 21-1314), ch. 460, p. 3095, § 4, effective January 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (1)(b)(I)(C) and (1.5)(b) amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 912, § 11, effective July 1. **L. 2025:** (1)(a)(II)(B) repealed, (SB 25-122), ch. 447, p. 2569, § 3, effective June 4; (2) amended and (6) added, (HB 25-1083), ch. 413, p. 2347, § 1, effective January 1, 2027. **L. 2026:** (1)(a)(I) amended and (1)(a)(I.5) added, (HB 26-1076), ch. 265, p. 1468, § 6, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-116 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-118 was relocated to § 42-2-121.

(2) Amendments to subsection (1)(a) by Senate Bill 94-013 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

(3) Amendments to subsection (3)(a) by Senate Bill 97-36 and House Bill 97-1003 were harmonized.

(4) Subsection (1.3)(b)(II)(B) provided for the repeal of subsection (1.3)(b)(II), effective July 1, 2001. (See L. 2000, pp. 1342, 1362.)

(5) Amendments to subsection (1)(a)(II)(A) by Senate Bill 07-037 and House Bill 07-1266 were harmonized.

(6) Amendments to subsection (1)(a)(II)(A) by SB 17-223 and HB 17-1027 were harmonized.

(7) Subsection (5)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (5), effective June 30, 2024. (See L. 2021, p. 966.)

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 25-122, see section 1 of chapter 447, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Advocating for Senior Drivers And Their Families", see 34 Colo. Law. 63 (Oct. 2005).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-118 is similar to § 42-2-116 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by

SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Applied** in Dept. of Rev. v. A & A Auto Wrecking, 625 P.2d 1021 (Colo. 1981).

#### **42-2-118.1. Driver restoration and payment incentive program.**

Beginning January 1, 2022, an outstanding judgement or warrant described in section 42-4-1709 (7) shall not serve as a basis for the department to deny an application for issuance, renewal, or reinstatement of a driver's license. The department shall not issue a license to a person with an outstanding judgement or warrant who applies for issuance, renewal, or reinstatement of a license unless the person has paid to the department a driver's license fee required by section 42-2-114 and the license reinstatement fee required by section 42-2-132.

**Source: L. 2021:** Entire section added, (HB 21-1314), ch. 460, p. 3099, § 11, effective January 1, 2022.

#### **42-2-119. Notices - change of address or name.**

(1) (a) Whenever any person, after applying for or receiving a driver's license or identification card, moves from the address named in such application or in the license or identification card issued to such person or when the name of the licensee is changed, such person shall, within thirty days, provide notice to the department of such person's old and new address and the number of any license or identification card held by such person. Such notice shall be provided to the department in writing or in electronic form on the department's official website. A licensee who changes his or her name shall, within thirty days, apply in person to renew such license pursuant to section 42-2-118 and in compliance with sections 42-2-107 and 42-2-305.

(b) Repealed. / (Deleted by amendment, L. 2005, p. 645, § 11, effective May 27, 2005.)

(2) All notices and orders required to be given to any licensee under this article 2 must be provided through electronic notification or given in writing and, if mailed, postpaid by first-class mail to the licensee at the last-known address shown by the records kept by the department pursuant to this article 2. The mailing is sufficient notice in accord with the motor vehicle laws. Any notice or order of the department mailed first class under the provisions of this title 42 creates a presumption for administrative purposes that the notice or order was received if the department maintains a copy of the notice or order and maintains a certification that the notice or order was deposited in the United States mail by an employee of the department. Evidence of a copy of the notice mailed to the last-known address of the licensee, as shown by the records kept by the department pursuant to this article 2, and a certification of mailing by a department employee; evidence of delivery of notice in person to the last-known address of the licensee, as shown by the records kept by the department pursuant to this article 2; or evidence of personal service upon the licensee or upon an attorney appearing on the licensee's behalf of the order of denial, cancellation, suspension, or revocation of the license by the executive director of the

department or by the executive director's duly authorized representative is prima facie proof that the licensee received personal notice of the denial, cancellation, suspension, or revocation.

(2.5) Repealed.

(3) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2126, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** (1) amended, p. 1102, § 23, effective June 1. **L. 99:** (1)(b) amended, p. 996, § 2, effective May 29. **L. 2000:** (2) amended, p. 1640, § 24, effective June 1. **L. 2005:** (1) and (2) amended, p. 645, § 11, effective May 27; (1)(b) repealed, p. 1172, § 6, effective August 8. **L. 2010:** (1)(a) amended and (2.5) added, (HB 10-1045), ch. 317, p. 1479, § 3, effective July 1, 2011. **L. 2017:** (2.5) repealed, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 366, § 9, effective August 9. **L. 2024:** (2) amended, (HB 24-1089), ch. 329, p. 2226, § 2, effective June 3.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-117 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-119 was relocated to § 42-2-122.

(2) Amendments to subsection (1)(b) by Senate Bill 05-047 and House Bill 05-1107 were harmonized.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-119 is similar to § 42-2-117 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Constitutionality.** The notification provisions of Colorado's traffic code are no more burdensome on nonresidents than residents and do not treat similarly situated classes of drivers differently. Accordingly, a nonresident driver is not denied equal protection of the laws by these provisions.

Klingbeil v. State, Dept. of Rev., 668 P.2d 930 (Colo. 1983).

The methods used to notify purported nonresident traffic offenders are not so unconstitutionally deficient as to violate due process rights. Klingbeil v. State, Dept. of Rev., 668 P.2d 930 (Colo. 1983).

**Conviction under this section** does not constitute an "offense committed while operating a motor vehicle" for purposes of § 42-2-130. Lathe v. State, 691 P.2d 356 (Colo. App. 1984).

**There is no requirement that the order of suspension be sent to the licensed driver or be received by him.** People v. Neal, 191 Colo. 302, 552 P.2d 508 (1976).

**Term "registered mail" includes certified mail.** There is nothing in context of subsection (2) which requires that the term registered mail not be construed to include certified mail. Tobias v. State, 41 Colo. App. 444, 586 P.2d 669 (1978).

**No evidence of actual notice required when notice is not of final action.** Notice by certified mail of plaintiff's driver's license revocation hearing under the former version of the implied consent law is sufficient under this statute. Ault v. Dept. of Rev., 697 P.2d 24 (Colo. 1985).

**Applied** in People v. Lessar, 629 P.2d 577 (Colo. 1981); People v. Lesh, 668 P.2d 1362 (Colo. 1983).

#### **42-2-120. Methods of service.**

(1) Any notice or order required to be served under this article 2 may be served in any manner reasonably designed to notify the person to be served of the material provisions of the notice or order. A person has been served with a notice or order when the person has knowledge of the material provisions of the notice or order, regardless of the manner in which the knowledge was acquired. Any irregularity in the form or manner of service or documentation of the proof of service or the means by which knowledge of the material provisions of a notice or order is acquired does not affect the validity of the notice or order.

(2) For purposes of notices or orders relating to driving restraints only, "material provisions" means those provisions which identify the affected person, and those provisions which state that a restraint against the person's license or privilege to drive in this state has been, or will be, entered on the records of the department, or those provisions which advise the person that he or she has a right to request a hearing regarding the imposition of a restraint against such person's license or privilege to drive.

(3) The department shall develop proof of service forms which may be used to document proof of service under this subsection (3). Such forms shall include but need not be limited to the following:

- (a) The name and date of birth of the person served;
- (b) The date and time of service;
- (c) The identification number of the notice or order served, if any, or, in the event the notice or order is not available, a description of the information relayed to the person served;
- (d) The name, title, signature, and employing agency of the person making service;
- (e) The signature of the person served; and



(f) The right index fingerprint of the person served.

(4) In addition to service by mail or any other means, service of notices or orders may be personally made by any employee of the department, any peace officer, any municipal, county, or state prosecutor, or any municipal, county or district court judge, magistrate, or judicial officer. If service is personally made under this subsection (4), proof of such service of any notice or order may be made by sending a written notification of service in any form to the department. Such notification shall be an official record of the department under section 42-2-121. It shall not be necessary that the written notification is on a form supplied by the department, but the department may refuse to accept as an official record a written notification which does not provide substantially the same information as specified in subsection (3) of this section.

(5) Peace officers and employees of the department shall serve notices and orders relating to driving restraints upon the affected person anytime the affected person is contacted by a peace officer or employee of the department, when such peace officer or employee believes that the affected person may not have been previously personally served with any notice or order affecting such person's license or privilege to drive a motor vehicle in this state.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2127, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2024:** (1) amended, (HB 24-1089), ch. 329, p. 2227, § 3, effective June 3.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-117.5 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-120 was relocated to § 42-2-123.

#### **42-2-121. Records to be kept by department - admission of records in court.**

(1) The department shall file every completed application for a license received by it and shall maintain suitable indexes containing in alphabetical order:

(a) All applications denied and on each thereof note the reasons for such denial;

(b) All applications granted; and

(c) The name of every licensee whose license has been suspended or revoked by the department and after each such name note the reasons for such action in each case.

(2) (a) The department shall also file all crash reports, abstracts of court records of convictions received by it under the laws of this state, departmental actions, suspensions, restrictions, revocations, denials, cancellations, reinstatements, and other permanent records and, in connection therewith, maintain a driver's history by making suitable notations in order that an

individual record of each licensee showing the convictions of such licensee, the departmental actions, and the traffic crashes in which the licensee has been involved, except those crashes not resulting in a conviction and those traffic violations which occur outside of the boundaries of this state, be readily ascertainable and available for the consideration of the department upon any application for renewal of license and at other suitable times.

(b) The department shall also keep a separate file of all abstracts of court records of dismissals of DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, and UDD charges and all abstracts of records in cases where the original charges were for DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, and UDD and the convictions were for nonalcohol- or nondrug-related traffic offenses. This file shall be made available only to criminal justice agencies, as defined in section 24-72-302 (3), C.R.S.

(c) (I) The following records and documents filed with, maintained by, or prepared by the department are official records and documents of the state of Colorado:

(A) Crash reports;

(B) Abstracts of court records of convictions received by the department under the laws of the state of Colorado;

(C) Records of and documents relating to departmental actions pertaining to the driving privileges of any person concerning licensing, restrictions, probationary conditions, suspensions, revocations, denials, cancellations, or reinstatements of such driving privileges;

(D) Records of and documents relating to the status of any person's privilege to drive a vehicle in the state of Colorado on a specific date or dates;

(E) Drivers' histories;

(F) Records of and documents relating to the identification of persons, including, but not limited to, photographs, fingerprints, handwriting, physical features, physical characteristics, dates of birth, and addresses;

(G) Records of and documents relating to the ownership, registration, transfer, and licensing of vehicles;

(H) All other records and documents required by law or rule and regulation to be kept by the department;

(I) Written summaries and data compilations, if prepared by the department from records and documents filed with, maintained by, or prepared by the department, as defined in subparagraphs (A) to (H) of this subparagraph (I);

(J) Written guidelines, procedures, policies, and rules and regulations of the department.

(II) In any trial or hearing, all official records and documents of the state of Colorado, as defined in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (c), shall be admissible in all municipal, county, and district courts within the state of Colorado without further foundation, shall be statutory exceptions to rule 802 of the Colorado rules of evidence, and shall constitute prima facie proof of the information contained therein, if such record or document is accompanied by a certificate stating that the executive director of the department or the executive director's appointee has custody of such record or document and is accompanied by and attached to a cover page which:

(A) Specifies the number of pages, exclusive of such cover page, which constitutes the record or document being submitted; and

(B) Bears the signature of the executive director of the department or the executive director's appointee attesting to the genuineness of such record or document; and

(C) Bears the official seal of the department or a stamped or printed facsimile of such seal.

(III) For purposes of subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (c), "official records and documents" shall include any mechanically or electronically reproduced copy, photograph, or printout of any record or document or any portion of any record or document filed with, maintained by, or prepared by the department pursuant to this paragraph (c). The department may also permit the electronic transmission of information for direct recording in the department's records and systems. Information transmitted by an electronic means that is approved by the department constitutes an official record for the purposes of this section whether or not an original source document for such information exists or ever existed.

(III.5) The certificate and cover page and its contents required by subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (c) may be electronically produced and transmitted. An electronic reproduction of the certificate and cover page, including an electronic signature of the executive director of the department or of the executive director's appointee and an electronic reproduction of the official seal of the department, shall be admissible in court as provided in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (c).

(IV) For purposes of subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (c), a record or document shall not be required to include every page of a record or document filed with, maintained by, or prepared by the department pursuant to this paragraph (c) to be an official record or document, if such official record or document includes all of those portions of such record or document relevant to the trial or hearing for which it is prepared. There shall be a presumption that such official record or document contains all that is relevant to such trial or hearing.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2), the department shall not maintain records of convictions of traffic offenses defined in this title for which no points are assessed pursuant to section 42-2-127 (5) other than convictions pursuant to sections 42-2-134, 42-2-138, 42-2-206, and 42-7-422.

(e) Records or documents filed with, maintained by, or prepared by another state that are equivalent to the records maintained in Colorado under paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) shall be admissible in a trial or hearing in accordance with this section.

(3) The department seal required under subsection (2) of this section and under section 42-1-205 may also consist of a rubber stamp producing a facsimile of the seal stamped upon the document.

(4) (a) The department shall place a confidentiality notice on any driver's license application form under section 42-2-107, driver's license renewal application under section 42-2-118, duplicate driver's license application under section 42-2-117, commercial driver's license application under section 42-2-404, identification card application form under section 42-2-302, motor vehicle title application form under section 42-6-116, or motor vehicle registration application form under section 42-3-113. The department shall indicate in such notice that, unless the person waives his or her confidentiality, the information contained in the person's motor vehicle or driver record shall not be used for any purpose other than a purpose authorized by law.

(b) The department shall prepare a confidentiality waiver form and shall provide the form to the designated agents of the department. The department and the designated agents shall make such form available to any person on request. The department and the designated agents shall be the sole distributors of such form. The form shall contain instructions for filing the form with the department.

(I) to (IV) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2000, p. 1341, § 3, effective May 30, 2000.)

(c) Any person executing a waiver under this subsection (4) that information in motor vehicle or driver records may be used for any purpose shall provide the information requested by the department in the confidentiality waiver form and file the form directly with the department. The department shall process such forms and shall notify the designated agents regarding which motor vehicle and driver records are subject to confidentiality waivers.

(d) A confidentiality waiver expires upon a request by the person to rescind the confidentiality waiver or upon the renewal of the motor vehicle or driver record; except that a confidentiality waiver form filed in connection with a motor vehicle registration application shall remain in force until the motor vehicle is transferred or the person requests that the confidentiality waiver be rescinded.

(e) The department shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that confidential records are not visible or accessible to the public and shall establish procedures to protect the contents of the records against inadvertent disclosure.

(5) (a) Upon application by a person, the department shall expunge all records concerning a conviction of a person for UDD with a BAC of at least 0.02 but not more than 0.05 and any

records concerning an administrative determination resulting in a revocation under section 42-2-126 (3)(b) or (3)(e) if:

(I) Such person presents a request for expungement to the department and provides all information required by the department to process such request;

(II) Such person is over twenty-one years of age and any department action regarding the offense or administrative determination has been concluded;

(III) The person has not been convicted for any other DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD offense that was committed while such person was under twenty-one years of age and is not subject to any other administrative determination resulting in a revocation under section 42-2-126 for any other occurrence while such person was under twenty-one years of age;

(IV) Such person pays the fine and surcharge for such conviction and completes any other requirements of the court with regard to such conviction, including, but not limited to, any order to pay restitution to any party;

(V) Such person has never held a commercial driver's license as defined in section 42-2-402; and

(VI) Such person was not operating a commercial motor vehicle as defined in section 42-2-402.

(b) Upon receiving a request for expungement, the department may delay consideration of the request until sufficient time has elapsed to ensure that the person is not convicted for any additional offense under section 42-4-1301 committed while the person was under twenty-one years of age and that there is no additional administrative determination resulting in a revocation under section 42-2-126 (3)(b) or (3)(e) for actions taken while the person was under twenty-one years of age.

(6) The department shall electronically transmit the name, address, telephone number, date of birth, and gender of each individual who has volunteered to donate organs or tissue upon death on an instructional permit, a minor driver's license, a driver's license, an identification card, or any other license application received by it to the organ and tissue donor registry authorized in section 15-19-220.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2128, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (2)(c)(III) amended, p. 637, § 1, effective May 1. **L. 97:** (5) added, p. 1459, § 1, effective July 1; (4) added, p. 1052, § 4, effective September 1. **L. 98:** IP(5)(a) and (5)(a)(III) amended, p. 173, § 1, effective April 6. **L. 2000:** (4) amended, p. 1341, § 3, effective May 30; (6) added, p. 732, § 12, effective July 1. **L. 2001:** (4)(a) amended, p. 1283, § 66, effective June 5. **L. 2004:** (2)(c)(III.5) added, p. 1379, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (2)(e) added, p. 646, § 12, effective

May 27; (4)(a) amended, p. 1173, § 7, effective August 8. **L. 2007:** (6) amended, p. 800, § 12, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (2)(b), IP(5)(a), (5)(a)(III), and (5)(b) amended, p. 244, § 5, effective July 1; IP(5)(a) amended and (5)(a)(V) and (5)(a)(VI) added, p. 474, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** (2)(b) and (5)(a)(III) amended, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1879, § 5, effective May 28. **L. 2017:** (4)(e) added, (SB 17-286), ch. 388, p. 2007, § 2, effective August 9; (6) amended, (SB 17-223), ch. 158, p. 565, § 20, effective August 9. **L. 2026:** (2)(a) and (2)(c)(I)(A) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 474, § 35, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-118 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-121 was relocated to § 42-2-124.

(2) Amendments to the introductory portion to subsection (5)(a) by House Bill 08-1121 and House Bill 08-1166 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 1997 act enacting subsection (4), see section 1 of chapter 201, Session Laws of Colorado 1997.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Hearsay in Criminal Cases Under the Colorado Rules of Evidence: An Overview", see 50 U. Colo. L. Rev. 277 (1979).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-121 is similar to § 42-2-118 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**The language of subsection (2) is mandatory.** *People v. Yount*, 174 Colo. 462, 484 P.2d 1203 (1971) (decided under similar provisions of repealed § 13-4-18, C.R.S. 1963).

**Driver's history record prima facie proof of its contents.** A driver's history

record, as an official record under this statute, can be offered as prima facie proof of its contents, including convictions, without the necessity of looking behind the records to the underlying tickets, and formalities of attestation and certification are not necessary at hearings conducted by the motor vehicle division, since the hearing officer can take official notice of the division's own records. *Gillespie v. Dir. of Dept. of Rev.*, 41 Colo. App. 561, 592 P.2d 418 (1978).

**Department's driving records presumed correct.** The mere absence of any notation on traffic tickets concerning their disposition does not overcome the presumption of correctness of the department's driving records. A driving

record is prima facie proof of its contents, including convictions, without the necessity of looking behind the records to the underlying tickets. *People v. Anadale*, 674 P.2d 372 (Colo. 1984).

**Alternate methods of proving records.**

While this section provides one specific method to self-authenticate motor vehicle records, it does not alter the rule that official records may also be proved by any method authorized by law. *People v. Freeman*, 668 P.2d 1371 (Colo. 1983).

**Hearsay exception for official state records does not extend to hearsay within the record.** Subsection (2)(c)(II) does not allow the admission of hearsay statements within official state reports unless those statements independently satisfy a hearsay exception. *Bernache v. Brown*, 2020 COA 106, 471 P.3d 1234.

**Applied** in *People v. Lessar*, 629 P.2d 577 (Colo. 1981).

**42-2-121.5. Emergency contact information - website form - license application - driver's license database.**

(1) (a) No later than January 1, 2009, the department shall create and make available on its official website an electronic form that allows a person with a driver's license, minor driver's license, instruction permit, or temporary driver's license issued pursuant to this part 1 or an identification card issued pursuant to part 3 of this article to input the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of up to two persons to be contacted in an emergency pursuant to subsection (3) of this section. The form shall include a statement that the information may be disclosed only to authorized law enforcement or public safety personnel for the purpose of notifying the persons listed in an emergency and a place for the person entering the information to assent to the use of the information for this purpose.

(b) The department shall add the emergency contact information received from a person in accordance with paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) to the person's record in the driver's license database.

(2) (a) On and after January 1, 2009, the department shall include on the application form for a driver's license, minor driver's license, or instruction permit used pursuant to section 42-2-107, the driver's license renewal application used pursuant to section 42-2-118, the duplicate driver's license application used pursuant to section 42-2-117, and the identification card application form used pursuant to section 42-2-302 a place for the applicant to specify the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of up to two persons to be contacted in an emergency pursuant to subsection (3) of this section. The application shall include a statement that the information will be disclosed only to authorized law enforcement or public safety personnel for the purpose of notifying the persons listed in an emergency and a place for the person providing the information to assent to the use of the information for this purpose.

(b) The department shall add the emergency contact information specified on an application in accordance with paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) to the person's record in the driver's license database.

(3) An officer of a law enforcement or public safety agency who is authorized to access the driver's license database may obtain a person's emergency contact information from the database if the person is injured or killed as a result of an accident, crash, criminal act, or other emergency situation. The officer may contact the persons listed in the emergency contact information and notify them of the emergency situation and the condition and location of the person who has been injured or killed.

(4) The department shall not disclose the information received in accordance with this section to any person except as authorized by subsection (3) of this section and section 24-72-204 (7)(d), C.R.S.

**Source:** **L. 2008:** Entire section added, p. 1519, § 1, effective May 28. **L. 2026:** (3) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 474, § 36, effective August 12.

**42-2-122. Department may cancel license - limited license for physical or mental limitations - rules.**

(1) The department has the authority to cancel, deny, or deny the reissuance of any driver's or minor driver's license upon determining that the licensee was not entitled to the issuance for any of the following reasons:

(a) Failure to give the required or correct information in an application, or commission of any fraud in making such application or in submitting any proof allowed under this section;

(b) Inability to operate a motor vehicle because of physical or mental incompetence;

(c) Repealed.

(d) That such license would have been subject to denial under the provisions of section 42-2-104;

(e) Repealed.

(f) The person is not lawfully present in the United States;

(g) The person is not a resident of the state of Colorado;

(h) Repealed.



(i) Failure of the person to complete a level II alcohol and drug education and treatment program certified by the behavioral health administration in the department of human services pursuant to section 42-4-1301.3, as required by section 42-2-126 (4)(d)(II)(A) or 42-2-132 (2)(a)(II). The failure must be documented pursuant to section 42-2-144.

(2) The department has the authority to cancel any driver's or minor driver's license if, subsequent to the issuance of such license, the department has authentic information that a condition developed or an act was committed which places such licensee in one of the categories for which cancellation is authorized.

(2.5) (a) Any person who has had a driver's or minor driver's license or driving privilege canceled pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of this section who is receiving or has received therapy treatment for physical or mental incompetence or an evaluation for such incompetence through a rehabilitation provider or licensed physician certified by the department to provide rehabilitative driving instruction may receive a limited license with such limitations as the department deems necessary after consultation with and upon the recommendation of the rehabilitation provider or licensed physician.

(b) (I) Any person licensed pursuant to this subsection (2.5) shall be subject to the examination requirements set forth in section 42-2-111.

(II) Rehabilitation providers and licensed physicians shall be subject to the provisions governing medical advice in section 42-2-112.

(c) The department shall adopt rules as necessary to carry out this subsection (2.5).

(3) Upon such cancellation, the licensee shall surrender the license so canceled to the department, and thereafter such licensee is entitled to a hearing by the department if such license is returned and if such request is made within thirty days from the date of such cancellation; except that a denial or cancellation pursuant to subsection (1)(i) of this section is deemed to be final agency action for judicial review purposes pursuant to section 24-4-104. Such hearing, if requested, must be held no later than thirty days from the date of such cancellation. Notification of such cancellation must be given as provided in section 42-2-119.

(4) (a) Upon the holding of a hearing as provided in subsection (3) of this section or upon determination by the department, the license shall be returned if the licensee is able to prove that cancellation should not have been made. When the original cancellation is sustained by the department, such licensee may apply for and receive a new license whenever the licensee can show that the reason for the original cancellation no longer applies. The licensee may also appeal the decision of the department after the hearing to the district court as provided in section 42-2-135.

(b) A licensee who has proved that cancellation should not have been made shall not be required to give proof of financial responsibility pursuant to article 7 of this title.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2130, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (2.5) added and (4) amended, p. 707, § 2, effective May 23. **L. 97:** (1)(e) added, p. 1001, § 2, effective August 6. **L. 98:** (1)(f) and (1)(g) added, p. 295, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (1)(a) and (3) amended and (1)(h) added, p. 804, § 1, effective August 2; IP(1), (2), and (2.5)(a) amended, p. 1352, § 22, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (1)(i) added and (3) amended pp. 786, 787, §§ 2, 3, effective June 1. **L. 2002:** (1)(i) amended, p. 1921, § 16, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (4)(a) amended, p. 646, § 13, effective May 27. **L. 2008:** (1)(i) amended, p. 245, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2011:** (1)(i) amended, (HB 11-1303), ch. 264, p. 1178, § 100, effective August 10. **L. 2017:** IP(1) and (1)(i) amended, (SB 17-242), ch. 263, p. 1257, § 19, effective May 25. **L. 2021:** (1)(c), (1)(e), and (1)(h) repealed and (3) amended, (HB 21-1314), ch. 460, p. 3092, § 1, effective January 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (1)(i) amended, (HB 22-1278), ch. 222, p. 1577, § 199, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-119 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-122 was relocated to § 42-2-125.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2001 act enacting subsection (1)(i) and amending subsection (3), see section 1 of chapter 229, Session Laws of Colorado 2001. For the legislative declaration in SB 17-242, see section 1 of chapter 263, Session Laws of Colorado 2017.

#### **42-2-123. Suspending privileges of nonresidents and reporting convictions.**

(1) The privilege of driving a motor vehicle on the highways of this state given to a nonresident is subject to suspension or revocation by the department in like manner and for like cause as a driver's license may be suspended or revoked.

(2) The department is further authorized, upon receiving a record of the conviction in this state of a nonresident driver of a motor vehicle of any offense under the motor vehicle laws of this state, to forward a certified copy of such record to the motor vehicle administrator in the state wherein the person so convicted is a resident.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2131, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-120 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-123 was relocated to § 42-2-127.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-123 is similar to § 42-2-120 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that

provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Applied** in Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. Smith, 640 P.2d 1143 (Colo. 1982).

#### **42-2-124. When court to report convictions.**

(1) (a) Except as otherwise provided, whenever any person is convicted of any offense for which this article makes mandatory the revocation or suspension of the driver's or minor driver's license of such person by the department, the court in which such conviction is had shall require the offender to immediately surrender such driver's or minor driver's license or any instruction permit to the court at the time of conviction, and the court shall, not later than ten days after such conviction, forward the license to the department, together with a record of such conviction on the form prescribed by the department. Any person who does not immediately surrender such person's license or permit to the court commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense, unless such person swears or affirms under oath administered by the court and subject to the penalties of perjury that the license or permit has been lost, destroyed, or is not in said person's immediate possession. Any person who swears or affirms that the license or permit is not in the immediate possession of said person shall surrender said license or permit to the court within five days of the sworn or affirmed statement, and if not surrendered within such time, said person commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(b) Whenever the driver's history of any person shows that such driver is required to maintain financial responsibility for the future and is unable to show to the court that the driver is maintaining the required financial responsibility for the future, the court shall require the immediate surrender to it of the driver's, minor driver's, or temporary driver's license or any instruction permit held by such person, and the court, within forty-eight hours after receiving the license, shall forward the license to the department with the form prescribed by the department.

(2) Every court having jurisdiction over offenses committed under this article or any other law of this state regulating the operation of motor vehicles on highways and every military authority having jurisdiction over offenses substantially the same as those set forth in section 42-2-127 (5) which occur on a federal military installation in this state shall forward to the department a record of the conviction of any person in said court or by said authority for a

violation of any said laws not later than ten days after the day of sentencing for such conviction and may recommend the suspension or retention of the driver's, minor driver's, or temporary driver's license or any instruction permit of the person so convicted.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the term "convicted" or "conviction" means a sentence imposed following a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, a verdict of guilty by the court or a jury, or an adjudication of a delinquency under title 19, C.R.S. The payment of a penalty assessment under the provisions of section 42-4-1701 shall also be considered a conviction if the summons states clearly the points to be assessed for that offense. Whenever suspension or revocation of a license is authorized or required for conviction of any offense under state law, a final finding of guilty of a violation of a municipal ordinance governing a substantially equivalent offense in a city, town, or city and county shall, for purposes of such suspension or revocation, be deemed and treated as a conviction of the corresponding offense under state law. A stay of sentence, pending appeal, shall not deprive the department of the authority to suspend, revoke, or deny a driver's or minor driver's license pending any final determination of a conviction on appeal.

(4) An expungement of an adjudication of delinquency shall not result in a rescission of the revocation or suspension of the driving privilege unless said expungement is a result of a reversal of the adjudication on appeal.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2131, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (4) amended, p. 1538, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (4) amended, p. 1436, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (1), (2), and (3) amended, p. 1352, § 23, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2002:** (1)(a) and (4) amended, p. 1585, § 17, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (4) amended, p. 1131, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (3) and (4) amended, p. 646, § 14, effective May 27.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-121 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-124 was relocated to § 42-2-132.

**Cross references:** For collateral attacks of traffic convictions, see §§ 42-4-1702 and 42-4-1708.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Drinking and Driving: An Update on the 1989 Legislation", see 18 Colo. Law. 1943 (1989).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-124 is similar to § 42-2-121 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1 and to § 13-4-21 as it existed prior to its repeal in 1963, relevant cases construing those provisions have been included in the annotations to this section.

**Primary purpose of this section** and §§ 42-2-122 and 42-2-123 is to protect the public safety upon the highways. *Heil v. Charnes*, 44 Colo. App. 225, 616 P.2d 980 (1980).

**This section imposes a duty upon the courts of the state to forward records of convictions for traffic offenses to the division of motor vehicles.** *Campbell v. State*, 176 Colo. 202, 491 P.2d 1385 (1971).

**Due process standard for using penalty assessment as conviction.** Through the provisions of subsection (3), the general assembly has mandated a minimum standard of due process which must be followed before payment of a penalty assessment may be used as a conviction for purposes of suspension or revocation of a driver's license pursuant to § 42-2-123 (1)(a). *Stortz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 195 Colo. 325, 578 P.2d 229 (1978).

**The term "convicted"** is specifically defined by statute as meaning "a sentence imposed following a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or a verdict of guilty by the court or a jury." *Rogers v. Dept. of Rev.*, 841 P.2d 369 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Number of assessed points on summons deemed minimum standard of due process.** The requirement that the number of

points to be assessed be stated in the summons is a minimum standard of due process established by the general assembly and applies to a municipal summons when a fine was paid before the municipal traffic violations bureau. *Dunn v. Tice*, 43 Colo. App. 55, 598 P.2d 530 (1979).

**Failure of penalty assessment to contain statement of number of points** to be assessed for a traffic violation in no way invalidates the penalty assessment, or a guilty plea entered thereon. *Stortz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 195 Colo. 325, 578 P.2d 229 (1978).

**Inadequate notices.** Where there is no statement in the penalty assessment notices advising defendant that his signature and payment of the fine constitute a plea of guilty or an acknowledgment of guilt, the notices do not comply with the mandatory requirements of this section, and defendant's acceptance of the notices in the form tendered and his payment of the fines stated therein may not be considered a conviction for which points may be assessed. *Cave v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 31 Colo. App. 185, 501 P.2d 479 (1972).

**The records of the division of motor vehicles prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements are to be presumed correct.** *Campbell v. State*, 176 Colo. 202, 491 P.2d 1385 (1971).

**Court must state points assessable before guilty plea.** A traffic violation conviction is insufficient for the purpose of assessing points against the licensee where municipal court summons fails to state the number of points which could be assessed

upon a plea of guilty. *Dunn v. Tice*, 43 Colo. App. 55, 598 P.2d 530 (1979).

**When points not assessable.** If a traffic violation does not appear on the summons, and the offender is not advised by the arresting officer in reference to the points chargeable for the traffic violation, points cannot be assessed against him for that offense. *Stortz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 195 Colo. 325, 578 P.2d 229 (1978).

**Factors considered in suspension of motorist's license.** The department of revenue did not err in considering both the municipal court conviction and the traffic

points resulting therefrom in determining whether the motorist's license should be suspended, the length of that suspension, and whether a probationary license should be granted. *Fuller v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 43 Colo. App. 404, 610 P.2d 1078 (1979).

**Question of the validity of this section was ripe** for determination where court stayed its surrender of defendant's license pending appeal after convicting defendant of drug use under § 18-18-406. *People v. Smith*, 944 P.2d 639 (Colo. App. 1997).

**Applied** in *Purcell v. Tomasi*, 43 Colo. App. 540, 608 P.2d 844 (1980).

#### **42-2-125. Mandatory revocation of license and permit.**

(1) The department shall immediately revoke the license or permit of a driver or minor driver upon receiving a record showing that the driver has:

(a) Been convicted of vehicular homicide or vehicular assault as described in sections 18-3-106 and 18-3-205 or of criminally negligent homicide while operating or driving a motor vehicle, as described in section 18-3-105 (1)(b);

(b) Been convicted of driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance, as defined in section 18-18-102 (5), C.R.S.;

(b.5) In the case of a driver twenty-one years of age or older, been convicted of an offense described in section 42-4-1301 (1)(a) or (2)(a). Except as provided in section 42-2-132.5, the period of revocation based upon this paragraph (b.5) shall be nine months. The provisions of this paragraph (b.5) shall not apply to a person whose driving privilege was revoked pursuant to section 42-2-126 (3)(a)(I) for a first offense based on the same driving incident.

(c) Been convicted of any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle was used;

(d) Been convicted of failing to stop and render aid as required by section 42-4-1601;

(e) Been convicted of perjury in the first or second degree or the making of a false affidavit or statement under oath to the department under any law relating to the ownership or operation of a motor vehicle;

(f) Been three times convicted of reckless driving of a motor vehicle for acts committed within a period of two years;

(g) (I) Been twice convicted of any combination of DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI for acts committed within a period of five years;

(II) In the case of a minor driver, been convicted of DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI committed while such driver was under twenty-one years of age;

(g.5) In the case of a minor driver, been convicted of UDD committed when such driver was under twenty-one years of age;

(h) Been determined to be mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction and for whom a court has entered, pursuant to part 3 or part 4 of article 14 of title 15 or section 27-65-110 (4) or 27-65-127, an order specifically finding that the mental incompetency is of such a degree that the person is incapable of safely operating a motor vehicle;

(i) Been convicted of DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI and has two previous convictions of any of those offenses. The department shall revoke the license of any driver for an indefinite period and only reissue it upon proof to the department that the driver has completed a level II alcohol and drug education and treatment program certified by the behavioral health administration in the department of human services pursuant to section 42-4-1301.3 and that the driver has demonstrated knowledge of the laws and driving ability through the regular motor vehicle testing process. The department shall not reissue the license in less than two years.

(j) Been required to file and maintain proof of financial responsibility for the future as provided by section 42-4-1410 or article 7 of this title and who, at the time of a violation of any provision of this title, had not filed or was not maintaining such proof;

(k) Repealed.

(l) Been found to have knowingly and willfully left the scene of a crash involving a commercial motor vehicle driven by the person;

(m) (I) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2021.)

(II) Been convicted of violating section 18-13-122 (3) or 44-3-901 (1)(c) or (1)(d) or any counterpart municipal charter or ordinance offense to such sections and having failed to complete an alcohol evaluation or assessment, an alcohol education program, or an alcohol treatment program ordered by the court in connection with the present conviction, and has a previous conviction for such offenses.

(n) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (HB 09-1266), ch. 347, p. 1816, § 8, effective August 5, 2009.)

(o) Repealed.

(2) Unless otherwise provided in this section, the period of revocation shall be not less than one year; except that the period of revocation based on paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) of this section involving a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous materials as defined under section 42-2-402 (7) shall result in a revocation period of three years.

(2.3) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2007, p. 504, § 3, effective July 1, 2007.)

(2.4) After the expiration of the period of revocation pursuant to this section and any subsequently imposed periods of revocation, any person whose license is revoked under subparagraph (I) of paragraph (g) or paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of this section shall be required to have a restricted license pursuant to the provisions of section 42-2-132.5.

(2.5) The period of revocation under paragraph (g.5) of subsection (1) of this section for a person who is less than twenty-one years of age at the time of the offense and who is convicted of driving with an alcohol content of at least 0.02 but not more than 0.05 under section 42-4-1301 (2)(d) is as follows:

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (2.7) of this section, three months for a first offense;
- (b) Six months for a second offense;
- (c) One year for a third or subsequent offense.

(2.7) (a) A person whose license is revoked for a first offense under paragraph (g.5) of subsection (1) of this section may request that, in lieu of the three-month revocation, the person's license be revoked for a period of not less than thirty days, to be followed by a suspension period of such length that the total period of revocation and suspension equals three months. If the hearing officer approves such request, the hearing officer may grant such person a probationary license that may be used only for the reasons provided in section 42-2-127 (14)(a).

(b) The hearing to consider a request under paragraph (a) of this subsection (2.7) may be held at the same time as the hearing held under subsection (4) of this section; except that a probationary license may not become effective until at least thirty days have elapsed since the beginning of the revocation period.

(2.8) Repealed.

(3) Upon revoking the license of any person as required by this section, the department shall immediately notify the licensee as provided in section 42-2-119 (2). Where a minor driver's license is revoked pursuant to subsection (1)(m) of this section, such revocation may run concurrently with any previous or subsequent suspension, revocation, cancellation, or denial that is provided for by law.

(4) Upon receipt of the notice of revocation, the licensee or the licensee's attorney may request a hearing in writing, if the licensee has returned said license to the department in



accordance with the provisions of section 42-2-133. The department, upon notice to the licensee, shall hold a hearing at the district office of the department closest to the residence of the licensee; except that, at the discretion of the department, all or part of the hearing may be conducted in real time, by telephone or other electronic means in accordance with section 42-1-218.5. The department shall hold the hearing not less than thirty days after receiving such license and request through a hearing commissioner appointed by the executive director of the department, which hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of section 24-4-105, C.R.S. After such hearing, the licensee may appeal the decision of the department to the district court as provided in section 42-2-135. Should a driver who has had his or her license revoked under this section be subsequently acquitted of such charge by a court of record, the department shall immediately, in any event not later than ten days after the receipt of such notice of acquittal, reinstate said license to the driver affected.

(5) Except where more than one revocation occurs as a result of the same episode of driving, license revocations made pursuant to this section shall not run concurrently with any previous or subsequent revocation or denial in lieu of revocation which is provided for by law. Any revocation unused pursuant to this section shall not preclude other actions which the department is required to take pursuant to the provisions of this title, and unless otherwise provided by law, this subsection (5) shall not prohibit revocations from being served concurrently with any suspension or denial in lieu of suspension of driving privileges.

(6) (a) Any person who has a license revoked pursuant to subsection (1)(m) of this section is subject to the following revocation periods:

(I) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2021.)

(II) After a second conviction and failure to complete an ordered evaluation, assessment, or program, six months;

(III) After any third or subsequent conviction and failure to complete an ordered evaluation, assessment, or program, one year.

(b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2007, p. 504, § 3, effective July 1, 2007.)

(c) Repealed.

(7) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (HB 09-1266), ch. 347, p. 1816, § 8, effective August 5, 2009.)

(8) If a suspension or revocation of a license is authorized or required for conviction of an offense under state law, a final finding of guilt for a violation of a municipal ordinance governing a substantially equivalent offense in a municipality, county, or another state for purposes of a suspension or revocation shall be deemed as a conviction of the corresponding offense under state law. A stay of sentence or a pending appeal shall not deprive the department of the authority

to suspend, revoke, or deny a driver's license or minor driver's license pending a final determination of a conviction on appeal.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2133, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1)(m) amended, p. 314, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 96:** (1)(j) amended, p. 1207, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 97:** (1)(g) and (1)(i) amended and (1)(g.5), (2.5), and (2.7) added, p. 1460, §§ 3, 2, effective July 1; (1)(m) amended, p. 305, § 22, effective July 1; (1)(n) and (7) added and (3) amended, p. 1537, §§ 3, 4, effective July 1. **L. 98:** IP(2.5) amended, p. 173, § 2, effective April 6; (1)(k), (3), and (6) amended, p. 1434, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 99:** (1)(n) amended, p. 391, § 2, effective July 1; (2.3) and (2.4) added, p. 1158, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (1)(g) and (2.4) amended, p. 1075, § 2, effective July 1; IP(1), (1)(g)(II), (1)(g.5), (1)(k)(II), (3), and (7) amended, p. 1353, § 24, effective July 1, 2001; (6)(c)(II) added by revision, pp. 1353, 1362, §§ 24, 49. **L. 2001:** (4) amended, p. 553, § 3, effective May 23. **L. 2002:** (1)(i) amended, p. 1921, § 17, effective July 1; (1)(k) repealed, p. 1585, § 16, effective July 1. **L. 2003:** (1)(n) amended, p. 1905, § 5, effective July 1; (1)(o) and (2.8) added, pp. 1845, 1846, §§ 3, 5, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** IP(1)(o) amended and (8) added, p. 647, § 15, effective May 27. **L. 2007:** (1)(d), (1)(o), (2), (2.3), (2.8), (3), IP(6)(a), (6)(b), and (8) amended, p. 504, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (1)(g), (1)(g.5), and (1)(i) amended, p. 245, § 7, effective July 1; (1)(b.5) added and (1)(g)(I) and (2) amended, p. 832, § 2, effective January 1, 2009. **L. 2009:** (1)(m), (1)(n), (1)(o)(I), (3), (6)(a), and (7) amended, (HB 09-1266), ch. 347, p. 1816, § 8, effective August 5. **L. 2010:** (1)(h) amended, (SB 10-175), ch. 188, p. 807, § 85, effective April 29. **L. 2011:** (1)(i) amended, (HB 11-1303), ch. 264, p. 1179, § 101, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** (1)(b) amended, (HB 12-1311), ch. 281, p. 1631, § 88, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** (1)(b), (1)(g), and (1)(i) amended, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1880, § 7, effective May 28. **L. 2014:** (1)(m) amended, (SB 14-129), ch. 387, p. 1939, § 11, effective June 6. **L. 2015:** IP(2.5) amended, (HB 15-1043), ch. 262, p. 997, § 6, effective August 5. **L. 2016:** (2.8) repealed, (SB 16-065), ch. 277, p. 1143, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** IP(1) and (1)(i) amended, (SB 17-242), ch. 263, p. 1257, § 20, effective May 25. **L. 2018:** (1)(m) amended, (HB 18-1025), ch. 152, p. 1082, § 23, effective October 1. **L. 2021:** (1)(m), (3), and (6)(a) amended and (1)(o) repealed, (HB 21-1314), ch. 460, p. 3093, § 2, effective January 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (1)(i) amended, (HB 22-1278), ch. 222, p. 1577, § 200, effective July 1; (1)(h) amended, (HB 22-1256), ch. 451, p. 3238, § 51, effective August 10. **L. 2026:** (1)(l) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 475, § 37, effective August 12; IP(1) and (1)(a) amended, (SB 26-072), ch. 200, p. 1144, § 3, effective September 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-122 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-125 was relocated to § 42-2-133.

(2) Amendments to subsection (1)(g)(II) by Senate Bill 00-018 and Senate Bill 00-011 were harmonized, effective July 1, 2001.

(3) Amendments to subsection (1)(g)(I) by House Bill 08-1166 and House Bill 08-1194 were harmonized, effective January 1, 2009.

(4) Subsection (6)(c)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (6)(c), effective July 1, 2001. (See L. 2000, pp. 1353, 1362.)

(5) Section 8(2) of chapter 200 (SB 26-072), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to offenses committed on or after September 1, 2026.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2008 act enacting subsection (1)(b.5) and amending subsections (1)(g)(I) and (2), see section 1 of chapter 221, Session Laws of Colorado 2008. For the legislative declaration in SB 17-242, see section 1 of chapter 263, Session Laws of Colorado 2017.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Highlights of the 1955 Legislative Session — Criminal Law and Procedure", see 28 Rocky Mt. L. Rev. 69 (1955). For article, "Due Process in Involuntary Civil Commitment and Incompetency Adjudication Proceedings: Where Does Colorado Stand?", see 46 Den. L.J. 516 (1969). For article, "The New Colorado Per Se DUI Law", see 12 Colo. Law. 1451 (1983). For article, "Drinking and Driving: An Update on the 1989 Legislation", see 18 Colo. Law. 1943 (1989). For article, "There Must Be Fifty Ways to Lose Your (Driver's) License", see 22 Colo. Law. 2385 (1993).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-125 is similar to 42-2-122 as it existed prior to the amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1 and to § 13-4-22 as it existed prior to its repeal, relevant cases construing those

provisions have been included in the annotations to this section.

**There is no denial of equal protection in imposition of statutory sanctions on habitual offender.** *Charnes v. Kiser*, 617 P.2d 1201 (Colo. 1980).

The failure of the implied consent statute to provide for a probationary license does not violate equal protection of the laws. *DeScala v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 667 P.2d 1360 (Colo. 1983).

**Disparity in eligibility for probationary license held constitutional.** Although under the implied consent law a person refusing to submit to a chemical test is subject to a mandatory revocation without any opportunity for a probationary license, while a person actually convicted of driving under the influence is subject to a mandatory

revocation but nonetheless may apply for a probationary license, this disparity in treatment does not violate equal protection of the laws. *Drake v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 674 P.2d 359 (Colo. 1984).

**Revocation of license no burden on right to travel interstate.** While the right to travel interstate is without question a fundamental right under the United States constitution, revocation of a driver's license pursuant to this section does not burden this fundamental right. *Heninger v. Charnes*, 200 Colo. 194, 613 P.2d 884 (1980).

**Primary purpose of this section** and §§ 42-2-121 and 42-2-123 is to protect the public safety upon the highways. *Heil v. Charnes*, 44 Colo. App. 225, 616 P.2d 980 (1980).

The implied consent statute serves the distinct governmental purpose of facilitating citizen cooperation in achieving traffic safety by the use of the administrative sanction of revocation upon a refusal to submit to a test, while the statutory authorization for a probationary license is expressly directed towards the "alcohol and drug traffic driving education or treatment" of the convicted traffic offender. *DeScala v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 667 P.2d 1360 (Colo. 1983).

**Laws aimed at drivers under influence of alcohol.** The traffic laws and the revocation procedures contained in this section and § 42-2-203 are aimed at all drivers who operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or while their ability is impaired, regardless of their status as alcoholics or problem drinkers. *Heninger*

*v. Charnes*, 200 Colo. 194, 613 P.2d 884 (1980).

**Proceeding not barred by one-year delay.** A one-year delay in commencing these administrative proceedings pursuant to § 42-2-123 does not ipso facto constitute a bar to the hearing. *Berry v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 656 P.2d 721 (Colo. App. 1982).

**Issuance of driver's license does not confer upon licensee right that is independently entitled to protection** against any and all governmental interference or restriction. *Heninger v. Charnes*, 200 Colo. 194, 613 P.2d 884 (1980).

**Categorization of alcohol-related driving offenses reasonably related to governmental interest.** To the extent that one might consider as a classification the categorization of alcohol-related driving offenses in subsections (1)(g) and (1)(i), and § 42-2-202 (2)(a)(I), such classification is reasonably related to the expressed governmental interest of providing maximum safety for all persons who travel or otherwise use the public highway. *Heninger v. Charnes*, 200 Colo. 194, 613 P.2d 884 (1980) (decided prior to the 1981 amendment to subsections (1)(g) and (1)(i)).

**Where a driver's license has been revoked, it continues revoked until a new license has been granted,** and such revocation does not terminate with the expiration date of the license. *People v. Lopez*, 143 Colo. 523, 354 P.2d 491 (1960).

**Completion of alcohol education program was not mitigating factor** to be

considered in granting or denial of probationary driver's license, but rather was prerequisite for application. *Hoth v. Charnes*, 736 P.2d 1264 (Colo. App. 1987).

**Former subsection (4) of this section required** the completion of a Level II alcohol treatment program as a prerequisite to the issuance of a probationary license for a driver twice convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol within a five-year period. *Smith v. Dept. of Rev.*, 793 P.2d 611 (Colo. App. 1990) (decided under law in effect prior to 1990 repeal and reenactment of subsection (4)).

**Probationary license sought pursuant to former subsection (4) was properly denied** since the original revocation period expired for driver twice convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol within five years and driver was eligible for reinstatement, notwithstanding the fact the revocation remained in effect until the driver completed Level II alcohol treatment. *Smith v. Dept. of Rev.*, 793 P.2d 611 (Colo. App. 1990) (decided under law in effect prior to 1990 repeal and reenactment of subsection (4)).

**The application of the 1990 amendments to deny a probationary license** was not unlawful as being retroactive in operation or in violation of defendant's vested rights because the revocation and probationary license issues were not triggered until defendant's criminal convictions occurred after the effective date of the 1990 amendments. *Rogers v. Dept. of Rev.*, 841 P.2d 369 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Indefinite revocation is a remedial action** designed to assure the general public safety in the use of its highways and is not cruel and unusual punishment. *Campbell v. State*, 176 Colo. 202, 491 P.2d 1385 (1971).

**Notice need not give facts warranting revocation to be adequate.** The notice received from the division of motor vehicles is not defective because it does not give adequate notice of the facts warranting revocation unless the driver was genuinely surprised. *Campbell v. State*, 176 Colo. 202, 491 P.2d 1385 (1971).

**The function of the hearing examiner under this statute is purely ministerial.** *Campbell v. State*, 176 Colo. 202, 491 P.2d 1385 (1971).

**Revocation proper even though offenses occurred prior to amendment.** Application of the mandatory revocation provision of subsection (1)(g) is not improper even though only one of the offenses upon which the revocation of the license is based occurred after the effective date of the 1981 amendment. *Sanchez v. State, Dept. of Rev.*, 667 P.2d 779 (Colo. 1983).

Only the triggering offense must occur after the effective date of the act. *Zaragoza v. Dept. of Rev.*, 702 P.2d 274 (Colo. 1985); *Sommer v. Dept. of Rev.*, 714 P.2d 901 (Colo. 1986).

**There is no due process violation in suspending the driver's license of any person convicted of any felony drug offense.** The sanction is reasonably related to the governmental objective of preventing

the possession, use, or sale of controlled substances. *People v. Zinn*, 843 P.2d 1351 (Colo. 1993).

**Revocation of license proper** for driver who was properly requested to take urine test to detect presence of drugs but refused to provide requisite sample. *Halter v. Dept. of Rev.*, 857 P.2d 535 (Colo. App. 1993).

**Requirement to surrender license to the court upon conviction under § 18-18-406 is simply an additional sanction** specifically authorized by the general assembly to be imposed. Since the imposition of that sanction has received proper legislative approval, no double jeopardy problems arise. *People v. Smith*, 944 P.2d 639 (Colo. App. 1997).

**Due process not violated** where police report concerning basis of conclusion that driver was under the influence of marijuana was admitted into evidence but officer who prepared report was not present at revocation hearing since report was available for discovery before hearing and driver could have called officer to testify. *Halter v. Dept. of Rev.*, 857 P.2d 535 (Colo. App. 1993).

**Court has no subject matter jurisdiction to review the suspension or revocation of a driver's license** when the driver-defendant has failed to exhaust his administrative remedies before seeking judicial review. *Kriz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 916 P.2d 659 (Colo. App. 1996).

**Remedy for driver who has had his driver's license revoked or suspended may be available pursuant to § 24-4-105 (10) where the Colorado department of revenue does not hold an administrative hearing prior to the expiration of 60 days** as the department is under statutory obligation to hold an administrative hearing within 60 days under either this section or § 42-2-126. *Kriz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 916 P.2d 659 (Colo. App. 1996).

**Applied** in *People v. Heinz*, 195 Colo. 71, 589 P.2d 931 (1979); *Fuhrer v. Dept. of Motor Vehicles*, 197 Colo. 325, 592 P.2d 402 (1979); *Reasoner v. Dept. of Rev.*, 628 P.2d 187 (Colo. App. 1981); *Hedstrom v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 662 P.2d 173 (Colo. 1983).

#### **42-2-126. Revocation of license based on administrative determination.**

(1) **Legislative declaration.** The purposes of this section are:

(a) To provide safety for all persons using the highways of this state by quickly revoking the driver's license of any person who has shown himself or herself to be a safety hazard by driving with an excessive amount of alcohol in his or her body and any person who has refused to submit to an analysis as required by section 42-4-1301.1;

(b) To guard against the potential for any erroneous deprivation of the driving privilege by providing an opportunity for a full hearing; and

(c) Following the revocation period, to prevent the relicensing of a person until the department is satisfied that the person's alcohol problem is under control and that the person no longer constitutes a safety hazard to other highway users.

(2) **Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Excess BAC" means that a person had a BAC level sufficient to subject the person to a license revocation for excess BAC 0.08, excess BAC underage, excess BAC CDL, or excess BAC underage CDL.

(b) "Excess BAC 0.08" means that a person drove a vehicle in this state when the person's BAC was 0.08 or more at the time of driving or within two hours after driving.

(c) "Excess BAC CDL" means that a person drove a commercial motor vehicle in this state when the person's BAC was 0.04 or more at the time of driving or at any time thereafter.

(d) "Excess BAC underage" means that a person was under the age of twenty-one years and the person drove a vehicle in this state when the person's BAC was in excess of 0.02 but less than 0.08 at the time of driving or within two hours after driving.

(e) "Excess BAC underage CDL" means that a person was under the age of twenty-one years and the person drove a commercial motor vehicle in this state when the person's BAC was in excess of 0.02 but less than 0.04 at the time of driving or at any time thereafter.

(f) "Hearing officer" means the executive director of the department or an authorized representative designated by the executive director.

(g) "License" includes driving privilege.

(h) "Refusal" means refusing to take or complete, or to cooperate in the completing of, a test of the person's blood, breath, saliva, or urine as required by section 18-3-106 (4) or 18-3-205 (4), C.R.S., or section 42-4-1301.1 (2).

(i) "Respondent" means a person who is the subject of a hearing under this section.

(3) **Revocation of license.**

(a) **Excess BAC 0.08.**

(I) The department shall revoke the license of a person for excess BAC 0.08 for:

(A) Nine months for a first violation committed on or after January 1, 2009; except that such a person may apply for a restricted license pursuant to the provisions of section 42-2-132.5;

(B) One year for a second violation; and

(C) Two years for a third or subsequent violation occurring on or after January 1, 2009, regardless of when the prior violations occurred; except that such a person may apply for a restricted license pursuant to the provisions of section 42-2-132.5.

(II) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2008, p. 833, § 3, effective January 1, 2009.)

**(b) Excess BAC underage.**

(I) The department shall revoke the license of a person for excess BAC underage for three months for a first violation, for six months for a second violation, and for one year for a third or subsequent violation.

(II) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b), a person whose license is revoked for a first offense under subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b) and whose BAC was not more than 0.05 may request that, in lieu of the three-month revocation, the person's license be revoked for a period of not less than thirty days, to be followed by a suspension period of such length that the total period of revocation and suspension equals three months. If the hearing officer approves the request, the hearing officer may grant the person a probationary license that may be used only for the reasons provided in section 42-2-127 (14)(a).

(B) The hearing to consider a request under this subparagraph (II) may be held at the same time as the hearing held under subsection (8) of this section; except that a probationary license may not become effective until at least thirty days have elapsed since the beginning of the revocation period.

**(c) Refusal.**

(I) Except as provided in section 42-2-132.5 (4), the department shall revoke the license of a person for refusal for one year for a first violation, two years for a second violation, and three years for a third or subsequent violation; except that the period of revocation shall be at least three years if the person was driving a commercial motor vehicle that was transporting hazardous materials as defined in section 42-2-402 (7).

(II) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (c), such a person whose license has been revoked for two years for a second violation or for three years for a third or subsequent violation may apply for a restricted license pursuant to the provisions of section 42-2-132.5.

**(d) Excess BAC CDL.** The department shall revoke for the disqualification period provided in 49 CFR 383.51 the commercial driving privilege of a person who was the holder of a commercial driver's license or was driving a commercial motor vehicle for a violation of excess BAC 0.08, excess BAC CDL, or refusal.



(e) **Excess BAC underage CDL.** The department shall revoke the commercial driving privilege of a person for excess BAC underage CDL for three months for a first violation, six months for a second violation, and one year for a third or subsequent violation.

**(4) Multiple restraints and conditions on driving privileges.**

(a) (I) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (a), a revocation imposed pursuant to this section for an offense committed before January 1, 2014, shall run consecutively and not concurrently with any other revocation imposed pursuant to this section.

(II) If a license is revoked for excess BAC and the person is also convicted on criminal charges arising out of the same occurrence for DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD, both the revocation under this section and any suspension, revocation, cancellation, or denial that results from the conviction shall be imposed, but the periods shall run concurrently, and the total period of revocation, suspension, cancellation, or denial shall not exceed the longer of the two periods.

(III) (A) If a license is revoked for refusal for an offense committed before January 1, 2014, the revocation shall not run concurrently, in whole or in part, with any previous or subsequent suspensions, revocations, or denials that may be provided for by law, including but not limited to any suspension, revocation, or denial that results from a conviction of criminal charges arising out of the same occurrence for a violation of section 42-4-1301.

(B) If a license is revoked for refusal for an offense committed on or after January 1, 2014, and the person is also convicted on criminal charges arising out of the same occurrence for DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD, both the revocation under this section and any suspension, revocation, cancellation, or denial that results from the conviction shall be imposed, but the periods shall run concurrently. The total period of revocation, suspension, cancellation, or denial shall not exceed the longer of the two periods.

(IV) The revocation of the commercial driving privilege under excess BAC CDL may run concurrently with another revocation pursuant to this section arising out of the same incident.

(V) Any revocation for refusal shall not preclude other action that the department is required to take in the administration of this title.

(b) (I) The periods of revocation specified in subsection (3) of this section are intended to be minimum periods of revocation for the described conduct. Except as described in section 42-2-132.5, a license shall not be restored under any circumstances, and a probationary license shall not be issued, during the revocation period.

(II) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b), a person whose privilege to drive a commercial motor vehicle has been revoked because of excess BAC CDL and who was twenty-one years of age or older at the time of the offense may apply for a driver's license of another class or type as long as there is no other statutory reason to deny the person a

license. The department may not issue the person a probationary license that would authorize the person to operate a commercial motor vehicle.

(c) Upon the expiration of the period of revocation under this section, if a person's license is still suspended on other grounds, the person may seek a probationary license as authorized by section 42-2-127 (14) subject to the requirements of paragraph (d) of this subsection (4).

(d) (I) Following a license revocation, the department shall not issue a new license or otherwise restore the driving privilege unless the department is satisfied, after an investigation of the character, habits, and driving ability of the person, that it will be safe to grant the privilege of driving a motor vehicle on the highways to the person; except that the department may not require a person to undergo skills or knowledge testing prior to issuance of a new license or restoration of the person's driving privilege if the person's license was revoked for a first violation of excess BAC 0.08 or excess BAC underage.

(II) (A) If a person was driving with excess BAC and the person had a BAC that was 0.15 or more or if the person's driving record otherwise indicates a designation as a persistent drunk driver as defined in section 42-1-102 (68.5), the department shall require the person to complete a level II alcohol and drug education and treatment program certified by the behavioral health administration in the department of human services pursuant to section 42-4-1301.3 as a condition to restoring driving privileges to the person and, upon the restoration of driving privileges, shall require the person to hold a restricted license requiring the use of an ignition interlock device pursuant to section 42-2-132.5 (1)(a)(II).

(B) If a person seeking reinstatement is required to complete, but has not yet completed, a level II alcohol and drug education and treatment program, the person shall file with the department proof of current enrollment in a level II alcohol and drug education and treatment program certified by the behavioral health administration in the department of human services pursuant to section 42-4-1301.3, on a form approved by the department.

**(5) Actions of law enforcement officer.**

(a) If a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that a person should be subject to license revocation for excess BAC or refusal, the law enforcement officer shall forward to the department an affidavit containing information relevant to the legal issues and facts that shall be considered by the department to determine whether the person's license should be revoked as provided in subsection (3) of this section. The executive director of the department shall specify to law enforcement agencies the form of the affidavit to be used under this paragraph (a) and the types of information needed in the affidavit and may specify any additional documents or copies of documents needed by the department to make its determination in addition to the affidavit. The affidavit shall be dated, signed, and sworn to by the law enforcement officer under penalty of perjury, but need not be notarized or sworn to before any other person.

(b) (I) A law enforcement officer, on behalf of the department, shall personally serve a notice of revocation on a person who is still available to the law enforcement officer if the law enforcement officer determines that, based on a refusal or on test results available to the law enforcement officer, the person's license is subject to revocation for excess BAC or refusal.

(II) When a law enforcement officer serves a notice of revocation, the law enforcement officer shall take possession of any driver's license issued by this state or any other state that the person holds. When the law enforcement officer takes possession of a valid driver's license issued by this state or any other state, the law enforcement officer, acting on behalf of the department, shall issue a temporary permit that is valid for seven days after the date of issuance.

(III) A copy of the completed notice of revocation form, a copy of any completed temporary permit form, and any driver's, minor driver's, or temporary driver's license or any instruction permit taken into possession under this section shall be forwarded to the department by the law enforcement officer along with an affidavit as described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (5) and any additional documents or copies of documents as described in said paragraph (a).

(IV) The department shall provide to law enforcement agencies forms for notice of revocation and for temporary permits. The law enforcement agencies shall use the forms for the notice of revocation and for temporary permits and shall follow the form and provide the information for affidavits as provided by the department pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (5).

(V) A law enforcement officer shall not issue a temporary permit to a person who is already driving with a temporary permit issued pursuant to subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (b).

**(6) Initial determination and notice of revocation.**

(a) Upon receipt of an affidavit of a law enforcement officer and the relevant documents required by paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of this section, the department shall determine whether the person's license should be revoked under subsection (3) of this section. The determination shall be based upon the information contained in the affidavit and the relevant documents submitted to the department, and the determination shall be final unless a hearing is requested and held as provided in subsection (8) of this section. The determination of these facts by the department is independent of the determination of a court of the same or similar facts in the adjudication of any criminal charges arising out of the same occurrence. The disposition of the criminal charges shall not affect any revocation under this section.

(b) (I) If the department determines that the person is subject to license revocation, the department shall issue a notice of revocation if a notice has not already been served upon the person by the law enforcement officer as provided in paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of this section. A notice of revocation shall clearly specify the reason and statutory grounds for the

revocation, the effective date of the revocation, the right of the person to request a hearing, the procedure for requesting a hearing, and the date by which a request for a hearing must be made.

(II) In sending a notice of revocation, the department shall mail the notice in accordance with the provisions of section 42-2-119 (2) to the person at the last-known address shown on the department's records, if any, and to any address provided in the law enforcement officer's affidavit if that address differs from the address of record. The notice shall be deemed received three days after mailing.

(c) If the department determines that the person is not subject to license revocation, the department shall notify the person of its determination and shall rescind any order of revocation served upon the person by the law enforcement officer.

(d) A license revocation shall become effective seven days after the person has received the notice of revocation as provided in subsection (5) of this section or is deemed to have received the notice of revocation by mail as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (6). If the department receives a written request for a hearing pursuant to subsection (7) of this section within that same seven-day period and the department issues a temporary permit pursuant to paragraph (d) of subsection (7) of this section, the effective date of the revocation shall be stayed until a final order is issued following the hearing; except that any delay in the hearing that is caused or requested by the person or counsel representing the person shall not result in a stay of the revocation during the period of delay.

**(7) Request for hearing.**

(a) A person who has received a notice of revocation may make a written request for a review of the department's determination at a hearing. The request may be made on a form available at each office of the department.

(b) A person must request a hearing in writing within seven days after the day the person receives the notice of revocation as provided in subsection (5) of this section or is deemed to have received the notice by mail as provided in paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of this section. If the department does not receive the written request for a hearing within the seven-day period, the right to a hearing is waived, and the determination of the department that is based on the documents and affidavit required by subsection (5) of this section becomes final.

(c) If a person submits a written request for a hearing after expiration of the seven-day period and if the request is accompanied by the person's verified statement explaining the failure to make a timely request for a hearing, the department shall receive and consider the request. If the department finds that the person was unable to make a timely request due to lack of actual notice of the revocation or due to factors of physical incapacity such as hospitalization or incarceration, the department shall waive the period of limitation, reopen the matter, and grant the hearing

request. In such a case, the department shall not grant a stay of the revocation pending issuance of the final order following the hearing.

(d) At the time a person requests a hearing pursuant to this subsection (7), if it appears from the record that the person is the holder of a valid driver's or minor driver's license or of an instruction permit or of a temporary permit issued pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of this section and that the license or permit has been surrendered, the department shall stay the effective date of the revocation and issue a temporary permit that shall be valid until the scheduled date for the hearing. If necessary, the department may later extend the temporary permit or issue an additional temporary permit in order to stay the effective date of the revocation until the final order is issued following the hearing, as required by subsection (8) of this section. If the person notifies the department in writing at the time that the hearing is requested that the person desires the law enforcement officer's presence at the hearing, the department shall issue a written notice for the law enforcement officer to appear at the hearing. A law enforcement officer who is required to appear at a hearing may, at the discretion of the hearing officer, appear in real time by telephone or other electronic means in accordance with section 42-1-218.5.

(e) At the time that a person requests a hearing, the department shall provide to the person written notice advising the person:

(I) Of the right to subpoena the law enforcement officer for the hearing and that the subpoena must be served upon the law enforcement officer at least five calendar days prior to the hearing;

(II) Of the person's right at that time to notify the department in writing that the person desires the law enforcement officer's presence at the hearing and that, upon receiving the notification, the department shall issue a written notice for the law enforcement officer to appear at the hearing;

(III) That, if the law enforcement officer is not required to appear at the hearing, documents and an affidavit prepared and submitted by the law enforcement officer will be used at the hearing; and

(IV) That the affidavit and documents submitted by the law enforcement officer may be reviewed by the person prior to the hearing.

(f) Any subpoena served upon a law enforcement officer for attendance at a hearing conducted pursuant to this section shall be served at least five calendar days before the day of the hearing.

**(8) Hearing.**

(a) (I) The hearing shall be scheduled to be held as quickly as practicable but not more than sixty days after the date the department receives the request for a hearing; except that, if a hearing is rescheduled because of the unavailability of a law enforcement officer or the hearing officer in accordance with subsection (8)(a)(III) or (8)(a)(IV) of this section, the hearing may be rescheduled more than sixty days after the date the department receives the request for the hearing, and the department shall continue any temporary driving privileges held by the person until the date to which the hearing is rescheduled. At least ten days prior to the scheduled or rescheduled hearing, the department shall provide in the manner specified in section 42-2-119 (2) a written notice of the time and place of the hearing to the respondent unless the parties agree to waive this requirement. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 42-1-102 and 42-2-119, the last-known address of the respondent for purposes of notice for any hearing pursuant to this section is the address stated on the hearing request form.

(II) A law enforcement officer who submits the documents and affidavit required by subsection (5) of this section need not be present at the hearing unless the hearing officer requires that the law enforcement officer be present and the hearing officer issues a written notice for the law enforcement officer's appearance or unless the respondent or the respondent's attorney determines that the law enforcement officer should be present and serves a timely subpoena upon the law enforcement officer in accordance with paragraph (f) of subsection (7) of this section.

(III) If a law enforcement officer, after receiving a notice or subpoena to appear from either the department or the respondent, is unable to appear at the original or rescheduled hearing date due to a reasonable conflict, including but not limited to training, vacation, or personal leave time, the law enforcement officer or the law enforcement officer's supervisor shall contact the department not less than forty-eight hours prior to the hearing and reschedule the hearing to a time when the law enforcement officer will be available. If the law enforcement officer cannot appear at the original or rescheduled hearing because of medical reasons, a law enforcement emergency, another court or administrative hearing, or any other legitimate, just cause as determined by the department, and the law enforcement officer or the law enforcement officer's supervisor gives notice of the law enforcement officer's inability to appear to the department prior to the dismissal of the revocation proceeding, the department shall reschedule the hearing following consultation with the law enforcement officer or the law enforcement officer's supervisor at the earliest possible time when the law enforcement officer and the hearing officer will be available.

(IV) If a hearing officer cannot appear at an original or rescheduled hearing because of medical reasons, a law enforcement emergency, another court or administrative hearing, or any other legitimate, just cause, the hearing officer or the department may reschedule the hearing at the earliest possible time when the law enforcement officer and the hearing officer will be available.

(b) The hearing shall be held in the district office nearest to where the violation occurred, unless the parties agree to a different location; except that, at the discretion of the department, all or part of the hearing may be conducted in real time, by telephone or other electronic means in accordance with section 42-1-218.5.

(c) The department shall consider all relevant evidence at the hearing, including the testimony of any law enforcement officer and the reports of any law enforcement officer that are submitted to the department. The report of a law enforcement officer shall not be required to be made under oath, but the report shall identify the law enforcement officer making the report. The department may consider evidence contained in affidavits from persons other than the respondent, so long as the affidavits include the affiant's home or work address and phone number and are dated, signed, and sworn to by the affiant under penalty of perjury. The affidavit need not be notarized or sworn to before any other person.

(d) The hearing officer shall have authority to:

(I) Administer oaths and affirmations;

(II) Compel witnesses to testify or produce books, records, or other evidence;

(III) Examine witnesses and take testimony;

(IV) Receive and consider any relevant evidence necessary to properly perform the hearing officer's duties as required by this section;

(V) Take judicial notice as defined by rule 201 of article II of the Colorado rules of evidence, subject to the provisions of section 24-4-105 (8), C.R.S., which shall include:

(A) Judicial notice of general, technical, or scientific facts within the hearing officer's knowledge;

(B) Judicial notice of appropriate and reliable scientific and medical information contained in studies, articles, books, and treatises; and

(C) Judicial notice of charts prepared by the department of public health and environment pertaining to the maximum BAC levels that people can obtain through the consumption of alcohol when the charts are based upon the maximum absorption levels possible of determined amounts of alcohol consumed in relationship to the weight and gender of the person consuming the alcohol;

(VI) Issue subpoenas duces tecum to produce books, documents, records, or other evidence;

(VII) Issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses;

(VIII) Take depositions or cause depositions or interrogatories to be taken;

(IX) Regulate the course and conduct of the hearing; and

(X) Make a final ruling on the issues.

(e) When an analysis of the respondent's BAC is considered at a hearing:

(I) If the respondent establishes, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the respondent consumed alcohol between the time that the respondent stopped driving and the time of testing, the preponderance of the evidence must also establish that the minimum required BAC was reached as a result of alcohol consumed before the respondent stopped driving; and

(II) If the evidence offered by the respondent shows a disparity between the results of the analysis done on behalf of the law enforcement agency and the results of an analysis done on behalf of the respondent, and a preponderance of the evidence establishes that the blood analysis conducted on behalf of the law enforcement agency was properly conducted by a qualified person associated with a laboratory certified by the department of public health and environment using properly working testing devices, there shall be a presumption favoring the accuracy of the analysis done on behalf of the law enforcement agency if the analysis showed the BAC to be 0.096 or more. If the respondent offers evidence of blood analysis, the respondent shall be required to state under oath the number of analyses done in addition to the one offered as evidence and the names of the laboratories that performed the analyses and the results of all analyses.

(f) The hearing shall be recorded. The hearing officer shall render a decision in writing, and the department shall provide a copy of the decision to the respondent.

(g) If the respondent fails to appear without just cause, the right to a hearing shall be waived, and the determination of the department which is based upon the documents and affidavit required in subsection (5) of this section shall become final.

(h) Pursuant to section 42-1-228, a driver may challenge the validity of the law enforcement officer's initial contact with the driver and the driver's subsequent arrest for DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI. If a driver so challenges the validity of the law enforcement officer's initial contact, and the evidence does not establish that the initial contact or arrest was constitutionally and statutorily valid, the driver is not subject to license revocation.

**(9) Appeal.**

(a) Within thirty-five days after the department issues its final determination under this section, a person aggrieved by the determination has the right to file a petition for judicial review in the district court in the county of the person's residence.

(b) Judicial review of the department's determination shall be on the record without taking additional testimony. If the court finds that the department exceeded its constitutional or statutory authority, made an erroneous interpretation of the law, acted in an arbitrary and capricious



manner, or made a determination that is unsupported by the evidence in the record, the court may reverse the department's determination.

(c) A filing of a petition for judicial review shall not result in an automatic stay of the revocation order. The court may grant a stay of the order only upon a motion and hearing and upon a finding that there is a reasonable probability that the person will prevail upon the merits.

(10) **Notice to vehicle owner.** If the department revokes a person's license pursuant to paragraph (a), (c), or (d) of subsection (3) of this section, the department shall mail a notice to the owner of the motor vehicle used in the violation informing the owner that:

(a) The motor vehicle was driven in an alcohol-related driving violation; and

(b) Additional alcohol-related violations involving the motor vehicle by the same driver may result in a requirement that the owner file proof of financial responsibility under the provisions of section 42-7-406 (1.5).

(11) **Applicability of "State Administrative Procedure Act".** The "State Administrative Procedure Act", article 4 of title 24, C.R.S., shall apply to this section to the extent it is consistent with subsections (7), (8), and (9) of this section relating to administrative hearings and judicial review.

**Source: L. 94:** (9)(b) and (9)(c)(II) amended, p. 2807, § 580, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2135, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (6)(b)(VI) and (6)(b)(VII) added and (7)(a) amended, p. 1303, §§ 1, 2, effective July 1. **L. 96:** (7)(a)(I) amended, p. 272, § 1, effective April 8. **L. 97:** (2)(a)(I), (2)(a)(III), (3)(b), (5)(a), (6)(c)(I), (7)(a)(I), (9)(c)(I), and (9)(c)(III) amended and (2)(a)(I.5), (2)(a)(IV), (6)(b)(II.5), (6)(b)(VIII), and (6)(b)(IX) added, pp. 1461, 1464 §§ 4, 5, effective July 1; (7)(c) amended, p. 334, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 98:** (6)(b)(IX)(A) amended, p. 174, § 3, effective April 6; (2.5) added, p. 1239, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 99:** (2)(a)(II), (8)(e)(II), (8)(e)(III), and (8)(e)(V) amended and (8)(e)(II.5) added, p. 90, § 1, effective July 1; (6)(c)(III) added, p. 1158, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (2)(a)(I.5), (2)(a)(IV), (5)(a), (9)(c)(I), and (9)(c)(III) amended and (2)(a)(I.7) added, p. 512, § 1, effective May 12; (5)(c) and (8)(d) amended, p. 1354, § 25, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (8)(e)(II), (8)(f), and (9)(a) amended, p. 553, § 4, effective May 23; (7)(c) amended, p. 787, § 4, effective June 1; (7)(a)(II) repealed, p. 1284, § 67, effective June 5. **L. 2002:** (1)(a), (2)(a)(I.7), (2)(a)(II), (2)(a)(IV), (3)(a), (5)(a), (7)(c)(II), (7)(c)(III), (9)(c)(I), and (9)(c)(III) amended, p. 1915, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2003:** (6)(b)(I) and (6)(b)(IX)(B) amended and (6)(b)(IX)(A.5) added, p. 2429, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (2)(a)(I), (2)(a)(I.5), (5)(a)(I), (7)(a)(I), (9)(c)(I), and (9)(c)(II) amended, p. 782, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (3) amended, p. 647, § 16, effective May 27. **L. 2006:** (5)(a)(I), (5)(a)(II), (6)(b)(III), and (6)(b)(V) amended and (6)(b)(III.5) added, p. 260, § 1, effective March 31; (6)(b)(IX)(A.5) and (7)(c)(II) amended, p.

1366, § 2, effective January 1, 2007. **L. 2007:** (2)(a)(I.5), (2)(a)(I.7), (6)(b)(IX)(A.5), and (9)(c)(I) amended, p. 502, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** Entire section R&RE, p. 232, § 1, effective July 1; (3)(a) and (3)(c) amended, p. 833, § 3, effective January 1, 2009. **L. 2011:** (4)(d)(II) amended, (HB 11-1303), ch. 264, p. 1179, § 102, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** (4)(d)(II)(A) and (9)(c) amended, (HB 12-1168), ch. 278, p. 1482, § 4, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** (8)(h) added, (HB 13-1077), ch. 196, p. 798, § 1, effective May 11; (3)(c)(I), (4)(a)(I), (4)(a)(III), (4)(b) (I), and (4)(d)(II)(A) amended and (4)(a)(V) added, (HB 13-1240), ch. 361, pp. 2114, 2112, §§ 5, 3, effective January 1, 2014. **L. 2015:** (4)(d)(II)(A) amended, (HB 15-1043), ch. 262, p. 998, § 8, effective August 5; (8)(h) amended, (HB 15-1073), ch. 92, p. 263, § 1, effective August 5; (9)(a) amended, (HB 15-1021), ch. 25, p. 63, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2017:** (4)(d)(II) amended, (SB 17-242), ch. 263, p. 1258, § 21, effective May 25; (8)(a)(I) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 367, § 10, effective August 9. **L. 2022:** (4)(d)(II) amended, (HB 22-1278), ch. 222, p. 1578, § 201, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-122.1 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-126 was relocated to § 42-2-134.

(2) Subsections (9)(b) and (9)(c)(II) were originally numbered as § 42-2-122.1 (8)(b) and (8)(c)(III), and the amendments to them in House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 1998 act enacting subsection (2.5), see section 1 of chapter 295, Session Laws of Colorado 1998. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2001 act amending subsection (7)(c), see section 1 of chapter 229, Session Laws of Colorado 2001. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2008 act amending subsections (3)(a) and (3)(c), see section 1 of chapter 221, Session Laws of Colorado 2008. For the legislative declaration in SB 17-242, see section 1 of chapter 263, Session Laws of Colorado 2017.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "The New Colorado Per Se DUI Law", see 12 Colo. Law. 1451 (1983). For article, "DUI Defense Under the Per Se Law", see 14 Colo. Law. 2155 (1985). For article, "Drinking and Driving: An Update on the 1989 Legislation", see Colo. Law. 1943 (1989).

For article, "Driver's License Considerations in DUI Cases -- Part I", see 28 Colo. Law. 85 (May 1999). For article, "Driver's License Considerations in DUI Cases -- Part II", see 28 Colo. Law. 91 (July 1999). For article, "Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus Test Evidence in Colorado — The Framework

under *Campbell v. People*", see 49 Colo. Law. 23 (June 2020).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-126 is similar to § 42-2-122.1 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included in the annotations to this section.

**Due process not violated.** This section affords an opportunity to be heard consistent with the requirements of due process. *Falbo v. Rev. Motor Veh. Div.*, 738 P.2d 43 (Colo. App. 1987).

**This section does not violate constitutional guarantees of equal protection of the law**, even though a person whose driver's license was suspended administratively through § 42-2-122.1 could not receive a probationary license and a person whose license was suspended under § 42-2-123 as a result of a criminal conviction could receive a probationary license, because the court, after making a determination of whether persons allegedly subject to disparate treatment by these sections were in fact similarly situated, found that no classification of persons similarly situated exists since this section involved an administrative suspension as opposed to a suspension resulting from a criminal conviction. *Bath v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 758 P.2d 1381 (Colo. 1988); *Hancock v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 758 P.2d 1372 (Colo. 1988).

**The phrase "without additional testimony" precludes a judgment on the grounds that the department of revenue failed to file a brief.** In addition, the

standard of review requires certain finding. Without such findings, a court may not overturn a driver's license suspension on review on procedural grounds. *Myers v. Dept. of Rev.*, 126 P.3d 328 (Colo. App. 2005).

**Statute proscribing driving with a blood alcohol content in excess of set limit provides sufficient notice of proscribed conduct and is not unconstitutionally vague or violative of due process.** The fact of having consumed a quantity of alcohol notifies a person he is in jeopardy of violating the law. Abundant available information tells amount of alcohol consumption necessary to reach specific blood alcohol content levels. *Smith v. Charnes*, 728 P.2d 1287 (Colo. 1986); *Hancock v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 758 P.2d 1372 (Colo. 1988).

**Notice given licensees through publication of express consent statute satisfies due process;** licensee is presumed to know law regarding operation of motor vehicles, including consequences of refusing request for chemical testing. *Dikeman v. Charnes*, 739 P.2d 870 (Colo. App. 1987).

Driver was not entitled to advisement of consequences of refusing chemical test to determine blood alcohol level before he was requested by officer to submit to test. *Dikeman v. Charnes*, 739 P.2d 870 (Colo. App. 1987).

**Department's failure to instruct motorist to obtain duplicate license to surrender after revocation does not violate motorist's equal protection rights.**

Haynes v. Charnes, 772 P.2d 670 (Colo. App. 1989).

**The state does not violate the double jeopardy clause by subjecting individuals to criminal prosecution pursuant to the DUI or DUI per se statutes subsequent to subjecting them to an administrative license revocation proceeding.** Deutschendorf v. People, 920 P.2d 53 (Colo. 1996).

**Statute is remedial not punitive, and double jeopardy protection does not apply.** Revocation occurred because defendant refused to take the test for blood alcohol and not because of the level of alcohol in his bloodstream. Consequently, defendant was arrested for conduct different from the conduct giving rise to the license revocation, that is, driving a motor vehicle while impaired by the consumption of alcohol, as opposed to a refusal to take the test. People v. Olson, 921 P.2d 51 (Colo. App. 1996).

**This section is remedial in nature** and is to be liberally construed in the public interest. Cordova v. Mansheim, 725 P.2d 1158 (Colo. App. 1986).

**Legality of initial stop and arrest for DUI are proper issues in proceedings under this section.** Although the validity of the initial stop and the subsequent DUI arrest may not be necessary elements to a revocation action, a driver may properly raise such issues as a defense in such proceedings. Peterson v. Tipton, 833 P.2d 830 (Colo. App. 1992). But see Francen v. Dept. of Rev., 2012 COA 110, 411 P.3d 693, aff'd, 2014 CO 54, 328 P.3d 111, and

Hanson v. Dept. of Rev., Motor Veh. Div., 2012 COA 143, 411 P.3d 1, aff'd, 2014 CO 55, 328 P.3d 122 (both decided under law in effect prior to 2013 amendment), annotated below.

**Legality of initial contact between driver and police not relevant in civil proceeding.** A hearing officer or court is not required or allowed to determine in a revocation proceeding under this section the lawfulness of the initial contact. Francen v. Dept. of Rev., 2012 COA 110, 411 P.3d 693, aff'd, 2014 CO 54, 328 P.3d 111 (declining to follow Peterson v. Tipton, 833 P.2d 830 (Colo. App. 1992)); Hanson v. Dept. of Rev., Motor Veh. Div., 2012 COA 143, 411 P.3d 1, aff'd, 2014 CO 55, 328 P.3d 122 (both decided under law in effect prior to 2013 amendment).

**"Probable cause" in the context of this section** as it existed before the 2013 amendment refers to the quantum and quality of evidence necessary for a law enforcement officer to issue a notice of driver's license revocation, not whether the officer's initial contact with the driver was lawful. Francen v. Dept. of Rev., 2014 CO 54, 328 P.3d 111; Hanson v. Dept. of Rev., Motor Veh. Div., 2012 COA 143, 411 P.3d 1, aff'd, 2014 CO 55, 328 P.3d 122 (both decided under law in effect prior to 2013 amendment).

**The exclusionary rule does not apply to license revocation hearings** because an administrative hearing is remedial not criminal in nature. Francen v. Dept. of Rev., 2012 COA 110, 411 P.3d 693, aff'd, 2014 CO 54, 328 P.3d 111; Hanson v. Dept. of

Rev., Motor Veh. Div., 2012 COA 143, 411 P.3d 1, aff'd, 2014 CO 55, 328 P.3d 122 (both decided under law in effect prior to 2013 amendment).

**But a court may elect to exclude evidence acquired through misconduct of a law enforcement officer if the misconduct is in bad faith or shocks the conscience of the court.** Hanson v. Dept. of Rev., 2014 CO 55, 328 P.3d 122.

**Officer is not authorized to request and to direct an arrested driver to submit to testing absent probable cause for the DUI arrest** and, by implication, absent reasonable suspicion for the initial stop. Peterson v. Tipton, 833 P.2d 830 (Colo. App. 1992). But see Francen v. Dept. of Rev., 2012 COA 110, 411 P.3d 693, aff'd, 2014 CO 54, 328 P.3d 111 (decided under law in effect prior to 2013 amendment), annotated above.

**In determining validity of an investigatory stop**, the first inquiry is whether there were specific and articulable facts known to the police officer which, taken together with rational inferences from these facts, created a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. Peterson v. Tipton, 833 P.2d 830 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Legal conclusions by peace officer not adequate for the evaluation required under subsection (5).** The peace officer must allege facts in an affidavit sufficient to support the agency action. Jansma v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 2023 COA 59, 536 P.3d 859.

**Officer need not include reasons for driver's erratic driving behavior in report**

but only that the driving was erratic and thus the officer had probable cause to stop the auto. Kollodge v. Charnes, 741 P.2d 1260 (Colo. App. 1987).

**Jurisdiction is acquired in a license revocation proceeding under this section** when affidavits and other documents forwarded by the arresting officer contain sufficient information of a reliable character to make a revocation determination. Duckett v. Tipton, 826 P.2d 873 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Although arresting officer's failure to swear to the affirmation on a revocation form under penalty of perjury violated statutory requirement**, such violation does not prevent department of revenue from acquiring jurisdiction in license revocation proceeding and does not warrant reversal of revocation. Duckett v. Tipton, 826 P.2d 873 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Where arresting officer swore to validity of documents submitted at revocation hearing**, any error in the verification procedure before a notary public was not prejudicial to motorist. Duckett v. Tipton, 826 P.2d 873 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Statute does not require arresting officer to have personal knowledge of every fact stated within verified report** required by subsection (2)(a). Sheldon v. Dept. of Rev., 742 P.2d 968 (Colo. App. 1987).

**Reasonable suspicion justifying initial stop** was furnished by nonverbal signal of gas station clerk who had called to report intoxicated customer preparing to drive

away. Peterson v. Tipton, 833 P.2d 830 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Arresting officer had reasonable grounds for determining that driver was driving under the influence**, even though he did not actually see the driver driving but relied on information provided to him by fellow officer and on his own observation of driver exiting the vehicle. Sheldon v. Dept. of Rev., 742 P.2d 968 (Colo. App. 1987).

**Investigating officer's hearsay report** as to the time that the driver was behind the wheel of the motor vehicle could be used to establish timeliness of blood alcohol test without violating due process because such report was reliable, trustworthy, and possessed probative value. Colo. Div. of Rev. v. Lounsbury, 743 P.2d 23 (Colo. 1987); Charnes v. Olona, 743 P.2d 36 (Colo. 1987).

**Revocation of driver's license upheld** where substantial evidence in record supported such revocation, even though the hearing officer erred by applying the so-called "20% rule" to resolve differences between two intoxilyzer test results. Charnes v. Robinson, 772 P.2d 62 (Colo. 1989).

**Invalidity of "20% rule"**. Use of rule which provides that a second intoxilyzer test result within 20% of the first test result supports and does not refute the first test result was invalid as a standard or guide in adjudicatory hearings under this article, since it had the effect of an agency rule or regulation, but was not promulgated according to the rule-making authority delegated to the director of the department

of revenue. Charnes v. Robinson, 772 P.2d 62 (Colo. 1989).

**Retest is not the only method of refuting intoxilyzer results**. Where undisputed testimony showed the machine consistently read .005% too high, and the margin by which driver allegedly exceeded the statutory limit was only .003%, the department's prima facie case was nullified, and retest could serve no valid purpose. Scherr v. Dept. of Rev., 49 P.3d 1217 (Colo. App. 2002).

**Revocation of a driver's license under the "per se" statute requires a properly supported finding that the licensee was driving**, not a finding that the officer who requested that the licensee submit to a blood alcohol test had reasonable grounds to believe that the licensee was operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of, or impaired by, alcohol. Charnes v. Lobato, 743 P.2d 27 (Colo. 1987).

**The term "drove a vehicle"**, for the purposes of subsection (1)(a)(I), means a person has actual physical control of a motor vehicle upon a highway. Brewer v. Motor Vehicle Div., Dept. of Rev., 720 P.2d 564 (Colo. 1986); Smith v. Charnes, 728 P.2d 1287 (Colo. 1986); Nefzger v. Dept. of Rev., 739 P.2d 224 (Colo. 1987); Hancock v. State Dept. of Rev., 758 P.2d 1372 (Colo. 1988).

"Actual physical control" does not require that the vehicle be moving on its own power or that the vehicle travel a particular distance. Therefore, licensee was in actual physical control of the vehicle when he was seated behind the wheel, with the engine running and the car in gear, as the vehicle

was towed out of a snowbank. Colo. Div. of Rev. v. Lounsbury, 743 P.2d 23 (Colo. 1987).

**Person who was in the driver's seat of an automobile which had its motor running and its parking lights on** and which was located in a private lot was in actual physical control of the automobile and thus was driving a motor vehicle. Therefore, refusal to consent to testing violates "express consent" statute and justifies revocation of license under this section. Motor Veh. Div. v. Warman, 763 P.2d 558 (Colo. 1988).

**Specific criminal charge is not required** for a valid administrative license revocation. Irey v. Nielson, 716 P.2d 486 (Colo. App. 1986).

The department's determination of the facts with respect to administrative revocation is independent of the determination of the same or similar facts in the adjudication of any criminal charges arising out of the same occurrence. When the statutory text evidences a legislative intent to treat separately the administrative and criminal consequences of driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor, the statute should be interpreted in the manner that gives effect to the entire legislative scheme. Nefzger v. Dept. of Rev., 739 P.2d 224 (Colo. 1987).

**Issue preclusion does not bar revocation despite different outcome in criminal case.** In a revocation proceeding, the department of revenue may make findings "independent of the determination of the same or similar facts in the

adjudication of any criminal charges arising out of the same occurrence". Accordingly, given the substantial differences in the purposes and procedures in a revocation hearing and a criminal case, issue preclusion does not prevent the independent resolution of the same issue in each proceeding. Meyer v. Dept. of Rev., 143 P.3d 1181 (Colo. App. 2006) (decided prior to 2008 repeal and reenactment).

**Hearsay evidence alone may be used to establish an element at a revocation hearing** if such evidence is sufficiently reliable and trustworthy, and the evidence possesses probative value commonly accepted by reasonable and prudent persons in the conduct of their affairs. Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. Kirke, 743 P.2d 16 (Colo. 1987); Colo. Div. of Rev. v. Lounsbury, 743 P.2d 23 (Colo. 1987); Charnes v. Lobato, 743 P.2d 27 (Colo. 1987); Heller v. Velasquez, 743 P.2d 34 (Colo. 1987); Charnes v. Olona, 743 P.2d 36 (Colo. 1987).

**Burden of proof.** At a driver's license revocation hearing, the state must establish by a preponderance of the evidence that the licensee drove a vehicle with an alcohol concentration of 0.15 or more grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath. Schocke v. St. Dept. of Rev., 719 P.2d 361 (Colo. App. 1986).

State did not meet burden with regard to driver's breath alcohol concentration where two different tests, each conducted by a certified operator on a certified machine which had been verified as operating properly prior to the test, gave different results as to whether the driver exceeded

acceptable breath alcohol concentration level. Schocke v. St. Dept. of Rev., 719 P.2d 361 (Colo. App. 1986).

State did not meet its burden of proof where undisputed testimony showed the machine used to test driver's breath consistently read .005% too high, and the margin by which driver allegedly exceeded the statutory limit was only .003%. Scherr v. Dept. of Rev., 49 P.3d 1217 (Colo. App. 2002).

**Revocation of driver's license is not reversible upon review based upon nonjurisdictional statutory violation** unless substantial rights of licensee have been prejudiced. Alford v. Tipton, 822 P.2d 513 (Colo. App. 1991).

**A field test on a portable breath testing device** given to the suspect prior to arrest did not constitute a chemical test within the meaning of the express consent statute, and so a revocation for refusal to submit to additional testing is supported. Davis v. Carroll, 782 P.2d 884 (Colo. App. 1989).

**Chemical test for alcohol relied upon for revocation of license** requested more than one hour after the alleged driving offense but within a reasonable time of that offense will support the revocation of a driver's license for refusal to submit to the test. Charnes v. Boom, 766 P.2d 665 (Colo. 1988).

"Within one hour thereafter" means up to and including the entire sixtieth minute after the commission of the alleged offense. Bath v. State Dept. of Rev., 762 P.2d 767 (Colo. App. 1988) (decided under law in effect

prior to 1987 amendment changing the one hour to two hours).

**In civil revocation proceedings based on blood alcohol breath test results, subsection (2)(b) requires the test to be taken within two hours after driving.** Edwards v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 2016 COA 137, 406 P.3d 347.

Therefore, a driver's license cannot be revoked based on a test taken more than two hours after driving. Edwards v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 2016 COA 137, 406 P.3d 347.

**Motorist's expert witness showing test results conflicting with the state's results** must show that health department regulations were followed in performing the test and establish that the machine performing the test was operating correctly. Davis v. Charnes, 740 P.2d 534 (Colo. App. 1987).

**Hearing officer cannot refuse to accept into evidence the result of an independently tested breath test sample** because driver would be denied due process by being deprived of any chance to rebut results of the state's test. Mameda v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 698 P.2d 277 (Colo. App. 1985).

**Subsections (1)(a) and (8)(c) indicate legislative intent** that license revocation be based on the results of the chemical analysis at least to the extent that the test can be considered prima facie proof that blood alcohol concentration was in excess of the statutory standard. Swain v. State Dept. of Rev., 717 P.2d 507 (Colo. App. 1985).



**Subsections (1)(a)(I) and (8)(c) are not inconsistent**, and thus evidence of excessive blood alcohol concentration obtained pursuant to subsection (8)(c) was sufficient to sustain revocation of driver's license. *Harvey v. Charnes*, 728 P.2d 373 (Colo. App. 1986) (decided prior to 1987 amendments to subsections (1)(a) and (8)(c)).

**Margin of error may be considered** in determining weight accorded to blood alcohol test, but hearing officer did not abuse discretion in finding blood alcohol in excess of statutory standard where there was no showing that the machine was inaccurate. *Swain v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 717 P.2d 507 (Colo. App. 1985).

Hearing officer did not act arbitrarily or capriciously in revoking defendant's license upon finding that he had blood alcohol content of .159, despite contention that there was a margin of error in the test so that blood alcohol content could have been less than .15. *Nefzger v. Dept. of Rev.*, 739 P.2d 224 (Colo. 1987).

**Presumption in subsection (8)(e)(II) does not apply to determination of whether a person is a "persistent drunk driver"**, as that term is defined in § 42-1-102. Presumption that favors the accuracy of a blood alcohol content analysis done on behalf of a law enforcement agency when a driver submits conflicting test results applies only to revocation determinations. *Garcia v. Huber*, 252 P.3d 486 (Colo. App. 2010).

**"Verified report" is not necessarily a notarized report.** The department of revenue had jurisdiction to revoke

commercial driver's license for one year where police officer's report contained all necessary information, was sworn to under penalty of perjury, and used form supplied by department. *Dept. of Rev. v. Hibbs*, 122 P.3d 999 (Colo. 2005) (decided under this section as it existed prior to 2005 amendment).

**A blood alcohol content test report does not have to comply with affidavit requirements.** Subsection (8)(c) requires affidavits to be dated, signed, and sworn under penalty of perjury, but the BAC report is not an affidavit. Subsection (8)(c)'s requirements are triggered only when someone other than a police officer or the respondent submits an affidavit. This interpretation is in harmony with the rest of the statute and is consistent with § 22-4-105 of the State Administrative Procedure Act (APA). *Dept. of Rev. v. Rowland*, 2018 CO 1, 408 P.3d 458.

**Although failure of arresting officer to date notice of revocation form violated requirements of this section, department of revenue acquired jurisdiction over revocation proceedings** when submittal of affidavit and other documents forwarded by arresting officer contained sufficient information of a reliable character to permit department to make revocation determination. *Alford v. Tipton*, 822 P.2d 513 (Colo. App. 1991).

**Objective standard of driver's external manifestations of willingness or unwillingness to submit to testing for purposes of this section** is sole basis for determination of whether driver refused to

take test. *Alford v. Tipton*, 822 P.2d 513 (Colo. App. 1991).

**The two-hour standard in § 42-4-1301.1 does not apply to a refusal to take a test.**

The refusal to take a blood alcohol test is an independent cause for revoking driver's license. Therefore, so long as the request is within a reasonable time, a refusal to take the test may result in loss of a driver's license. *Stumpf v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 231 P.3d 1 (Colo. App. 2009).

**Arresting officer's failure to serve driver personally** with notice of revocation of his driver's license does not affect department of revenue's jurisdiction to serve the driver with such notice and to enter revocation order. *Kenney v. Charnes*, 717 P.2d 1020 (Colo. App. 1986); *Potter v. Dept. of Rev.*, 739 P.2d 908 (Colo. App. 1987).

**Driver could not be deemed to have received notice of revocation** of his license where mailed notice was returned by postal authorities as unclaimed; return was evidence of fact that notice was not served, rebutting presumption indicated in subsection (3)(b) that service of notice would be effective three days after mailing. *Potter v. Dept. of Rev.*, 739 P.2d 908 (Colo. App. 1987).

After mailed notice of revocation was returned by postal authorities as unclaimed, driver's written request for hearing, together with affidavit setting forth reasons for late filing of request, were sufficient. *Potter v. Dept. of Rev.*, 739 P.2d 908 (Colo. App. 1987).

**Waiver of notice.** Although motorist did not make an express waiver, the fact that he and his attorney appeared and argued the merits of his driver's license revocation but did not object to the timeliness of notice demonstrated his willingness to forego receipt of timely notice and constituted a waiver. *Mattingly v. Charnes*, 700 P.2d 927 (Colo. App. 1985); *Hendrickson v. State Dept. of Rev., M.V.D.*, 716 P.2d 489 (Colo. App. 1986).

**Since the motorist failed to surrender his driver's license as required by this section, such refusal gave the department of revenue grounds to deny his request for a revocation hearing.** *Haynes v. Charnes*, 772 P.2d 670 (Colo. App. 1989).

**This section provides that the APA applies to license revocation hearings.** *Nye v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 902 P.2d 959 (Colo. App. 1995).

**License was not revoked when notice was never served on plaintiff pursuant to either of the prescribed statutory methods.** *Knaus v. Dept. of Rev.*, 844 P.2d 1318 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Plaintiff not entitled to be given credit toward three-month revocation period for period he was under mistaken belief that his license had been revoked.** He had not yet received notice of the revocation as required by statute, and the misunderstanding was not the fault or responsibility of the department. *Knaus v. Dept. of Rev.*, 844 P.2d 1318 (Colo. App. 1992).

**The 60-day time limit of subsection (8) is jurisdictional.** *Emmons v. Dept. of Rev.*, 2020 COA 17, 459 P.3d 784.

**Sixty-day period for a license revocation hearing begins to run at the time the department receives the written request.** *Ellis v. Charnes*, 722 P.2d 436 (Colo. App. 1986).

**If the sixtieth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday,** the 60-day period is automatically extended to the end of the next business day. *Perez v. Dept. of Rev.*, 778 P.2d 326 (Colo. App. 1989).

**The date of filing of request for a hearing is not included** for purposes of computing the 60-day period. *Perez v. Dept. of Rev.*, 778 P.2d 326 (Colo. App. 1989).

**Revocation hearing must not only be scheduled but held within 60 days.** The time limit is jurisdictional and the department's failure to hold the hearing requires dismissal of the action against plaintiff. *Wilson v. Hill*, 782 P.2d 874 (Colo. App. 1989) (decided under law in effect prior to 1989 amendment).

**In a license revocation proceeding, the department has the burden to prove that it met the earliest possible time requirement in order to retain jurisdiction to revoke a license.** The power of administrative agencies extends only so far as the authority conferred on them by statute. *Emmons v. Dept. of Rev.*, 2020 COA 17, 459 P.3d 784.

**Unlike the time limit for hearings under § 42-2-122.1 (7)(e), the 60-day time limit in § 42-2-123 (12) is not mandatory.**

*DiMarco v. Dept. of Rev.*, 857 P.2d 1349 (Colo. App. 1993) (decided under law in effect prior to the 1994 amendment).

**Subsection (7)(c) provides the exclusive grounds on which an untimely request for a license revocation hearing may be granted.** *Baulsir v. Dept. of Rev.*, 702 P.2d 277 (Colo. App. 1985); *Kelley v. Dept. of Rev.*, 780 P.2d 67 (Colo. App. 1989).

When the grounds for an untimely request for a license revocation hearing is attorney negligence in failing to request a hearing within the statutorily designated time period, the trial court erred in ordering the department to grant the request. *Baulsir v. Dept. of Rev.*, 702 P.2d 277 (Colo. App. 1985).

Due process clause was not violated since adequate advance notice and an opportunity for an appropriate hearing before the license revocation became effective was given. *Baulsir v. Dept. of Rev.*, 702 P.2d 277 (Colo. App. 1985).

**Statutory notice provisions require driver to request hearing within seven days of time notice is deemed by statute to be received,** not from time of actual notice. *Kelley v. Dept. of Rev.*, 780 P.2d 67 (Colo. App. 1989).

**Written notice of right to subpoena law enforcement officer is jurisdictional requirement.** Where respondent never received such notice and department nevertheless held revocation hearing in absence of officer over respondent's objection, order of revocation was invalid.

Kress v. Dept. of Rev., 834 P.2d 268 (Colo. App. 1992).

**If respondent requests that the law enforcement officer be present, the officer cannot fulfill this statutory requirement by appearing via two-way video conference.** The term "presence" requires actual presence not video presence. Barnes v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 23 P.3d 1235 (Colo. App. 2000).

**Department's policy of never granting a rescheduling request by a licensee or counsel for an alternative date within the 60-day limit is arbitrary, capricious, and inconsistent with the statutory obligation to provide a meaningful opportunity for a fair hearing.** Such policy effectively violated licensee's right to counsel of her own choosing when counsel made the request due to a scheduling conflict. However, the department is not required to accommodate every request for rescheduling; it must take the circumstances surrounding the request into consideration. Erbe v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 51 P.3d 1096 (Colo. App. 2002).

**Subsection (9)(c) provides the grounds for reversing a DMV revocation order.** Where analysis of licensee's blood alcohol content was conflicting, it was the hearing officer's role, not the role of the reviewing court, to determine which test result was more reliable and deserved greater weight. Therefore, the hearing officer's decision to rely on one of two conflicting test results did not constitute grounds for reversal under the statute. Charnes v. Lobato, 743 P.2d 27 (Colo. 1987).

**The presumption of accuracy described in subsection (9)(c)(II) applies only to revocation hearings and not to "persistent drunk driver" determinations.** Given the clear statutory language, it is apparent that the general assembly intended the presumption of accuracy in blood alcohol content to apply to the limit required for license revocation. Conversely, there is no indication that it intended the presumption of accuracy in blood alcohol content to apply to the "persistent drunk driver" section of the statute. Wiesner v. Huber, 228 P.3d 973 (Colo. App. 2010) (decided under law in effect prior to 2008 amendment).

**Statute vests authority to review administrative revocations exclusively in district court** in county of driver's residence, and a petition filed by a nonresident of the county must be dismissed. Dept. of Rev. v. Borquez, 751 P.2d 639 (Colo. 1988).

**Absence of transcript.** Under this section the record does not include the transcript. Destruction of transcript due to administrative practice, standing alone, does not require reversal of department's decision. Cop v. Charnes, 738 P.2d 1200 (Colo. App. 1987).

Nor does absence of transcript due to accidental erasure of the tape, standing alone, require reversal of the department's decision. Gynn v. Dept. of Rev., 939 P.2d 526 (Colo. App. 1997).

**The hearing officer is the trier of fact.** Determinations concerning witness credibility, evidentiary weight, and the resolution of any evidentiary conflicts are

factual matters solely within the province of the hearing officer as the trier of fact. Haney v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 2015 COA 125, 361 P.3d 1093.

**A reviewing court may not disturb a hearing officer's factual findings unless the findings are "clearly erroneous on the whole record".** Nepl v. Dept. of Rev., 2019 COA 29, 439 P.3d 76.

**District court erred in substituting its judgment for hearing officer's determination as to plaintiff's unjustified refusal to submit to testing** when hearing officer's finding was based upon resolution of conflicting evidence. Alford v. Tipton, 822 P.2d 513 (Colo. App. 1991).

**Department of revenue is not bound in administrative revocation under the collateral estoppel doctrine by the resolution of the same issues in criminal proceedings arising out of the same occurrence.** Wallace v. Dept. of Rev., 787 P. 2d 181 (Colo. App. 1989).

**A request for extraordinary relief in the form of mandamus under C.R.C.P. 106 was improper to challenge arbitrary action by the department of revenue in revoking a person's driver's license, even though petition was filed on the basis that the department refused to conduct a revocation hearing.** The APA provides the proper mechanism for seeking relief based on arbitrary action by an executive agency. Dept. of Rev. v. District Court, 802 P.2d 473 (Colo. 1990).

**Questions as to legality of initial motor vehicle stop and subsequent arrest of**

**driver for driving under the influence may properly be raised as issues in driver's license revocation proceedings.** Peterson v. Tipton, 833 P.2d 830 (Colo. App. 1992). But see Francen v. Dept. of Rev., 2012 COA 110, 411 P.3d 693, aff'd, 2014 CO 54, 328 P.3d 111, and Hanson v. Dept. of Rev., 2012 COA 143, 411 P.3d 1, aff'd, 2014 CO 55, 328 P.3d 122 (both decided under law in effect prior to 2013 amendment), annotated above.

**The department's authority is limited by pertinent statutory provisions in a driver's license revocation proceeding** and, absent any statutory authorization for a "reopening", the asserted right thereto was a nullity and plaintiff was not required to "exhaust" such an invalid administrative "remedy" as a condition precedent to his statutory right to seek judicial review of the department's final order of revocation. Foos v. State, 888 P.2d 321 (Colo. App. 1994).

**Under the applicable statutory scheme, the final agency action of the department that is subject to judicial review in express consent revocation proceedings** is the issuance of the final order of revocation by the hearing officer at the conclusion of the revocation hearing. Foos v. State, 888 P.2d 321 (Colo. App. 1994).

**Judicial review is only available from a final agency determination.** District court lacks jurisdiction to interfere with agency's setting of hearing date. State Dept. of Rev. v. District Court, 908 P.2d 518 (Colo. 1995).

**On remand, the district court's disposition of the judicial review proceedings** must be governed solely by the

standards of the applicable provisions of this section and the APA. *Foos v. State*, 888 P.2d 321 (Colo. App. 1994).

**Court has no subject matter jurisdiction to review the suspension or revocation of a driver's license** when the driver-defendant has failed to exhaust his administrative remedies before seeking judicial review. *Kriz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 916 P.2d 659 (Colo. App. 1996).

**Failure to file a petition for judicial review within 30 days after issuance of a revocation order is a jurisdictional defect that mandates dismissal of the action** where, as here, the statute does not mandate the filing of a petition for reconsideration; therefore, it was error for the district court to affirm the revocation order. *Jeffries v. Fisher*, 66 P.3d 218 (Colo. App. 2003).

**Remedy for driver who has had his driver's license revoked or suspended may be available pursuant to § 24-4-105(10) where the Colorado department of revenue does not hold an administrative hearing prior to the expiration of 60 days** as the department is under statutory obligation to hold an administrative hearing within 60 days under either this section or § 42-2-125. *Kriz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 916 P.2d 659 (Colo. App. 1996).

**Prior to enactment of § 42-2-122.1 (7)(e)(II)**, police officers did not have authority to absent themselves from revocation hearings. *People v. Attorney A.*, 861 P.2d 705 (Colo. 1993) (decided under law in effect prior to the 1994 amendment).

**The failure to notify a licensee of the correct location of a revocation hearing is not a jurisdictional defect.** *Wunder v. Dept. of Rev., Motor Veh. Div.*, 867 P.2d 178 (Colo. App. 1993).

**The statutory grounds for delay of the license revocation hearing must be strictly construed.** The exception that arises when a police officer is unavailable must be limited to situations involving the same degree of urgency as covered by the other enumerated exceptions. A bare notation that the officer had to teach school is insufficient to establish the applicability of the statutory exception. *Rule v. Dept. of Rev.*, 868 P.2d 1166 (Colo. App. 1994).

**Officer who submitted the documentation for a DUI arrest was the proper officer** to appear at the driver's license revocation hearing even though the officer was not the arresting officer. *Herman v. Dept. of Rev.*, 870 P.2d 628 (Colo. App. 1994).

**Driver's license revocation based on refusal to submit to alcohol testing is supported by substantial evidence.** Probable cause existed for DUI arrest based on evidence of speeding, alcohol odor, bloodshot eyes, blank stare, slurred speech, and staggered walk. *Herman v. Dept. of Rev.*, 870 P.2d 628 (Colo. App. 1994).

**Reversal of a driver's license revocation** is warranted where the agency failed to comply with written request to issue a subpoena and this failure caused prejudice to the driver's substantial right to engage in cross-examination of witnesses. *Nye v. State*

Dept. of Rev., 902 P.2d 959 (Colo. App. 1995).

**Nevertheless, the department has discretion over whether to issue a subpoena.** The issuance of a subpoena is not merely a ministerial duty. The department may issue rules to establish criteria for the issuance, such as relevance. Fallon v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 250 P.3d 691 (Colo. App. 2010).

**Revocation of license may not be reversed based on nonjurisdictional**

**statutory violation unless substantial rights of licensee are prejudiced by the error.** Mitchek v. Dept. of Rev., 911 P.2d 715 (Colo. App. 1996).

**Applied** in Miller v. Motor Veh. Div., Dept. of Rev., 706 P.2d 10 (Colo. App. 1985); Kelln v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 719 P.2d 358 (Colo. App. 1986); Franklin v. Dept. of Rev., 728 P.2d 391 (Colo. App. 1986); McClellan v. State Dept. of Rev., 731 P.2d 769 (Colo. App. 1986); Shafron v. Cooke, 190 P.3d 812 (Colo. App. 2008).

**42-2-126.1. Probationary licenses for persons convicted of alcohol-related driving offenses - ignition interlock devices - fees - interlock fund created - violations of probationary license - repeal. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 95:** Entire section added, p. 1304, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 96:** IP(2) amended and (2)(a.5) added, p. 1204, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 97:** (2)(a.7) added and (2)(a), (2)(a.5), (2)(e), (2.5), (6)(a), (7), and (8) amended, pp. 1383, 1384, §§ 2, 3, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (2.5) amended, p. 1352, § 97, effective June 1. **L. 99:** IP(1) amended and (1.5) added, p. 1162, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (1.5) and (8) amended, p. 1075, § 1, effective July 1; IP(1) amended, p. 1354, § 26, effective July 1, 2001.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (8) provided for the repeal of this section, effective January 1, 2001. (See L. 2000, p. 1075.)

**42-2-126.3. Tampering with an ignition interlock device. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 95:** Entire section added, p. 1304, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (1) and (2) amended, p. 1079, § 9, effective July 1. **L. 2001:** (1) and (2) amended, p. 1284, § 68, effective June 5. **L. 2002:** (3) amended, p. 1560, § 362, effective October 1. **L. 2012:** Entire section repealed, (HB 12-1168), ch. 278, p. 1482, § 3, effective August 8.

**42-2-126.5. Revocation of license based on administrative actions taken under tribal law - repeal.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Indian" means a person who is a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe.

(b) "Reservation" means the Southern Ute Indian reservation, the exterior boundaries of which were confirmed in the Act of May 21, 1984, Pub.L. 98-290, 98 Stat. 201, 202 (found at "Other Provisions" note to 25 U.S.C. sec. 668).

(c) "Reservation driving privilege" means the driving privilege of an Indian that arises under and is governed by the tribal code when the Indian is operating a motor vehicle within the boundaries of the reservation.

(d) "Tribal code" means the laws adopted by the tribe pursuant to the tribe's constitution.

(e) "Tribe" means the Southern Ute Indian tribe.

(2) **Legislative declaration.**

(a) The general assembly finds that:

(I) The tribal code, including traffic provisions, governs the conduct of Indians within the reservation;

(II) The tribal code grants reservation driving privileges to Indians based on possession of a state-issued driver's license but does not authorize application of state driver's license revocation laws based on the conduct of Indians within the reservation; and

(III) When Indians drive outside of the reservation, state and municipal traffic laws apply to their state driving privileges.

(b) In enacting this section, the general assembly intends to provide safety for all persons using the highways of the state by authorizing a process whereby the state shall revoke the Colorado driving privileges of a person after the tribe has entered a final order under the tribal code revoking the reservation driving privileges of that person, in a manner similar to how the state revokes the state driving privileges of a Colorado licensee whose driving privileges are revoked for an action occurring and adjudicated in a foreign jurisdiction.

(3) When the tribe initially revokes the reservation driving privilege of an Indian pursuant to the tribal code pending a tribal hearing, the tribe shall take possession of the person's Colorado driver's license. The tribe is authorized to issue a temporary permit which shall provide temporary Colorado driving privileges to the person until the tribe enters a final order of revocation of the person's reservation driving privileges.



(4) If the tribe enters a final order of revocation of the person's reservation driving privileges, the tribe shall send notice of such revocation to the department via fax, mail, or electronic means.

(5) The state shall give full faith and credit to a tribal administrative or judicial determination related to the tribe's revocation of the reservation driving privileges of an Indian.

(6) Upon receiving notice of revocation from the tribe pertaining to any Indian, the department shall immediately revoke the Colorado driving privileges of that person. The period of the state revocation shall run concurrently with the revocation action taken by the tribe. The state's driver record for the revoked individual shall indicate concurrent dates for the revocation period. The department shall send notice of revocation by first-class mail to the person at the address last shown on the department's records.

(7) The department's revocation of the person's Colorado driving privileges shall be a final agency action of the department. Any appeal of the state's final revocation action may be taken in accordance with section 42-2-135 and section 24-4-106, C.R.S. Because the state is giving full faith and credit to the tribal determination, the department's revocation action shall be affirmed if, upon review, the reviewing court determines that the tribe's revocation of tribal driving privileges met both of the following conditions:

(a) The revocation occurred after providing the person whose driving privilege was revoked reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard sufficient to protect due process rights; and

(b) The tribal administrative or judicial tribunal that made the determination had jurisdiction over the parties and over the subject matter.

(8) When a person whose license is revoked under this section has completed the terms and conditions of the tribal revocation order, the tribe shall provide the person with written notification of the completion and shall also send written notice to the department. When the department receives the tribe's written notification of the completion, the person may seek reinstatement of his or her Colorado driving privileges. The person must comply with sections 42-2-126 (4)(d), 42-2-132, and 42-7-406 to obtain a new license or otherwise restore his or her Colorado driving privileges.

(9) The provisions of this section do not apply to the department's revocation, suspension, cancellation, or denial of a Colorado driver's license of an Indian for any driving offense that occurs while operating a motor vehicle outside the boundaries of the reservation.

(10) This section shall automatically repeal on the occurrence of any one or more of the following events:

(a) The tribe repeals the express consent law of the tribal code;

(b) Either the tribe or the state terminates any intergovernmental agreement between the parties pertaining to driver's license revocations of Indians; or

(c) A repeal of this section by the general assembly acting by separate bill.

**Source: L. 2001:** Entire section added, p. 320, § 1, effective April 12. **L. 2008:** (8) amended, p. 246, § 8, effective July 1.

**42-2-127. Authority to suspend license - to deny license - type of conviction - points.**

(1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (8)(b) of this section, the department has the authority to suspend the license of any driver who, in accordance with the schedule of points set forth in this section, has been convicted of traffic violations resulting in the accumulation of twelve points or more within any twelve consecutive months or eighteen points or more within any twenty-four consecutive months, or, in the case of a minor driver eighteen years of age or older, who has accumulated nine points or more within any twelve consecutive months, or twelve points or more within any twenty-four consecutive months, or fourteen points or more for violations occurring after reaching the age of eighteen years, or, in the case of a minor driver under the age of eighteen years, who has accumulated more than five points within any twelve consecutive months or more than six points for violations occurring prior to reaching the age of eighteen years; except that the accumulation of points causing the subjection to suspension of the license of a chauffeur who, in the course of employment, has as a principal duty the operation of a motor vehicle is sixteen points in one year, twenty-four points in two years, or twenty-eight points in four years, if all the points are accumulated while said chauffeur is in the course of employment. Any provision of this section to the contrary notwithstanding, the license of a chauffeur who is convicted of DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, UDD, or leaving the scene of a crash must be suspended in the same manner as if the offense occurred outside the course of employment. Whenever a minor driver under the age of eighteen years receives a summons for a traffic violation, the minor's parent or legal guardian or, if the minor is without parents or guardian, the person who signed the minor driver's application for a license must immediately be notified by the court from which the summons was issued.

(b) If any applicant for a license to operate a motor vehicle has illegally operated a motor vehicle in this state prior to the issuance of a valid driver's or minor driver's license or instruction permit or in violation of the terms of any instruction permit within thirty-six months prior to said application, the department has the authority to deny the issuance of said license for not more than twelve months.

(c) For the purpose of this section, any points accumulated by a minor under an instruction permit shall apply to the minor driver's license subsequently issued to or applied for by such minor.

(d) No suspension or denial shall be made until a hearing has been held or the driver has failed to appear for a hearing scheduled in accordance with this section. This section shall not be construed to prevent the issuance of a restricted license pursuant to section 42-2-116.

(2) (a) The time periods provided in subsection (1) of this section for the accumulation of points shall be based on the date of violation, but points shall not be assessed until after conviction for any such traffic violation.

(b) The accumulation of points within the time periods provided in subsection (1) of this section shall not be affected by the issuance or renewal of any driver's or minor driver's license issued under the provisions of this article or the anniversary date thereof.

(3) Nothing in subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall affect or prevent any proceedings to suspend any license under the provisions of law existing prior to July 1, 1974.

(4) Statutory provisions for cancellation and mandatory revocation of drivers' licenses shall take precedence over this section.

(5) Point system schedule:

| Type of conviction                                                                                     | Points |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| (a) Leaving scene of crash .....                                                                       | 12     |
| (b) (I) DUI or DUI per se .....                                                                        | 12     |
| (II) Repealed.                                                                                         |        |
| (III) DWAI .....                                                                                       | 8      |
| (IV) UDD .....                                                                                         | 4      |
| (c) (I) Engaging in a speed contest in violation of section 42-4-1105 (1) .....                        | 12     |
| (II) Aiding or facilitating engaging in a speed contest in violation of section 42-4-1105 (3) .....    | 12     |
| (III) Engaging in a speed exhibition in violation of section 42-4-1105 (2) .....                       | 5      |
| (IV) Aiding or facilitating engaging in a speed exhibition in violation of section 42-4-1105 (3) ..... | 5      |
| (d) Reckless driving .....                                                                             | 8      |
| (e) Careless driving .....                                                                             | 4      |
| (e.5) Careless driving resulting in death .....                                                        | 12     |
| (e.7) Serious bodily injury to a vulnerable road user .....                                            | 12     |
| (f) Speeding:                                                                                          |        |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                  |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (I) One to four miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed or one to four miles per hour over the maximum lawful speed limit of seventy-five miles per hour .....                      | 0  |
| (II) Five to nine miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed or five to nine miles per hour over the maximum lawful speed limit of seventy-five miles per hour .....                   | 1  |
| (III) Ten to nineteen miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed or ten to nineteen miles per hour over the maximum lawful speed limit of seventy-five miles per hour .....            | 4  |
| (IV) Twenty to thirty-nine miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed or twenty to thirty-nine miles per hour over the maximum lawful speed limit of seventy-five miles per hour ..... | 6  |
| (IV.5) Forty or more miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed or forty or more miles per hour over the maximum lawful speed limit of seventy-five miles per hour .....               | 12 |
| (V) Failure to reduce speed below an otherwise lawful speed when a special hazard exists .....                                                                                                   | 3  |
| (VI) One to four miles per hour over the maximum lawful speed limit of forty miles per hour driving a low-power scooter .....                                                                    | 0  |
| (VII) Five to nine miles per hour over the maximum lawful speed limit of forty miles per hour driving a low-power scooter .....                                                                  | 2  |
| (VIII) Greater than nine miles per hour over the maximum lawful speed limit of forty miles per hour driving a low-power scooter .....                                                            | 4  |
| (g) Failure to stop for school signals .....                                                                                                                                                     | 6  |
| (h) Driving on wrong side of road or driving on wrong side of divided or controlled-access highway in violation of section 42-4-1010 .....                                                       | 4  |
| (i) Improper passing .....                                                                                                                                                                       | 4  |
| (i.5) Improper passing in a no-passing zone .....                                                                                                                                                | 6  |
| (j) Failure to stop for school bus .....                                                                                                                                                         | 6  |
| (k) Following too closely .....                                                                                                                                                                  | 4  |
| (l) Failure to observe traffic sign or signal, except as provided in paragraph (ff) of this subsection (5) .....                                                                                 | 4  |
| (m) Failure to yield to emergency vehicle .....                                                                                                                                                  | 4  |
| (n) Failure to yield right-of-way, except as provided in subsections (5)(y) to (5)(bb.5) of this section .....                                                                                   | 3  |
| (o) Improper turn .....                                                                                                                                                                          | 3  |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (p) Driving in wrong lane or direction on one-way street .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 3  |
| (q) Driving through safety zone .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 3  |
| (r) Conviction of violations not listed in this subsection (5) while driving a moving vehicle,<br>which are violations of a state law or municipal ordinance other than violations classified as class<br>B traffic infractions under section 42-4-1701 or having an equivalent classification under any<br>municipal ordinance ..... | 3  |
| (s) Failure to signal or improper signal .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 2  |
| (t) Improper backing .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 2  |
| (u) Failure to dim or turn on lights .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 2  |
| (v) (I) Except as provided in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (v), operating an unsafe<br>vehicle .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 2  |
| (II) Operating a vehicle with defective head lamps .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 1  |
| (w) Eluding or attempting to elude a police officer .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 12 |
| (x) Alteration of suspension system .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 3  |
| (y) Failure to yield right-of-way to pedestrian .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 4  |
| (z) Failure to yield right-of-way to pedestrian at walk signal .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 4  |
| (aa) Failure to yield right-of-way to pedestrian upon emerging from alley, driveway, or<br>building in a commercial or residential area .....                                                                                                                                                                                         | 4  |
| (bb) Failure to yield right-of-way to person with a disability pursuant to section 42-4-808 .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 6  |
| (bb.5) Failure to yield right-of-way to a bicyclist or other authorized user in a bicycle lane<br>that is the proximate cause of a bodily injury .....                                                                                                                                                                                | 4  |
| (cc) Failure to exercise due care for pedestrian pursuant to section 42-4-807 .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 4  |
| (dd) A second or subsequent violation of section 42-2-101 (1) and (4) .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 6  |
| (ee) Failure to maintain or show proof of insurance pursuant to section 42-4-1409 .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 4  |
| (ff) Failure to observe high occupancy vehicle lane restrictions pursuant to section 42-4-1012<br>.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 0  |
| (gg) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2005, p. 334, § 2, effective July 1, 2005.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |    |
| (hh) Driving a motor vehicle while not wearing a seat belt in violation of section 42-2-105.5<br>(3) .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 2  |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| (ii) Driving with more passengers than seat belts in violation of section 42-2-105.5 (4) .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 2 |
| (jj) A violation of section 42-4-239 if the person has not been convicted of the same violation within the immediately preceding twenty-four months .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 2 |
| (jj.5) A second violation of section 42-4-239 within the immediately preceding twenty-four months .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 3 |
| (jj.7) A third or subsequent violation of section 42-4-239 within the immediately preceding twenty-four months .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 4 |
| (kk) Driving with a passenger who is under twenty-one years of age or driving between 12 midnight and 5 a.m. in violation of section 42-4-116 .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 2 |
| (ll) (I) Except as provided in subsection (5)(ll)(II) or (5)(ll)(III) of this section, failure to exercise due care when approaching a stationary vehicle pursuant to section 42-4-705 (2) .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 3 |
| (II) Failure to exercise due care when approaching a stationary vehicle resulting in bodily injury .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 6 |
| (III) Failure to exercise due care when approaching a stationary vehicle resulting in death .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 8 |
| (mm) Driving under restraint in violation of section 42-2-138 (1.5) .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 3 |
| (5.5) If a person receives a penalty assessment notice for a violation under section 42-4-1701 (5) and such person pays the fine and surcharge for the violation on or before the date the payment is due, the points assessed for the violation are reduced as follows:                                                                                                                                                  |   |
| (a) For a violation having an assessment of three or more points under subsection (5) of this section, the points are reduced by two points;                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |   |
| (b) For a violation having an assessment of two points under subsection (5) of this section, the points are reduced by one point.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |   |
| (5.6) (a) Any municipality may elect to have the provisions of subsection (5.5) of this section apply to penalty assessment notices issued by the municipality pursuant to counterpart municipal ordinances. Whenever a municipality reduces a traffic offense, the reduced offense and the points assessed for such reduced offense shall conform to the point assessment schedule under subsection (5) of this section. |   |
| (b) Any county may elect to have the provisions of subsection (5.5) of this section apply to penalty assessment notices issued by the county pursuant to counterpart county ordinances. Whenever a county reduces a traffic offense, the reduced offense and the points assessed for such reduced offense shall conform to the point assessment schedule under subsection (5) of this section.                            |   |

(5.7) Notwithstanding any other provision of the statutes to the contrary, if a penalty assessment for a traffic infraction is not personally served on the defendant or the defendant has not accepted the jurisdiction of the court for such penalty assessment, then the traffic infraction is a class B traffic infraction and the department has no authority to assess any points under this section upon entry of judgment for such traffic infraction.

(5.8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the department may not assess any points for a violation if such assessment of points is prohibited under section 42-4-110.5 (3).

(6) (a) "Convicted" and "conviction", as used in this section, include conviction in any court of record or municipal court, or by the Southern Ute Indian tribal court, or by any military authority for offenses substantially the same as those set forth in subsection (5) of this section which occur on a military installation in this state and also include the acceptance and payment of a penalty assessment under the provisions of section 42-4-1701 or under the similar provisions of any town or city ordinance and the entry of a judgment or default judgment for a traffic infraction under the provisions of section 42-4-1701 or 42-4-1710 or under the similar provisions of any municipal ordinance.

(b) For the purposes of this article, a plea of no contest accepted by the court or the forfeiture of any bail or collateral deposited to secure a defendant's appearance in court or the failure to appear in court by a defendant charged with DUI, DUI per se, or UDD who has been issued a summons and notice to appear pursuant to section 42-4-1707 as evidenced by records forwarded to the department in accordance with the provisions of section 42-2-124 shall be considered as a conviction.

(c) The provisions of paragraph (r) of subsection (5) of this section shall not be applicable to violations of sections 42-2-115, 42-3-121, and 42-4-314.

(7) Upon the accumulation by a licensee of half as many points as are required for suspension, the department may send such licensee a warning letter in accordance with section 42-2-119 (2) or order a preliminary hearing, but the failure of the department to send such warning letter or hold such preliminary hearing shall not be grounds for invalidating the licensee's subsequent suspension as a result of accumulating additional points as long as the suspension is carried out under the provisions of this section. Should a preliminary hearing be ordered by the department and should the licensee fail to attend or show good cause for failure to attend, the department may suspend such license in the same way as if the licensee had accumulated sufficient points for suspension and had failed to attend such suspension hearing.

(8) (a) Whenever the department's records show that a licensee has accumulated a sufficient number of points to be subject to license suspension, the department shall notify the licensee that a hearing will be held not less than twenty days after the date of the notice to determine whether the licensee's driver's license should be suspended. The notification shall be given to the licensee

through electronic notification or in writing by regular mail, addressed to the address of the licensee as shown by the records of the department.

(b) (I) If the department's records indicate that a driver has accumulated a sufficient number of points to cause a suspension under subsection (1) of this section and the driver is subject to a current or previous license restraint with a determined reinstatement date for the same offense or conviction that caused the driver to accumulate sufficient points to warrant suspension, the department may not order a point suspension of the license of the driver unless the license or driving privilege of the driver was revoked pursuant to section 42-2-126 (3)(c).

(II) If the department does not order a point suspension against the license of a driver because of the existence of a current or previous license restraint with a determined reinstatement date under the provisions of subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b), the department shall utilize the points that were assessed against the driver in determining whether to impose any future license suspension if the driver accumulates any more points against the driver's license.

(9) Repealed.

(10) Suspension hearings when ordered by the department shall be held at the district office of the department closest to the residence of the licensee; except that all or part of the hearing may, at the discretion of the department, be conducted in real time, by telephone or other electronic means in accordance with section 42-1-218.5. A hearing delay shall be granted by the department only if the licensee presents the department with good cause for such delay. Good cause shall include absence from the state or county of residence, personal illness, or any other circumstance which, in the department's discretion, constitutes sufficient reason for delay. In the event that a suspension hearing is delayed, the department shall set a new date for such hearing no later than sixty days after the date of the original hearing.

(11) Upon such hearing, the department or its authorized agent may administer oaths, issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and papers, apply to the district court for the enforcement thereof by contempt proceedings, and require a reexamination of the licensee.

(12) If at the hearing held pursuant to subsection (8) of this section it appears that the record of the driver sustains suspension as provided in this section, the department shall immediately suspend such driver's license, and such license shall then be surrendered to the department. If at such hearing it appears that the record of the driver does not sustain suspension, the department shall not suspend such license and shall adjust the accumulated-point total accordingly. In the event that the driver's license is suspended, the department may issue a probationary license for a period not to exceed the period of suspension, which license may contain such restrictions as the department deems reasonable and necessary and which may thereafter be subject to cancellation as a result of any violation of the restrictions imposed therein. The department may also order any driver whose license is suspended to take a complete driving reexamination. After such



hearing, the licensee may appeal the decision to the district court as provided in section 42-2-135.

(13) If the driver fails to appear at such hearing after proper notification as provided in subsections (7) and (8) of this section and a delay or continuance has not been requested and granted as provided in subsection (10) of this section, the department shall immediately suspend the license of the driver. A driver who failed to appear may request a subsequent hearing, but the request shall not postpone the effectiveness of the restraint.

(14) (a) (I) If there is no other statutory reason for denial of a probationary license, any individual who has had a license suspended by the department because of, at least in part, a conviction of an offense specified in subsection (5)(b) of this section may be entitled to a probationary license pursuant to subsection (12) of this section for the purpose of driving for reasons of employment, education, health, or alcohol and drug education or treatment, but:

(A) If ordered by the court that convicted the individual, the individual shall enroll in a program of driving education or alcohol and drug education and treatment certified by the behavioral health administration in the department of human services; and

(B) If the individual is an interlock-restricted driver or is a persistent drunk driver, as defined in section 42-1-102 (68.5), any probationary license shall require the use of an approved ignition interlock device, as defined in section 42-2-132.5 (9)(a), and the time that the individual holds a probationary license under this section shall be credited against the time that the individual may be required to hold an interlock-restricted license pursuant to section 42-2-132.5.

(II) A probationary license issued pursuant to this subsection (14) shall contain any other restrictions as the department deems reasonable and necessary, shall be subject to cancellation for violation of any such restrictions, including but not limited to absences from alcohol and drug education or treatment sessions or failure to complete alcohol and drug education or treatment programs, and shall be issued for the entire period of suspension.

(b) The department may refuse to issue a probationary license if the department finds that the driving record of the individual is such that the individual has sufficient points, in addition to those resulting from the conviction referred to in this subsection (14), to require the suspension or revocation of a license to drive on the highways of this state, or if the department finds from the record after a hearing conducted in accordance with subsection (12) of this section that aggravating circumstances exist to indicate the individual is unsafe for driving for any purpose. In refusing to issue a probationary license, the department shall make specific findings of fact to support such refusal.

(c) No district attorney shall enter into, nor shall any judge approve, a plea bargaining agreement entered into solely for the purpose of permitting the defendant to qualify for a probationary license under this subsection (14).

(15) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2144, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1)(a), (8), and (9)(a) amended, p. 1307, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 96:** (5)(f)(I) amended, p. 637, § 2, effective May 1; (5)(f)(I), (5)(f)(II), (5)(f)(III), and (5)(f)(IV) amended, p. 577, § 1, effective May 25; (5)(h) and (5)(l) amended and (5)(ff) added, p. 1357, § 4, effective July 1; (14)(a) amended, p. 1204, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 97:** (5.8) added, p. 1670, § 4, effective June 5; (5)(b)(IV) added and (9)(a) amended, p. 1465, §§ 6, 7, effective July 1; (5)(v) amended and (5.5) to (5.7) added, p. 1385, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (5)(b)(IV) amended, p. 174, § 4, effective April 6. **L. 99:** (5)(gg), (5)(hh), and (5)(ii) added, p. 1381, § 5, effective July 1; (5.6) amended, p. 368, § 4, effective August 4. **L. 2000:** (5)(f)(I), (5)(f)(II), (5)(f)(III), and (5)(f)(IV) amended and (5)(f)(IV.5) added, p. 683, § 3, effective July 1; (1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), and (2)(b) amended, p. 1355, § 27, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (9)(c) and (10) amended, p. 554, § 5, effective May 23; (14)(a) amended, p. 787, § 5, effective June 1. **L. 2002:** (15) added, p. 1131, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (5)(gg) amended and (5)(kk) added, p. 334, § 2, effective July 1; (5)(jj) added, p. 268, § 2, effective August 8; (6)(c) amended, p. 1173, § 8, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (5)(c) amended, p. 173, § 6, effective July 1; (14)(a) amended, p. 1367, § 3, effective January 1, 2007. **L. 2008:** (1)(a), (5)(b), (6)(b), (8)(b)(I), and (9)(a) amended, p. 246, § 9, effective July 1; (9) repealed, p. 834, § 4, effective January 1, 2009. **L. 2009:** (1)(d) and (13) amended, (HB 09-1234), ch. 91, p. 352, § 1, effective August 5; (5)(f)(VI), (5)(f)(VII), and (5)(f)(VIII) added, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1266, § 25, effective October 1. **L. 2010:** (5)(e.5) added, (SB 10-204), ch. 243, p. 1080, § 1, effective May 21. **L. 2011:** (1)(d), (8)(a), and (14)(a)(I)(A) amended, (HB 11-1303), ch. 264, p. 1180, § 103, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** (14)(a)(I)(B) amended, (HB 12-1168), ch. 278, p. 1483, § 5, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** (1)(a) and (6)(b) amended and (5)(b)(II) repealed, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1881, § 8, effective May 28; (15) repealed, (HB 13-1160), ch. 373, p. 2201, § 12, effective June 5. **L. 2017:** IP(14)(a)(I) and (14)(a)(I)(A) amended, (SB 17-242), ch. 263, p. 1258, § 22, effective May 25; (5)(jj) amended and (5)(jj.5) added, (SB 17-027), ch. 279, p. 1524, § 2, effective June 1; (5)(mm) added, (HB 17-1162), ch. 208, p. 811, § 2, effective August 9; (5)(ll) added, (SB 17-229), ch. 278, p. 1521, § 3, effective September 1. **L. 2019:** (5)(e.7) added, (SB 19-175), ch. 331, p. 3070, § 1, effective May 29. **L. 2020:** (5)(n) amended and (5)(bb.5) added, (SB 20-061), ch. 30, p. 102, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2022:** (14)(a)(I)(A) amended, (HB 22-1278), ch. 222, p. 1578, § 202, effective July 1. **L. 2024:** (8)(a) amended, (HB 24-1089), ch. 329, p. 2227, § 4, effective June 3; (5)(jj) and (5)(jj.5) amended and (5)(jj.7) added, (SB 24-065), ch. 431, p. 3022, § 3, effective August 7. **L. 2026:** (1)(a) and (5)(a) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 475, § 38, effective August 12; (5)(i.5) added, (SB 26-035), ch. 178, p. 1022, § 2, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-123 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-127 was relocated to § 42-2-135.

(2) Section 8(2) of chapter 178 (SB 26-035), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to traffic infractions committed on or after August 12, 2026.

**Cross references:** (1) For the legislative declaration contained in the 1999 act enacting subsections (5)(gg), (5)(hh), and (5)(ii), see section 1 of chapter 334, Session Laws of Colorado 1999. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2001 act amending subsection (14)(a), see section 1 of chapter 229, Session Laws of Colorado 2001. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2008 act repealing subsection (9), see section 1 of chapter 221, Session Laws of Colorado 2008. For the legislative declaration in SB 17-242, see section 1 of chapter 263, Session Laws of Colorado 2017. For the legislative declaration in SB 26-035, see section 1 of chapter 178, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

(2) For the short title ("Move Over for Cody Act") in SB 17-229, see section 1 of chapter 278, Session Laws of Colorado 2017.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For note, "The Effect of Land Use Legislation on the Common Law of Nuisance in Urban Areas", see 36 Dicta 414 (1959). For article, "The New Colorado Per Se DUI Law", see 12 Colo. Law. 1451 (1983). For article, "There Must Be Fifty Ways to Lose Your (Driver's) License", see 22 Colo. Law. 2385 (1993).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-127 is similar to 42-2-123 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1 and to repealed § 13-4-23, C.R.S. 1963, and to § 13-3-24, CRS 53, relevant cases construing these provisions have been included in the annotations to this section.

**Portion of section authorizing suspension of license held constitutional.** Portion of this section which grants the

motor vehicle division authority to suspend the driver's license of any operator who has accumulated "twelve points within any twelve consecutive months, or eighteen points within any twenty-four consecutive months" is not overbroad, vague, or indefinite. *Zaba v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 183 Colo. 335, 516 P.2d 634 (1973).

**Portion of section severable.** The portion of this section dealing with suspension of licenses is complete in itself and independent of the portion of the statute dealing with probationary licenses; the two provisions are severable. *Elizondo v. State*, Dept. of Rev., 194 Colo. 113, 570 P.2d 518 (1977).

**Classification of 18- to 21-year-olds not violative of equal protection.** Where

licensees assert that they have been denied the equal protection of the laws in violation of the fourteenth amendment because Colorado allows drivers in the age group of 18 to 21 years to accumulate only eight points prior to suspension, while drivers over 21 years are allowed 12 points before their licenses are suspended, and further assert that there is no reasonable relationship to the public health, safety, and welfare of Colorado in the different treatment, statistical analyses of all accidents in Colorado in 1973, analyzed by age, fully justifies the different treatment mandated by the general assembly, and these figures clearly support the determination by the general assembly that drivers in the lower age groups demand closer supervision, to protect the public health and safety. *Lopez v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 189 Colo. 133, 538 P.2d 446 (1975).

**Nonresident licensees assert that it is unreasonable for Colorado to treat them differently from their states of residence** where they are allowed the same driving privileges as older drivers, but, as repeatedly pointed out, the use of Colorado highways is a privilege strictly governed by statute, and it has not been demonstrated that the general assembly was in any way unreasonable or arbitrary in its classification. *Lopez v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 189 Colo. 133, 538 P.2d 446 (1975).

**Subsection (1)(a) of this section is constitutional.** *Keegan v. State*, 194 Colo. 325, 571 P.2d 1110 (1977).

**Higher point allocation for chauffeurs not unconstitutional.** The legislative

decision to accord chauffeurs as a class a higher point allocation than that given to the "regular driver" cannot be viewed as so lacking a reasonable basis in fact as to render the statutory classification constitutionally flawed. *Smith v. Charnes*, 649 P.2d 1089 (Colo. 1982).

**Statutes enacted by the general assembly in the exercise of its police power must be strictly construed** and are not to be extended by implication; accordingly, an operator's license, once issued, is not to be revoked arbitrarily but only in the manner provided by law. *Cave v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 31 Colo. App. 185, 501 P.2d 479 (1972).

**Revocation proceeding is civil.** The administrative proceeding to revoke the driver's license of a habitual offender is a civil proceeding. *State v. Laughlin*, 634 P.2d 49 (Colo. 1981).

**This section does not constitute an unreasonable exercise of the police power,** since an individual's right to use the highways of the state is an adjunct of the constitutional right to acquire, possess, and protect property. *Zaba v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 183 Colo. 335, 516 P.2d 634 (1973).

**This section does not unconstitutionally delegate legislative power.** Since the overall statutory scheme, of which the probationary license provision is a part, provides sufficient general standards to guide its application and contains adequate safeguards against administrative abuse, this section is not on its face an unconstitutional delegation of legislative power. *Elizondo v.*

State, Dept. of Rev., 194 Colo. 113, 570 P.2d 518 (1977).

**The words of this section are plain and unambiguous.** Edwards v. Motor Vehicle Div., 33 Colo. App. 382, 520 P.2d 598 (1974).

**This section is not unconstitutionally vague.** Perlmutter v. State, Dept. of Rev., 191 Colo. 517, 554 P.2d 691 (1976).

**The obvious purpose of this section** is to protect the safety of the public. Perlmutter v. State, Dept. of Rev., 191 Colo. 517, 554 P.2d 691 (1976).

The primary purpose of this section and sections §§ 42-2-121 and 42-2-122 is to protect the public safety upon the highways. Heil v. Charnes, 44 Colo. App. 225, 616 P.2d 980 (1980).

This section is designed to protect the welfare and safety of the public and must be construed to further that legislative purpose. Livengood v. Dept. of Rev., 44 Colo. App. 431, 614 P.2d 908 (1980).

**Legislative intent.** Legislative history clearly demonstrates that it was the intent of the general assembly to authorize the motor vehicle division to consider that period of time ending with the date of the last violation involved. Zaba v. Motor Vehicle Div., 183 Colo. 335, 516 P.2d 634 (1973); Perlmutter v. State, Dept. of Rev., 191 Colo. 517, 554 P.2d 691 (1976).

The general assembly did not intend by this section to empower the motor vehicle division to delve back into the driving history of any operator for the purpose of

suspending his license. Zaba v. Motor Vehicle Div., 183 Colo. 335, 516 P.2d 634 (1973).

The legislative intent was to authorize two suspensions in an instance where during the first year the driver accumulated 12 points and in the second year the driver accumulated 6 more points. Perlmutter v. State, Dept. of Rev., 191 Colo. 517, 554 P.2d 691 (1976).

**Suspension of license authorized upon accumulation of 12 points in one year.** Subsection (1) authorizes the department of revenue to suspend the license of any operator who has been convicted of traffic violations resulting in accumulation of 12 points in one year. Theobald v. District Court, 148 Colo. 466, 366 P.2d 563 (1961); Markham v. Theobald, 152 Colo. 540, 383 P.2d 791 (1963).

**The word "year" must be interpreted as a year tied to the expiration date of the license,** this being referred to as an "anniversary license year". Markham v. Theobald, 152 Colo. 540, 383 P.2d 791 (1963).

**Suspension of license authorized.** This section establishes a basic rule that any operator or chauffeur is subject to license suspension if he is convicted of traffic violations which result in the accumulation of 12 points within any 12 consecutive months. Edwards v. Motor Vehicle Div., 33 Colo. App. 382, 520 P.2d 598 (1974).

**Section contains a limited exception for chauffeurs** which allows them to accumulate a maximum of 16 points in one

year subject, however, to the proviso that "all such points are accumulated while said chauffeur is in the course of his employment". *Edwards v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 33 Colo. App. 382, 520 P.2d 598 (1974).

**Where all of the violations and the resulting points did not occur within the course of chauffeur's employment**, the 16-point exception is not applicable. *Edwards v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 33 Colo. App. 382, 520 P.2d 598 (1974).

**Thus, suspension of license not subject to abuse of discretion.** Where evidence is clear and demonstrates that chauffeur has more than enough points to justify suspension of license, suspension of license is ministerial act, discharge of which is not subject to abuse of discretion. *Michels v. Motor Vehicle Div. of Dept. of Rev.*, 32 Colo. App. 106, 506 P.2d 1243 (1973); *Mitchell v. Charnes*, 656 P.2d 719 (Colo. App. 1982).

The suspension of drivers' licenses, being based on a point system, involves no discretion on the part of an administrator and therefore is not subject to abuse of discretion. *Elizondo v. State, Dept. of Rev.*, 194 Colo. 113, 570 P.2d 518 (1977).

**Suspension of license based upon the point system is not subject to abuse of discretion.** *Ryan v. Charnes*, 738 P.2d 1175 (Colo. 1987).

**The department is authorized to suspend the driver's license of any person who has been "convicted" of traffic violations resulting in the accumulation of**

**excessive points**, but points cannot be assessed until after "conviction" for such traffic violations. *Jackson v. Dept. of Rev.*, 791 P.2d 1206 (Colo. App. 1990).

**Department is vested with discretionary authority** to determine length of period of suspension and whether to grant a probationary license. *Elkins v. Charnes*, 682 P.2d 70 (Colo. App. 1984).

**No violation of due process.** Section 42-4-1510 and this section give a licensee notice of the ramifications of his failure to appear, and the forfeiture of his bond for traffic violation charge and due process requirements are satisfied. *Lopez v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 189 Colo. 133, 538 P.2d 446 (1975).

**Violation of § 42-4-1406 included in term "leaving scene of accident".** The general assembly intended that a violation of § 42-4-1406 be included within the meaning of the term "leaving scene of accident" as used in this section. *Gammon v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 32 Colo. App. 437, 513 P.2d 748 (1973).

**Notification of nonresident offenders constitutional.** The methods used to notify purported nonresident traffic offenders are not so unconstitutionally deficient as to violate equal protection or due process rights. *Klingbeil v. State, Dept. of Rev.*, 668 P.2d 930 (Colo. 1983).

**Minimum standard mandated for use of penalty assessment as conviction.** Through the provisions of § 42-2-121 (3), the general assembly has mandated a minimum standard of due process which

must be followed before payment of a penalty assessment may be used as a conviction for purposes of suspension or revocation of a driver's license pursuant to subsection (1)(a). *Stortz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 195 Colo. 325, 578 P.2d 229 (1978).

**Points not assessable.** If a traffic violation does not appear on the summons, and the offender is not advised by the arresting officer in reference to the points chargeable for the traffic violation, points cannot be assessed against him for that offense. *Stortz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 195 Colo. 325, 578 P.2d 229 (1978).

**Summons need not reflect assessable points.** Where a conviction is the result of a court appearance, not of a penalty assessment, the summons need not reflect the number of points to be assessed for the offense charged; the statutory provision which requires that a summons reflect the number of points relates only to penalty assessments under § 42-4-1501(4)(a). *Purcell v. Tomasi*, 43 Colo. App. 540, 608 P.2d 844 (1980).

**Due process requirements.** Due process requires that the department of revenue promulgate rules or regulations to guide hearing officers in their decisions regarding requests for probationary licenses. These rules and regulations must be sufficiently specific to inform the public what factors will be considered relevant by department hearing officers, and they must require that hearing officers specifically state, in each case where a probationary license is denied, the reason for the denial. *Elizondo v. State*,

*Dept. of Rev.*, 194 Colo. 113, 570 P.2d 518 (1977).

**This section does not violate constitutional guarantees of equal protection of the law**, even though a person whose driver's license was suspended administratively through § 42-2-122.1 could not receive a probationary license and a person whose license was suspended as a result of a criminal conviction in accordance with this section could receive a probationary license, because the court, after making a determination of whether persons allegedly subject to disparate treatment by these sections were in fact similarly situated, found that no classification of persons similarly situated exists since § 42-2-122.1 involved an administrative suspension as opposed to a suspension resulting from a criminal conviction. *Hancock v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 758 P.2d 1372 (Colo. 1988); *Bath v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 758 P.2d 1381 (Colo. 1988).

**The date of conviction is the decisive date from which the accumulated points are to be counted.** *Markham v. Theobald*, 152 Colo. 540, 383 P.2d 791 (1963).

**The language of subsection (8) is mandatory.** *People v. Yount*, 174 Colo. 462, 484 P.2d 1203 (1971).

**Notice to nonresident offenders.** The state is not required to ascertain an out-of-state traffic offender's permanent address prior to sending him notification under subsection (8). *Klingbeil v. State, Dept. of Rev.*, 668 P.2d 930 (Colo. 1983).

**One-year delay not bar to proceedings.**

A one-year delay in commencing these administrative proceedings pursuant to this section does not ipso facto constitute a bar to the hearing. *Berry v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 656 P.2d 721 (Colo. App. 1982).

**The right to jury trial and the right to confront witnesses are inapplicable** in an administrative hearing to determine whether a driver's license should be revoked for accumulated traffic violations. *Campbell v. State*, 176 Colo. 202, 491 P.2d 1385 (1971).

**Hearing officer is not required to make findings as to validity of each conviction** since these are matter of record. *Michels v. Motor Vehicle Div. of Dept. of Rev.*, 32 Colo. App. 106, 506 P.2d 1243 (1973).

**Findings of fact necessary are that sufficient points have accumulated to warrant revocation of permit**, that evidence offered in mitigation of permit is not deemed sufficient to justify exception, and that petitioner is not fit person to operate motor vehicle. *Michels v. Motor Vehicle Div. of Dept. of Rev.*, 32 Colo. App. 106, 506 P.2d 1243 (1973).

**This provision is mandatory, and function of hearing examiner in such situation is purely ministerial.** *Michels v. Motor Vehicle Div. of Dept. of Rev.*, 32 Colo. App. 106, 506 P.2d 1243 (1973).

The function of the hearing examiner in suspension proceeding is purely ministerial, and the strict rules of evidence followed in civil and criminal actions are not applicable. *Lopez v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 189 Colo. 133, 538 P.2d 446 (1975).

**A suspension order under this section is subject to judicial review** pursuant to § 42-2-127. *Theobald v. District Court*, 148 Colo. 466, 366 P.2d 563 (1961).

**Sole issue at revocation hearing is whether requisite number of convictions are sustained.** The only issue to be determined at the license revocation hearing is whether the licensee has sustained the requisite number of convictions for specified traffic offenses within the prescribed period of time, all as established by statute. *State v. Laughlin*, 634 P.2d 49 (Colo. 1981).

The issues to be determined at the suspension hearing pursuant to subsection (11) are whether the defendant has accumulated the requisite number of convictions within the time period established in the statute to require suspension and whether he would be granted a probationary license. *Thurber v. Charnes*, 656 P.2d 702 (Colo. 1983).

**Hearing officer must ensure record indicates existence of requisite convictions.** While a hearing officer need not determine the validity of a respondent's convictions, he must nevertheless, pursuant to his statutory authority under subsection (1)(a), ensure that the record on its face indicates the existence of the requisite convictions. *Gurule v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 38 Colo. App. 295, 558 P.2d 587 (1976).

**Driver's history record is prima facie evidence of conviction.** The driver's history record maintained by the department constitutes prima facie evidence of conviction for the offenses therein noted. *Anadale v. Dept. of Rev.*, 656 P.2d 49 (Colo.



App. 1982), rev'd on other grounds, 674 P.2d 372 (Colo. 1984).

**In determining length of suspension and whether to grant a probationary license,** it was not an error for hearing officer to follow regulation which required hearing officer to base his determination solely on driver's driving record and on the presence or absence of factors specified in the regulation. *Elkins v. Charnes*, 682 P.2d 70 (Colo. App. 1984).

**This initial presumption may be overcome** by evidence indicating that the official records are insufficient to establish guilt. *Anadale v. Dept. of Rev.*, 656 P.2d 49 (Colo. App. 1982), rev'd on other grounds, 674 P.2d 372 (Colo. 1984).

**Licensee may challenge mistakes in records but not relitigate guilt.** At the administrative hearing, it is the licensee's responsibility to challenge alleged mistakes in the records of the department as to his driving history, but he may not relitigate the issue of guilt as to the offenses shown on his record. *State v. Laughlin*, 634 P.2d 49 (Colo. 1981).

The defendant may not relitigate factual issues of his guilt or the validity of his traffic convictions. *Thurber v. Charnes*, 656 P.2d 702 (Colo. 1983).

**Hearing officer may not ignore challenged conviction.** Even if a licensee has a meritorious claim that an underlying conviction is not valid, the department hearing officer cannot ignore the conviction until it has been ruled invalid and set aside

by a court. *State v. Laughlin*, 634 P.2d 49 (Colo. 1981).

**Where driving record clearly shows convictions in a court of law,** licensee has had his day in court, and in no case may he relitigate the issue of guilt in the suspension hearing. *Zaba v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 183 Colo. 335, 516 P.2d 634 (1973).

**Separate suspensions may be imposed for violations committed during the same period** where, at the time the first suspension was imposed, other charges were still being litigated and had not resulted in convictions, since points may be assessed and suspensions imposed only following convictions. *Howell v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 631 P.2d 1198 (Colo. App. 1981).

**Proof of payment of money did not prove conviction.** Where plaintiff's driving privileges were suspended because she had allegedly accumulated 12 points against her driving record within a 12-month period, but of these points, four were based on an alleged conviction of a charge of driving 41 miles per hour in a 30 mile per hour zone in the city of Golden, a four-point offense, and with respect to this charge, the record indicated only that \$15 was paid on September 26, 1974, to the Golden municipal court clerk, proof of payment of \$15, even if it were assumed that it had been to pay a fine, did not prove that there was a conviction of the offense for which plaintiff was ticketed. *Troutman v. Dept. of Rev.*, 38 Colo. App. 417, 571 P.2d 726 (1976).

**Mere acceptance of penalty assessment is not "conviction"** within the meaning of subsection (6)(a). *Gillespie v. Dir. of Dept.*

of Rev., 41 Colo. App. 561, 592 P.2d 418 (1978).

**The general assembly decriminalized various state law traffic violations in 1982,** and, in doing so, subsection (6)(a) was amended to include as a "conviction" the entry of a judgment or default judgment for a traffic infraction under the provisions of § 42-4-1501 or 42-4-1505.7. Jackson v. Dept. of Rev., 791 P.2d 1206 (Colo. App. 1990).

**A default judgment entered by a municipal court for a civil traffic infraction under municipal law does not constitute a "conviction" for purposes of assessing points and authorizing a license suspension.** The clause "or under the similar provisions of any town or city ordinance," which follows the provisions regarding penalty assessments under state law in subsection (6)(a), does not follow the provisions added in 1982 regarding judgments for civil traffic infractions under state law. It cannot be presumed that this omission was unintentional or without significance. Jackson v. Dept. of Rev., 791 P.2d 1206 (Colo. App. 1990) (decided under law in effect prior to 1990 amendment).

**Proof of knowledge of revocation order.** The prosecution is required to prove the element of knowledge of the revocation order in a driving after judgment prohibited case, as mailing notice of the order is only prima facie proof of its receipt under subsection (12), and is not conclusive. People v. Lesh, 668 P.2d 1362 (Colo. 1983).

**The 60-day time limit under subsection (12) is, on its face, directory** and does not create a mandatory requirement which, if

not met, will deprive the Department of all jurisdiction to act. DiMarco v. Dept. of Rev., MVD, 857 P.2d 1349 (Colo. App. 1993).

**Construing the pertinent time limitation to be mandatory would divest the Department of jurisdiction to suspend or revoke any license** if that limitation were violated, even if no prejudice was occasioned by such violation and, absent explicit language revealing such, we decline to assume that the general assembly intended that an agency's procedural mistake should defeat the prime objective of the statute. DiMarco v. Dept. of Rev., MVD, 857 P.2d 1349 (Colo. App. 1993).

**Unlike the time limit for hearings under § 42-2-122.1 (7)(e), the 60-day time limit in § 42-2-123 (12) is not mandatory** and, consequently, if no claim of actual prejudice resulting from the delay is established, the department does not lose jurisdiction over the habitual offender revocation proceedings or the points suspension proceedings simply because the requested hearing is scheduled beyond the 60-day period. DiMarco v. Dept. of Rev., MVD, 857 P.2d 1349 (Colo. App. 1993) (decided under law in effect prior to 1994 amendment).

**Probationary license must be issued unless department makes finding of unfitness.** Where the department makes no finding that the applicant for a probationary license is "unsafe for driving for any purpose", and the basis for the suspension is, at least in part, an alcohol-related offense, subsection (13) requires the department to

grant the probationary license. In re Quay, 647 P.2d 693 (Colo. App. 1982).

**Applicability of subsection (13).** Subsection (13) applies only to traffic offenses committed on or after October 1, 1979, and not to acts of the department in revoking or suspending a license. Dellovade v. Charnes, 633 P.2d 531 (Colo. App. 1981).

**Subsection (13) inapplicable to plea-bargained non-alcohol-related offense.** A driver may not plea-bargain an alcohol-related offense to a non-alcohol-related offense, and thereafter successfully assert the inconsistent position that he is entitled to the protection of subsection (13)(a), when seeking a probationary license. Schmidt v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 656 P.2d 710 (Colo. App. 1982).

**In determining whether motorist's license should be suspended,** the length of that suspension, and whether a probationary license should be granted, the department of revenue did not err in considering both the municipal court conviction and the traffic points resulting therefrom. Fuller v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 43 Colo. App. 404, 610 P.2d 1078 (1979).

**Enforcement of violations of municipal traffic laws is separate and distinct from enforcement of violations of state traffic laws,** although a municipal ordinance may be patterned after comparable state law provisions. Jackson v. Dept. of Rev., 791 P.2d 1206 (Colo. App. 1990).

**Applicant's need for probationary license is one factor.** The need of an applicant for a probationary license during a

period of suspension is only one factor to be considered by the hearing officer, and it was not error for hearing officer to deny a probationary license based on applicant's repeated driving convictions. Fisher v. Jorgensen, 674 P.2d 1003 (Colo. App. 1983).

**The benefits of amendatory legislation do not apply to driver's license revocation proceedings** because revocation of a driver's license is a civil, not criminal, matter. Dellovade v. Charnes, 633 P.2d 531 (Colo. App. 1981).

The general rule in civil proceedings regarding amendatory legislation is that civil liability already incurred may not be changed by statute unless specifically so provided by the general assembly. Dellovade v. Charnes, 633 P.2d 531 (Colo. App. 1981).

**Basis for suspensions.** Where, in the 24-month period preceding April 16, 1972, the date on which appellant committed traffic violations for which he was subsequently convicted, the only points accumulated by him were during the four months ending with April 16, 1972, the only possible basis for his first suspension was the acquisition of 12 points during the 12-month period ending with April 16, 1972, and where, during the year immediately succeeding April 16, 1972, he was awarded 7 more points, he was subject to a second suspension of his license for 18 or more points resulting from violations occurring in a 24-month period. Perlmutter v. State, Dept. of Rev., 191 Colo. 517, 554 P.2d 691 (1976).

**The language of subsection (13)(a) is unambiguous** and the denial by the department of revenue of plaintiff's

application for a second probationary license was proper because issuance of a second probationary license within a five-year period is prohibited regardless of whether alcohol-related offenses were involved. *Howard v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 680 P.2d 1336 (Colo. App. 1984).

**Section permits no "grace period"** within which a person whose license has previously been suspended may operate a motor vehicle without concern for the effect such earlier violations may have on his right to continue to drive. *Livengood v. Dept. of Rev.*, 44 Colo. App. 431, 614 P.2d 908 (1980).

**Only in original suspension hearing may department grant probationary license**, and such discretion may not be exercised under proceedings concerned with the renewal or extension of a period of suspension under § 42-2-130 (3). *Ewing v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 624 P.2d 353 (Colo. App. 1980).

**Suspensions ending seven years prior in time not considered in probationary license hearing.** For the purpose of examining one's driving history in appraising an application for a probationary license, the department may not consider any suspension in which the ordered period has ended prior to seven years before the hearing. *Edwards v. State, Dept. of Rev.*, 42 Colo. App. 52, 592 P.2d 1345 (1978).

**Department may allow review of seven-year record when processing probationary license.** The department has not exceeded its authority by allowing the hearing officer to consider the licensee's

record for a period of seven years when processing a probationary license request even though this section sets 24 months as the maximum period for which point accumulations are to be examined in determining whether a license should be suspended. *Peshel v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 43 Colo. App. 58, 602 P.2d 875 (1979).

**Validity of probationary license.** A probationary license, issued during a period of suspension, is valid until the licensee pays the restoration fee to get back his driver's license because the period of suspension continues until the restoration fee is paid, unless the expiration date of the probationary license is noted on that license. *Seigneur v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 674 P.2d 967 (Colo. App. 1983).

**Review of denial of probationary license limited.** Where there is competent evidence to support the hearing officer's findings of aggravating circumstances and lack of mitigating circumstances and, therefore, to sustain the denial of a probationary license, further review of the soundness of that denial is precluded. *Sonoda v. State*, 664 P.2d 259 (Colo. App. 1983).

**Failure to make findings of fact relating to denial of application for probationary license** for work-related driving is improper. *Isberg v. State, Dept. of Rev.*, 670 P.2d 29 (Colo. App. 1983).

**"Employment", as used in subsection (13), means a compensated position is applied** in *Braddock v. State*, 679 P.2d 120 (Colo. App. 1984).

**Where the evidence before the motor vehicle division did not support its findings,** it abused its discretion. Gurule v. State Dept. of Rev., 38 Colo. App. 295, 558 P.2d 587 (1976).

**When decision reversed.** Where the hearing officer made his decision without the guidance of any articulated standards in the form of rules or regulations, there is no basis upon which a reviewing court can determine whether or not the officer abused his discretion, and decision must be reversed. Friedman v. Motor Vehicle Div. of Dept. of Rev., 194 Colo. 228, 571 P.2d 1086 (1977).

**Applied** in Duenas-Rodriguez v. Indus. Comm'n, 199 Colo. 95, 606 P.2d 437 (1980); People v. McKnight, 200 Colo. 486, 617 P.2d 1178 (1980); People v. Hampton, 619 P.2d 48 (Colo. 1980); Briner v. Charnes, 10 B.R. 850 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1981); Tomasi v. Thompson, 635 P.2d 538 (Colo. 1981); Martinez v. Indus. Comm'n, 632 P.2d 1044 (Colo. App. 1981); Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. Smith, 640 P.2d 1143 (Colo. 1982); City of Greenwood Vill. v. Fleming, 643 P.2d 511 (Colo. 1982); Downey v. Dept. of Rev., 653 P.2d 72 (Colo. App. 1982); Hedstrom v. Motor Vehicle Div., 662 P.2d 173 (Colo. 1983); DeScala v. Motor Vehicle Div., 667 P.2d 1360 (Colo. 1983).

**42-2-127.1. Driving improvement course - points waiver - rules - definitions - notice to revisor of statutes - repeal.**

- (1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - (a) "Commercial driver's license" has the meaning set forth in section 42-2-402 (1).
  - (b) "Commercial driving school" has the meaning set forth in section 42-2-601 (2).
  - (c) "Driving improvement course" means a class that is offered by a commercial driving school and that, when approved by the department, qualifies an individual who successfully completes the course for a points waiver.
  - (d) "Point" means a license suspension point as described in section 42-2-127.
  - (e) "Points waiver" or "waive points" means a reduction in, or the lowering of, the number of points assessed for a specific conviction.
- (2) (a) Notwithstanding section 42-2-127, the department shall promulgate rules that allow an individual who has been convicted of a traffic infraction or a misdemeanor traffic offense to obtain a points waiver after successfully completing a driving improvement course. The rules must:
  - (I) Set the number of points assessed for a conviction that may be waived for an individual who successfully completes a driving improvement course;

- (II) Specify how often an individual may claim a points waiver;
  - (III) Establish procedures for claiming a points waiver;
  - (IV) Establish a process for a commercial driving school to have a driving improvement course approved by the department; and
  - (V) Set the amount of each of the fees authorized in subsection (4) of this section. The amount of each fee must be rounded to the nearest dollar, and both fees must be set so that the fees are reasonably related to the direct and indirect costs of the program created in this section.
- (b) (I) In order to qualify for a points waiver, an individual must have successfully completed a driving improvement course that is approved by the department in accordance with subsection (3) of this section and rules promulgated under subsection (2)(a) of this section. In accordance with the rules promulgated under subsection (2)(a) of this section, the department shall waive points assessed for a conviction when an individual demonstrates to the department that the individual has successfully completed a driving improvement course and is eligible for a points waiver based on completion of the driving improvement course. The individual may attend a driving improvement course at a physical location or take a driving improvement course offered online.
- (II) (A) Subsection (2)(b)(I) of this section takes effect on the earlier of January 1, 2027, or when the department promulgates the rules required by subsection (2)(a) of this section. The executive director of the department shall notify the revisor of statutes in writing of the date when the condition specified in this subsection (2)(b)(II)(A) has occurred by e-mailing the notice to [revisorofstatutes.ga@coleg.gov](mailto:revisorofstatutes.ga@coleg.gov). Subsection (2)(b)(I) of this section takes effect upon the earlier of January 1, 2027, or the date identified in the notice that the department has promulgated the rules required in subsection (2)(a) of this section or, if the notice does not specify that date, upon the date of the notice to the revisor of statutes.
- (B) This subsection (2)(b)(II) is repealed, effective July 1, 2027.
- (3) To obtain approval of a driving improvement course, a commercial driving school must apply to the department in the manner specified in rules promulgated under subsection (2)(a) of this section and must demonstrate that the driving improvement course provides education in the traffic laws of this state, recognition of hazardous traffic situations, and traffic crash prevention.
- (4) The department may charge a commercial driving school the following fees as established in rules promulgated under subsection (2)(a) of this section:
- (a) A fee to approve a driving improvement course; and
  - (b) A fee for each individual who claims a points waiver for completing a driving improvement course offered by the commercial driving school.

(5) This section does not authorize the issuance of a points waiver to an individual who:

(a) Committed a traffic infraction or misdemeanor traffic offense while operating a motor vehicle under the authority of a commercial driver's license; or

(b) Is convicted of a violation described in section 42-2-127 or article 4 of this title 42 committed while driving a commercial motor vehicle.

**Source: L. 2024:** Entire section added, (HB 24-1250), ch. 391, p. 2702, § 1, effective August 7; (2)(b)(II)(A) amended, (HB 24-1450), ch. 490, p. 3432, § 101, effective August 7. **L. 2026:** (3) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 476, § 39, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** As of publication date, the revisor of statutes has not received the notice referred to in subsection (2)(b)(II)(A).

#### **42-2-127.3. Authority to suspend license - controlled substance violations. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire section added, p. 1583, § 15, effective July 1. **L. 2003:** (1)(b) amended, p. 2690, § 8, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** Entire section repealed, (HB 09-1266), ch. 347, p. 1817, § 9, effective August 5.

#### **42-2-127.4. Authority to suspend license - forgery of a penalty assessment notice issued to minor under the age of eighteen years. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2004:** Entire section added, p. 1330, § 1, effective July 1, 2005. **L. 2006:** (1)(a) amended, p. 1509, § 63, effective June 1. **L. 2009:** Entire section repealed, (HB 09-1266), ch. 347, p. 1818, § 10, effective August 5.

#### **42-2-127.5. Authority to suspend license - violation of child support order.**

(1) The department shall suspend the license of any driver who is not in compliance with a child support order pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(2) Upon receipt of a notice of failure to comply from the state child support enforcement agency pursuant to section 26-13-123 (4), C.R.S., the department shall send written notice to the person identified in the court order that such person shall be required to provide the department with proof of compliance with the child support order. Such proof shall be in the form of a notice of compliance as defined in section 26-13-123 (1)(c), C.R.S.

(3) (a) If a notice of compliance is not received by the department within thirty days after the date written notice is sent pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, the department shall suspend the driver's license of the person from whom proof is required and may not reinstate such license until proof in the form of a notice of compliance is provided.

(b) The driver shall not have a right to a hearing before license suspension pursuant to this subsection (3), and the driver's right to any hearing shall be limited to the rights set forth in section 26-13-123, C.R.S.

(4) In the event that a driver's license is suspended pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, the department may issue a probationary license for a period not to exceed ninety days from the date of issuance, which probationary license restricts the driver to driving to and from the place of employment or to performing duties within the course of the driver's employment. The department is authorized to charge a fee for such probationary license that covers the direct and indirect costs of issuing the license.

(5) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 95:** Entire section added, p. 588, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 96:** (4) amended, p. 1205, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (5) repealed, p. 768, § 20, effective July 1. **L. 2021:** (4) amended, (HB 21-1314), ch. 460, p. 3100, § 12, effective January 1, 2022.

**42-2-127.6. Authority to suspend license - providing alcohol to an underage person.  
(Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 2005:** Entire section added, p. 602, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2018:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 18-1025), ch. 152, p. 1082, § 24, effective October 1. **L. 2021:** Entire section repealed, (HB 21-1314), ch. 460, p. 3097, § 5, effective January 1, 2022.



**42-2-127.7. Authority to suspend driver's license - uninsured motorists - legislative declaration.**

(1) The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that the purpose of this section is to induce and encourage all motorists to provide for their financial responsibility for the protection of others and to assure the widespread availability to the insuring public of insurance protection against financial loss caused by negligent, financially irresponsible, motorists.

(2) (a) The department may suspend the driver's license of any person upon its determination that the person drove a vehicle in this state without having in full force and effect a complying policy or certificate of self-insurance as required by sections 10-4-619 and 10-4-624, C.R.S., as follows:

(I) Upon the first determination that a person operated a motor vehicle in this state without having in full force and effect a complying policy or certificate of self-insurance as required pursuant to section 10-4-619 or 10-4-624, C.R.S., the department shall suspend the driver's license of a person until the person furnishes proof of financial responsibility, as defined in section 42-7-103 (14), in the manner contemplated by section 42-7-301 (1), in the amount specified in section 10-4-620, C.R.S.

(II) Upon the second determination that the person operated a motor vehicle in this state without having in full force and effect a complying policy or certificate of self-insurance as required by sections 10-4-619 and 10-4-624, C.R.S., within five years, the department shall suspend the person's driver's license for a period of four months.

(III) Upon the third or subsequent determination that the person operated a motor vehicle in this state without having in full force and effect a complying policy or certificate of self-insurance as required by sections 10-4-619 and 10-4-624, C.R.S., the department shall suspend the person's driver's license for a period of eight months.

(b) The department shall make a determination of such facts on the basis of the documents and affidavit of a law enforcement officer as specified in subsection (3) of this section, and this determination shall be final unless a hearing is requested and held as provided in subsection (7) of this section.

(c) The determination of the facts specified in this subsection (2) by the department is independent of the suspension taken under article 7 of this title.

(d) For purposes of this section, "license" includes any driving privilege.

(3) Whenever a law enforcement officer determines, by checking the motorist insurance identification database created in section 42-7-604, and by any other means authorized by law, that a driver violates section 42-4-1409 by not having a complying policy or certificate of self-

insurance in full force and effect as required by sections 10-4-619 and 10-4-624, C.R.S., the law enforcement officer making such determination shall forward to the department an affidavit that includes a statement of the officer's probable cause that the person committed such violation, and a copy of the citation and complaint, if any, filed with the court. The affidavit shall be dated, signed, and sworn to by the law enforcement officer under penalty of perjury, but need not be notarized or sworn to before any other person.

(4) (a) Upon receipt by the department of the affidavit of the law enforcement officer and the relevant documents required by subsection (3) of this section, the department shall make the determination described in subsection (2) of this section. The determination shall be based upon the information contained in the affidavit and the relevant documents. If the department determines that the person is subject to license suspension, the department may issue a notice of suspension if such notice has not already been served upon the person by the law enforcement officer as required in subsection (5) of this section.

(b) The notice of suspension sent by the department shall be mailed in accordance with the provisions of section 42-2-119 (2) to the person at the last-known address shown on the department's records, if any, and to any address provided in the law enforcement officer's affidavit if that address differs from the address of record. The notice shall be deemed received three days after mailing.

(c) The notice of suspension shall clearly specify the reason and statutory grounds for the suspension, the effective date of the suspension, the right of the person to request a hearing, the procedure for requesting a hearing, and the date by which that request for a hearing must be made. The notice shall also state that the person may avoid suspension by filing with the department proof of financial responsibility for the future, or by compliance with section 42-7-302 on the first determination. For subsequent offenses, a person's driver's license shall be suspended in accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section. If the person files proof of financial responsibility for the future, such proof of financial responsibility for the future shall be maintained for three years from the date such proof of financial responsibility for the future is received by the department and after any applicable suspension period.

(d) If the department determines that the person is not subject to license suspension:

(I) The department shall notify the person of its determination and shall rescind any order of suspension served upon the person by the law enforcement officer;

(II) The person whose driver's license was taken possession of by a law enforcement officer under this section may obtain the license by the payment of a fee to the department. The department shall determine the fee in accordance with section 42-2-114.5.

(5) (a) Whenever a law enforcement officer determines, by checking the motorist insurance identification database created in section 42-7-604, and by any other means authorized by law,

that a driver violates section 42-4-1409 by not having a complying policy or certificate of self-insurance as required by sections 10-4-619 and 10-4-624, C.R.S., the officer, acting on behalf of the department, may serve the notice of suspension personally on such driver. If the law enforcement officer serves the notice of suspension, the officer shall take possession of any driver's license issued by this state or any other state that is held by the person. When the officer takes possession of a valid license, the officer, acting on behalf of the department, shall issue a temporary permit that is valid for seven days after its date of issuance.

(b) A copy of the completed notice of suspension form, a copy of any completed temporary permit form, and any driver's, minor driver's, or temporary driver's license or any instruction permit taken into possession under this section shall be forwarded to the department by the law enforcement officer along with the affidavit and documents required in subsections (2) and (3) of this section.

(c) The department shall provide forms for notice of suspension and for temporary permits to law enforcement agencies. The department shall establish a format for the affidavits required by this section and shall give notice of such format to all law enforcement agencies which submit affidavits to the department. Such law enforcement agencies shall follow the format determined by the department.

(d) A temporary permit may not be issued to any person who is already driving with a temporary permit issued pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (5).

(6) (a) The license suspension shall become effective seven days after the subject person has received the notice of suspension as provided in subsection (5) of this section or is deemed to have received the notice of suspension by mail as provided in subsection (4) of this section unless the person files with the department proof of financial responsibility for the future or complies with section 42-7-302 prior to the effective date of the suspension. If the person files proof of financial responsibility for the future, such proof of financial responsibility for the future must be maintained for three years from the date such proof of financial responsibility for the future is received by the department. If a written request for a hearing and evidence of current liability insurance in the respondent's name is received by the department within that same seven-day period, the effective date of the suspension shall be stayed until a final order is issued following the hearing; except that any delay in the hearing that is caused or requested by the subject person or counsel representing that person shall not result in a stay of the suspension during the period of delay.

(b) The period of license suspension under paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of this section shall be for an indefinite period. The person may reinstate at any time by complying with section 42-7-302 or by filing with the department proof of financial responsibility for the future and paying the required reinstatement fee pursuant to section 42-2-132. If the person files proof of financial responsibility for the future, such proof of financial responsibility for the future must be

maintained for three years from the date such proof of financial responsibility for the future is received by the department.

(7) (a) Any person who has received a notice of suspension may make a written request for a review of the department's determination at a hearing. The request may be made on a form available at each office of the department. Evidence of current liability insurance in the respondent's name and the person's driver's license, if the license has not been previously surrendered, shall be submitted at the time the request for a hearing is made.

(b) The request for a hearing shall be made in writing within seven days after the day the person received the notice of suspension as provided in subsection (5) of this section or is deemed to have received the notice by mail as provided in subsection (4) of this section. If written request for a hearing and evidence of current liability insurance in the respondent's name is not received within the seven-day period, the right to a hearing is waived, and the determination of the department that is based upon the documents and affidavit required by subsections (2) and (3) of this section becomes final.

(c) If a written request for a hearing is made after expiration of the seven-day period and if it is accompanied by the applicant's verified statement explaining the failure to make a timely request for a hearing, the department shall receive and consider the request. If the department finds that the person was unable to make a timely request due to lack of actual notice of the suspension or due to factors of physical incapacity such as hospitalization or incarceration, the department shall waive the period of limitation, reopen the matter, and grant the hearing request upon receipt of evidence of current liability insurance in the respondent's name. In such a case, a stay of the suspension pending issuance of the final order following the hearing shall not be granted.

(d) At the time the request for a hearing is made, if it appears from the record that the person is the holder of a valid driver's or minor driver's license or any instruction permit issued by this state or temporary permit issued pursuant to subsection (5) of this section and that the license has been surrendered as required pursuant to subsection (5) of this section, the department shall issue a temporary permit upon the receipt of evidence of current liability insurance in the respondent's name. The temporary permit will be valid until the scheduled date for the hearing. If necessary, the department may later issue an additional temporary permit or permits in order to stay the effective date of the suspension until the final order is issued following the hearing, as required by subsection (6) of this section.

(e) (I) The hearing shall be scheduled to be held as quickly as practicable but not more than sixty days after the day that the request for a hearing is received by the department; except that, if a hearing is rescheduled because of the unavailability of the hearing officer in accordance with subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (e), the hearing may be rescheduled more than sixty days after the day that the request for the hearing is received by the department, and the department

shall continue any temporary driving privileges held by the respondent until the date that such hearing is rescheduled. The department shall provide a written notice of the time and place of the hearing to the respondent in the manner provided in section 42-2-119 (2) at least ten days prior to the scheduled or rescheduled hearing, unless the parties agree to waive this requirement. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 42-2-119, the last-known address of the respondent for purposes of notice for any hearing pursuant to this section shall be the address stated on the hearing request form.

(II) If a hearing officer cannot appear at any original or rescheduled hearing because of medical reasons, another administrative hearing, or any other legitimate just cause, such hearing officer or the department may reschedule the hearing at the earliest possible time when the hearing officer will be available.

(f) If a hearing is held pursuant to this subsection (7), the department shall review the matter and make a final determination on the basis of the documents and affidavit submitted to the department pursuant to subsections (2) and (3) of this section. The law enforcement officer who submitted the affidavit need not be present at the hearing. The department shall consider all other relevant evidence at the hearing, including the reports of law enforcement officers that are submitted to the department. The reports of law enforcement officers shall not be required to be made under oath, but such reports shall identify the officers making the reports. The department may consider evidence contained in affidavits from persons other than the respondent, so long as such affidavits include the affiant's home or work address and telephone number and are dated, signed, and sworn to by the affiant under penalty of perjury. The affidavit need not be notarized or sworn to before any other person. The respondent must present evidence in person.

(8) (a) The hearing shall be held in the district office of the department closest to the residence of the driver; except that all or part of the hearing may, at the discretion of the department, be conducted in real time, by telephone or other electronic means in accordance with section 42-1-218.5. The person requesting the hearing may be referred to as the respondent.

(b) The presiding hearing officer shall be the executive director of the department or an authorized representative designated by the executive director. The presiding hearing officer shall have authority to administer oaths and affirmations; to consider the affidavit of the law enforcement officer filing such affidavit as specified in subsection (3) of this section; to consider other law enforcement officers' reports that are submitted to the department, which reports need not be under oath but shall identify the officers making the reports; to examine and consider documents and copies of documents containing relevant evidence; to consider other affidavits that are dated, signed, and sworn to by the affiant under penalty of perjury, which affidavits need not be notarized or sworn to before any other person but shall contain the affiant's home or work address and telephone number; to take judicial notice as defined by rule 201 of article II of the Colorado rules of evidence, subject to the provisions of section 24-4-105 (8), C.R.S., which shall include judicial notice of general, technical, or scientific facts within the hearing officer's

knowledge; to compel witnesses to testify or produce books, records, or other evidence; to examine witnesses and take testimony; to receive and consider any relevant evidence necessary to properly perform the hearing officer's duties as required by this section; to issue subpoenas duces tecum to produce books, documents, records, or other evidence; to issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses; to take depositions, or cause depositions or interrogatories to be taken; to regulate the course and conduct of the hearing; and to make a final ruling on the issues.

(c) (I) When a license is suspended under paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of this section, the sole issue at the hearing shall be whether by a preponderance of the evidence the person drove a vehicle in this state without having in force a complying policy or certificate of self-insurance as required by sections 10-4-619 and 10-4-624, C.R.S. If the presiding hearing officer finds the affirmative of the issue, the suspension order shall be sustained. If the presiding hearing officer finds the negative of the issue, the suspension order shall be rescinded.

(II) Under no circumstances shall the presiding hearing officer consider any issue not specified in this paragraph (c).

(d) The hearing shall be recorded. The decision of the presiding hearing officer shall be rendered in writing, and a copy shall be provided to the person who requested the hearing.

(e) If the person who requested the hearing fails to appear without just cause, the right to a hearing shall be waived, and the determination of the department which is based upon the documents and affidavit required in subsections (2) and (3) of this section shall become final.

(9) (a) Within thirty-five days of the issuance of the final determination of the department under this section, a person aggrieved by the determination has the right to file a petition for judicial review in the district court in the county of the person's residence.

(b) The review shall be on the record without taking additional testimony. If the court finds that the department exceeded its constitutional or statutory authority, made an erroneous interpretation of the law, acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner, or made a determination which is unsupported by the evidence in the record, the court may reverse the department's determination.

(c) The filing of a petition for judicial review shall not result in an automatic stay of the suspension order. The court may grant a stay of the order only upon motion and hearing and upon a finding that there is a reasonable probability that the petitioner will prevail upon the merits and that the petitioner will suffer irreparable harm if the order is not stayed.

(10) The "State Administrative Procedure Act", article 4 of title 24, C.R.S., shall apply to this section to the extent it is consistent with subsections (7), (8), and (9) of this section relating to administrative hearings and judicial review.

(11) This section shall take effect when the motorist insurance identification database, created in section 42-7-604, has been developed and is operational, but not later than January 1, 1999.

**Source:** **L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 1452, § 9, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (4)(d)(II) amended, p. 1353, § 98, effective June 1. **L. 2000:** (5)(b) and (7)(d) amended, p. 1356, § 28, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (8)(a) amended, p. 555, § 6, effective May 23. **L. 2003:** (2)(a), (3), (5)(a), and (8)(c)(I) amended, p. 1572, § 11, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (2)(a) and (4)(c) amended, p. 792, § 2, effective January 1, 2005. **L. 2014:** (4)(d)(II) amended, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1547, § 11, effective June 5. **L. 2015:** (9)(a) amended, (HB 15-1021), ch. 25, p. 63, § 2, effective August 5.

**Editor's note:** Section 11 of Senate Bill 14-194 incorrectly states that it amends subsection (4)(b)(II) when the actual provision it amends is subsection (4)(d)(II).

#### **42-2-127.9. Authority to suspend driver's license - leaving the scene of a crash.**

(1) (a) The department may suspend the driver's license of any person upon the department's determination that there is proof by a preponderance of the evidence that the person was the driver of a vehicle directly involved in a crash resulting in serious bodily injury to or death of any person and failed to immediately stop the vehicle at the scene of the crash, or as close to the scene as possible, or immediately return to the scene of the crash, as required by section 42-4-1601.

(b) The department shall make a determination of the facts on the basis of the documents and affidavit of an officer as specified in subsection (2) of this section, and this determination shall be final unless a hearing is requested and held as provided in subsections (6) and (7) of this section.

(c) For purposes of this section:

(I) "License" includes any driving privilege.

(II) "Officer" means a law enforcement officer.

(2) Whenever an officer determines that a person has violated section 42-4-1601, the officer making the determination shall forward to the department an affidavit that includes a statement of the officer's probable cause that the person committed the violation and a copy of the citation and complaint, if any, filed with the court. The affidavit shall be dated, signed, and sworn to by the officer under penalty of perjury, but need not be notarized or sworn to before any other person.

(3) (a) Upon receipt by the department of the affidavit of the officer and the relevant documents required by subsection (2) of this section, the department shall make the determination described in subsection (1) of this section based upon the information contained in the affidavit and the relevant documents. If the department determines that the person is subject to license suspension, the department may issue a notice of suspension if such notice has not already been served upon the person by the officer in accordance with subsection (4) of this section.

(b) The department shall mail the notice of suspension in accordance with section 42-2-119 (2) to the person at the last-known address shown on the department's records, if any, and to any address provided in the officer's affidavit if that address differs from the address of record. The notice is deemed received three days after mailing.

(c) The notice of suspension must clearly specify the reason and statutory grounds for the suspension, the effective date of the suspension, the right of the person to request a hearing, the procedure for requesting a hearing, and the date by which that request for a hearing must be made.

(d) If the department determines that the person is not subject to license suspension:

(I) The department shall notify the person of its determination and shall rescind any order of suspension served upon the person by the officer;

(II) If the person's license was confiscated by an officer under subsection (4) of this section, the person may obtain the license by the payment of a fee to the department pursuant to subsection (5)(b) of this section. The department shall determine the fee in accordance with section 42-2-114.5.

(4) (a) If an officer determines that a person has violated section 42-4-1601, the officer, acting on behalf of the department, may serve the notice of suspension personally on the person. If the law enforcement officer serves the notice of suspension, the officer shall confiscate any driver's license issued by this state or any other state that is held by the person. When the officer takes possession of a valid license, the officer, acting on behalf of the department, shall issue a temporary permit that is valid for seven days after its date of issuance.

(b) The officer shall forward a copy of the completed notice of suspension form, a copy of any completed temporary permit form, and any driver's, minor driver's, or temporary driver's license or any instruction permit taken into possession under this section along with the affidavit and documents required in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

(c) The department shall provide forms for notice of suspension and for temporary permits to law enforcement agencies. The department shall establish a format for the affidavits required by this section and shall give notice of such format to all law enforcement agencies that submit



affidavits to the department. Law enforcement agencies shall follow the format determined by the department.

(d) A temporary permit shall not be issued to any person who is already driving with a temporary permit issued pursuant to subsection (4)(a) of this section.

(5) (a) A license suspension is effective seven days after the subject person has received the notice of suspension as provided in subsection (4) of this section or is deemed to have received the notice of suspension by mail as provided in subsection (3) of this section. If a written request for a hearing is received by the department within that same seven-day period, the effective date of the suspension is stayed until a final order is issued following the hearing; except that any delay in the hearing that is caused or requested by the subject person or counsel representing that person shall not result in a stay of the suspension during the period of delay.

(b) The period of license suspension under subsection (1)(a) of this section is one year. After the suspension period is complete, the person may have his or her driver's license restored by paying the required restoration fee pursuant to section 42-2-132 (4).

(6) (a) Any person who has received a notice of suspension may make a written request for a review of the department's determination at a hearing. The request may be made on a form available at each office of the department. A person who has received a notice of suspension may also request a hearing for a probationary license issued in accordance with subsection (9) of this section.

(b) The request for a hearing must be made in writing within seven days after the day the person received the notice of suspension as provided in subsection (4) of this section or is deemed to have received the notice by mail as provided in subsection (3) of this section. If written request for a hearing is not received within the seven-day period, the right to a hearing is waived, and the determination of the department that is based upon the documents and affidavit required by subsections (1) and (2) of this section becomes final.

(c) At the time that a person requests a hearing, the department shall provide to the person written notice advising the person:

(I) Of the right to subpoena the law enforcement officer for the hearing and that the subpoena must be served upon the law enforcement officer at least five calendar days prior to the hearing;

(II) Of the person's right to notify the department in writing that the person desires the law enforcement officer's presence at the hearing and that, upon receiving the notification, the department shall issue a written notice for the law enforcement officer to appear at the hearing;

(III) That, if the law enforcement officer is not required to appear at the hearing, documents and an affidavit prepared and submitted by the law enforcement officer will be used at the hearing; and

(IV) That the affidavit and documents submitted by the law enforcement officer may be reviewed by the person prior to the hearing.

(d) If a written request for a hearing is made after expiration of the seven-day period and is accompanied by the person's verified statement explaining the failure to make a timely request for a hearing, the department shall receive and consider the request. If the department finds that the person was unable to make a timely request due to lack of actual notice of the suspension, factors of physical incapacity such as hospitalization, or incarceration, the department shall waive the period of limitation, reopen the matter, and grant the hearing request. In such case, a stay of the suspension pending issuance of the final order following the hearing shall not be granted.

(e) (I) The hearing shall be scheduled to be held as soon as practicable but not more than sixty days after the day that the request for a hearing is received by the department; except that, if a hearing is rescheduled because of the unavailability of a hearing officer in accordance with subsection (6)(e)(II) of this section, the hearing may be rescheduled more than sixty days after the day that the request for the hearing is received by the department, and the department shall continue any temporary driving privileges held by the person who requested the hearing until the date that such hearing is rescheduled. The department shall provide a written notice of the time and place of the hearing to the person who requested the hearing in the manner provided in section 42-2-119 (2) at least ten days before the scheduled or rescheduled hearing unless the parties agree to waive this requirement. Notwithstanding section 42-2-119, the last-known address of the person who requested the hearing for purposes of notice for any hearing pursuant to this section is the address stated on the hearing request form.

(II) If a hearing officer cannot appear at any original or rescheduled hearing because of medical reasons, a conflicting obligation to conduct another administrative hearing, or any other legitimate just cause, the hearing officer or the department may reschedule the hearing at the earliest possible time when the hearing officer will be available.

(f) If a hearing is held pursuant to this subsection (6), the department shall review the matter and make a final determination on the basis of the documents and affidavit submitted to the department pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of this section. The officer who submitted the affidavit need not be present at the hearing unless requested in accordance with subsection (6)(c) of this section. The department shall consider all other relevant evidence at the hearing, including the reports of other officers that are submitted to the department. The reports of other officers are not required to be made under oath, but each such report must identify the officer making the report. The department may consider evidence contained in affidavits from persons other than

the person requesting the hearing, so long as each such affidavit includes the affiant's home or work address and telephone number and is dated, signed, and sworn to by the affiant under penalty of perjury. The affidavit need not be notarized or sworn to before any other person. The person requesting the hearing must present evidence in person.

(7) (a) The hearing shall be held in the district office of the department closest to the residence of the person; except that all or part of the hearing may, at the discretion of the department, be conducted by telephone or other electronic means, in real time, in accordance with section 42-1-218.5.

(b) The presiding hearing officer shall be the executive director of the department or an authorized representative designated by the executive director. The presiding hearing officer may administer oaths and affirmations; consider the affidavit of the officer filing such affidavit as specified in subsection (2) of this section; consider other officers' reports submitted to the department pursuant to subsection (6)(f) of this section; examine and consider documents and copies of documents containing relevant evidence; consider other affidavits submitted pursuant to subsection (6)(f) of this section; take judicial notice as defined by rule 201 of article II of the Colorado rules of evidence, subject to section 24-4-105 (8), including judicial notice of general, technical, or scientific facts within the hearing officer's knowledge; compel witnesses to testify or produce books, records, or other evidence; examine witnesses and take testimony; receive and consider any relevant evidence necessary to properly perform the hearing officer's duties as required by this section; issue subpoenas duces tecum to produce books, documents, records, or other evidence; issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses; take depositions, or cause depositions or interrogatories to be taken; regulate the course and conduct of the hearing; and make a final ruling on the issues.

(c) (I) When a license is suspended under subsection (1)(a) of this section, the sole issue at the hearing is whether, based on a preponderance of the evidence, the person was the driver of a vehicle directly involved in a crash resulting in serious bodily injury to or death of any person and failed to immediately stop the vehicle at the scene of the crash, or as close to the scene as possible, or immediately return to the scene of the crash as required by section 42-4-1601. If the presiding hearing officer finds in the affirmative on that issue, the suspension order must be sustained and the presiding hearing officer shall then consider whether or not to issue a probationary license in accordance with subsection (9) of this section. If the presiding hearing officer finds in the negative on that issue, the suspension order must be rescinded.

(II) The presiding hearing officer shall not consider any issue not specified in this subsection (7)(c).

(d) The hearing shall be recorded. The presiding hearing officer shall render an opinion in writing, and a copy shall be provided to the person who requested the hearing.

(e) If the person who requested the hearing fails to appear without just cause, the right to a hearing is waived, and the determination of the department based upon the documents and affidavit required in subsections (1) and (2) of this section is final.

(8) (a) Within thirty-five days after the issuance of the final determination of the department under this section, a person aggrieved by the determination has the right to file a petition for judicial review in the district court in the county of the person's residence.

(b) Judicial review shall be based on the record without taking additional testimony. If the court finds that the department exceeded its constitutional or statutory authority, made an erroneous interpretation of the law, acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner, or made a determination that is unsupported by the evidence in the record, the court may reverse the department's determination.

(c) The filing of a petition for judicial review does not result in an automatic stay of the suspension order. The court may grant a stay of the order only upon motion and hearing and upon a finding that there is a reasonable probability that the person will prevail on the merits and that the person will suffer irreparable harm if the order is not stayed.

(9) A presiding hearing officer may issue a probationary license for a period not to exceed the period of suspension for the purpose of driving for reasons of employment, education, health, or other necessities as determined by the presiding hearing officer, which license may contain such restrictions as the department deems reasonable and necessary and which may thereafter be subject to cancellation as a result of any violation of the restrictions imposed therein. The presiding hearing officer may refuse to issue a probationary license if the department finds that aggravating circumstances exist to indicate the individual is unsafe for driving for any purpose. In refusing to issue a probationary license, the department shall make specific findings of fact to support such refusal. Such aggravating circumstances must be matters other than the facts and circumstances of the case giving rise to suspension under this section.

(10) The "State Administrative Procedure Act", article 4 of title 24, applies to this section to the extent it is consistent with subsections (6), (7), and (8) of this section relating to administrative hearings and judicial review.

**Source: L. 2017:** Entire section added, (HB 17-1277), ch. 337, p. 1797, § 1, effective January 1, 2018. **L. 2026:** (1)(a) and (7)(c)(I) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 476, § 40, effective August 12.

**42-2-128. Vehicular homicide - criminally negligent homicide while operating a motor vehicle - revocation of license.**

The department shall revoke the driver's license of a person convicted of vehicular homicide pursuant to section 18-3-106 or criminally negligent homicide pursuant to section 18-3-105 (1)(b), including the driver's license of a juvenile who has been adjudicated a delinquent upon conduct that would establish the crime of vehicular homicide pursuant to section 18-3-106 or criminally negligent homicide pursuant to section 18-3-105 (1)(b) if committed by an adult.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2151, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (SB 26-072), ch. 200, p. 1144, § 4, effective September 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-1201 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-128 was relocated to § 42-2-136.

(2) Section 8(2) of chapter 200 (SB 26-072), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to offenses committed on or after September 1, 2026.

**Cross references:** For vehicular homicide, see § 18-3-106; for provision that the operation of vehicles and the movement of pedestrians pursuant to this section apply upon streets and highways and elsewhere throughout the state, see § 42-4-103 (2)(b).

**ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-128 is similar to § 42-4-1201 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Applied** in *State, Motor Vehicle Div. v. Dayhoff*, 199 Colo. 363, 609 P.2d 119 (1980).

**42-2-129. Mandatory surrender of license or permit for driving under the influence or with excessive alcoholic content.**

Upon a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or a verdict of guilty by the court or a jury, to DUI or DUI per se, or, for a person under twenty-one years of age, to DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD, the court shall require the offender to immediately surrender the offender's driver's, minor

driver's, or temporary driver's license or instruction permit to the court. The court shall forward to the department a notice of plea or verdict, on the form prescribed by the department, together with the offender's license or permit, not later than ten days after the surrender of the license or permit. Any person who does not immediately surrender the license or permit to the court, except for good cause shown, commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2151, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** Entire section amended, p. 1465, § 8, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1356, § 29, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2008:** Entire section amended, p. 248, § 10, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1880, § 6, effective May 28.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-123.3 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-129 was relocated to § 42-2-137.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II).

#### **42-2-130. Mandatory surrender of license or permit for drug convictions. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2151, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** Entire section amended, p. 1436, § 8, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1356, § 30, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2002:** Entire section amended, p. 1586, § 18, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** Entire section repealed, (HB 09-1266), ch. 347, p. 1819, § 11, effective August 5.

#### **42-2-131. Revocation of license or permit for failing to comply with a court order relating to nondriving alcohol convictions. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2152, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** Entire section amended, p. 928, § 1, effective May 21. **L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (HB 09-1266), ch. 347, p. 1820, § 12, effective August 5. **L. 2014:** Entire section amended, (SB 14-129), ch. 387, p. 1939, § 12, effective June 6. **L. 2018:** Entire section amended, (HB 18-

1025), ch. 152, p. 1083, § 25, effective October 1. **L. 2021:** Entire section repealed, (HB 21-1314), ch. 460, p. 3100, § 13, effective January 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-123.7 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-131 was relocated to § 42-2-139.

**42-2-131.5. Revocation of license or permit for convictions involving defacing property.  
(Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 1538, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1357, § 31, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2009:** Entire section repealed, (HB 09-1266), ch. 347, p. 1820, § 13, effective August 5.

**42-2-132. Period of suspension or revocation.**

(1) The department shall not suspend a driver's or minor driver's license to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways for a period of more than one year, except as permitted under section 42-2-138 and except for noncompliance with the provisions of subsection (4) of this section or section 42-7-406, or both.

(2) (a) (I) Any person whose license or privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways has been revoked is not entitled to apply for a probationary license, and, except as provided in sections 42-2-125, 42-2-126, 42-2-132.5, 42-2-138, 42-2-205, and 42-7-406, the person is not entitled to make application for a new license until the expiration of one year from the effective date of the revocation; then the person may make application for a new license as provided by law.

(II) (A) Following the period of revocation set forth in this subsection (2), the department shall not issue a new license unless and until it is satisfied that the person has demonstrated knowledge of the laws and driving ability through the appropriate motor vehicle testing process, and that the person whose license was revoked pursuant to section 42-2-125 for a second or subsequent alcohol- or drug-related driving offense has completed not less than a level II alcohol and drug education and treatment program certified by the behavioral health administration in the department of human services pursuant to section 42-4-1301.3.

(B) If the person was in violation of section 42-2-126 (3)(a) and the person had a BAC that was 0.15 or more at the time of driving or within two hours after driving, or if the person's driving record otherwise indicates a designation as a persistent drunk driver as defined in section

42-1-102 (68.5), the department shall require the person to complete a level II alcohol and drug education and treatment program certified by the behavioral health administration in the department of human services pursuant to section 42-4-1301.3, and, upon the restoration of driving privileges, shall require the person to hold a restricted license requiring the use of an ignition interlock device pursuant to section 42-2-132.5 (1)(a)(II).

(C) If a person seeking reinstatement has not completed the required level II alcohol and drug education and treatment program, the person shall file with the department proof of current enrollment in a level II alcohol and drug education and treatment program certified by the behavioral health administration in the department of human services pursuant to section 42-4-1301.3, on a form approved by the department.

(III) In the case of a minor driver whose license has been revoked as a result of one conviction for DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD, the minor driver, unless otherwise required after an evaluation made pursuant to section 42-4-1301.3, must complete a level I alcohol and drug education program certified by the behavioral health administration in the department of human services.

(IV) Any person whose license or privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways has been revoked under section 42-2-125 (1)(g)(I) or (1)(i) or 42-2-203 where the revocation was due in part to a DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI conviction shall be required to present an affidavit stating that the person has obtained at the person's own expense a signed lease agreement for the installation and use of an approved ignition interlock device, as defined in section 42-2-132.5 (9)(a), in each motor vehicle on which the person's name appears on the registration and any other vehicle that the person may drive during the period of the interlock-restricted license.

(V) The department shall take into consideration any probationary terms imposed on such person by any court in determining whether any revocation shall be continued.

(b) Repealed.

(c) A person whose driving privilege is restored prior to a hearing on the merits of any driving restraint waives the person's right to a hearing on the merits of the driving restraint.

(3) Any person making false application for a new license before the expiration of the period of suspension or revocation commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense. The department shall notify the district attorney's office in the county where such violation occurred, in writing, of all violations of this section.

(4) (a) (I) Any person whose license or other privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state has been suspended, canceled, or revoked, pursuant to either this article or article 4 or 7 of this title, shall pay a restoration fee of ninety-five dollars to the executive director of the department prior to the issuance to the person of a new license or the restoration of the license or privilege.



(II) Notwithstanding the amount specified for the fee in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a), the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may reduce the amount of the fee if necessary pursuant to section 24-75-402 (3), C.R.S., to reduce the uncommitted reserves of the fund to which all or any portion of the fee is credited. After the uncommitted reserves of the fund are sufficiently reduced, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may increase the amount of the fee as provided in section 24-75-402 (4), C.R.S.

(b) The department shall transmit the restoration fees collected under this subsection (4) to the state treasurer, who shall credit:

(I) (A) Seventy-three dollars to the driver's license administrative revocation account in the highway users tax fund, which account is hereby created and referred to in this subparagraph (I) as the "account".

(B) The moneys in the account shall be subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly for the direct and indirect costs incurred by the department in the administration of driver's license restraints pursuant to either this article or article 4 or article 7 of this title, including, but not limited to, the direct and indirect costs of providing administrative hearings under this title, without the use of moneys from the general fund. At the end of each fiscal year, any unexpended and unencumbered moneys remaining in the account shall be transferred out of the account, credited to the highway users tax fund, and allocated and expended as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(c), C.R.S.; and

(II) (A) Twenty-two dollars to the first time drunk driving offender account in the highway users tax fund, which account is hereby created and referred to in this subparagraph (II) as the "account".

(B) The money in the account is subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly on and after January 1, 2009, first to the department of revenue to pay its costs associated with the implementation of House Bill 08-1194, as enacted in 2008, and to pay its costs associated with the implementation of House Bill 13-1240, enacted in 2013; second, to the department of revenue to pay a portion of the costs for an ignition interlock device as described by section 42-2-132.5 (4)(a)(II)(C) for a first time drunk or impaired driving offender who is unable to pay the costs of the device; third, to the department of revenue to pay a portion of the costs for an ignition interlock device for a persistent drunk or impaired driver who is unable to pay the costs of the device and who installs the ignition interlock device on his or her vehicle on or after January 1, 2014. Any money in the account not expended for these purposes may be invested by the state treasurer as provided by law. All interest and income derived from the investment and deposit of money in the account shall be credited to the account. At the end of each fiscal year, any unexpended and unencumbered money remaining in the account shall remain in the account

and shall not be credited or transferred to the general fund, the highway users tax fund, or another fund.

(5) (a) In addition to any other fee imposed pursuant to this section, a person whose license or privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways has been revoked because of a DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD conviction shall pay a fee of twenty-five dollars to the department prior to the issuance to the person of a new license or the restoration of the license or privilege. The department may waive the fee upon a satisfactory showing that the person subject to the fee is indigent.

(b) The department shall transmit the fee collected pursuant to this subsection (5) to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the first time drunk driving offender account in the highway users tax fund.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2152, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** (4)(a) amended, p. 1353, § 99, effective June 1. **L. 99:** (2)(a) amended, p. 1162, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (2)(a)(IV) amended, p. 1076, § 3, effective July 1; (1) amended, p. 1357, § 32, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (2)(a)(II) amended, p. 788, § 6, effective June 1; (2)(a)(IV) amended, p. 1284, § 69, effective June 5. **L. 2002:** (2)(a)(III) amended, p. 1034, § 74, effective June 1; (2)(a)(II) and (2)(a)(III) amended, p. 1922, § 18, effective July 1; (2)(b) amended, p. 1586, § 19, effective July 1. **L. 2003:** (4)(a)(I) and (4)(b) amended, p. 448, § 1, effective March 5. **L. 2005:** (4)(b) amended, p. 142, § 7, effective April 5. **L. 2006:** (2)(a)(II)(B) amended, p. 1368, § 5, effective January 1, 2007. **L. 2008:** (2)(a)(II)(B), (2)(a)(II)(C), (2)(a)(III), and (2)(a)(IV) amended, p. 248, § 11, effective July 1; (4)(a)(I) and (4)(b) amended, p. 837, § 7, effective September 1; (1), (2)(a)(I), and (2)(a)(II)(A) amended and (2)(c) added, p. 835, § 5, effective January 1, 2009. **L. 2009:** (2)(b) repealed, (HB 09-1266), ch. 347, p. 1820, § 14, effective August 5. **L. 2011:** (2)(a)(II) and (2)(a)(III) amended, (HB 11-1303), ch. 264, p. 1180, § 104, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** (2)(a)(IV) and (4)(b)(II)(B) amended, (HB 12-1168), ch. 278, p. 1483, § 6, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** (2)(a)(III) and (2)(a)(IV) amended, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1882, § 9, effective May 28; (4)(b)(II)(B) amended, (HB 13-1240), ch. 361, p. 2114, § 6, effective May 28, and (2)(a)(II)(B) and (4)(b)(II)(B) amended, (HB 13-1240), ch. 361, p. 2113, § 4, effective January 1, 2014. **L. 2014:** IP(4)(b), (4)(b)(I)(A), and (4)(b)(II)(A) amended, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1547, § 12, effective June 5. **L. 2015:** (2)(a)(II)(B) amended, (HB 15-1043), ch. 262, p. 998, § 9, effective August 5. **L. 2017:** (2)(a)(II) and (2)(a)(III) amended, (SB 17-242), ch. 263, p. 1258, § 23, effective May 25. **L. 2021:** (5) added, (HB 21-1314), ch. 460, p. 3100, § 14, effective January 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (2)(a)(II) and (2)(a)(III) amended, (HB 22-1278), ch. 222, p. 1578, § 203, effective July 1. **L. 2023:** (4)(b)(II)(B) amended, (HB 23-1102), ch. 373, p. 2236, § 4, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-124 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-132 was relocated to § 42-2-140.

(2) Amendments to subsection (2)(a)(III) by Senate Bill 02-159 and Senate Bill 02-057 were harmonized.

(3) Amendments to subsection (4)(b)(II)(B) by sections 4 and 6 of House Bill 13-1240 were harmonized, effective January 1, 2014.

**Cross references:** (1) For the penalty for a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II).

(2) For the legislative declaration contained in the 2001 act amending subsection (2)(a)(II), see section 1 of chapter 229, Session Laws of Colorado 2001. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2008 act amending subsections (1), (2)(a)(I), and (2)(a)(II)(A) and enacting subsection (2)(c), see section 1 of chapter 221, Session Laws of Colorado 2008.

(3) For the legislative declaration in SB 17-242, see section 1 of chapter 263, Session Laws of Colorado 2017. For the legislative declaration in HB 23-1102, see section 1 of chapter 373, Session Laws of Colorado 2023.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-132 is similar to § 42-2-124 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1 and to repealed § 13-3-25, CRS 53, relevant cases construing these provisions have been included in the annotations to this section.

**Residents and nonresidents subject to same requirements.** The general assembly intended for residents and nonresidents alike to be subject to the same requirements for reacquiring driving privileges in this state after suspension. Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. Smith, 640 P.2d 1143 (Colo. 1982).

**Suspension of Colorado driving privileges applies to nonresident licensed**

**elsewhere.** A nonresident with a valid driver's license issued by his state of residence, whose Colorado driver's license or privilege to drive has been suspended, is not extended a privilege to drive in Colorado until the period of suspension has expired and the restoration fee has been paid. Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. Smith, 640 P.2d 1143 (Colo. 1982).

**Driving status of "denied" continues until conditions met.** Before a person against whom an order of denial has been entered is entitled to operate a motor vehicle, he must reapply for a new license at the end of the period of denial, pay the restoration fee required by subsection (3), file proof of financial responsibility as

required by § 42-7-406(1), and must be in receipt and possession of the new license. Unless and until these conditions are satisfied, his driving status as "denied" continues and he is subject to prosecution under § 42-2-130(1)(a) for driving under denial. *People v. Lessar*, 629 P.2d 577 (Colo. 1981).

**Right to drive does not automatically return following suspension.** Upon suspension, a person's right to Colorado driving privileges or a driver's license does not automatically spring to life at the end of the period of ineligibility. *Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. Smith*, 640 P.2d 1143 (Colo. 1982).

**Restoration fee must be paid.** Suspension will continue indefinitely unless the required restoration fee is paid. *Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. Smith*, 640 P.2d 1143 (Colo. 1982).

For purposes of extending the suspension of a Colorado driver's license pursuant to § 42-2-130(3), the initial suspension is not terminated until the driver has paid the restoration fee required by subsection (3) of this section. *Conway v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 653 P.2d 411 (Colo. App. 1982).

**Suspension does not continue for all purposes until payment.** Although subsection (3) requires that a restoration fee be paid before a license is reinstated, this does not mean that, for all purposes, the "period of suspension" continues until the fee is paid. *Edwards v. State, Dept. of Rev.*, 42 Colo. App. 52, 592 P.2d 1345 (1978).

**This section contemplates a new application by a respondent following the**

**expiration of one year after revocation.** *City & County of Denver v. Palmer*, 140 Colo. 27, 342 P.2d 687 (1959).

**Revocation differs from suspension** in that a license is not automatically restored at the end of a year after revocation. *City & County of Denver v. Palmer*, 140 Colo. 27, 342 P.2d 687 (1959).

**Expired revocation order continued in effect until driver's application for license approved pursuant to subsection (2).** *Donelson v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 38 Colo. App. 354, 561 P.2d 345 (1976).

**Local legislation void.** The offense of driving a motor vehicle while the driver's license is suspended or revoked is a matter of general statewide importance, and the attempt of a city to legislate on the subject is ultra vires and void. *City & County of Denver v. Palmer*, 140 Colo. 27, 342 P.2d 687 (1959).

**The application of the 1990 amendments to deny a probationary license** was not unlawful as being retroactive in operation or in violation of defendant's vested rights because the revocation and probationary license issues were not triggered until defendant's criminal convictions occurred after the effective date of the 1990 amendments. *Rogers v. Dept. of Rev.*, 841 P.2d 369 (Colo. App. 1992).

**This section requires** the completion of both Level II alcohol education and Level II alcohol treatment as a prerequisite for reinstating a driver whose license was revoked for an alcohol-related offense. "Therapy", as used in the department's

regulation, is synonymous with "treatment" as used in this section. *Smith v. Dept. of Rev.*, 793 P.2d 611 (Colo. App. 1990).

**Applied** in *Lopez v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 189 Colo. 133, 538 P.2d 446 (1975); *Marr v.*

*Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 43 Colo. App. 36, 598 P.2d 155 (1979); *Thompson v. Tomasi*, 635 P.2d 558 (Colo. App. 1979); *Hedstrom v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 662 P.2d 173 (Colo. 1983).

**42-2-132.5. Mandatory and voluntary restricted licenses following alcohol convictions - rules.**

**(1) Persons required to hold an interlock-restricted license.**

(a) The following persons shall hold an interlock-restricted license pursuant to this section for at least one year following reinstatement prior to being eligible to obtain any other driver's license issued under this article:

(I) A person whose license has been revoked for excess BAC pursuant to the provisions of section 42-2-126 when the person's BAC was 0.15 or more at the time of driving or within two hours after driving or whose driving record otherwise indicates a designation of persistent drunk driver as defined in section 42-1-102 (68.5);

(II) A person whose privilege to drive was revoked as an habitual offender under section 42-2-203 in which the revocation was due in part to a DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI conviction; or

(III) A person whose privilege to drive was revoked for interlock circumvention pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (7) of this section.

(b) A person whose privilege to drive was revoked for multiple convictions for any combination of a DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI pursuant to section 42-2-125 (1)(g)(I) or (1)(i) shall hold an interlock-restricted license pursuant to this section for at least two years, but not more than five years, following reinstatement prior to being eligible to obtain any other driver's license issued under this article.

(c) **[Editor's note: Subsection (1)(c) is effective June 1, 2027.]** A person whose privilege to drive was revoked for a conviction for DUI or DUI per se pursuant to section 42-2-125 (1)(b.5) or for excess BAC 0.08 pursuant to section 42-2-126 (3)(a)(I) for a first violation is required to maintain an interlock-restricted license for a consecutive period of nine months following reinstatement of their driver's license prior to being eligible to obtain any other driver's license issued under this article 2, unless the individual qualifies for and is granted early removal of the interlock device pursuant to section 42-2-132.5 (4)(a)(II)(B).

**(2) Posting the interlock restriction to driving record prior to reinstatement of driving privileges.** As soon as a person meets the conditions of subsection (1) of this section, the department shall note on the driving record of a person required to hold an interlock-restricted

license under this section that the person is required to have an approved ignition interlock device. A person whose driving record contains the notation required by this subsection (2) shall not operate a motor vehicle without an approved ignition interlock device until the restriction is removed pursuant to this section.

(3) **Minimum interlock restriction requirement for persistent drunk drivers.** A person required to hold an interlock-restricted license pursuant to this section who is a persistent drunk driver as defined in section 42-1-102 (68.5), based on an offense that occurred on or after July 1, 2004, shall be required to hold the interlock-restricted license for at least two years following reinstatement before being eligible to obtain any other driver's license issued under this article.

(4) **Persons who may acquire an interlock-restricted license prior to serving a full-term revocation.**

(a) (I) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (4)(a)(I) is effective until June 1, 2027.]* A person whose privilege to drive has been revoked for one year or more because of a DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI conviction or has been revoked for one year or more for excess BAC pursuant to section 42-2-126 may apply for an early reinstatement with an interlock-restricted license pursuant to this section at any time; except that a person who is less than twenty-one years of age at the time of the offense may not apply for early reinstatement until the person's license has been revoked for one year. A person whose privilege to drive has been revoked for one year or more because of a refusal may apply for an early reinstatement with an interlock-restricted license pursuant to this section after the person's privilege to drive has been revoked for two months; except that a person who is less than twenty-one years of age at the time of the offense may not apply for early reinstatement until the person's license has been revoked for one year. Except for first-time offenders as provided in subsection (4)(a)(II) of this section or for persistent drunk drivers as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the restrictions imposed pursuant to this section remain in effect for the longer of one year or the total time period remaining on the license restraint prior to early reinstatement.

(a) (I) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (4)(a)(I) is effective June 1, 2027.]* A person whose privilege to drive has been revoked for one year or more because of a DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI conviction or has been revoked for one year or more for excess BAC pursuant to section 42-2-126 may apply for an early reinstatement with an interlock-restricted license pursuant to this section at any time; except that a person who is less than twenty-one years old at the time of the offense may not apply for early reinstatement until the person's license has been revoked for one year. A person whose privilege to drive has been revoked for one year or more because of a refusal may apply for an early reinstatement with an interlock-restricted license pursuant to this section; except that a person who is less than twenty-one years old at the time of the offense may not apply for early reinstatement until the person's license has been revoked for one year. Except for first-time offenders as provided in subsection (4)(a)(II) of this section or for persistent drunk drivers as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the restrictions imposed

pursuant to this section remain in effect for the longer of one year or the total time period remaining on the license restraint prior to early reinstatement.

(II) (A) **First-time offender eligibility.** For revocations for convictions for DUI or DUI per se pursuant to section 42-2-125 (1)(b.5) or for excess BAC 0.08 pursuant to section 42-2-126 (3)(a)(I) for a first violation that requires only a nine-month revocation, a person twenty-one years of age or older at the time of the offense may apply for an early reinstatement with an interlock-restricted license pursuant to this section at any time. Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section and subsection (4)(a)(II)(B) of this section, the restrictions imposed pursuant to this subsection (4)(a)(II) remain in effect for the total time period remaining on the license restraint prior to early reinstatement.

(B) **First-time offender interlock removal.** A person with an interlock-restricted license issued pursuant to sub-subparagraph (A) of this subparagraph (II) shall be eligible for a license without the restriction required by this section if the department's monthly monitoring reports required in subsection (6) of this section show that, for four consecutive monthly reporting periods, the approved ignition interlock device did not interrupt or prevent the normal operation of the motor vehicle due to an excessive breath alcohol content or did not detect that there has been tampering with the device, there have been no other reports of circumvention or tampering, and there are no grounds to extend the restriction pursuant to paragraph (d) of subsection (7) of this section. If the department determines that a person is eligible for a license without the restriction required by this section pursuant to this sub-subparagraph (B), the department shall serve upon the person a notice of such eligibility. A person who has not been served but who believes he or she is eligible for a license without the restriction required by this section pursuant to this sub-subparagraph (B) may request a hearing on his or her eligibility. The provisions of this sub-subparagraph (B) do not apply to a person covered by subsection (3) of this section.

(C) **Financial assistance for first-time offenders and persistent drunk drivers.** *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (4)(a)(II)(C) is effective until June 1, 2027.]* The department shall establish a program to assist persons who apply for an interlock-restricted license pursuant to this subparagraph (II) or pursuant to subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) and who are unable to pay the full cost of an approved ignition interlock device. The program shall be funded from the first time drunk driving offender account in the highway users tax fund established pursuant to section 42-2-132 (4)(b)(II).

(C) **Financial assistance for first-time offenders and persistent drunk drivers.** *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (4)(a)(II)(C) is effective June 1, 2027.]* The department shall establish a program to assist persons who apply for an interlock-restricted license pursuant to this subsection (4)(a)(II) or pursuant to subsection (4)(a)(I) of this section and who are unable to pay the full cost of an approved ignition interlock device. A person is eligible to participate in the program if the person shows proof of enrollment in a jurisdictional or federal public assistance program; the person's income does not exceed one hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty

level, as determined by the most current federal poverty guidelines issued by the United States department of health and human services; or the person satisfies eligibility criteria established by the department that is based on a determination of whether a person's available discretionary income makes it impractical for the person to afford the interlock device. The department may approve additional forms of income verification.

**(a.5) Financial assistance benefits for eligible first-time offenders and persistent drunk drivers.** *[Editor's note: Subsection (4)(a.5) is effective June 1, 2027.]*

(I) A certified ignition interlock manufacturer must provide a person who is eligible for the assistance program described in subsection (4)(a)(II)(C) of this section and who is participating in the program:

(A) Free standard installation of the approved ignition interlock device in the person's vehicle; except that, if a certified ignition interlock manufacturer determines the person's vehicle is a high-end or electric vehicle, fifty percent of the installation fee is covered;

(B) Free removal of the interlock device upon the person's successful completion of the program; and

(C) A discount of up to fifty percent of the monthly device lease rate charged to nonindigent program applicants, as determined by the department.

(II) A person receiving financial assistance pursuant to subsection (4)(a)(II)(C) of this section must not receive a discount for fees or costs associated with program violations, noncompliance, missed appointments, lockouts, or other administrative or service fees.

(III) A person who fails to remain compliant with the assistance program requirements forfeits the person's affordability status and is responsible for the full cost of the device unless and until eligibility is reestablished pursuant to rule.

(IV) A certified ignition interlock manufacturer may request updated financial information from a person participating in the assistance program not more than once every six months while the person is subject to the interlock requirement for the purpose of determining whether the person continues to meet the assistance program eligibility requirements.

**(V) Consumer notice requirements for first-time offenders and persistent drunk drivers.** A certified ignition interlock manufacturer shall provide written information regarding the assistance program to all customers:

(A) At the time an installation appointment is scheduled; and

(B) At the time the customer executes a device lease or service agreement.

(VI) The department shall prominently post information on its website describing the assistance program, including eligibility requirements and application instructions.



**(b) Early reinstatement eligibility requirement.**

(I) To be eligible for early reinstatement with an interlock-restricted license pursuant to this subsection (4), a person shall have satisfied all conditions for reinstatement imposed by law including time periods for non-alcohol-related restraints; except that a person whose license was also restrained for driving under restraint pursuant to section 42-2-138 may be eligible for early reinstatement under this section so long as the restraint was caused in part by driving activity occurring after an alcohol-related offense and the length of any license restriction under this section includes the period of restraint under section 42-2-138.

(II) Before being eligible for early reinstatement with an interlock-restricted license under this section, a person shall provide proof of financial responsibility to the department pursuant to the requirements of the "Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Act", article 7 of this title. The person shall maintain such proof of financial responsibility with the department for the longer of three years or the period that the person's license is restricted under this section; except that, for an offender subject to section 42-7-408 (1)(c)(I), the period of time that the person must maintain such proof of financial responsibility is the period of time that the person's license is restricted under this section.

(c) In order to be eligible for early reinstatement pursuant to this subsection (4), a person who has been designated an habitual offender under the provisions of section 42-2-202 must have at least one conviction for DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI under section 42-4-1301 and no contributing violations other than violations for driving under restraint under section 42-2-138 or reckless driving under section 42-4-1401.

**(5) Requirements for issuing the interlock-restricted license.**

(a) The department may issue an interlock-restricted license under this section if the department receives from a person described in this section an affidavit stating that the person has obtained:

(I) A signed lease agreement for the installation and use of an approved ignition interlock device in each motor vehicle on which the person's name appears on the registration and any other vehicle that the person may drive during the period of the interlock-restricted license; and

(II) The written consent of all other owners, if any, of each motor vehicle in which the approved ignition interlock device is installed.

(b) (I) Notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection (5), the department may issue an interlock-restricted license to any person not seeking early reinstatement but who is required to hold an interlock-restricted license pursuant to subsection (1) of this section who is not the registered owner or co-owner of a motor vehicle if the person submits an affidavit stating that the person is not the owner or co-owner of a motor vehicle and has no access to a motor vehicle in which to install an approved ignition interlock device.

(II) If a person holding an interlock-restricted license issued pursuant to this paragraph (b) becomes an owner or co-owner of a motor vehicle or otherwise has access to a motor vehicle in which an approved ignition interlock device may be installed, he or she shall enter into a lease agreement for the installation and use of an approved ignition interlock device on the vehicle for a period equal to the remaining period of the interlock-restricted license and submit the affidavit described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (5).

(c) The terms of the interlock-restricted license shall prohibit the person from driving a motor vehicle other than a vehicle in which an approved ignition interlock device is installed.

(d) The department shall not issue a license under this section that authorizes the operation of a commercial motor vehicle as defined in section 42-2-402 (4) during the restriction required by this section.

(6) **Interlock monitoring device - reports.** The leasing agency for any approved ignition interlock device shall provide monthly monitoring reports for the device to the department to monitor compliance with the provisions of this section. The leasing agency shall check the device at least once every sixty days to ensure that the device is operating and that there has been no tampering with the device. If the leasing agency detects that there has been tampering with the device, the leasing agency shall notify the department of that fact within five days of the detection.

(7) **Licensing sanctions for violating the interlock restrictions.**

(a) **Due to circumvention - conviction.** Upon receipt of notice of a conviction under subsection (10) of this section, the department shall revoke any interlock-restricted license issued to the convicted person pursuant to this section. The department shall not reinstate the interlock-restricted license for a period of one year or the remaining period of license restraint imposed prior to the issuance of an interlock-restricted license pursuant to this section, whichever is longer. A person is entitled to a hearing on the question of whether the revocation is sustained and the calculation of the length of the ineligibility.

(b) **Due to circumvention - administrative record.** Upon receipt of an administrative record other than a notice of a conviction described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (7) establishing that a person who is subject to the restrictions of this section has operated a motor vehicle without an approved ignition interlock device or has circumvented or attempted to circumvent the proper use of an approved ignition interlock device, the department may revoke any license issued to the person pursuant to this section and not reinstate the license for a period of one year or the remaining period of license restraint imposed prior to the issuance of an interlock-restricted license pursuant to this section, whichever is longer. A person is entitled to a hearing on the question of whether the license should be revoked and the calculation of the length of the ineligibility.

(c) **Due to a lease violation.** If a lease for an approved ignition interlock device is terminated for any reason before the period of the interlock restriction expires and the licensee provides no other such lease, the department shall notify the licensee that the department shall suspend the license until the licensee enters into a new signed lease agreement for the remaining period of the interlock restriction.

(d) **Extending the interlock license restriction.** If the monthly monitoring reports required by subsection (6) of this section show that the approved ignition interlock device interrupted or prevented the normal operation of the vehicle due to excessive breath alcohol content in three of any twelve consecutive reporting periods, the department shall extend the interlock restriction on the person's license for an additional twelve months after the expiration of the existing interlock restriction. The department shall notify the person that the ignition interlock restriction is being extended and that his or her license shall be suspended unless the person enters into a new signed lease agreement for the use of an approved ignition interlock device for the extended period. The person is entitled to a hearing on the extension of the restriction. Based upon findings at the hearing, including aggravating and mitigating factors, the hearing officer may sustain the extension, rescind the extension, or reduce the period of extension.

(8) **Rules.** The department may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.

(9) **Approved ignition interlock device definition - rules.**

(a) For the purposes of this section, "approved ignition interlock device" means a device approved by the department of public health and environment that is installed in a motor vehicle and that measures the breath alcohol content of the driver before a vehicle is started and that periodically requires additional breath samples during vehicle operation. The device may not allow a motor vehicle to be started or to continue normal operation if the device measures an alcohol level above the level established by the department of public health and environment.

(b) The state board of health may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this subsection (9) concerning approved ignition interlock devices.

(10) **Operating vehicle after circumventing interlock device.**

(a) A person whose privilege to drive is restricted to the operation of a motor vehicle equipped with an approved ignition interlock device and who operates a motor vehicle other than a motor vehicle equipped with an approved ignition interlock device or who circumvents or attempts to circumvent the proper use of an approved ignition interlock device commits a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(b) If a peace officer issues a citation pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (10), the peace officer shall immediately confiscate the offending driver's license, shall file an incident

report on a form provided by the department, and shall not permit the driver to continue to operate the motor vehicle.

(c) A court shall not accept a plea of guilty to another offense from a person charged with a violation of paragraph (a) of this subsection (10); except that the court may accept a plea of guilty to another offense upon a good-faith representation by the prosecuting attorney that the attorney could not establish a prima facie case if the defendant were brought to trial on the offense.

**(11) Tampering with an approved ignition interlock device.**

(a) A person shall not intercept, bypass, or interfere with or aid any other person in intercepting, bypassing, or interfering with an approved ignition interlock device for the purpose of preventing or hindering the lawful operation or purpose of the approved ignition interlock device required under this section.

(b) A person whose privilege to drive is restricted to the operation of a motor vehicle equipped with an approved ignition interlock device shall not drive a motor vehicle in which an approved ignition interlock device is installed pursuant to this section if the person knows that any person has intercepted, bypassed, or interfered with the approved ignition interlock device.

(c) A person violating any provision of this subsection (11) commits a class 2 misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501.

**Source:** **L. 99:** Entire section added, p. 1160, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (1) and (2) amended, (3)(a.5) added, and (4)(a) and (4)(b) repealed, pp. 1076, 1077, §§ 4, 5, 6, effective July 1; (1.5), (6), and (7) added and (3), (4)(c), and (5) amended, p. 1079, § 10, effective January 1, 2001. **L. 2002:** (1)(a) amended, p. 1918, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (5)(b) amended, p. 170, § 1, effective March 23; (1.7) added and (3)(a) amended, p. 1130, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2006:** (1)(b.5) and (1.8) added, p. 1368, §§ 6, 7, effective January 1, 2007. **L. 2008:** (1)(a), (1)(b.5), (1)(c), and (1.5)(a) amended, p. 249, § 12, effective July 1; (1.5)(a) and (3)(a) amended, p. 835, § 6, effective January 1, 2009. **L. 2012:** Entire section R&RE, (HB 12-1168), ch. 278, p. 1476, § 1, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** (1)(a), (1)(c), and (4)(c) amended, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1882, § 10, effective May 28; (1)(b), (4)(a)(I), and (4)(a)(II)(C) amended, (HB 13-1240), ch. 361, p. 2111, § 1, effective January 1, 2014. **L. 2015:** (1) amended, (HB 15-1043), ch. 262, p. 995, § 3, effective August 5. **L. 2021:** (11)(c) amended, (HB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3300, § 708, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (4)(a)(I) and (4)(a)(II)(A) amended, (SB 22-055), ch. 467, p. 3319, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2026:** (10)(a) amended, (HB 26-1297), ch. 123, p. 534, § 5, effective August 12; (1)(c) and (4)(a.5) added and (4)(a)(I) and (4)(a)(II)(C) amended, (HB 26-1242), ch. 201, p. 1146, § 1, effective June 1, 2027.

**Editor's note:** Section 3(2) of chapter 201 (HB 26-1242), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to revocations on or after June 1, 2027.

## ANNOTATION

**This section encompasses convictions for felony DUI.** Therefore, this section provides that a person convicted of felony DUI may apply for early reinstatement of

their privilege to drive with an interlock-restricted license. *Stackpool v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 2021 COA 150, 507 P.3d 100.

### **42-2-133. Surrender and return of license.**

(1) The department, upon suspending or revoking a license, shall require that such license be surrendered to the department.

(2) At the end of the period of suspension, the licensee may apply for and receive a replacement license upon payment of a fee. The department shall set the fee in accordance with section 42-2-114.5 (2). The department shall transfer the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2153, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 649, § 18, effective May 27. **L. 2014:** (2) amended, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1548, § 13, effective June 5. **L. 2022:** (2) amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 913, § 12, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-125 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-133 was relocated to § 42-2-141.

### **42-2-134. Foreign license invalid during suspension.**

No resident or nonresident whose driver's license or right or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state has been suspended or revoked as provided in this article shall operate a motor vehicle in this state under a license, permit, or registration certificate issued by any other jurisdiction or otherwise during such suspension or after such revocation until a new license is obtained when and as permitted under this article.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2153, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-126 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-134 was relocated to § 42-2-142.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-134 is similar to § 42-2-126 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that

provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Applied** in Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. Smith, 640 P.2d 1143 (Colo. 1982).

#### **42-2-135. Right to appeal.**

(1) Every person finally denied a license or identification card, whose identification card has been finally canceled, or whose license has been finally canceled, suspended, or revoked by or under the authority of the department may, within thirty-five days thereafter, obtain judicial review in accordance with section 24-4-106, C.R.S.; except that the venue for such judicial review shall be in the county of residence of the person seeking judicial review.

(2) For actions filed on or after January 1, 2024, in the third, fifth, sixth, seventh, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, twenty-first, and twenty-second judicial districts, on or after July 1, 2024, in the fourth, eighth, nineteenth, and twentieth judicial districts, and on or after July 1, 2025, in the first, second, seventeenth, eighteenth, and twenty-third judicial districts, the attorney general shall represent the department in all actions for judicial review filed pursuant to this section. The attorney general is permitted to appear for a hearing pursuant to this section by telephone, use of video teleconferencing technology, or any other court authorized means of electronic participation.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2154, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (1) amended, p. 203, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2015:** (1) amended, (HB 15-1021), ch. 25, p. 63, § 3, effective August 5. **L. 2023:** (2) amended, (SB 23-251), ch. 361, p. 2168, §1, effective August 7.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-127 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-135 was relocated to § 42-2-143.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-135 is similar to 42-2-127 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1 and to repealed § 13-4-27, C.R.S. 1963, and to § 13-3-28, CRS 53, relevant cases construing these provisions have been included in the annotations to this section.

**Administrative procedure act governs appellate review of revocation.** Appellate review by the district court of a department of revenue order revoking a driver's license is governed by the administrative procedure act. *Donelson v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 38 Colo. App. 354, 561 P.2d 345 (1976).

**A suspension order under § 42-2-123 is subject to judicial review pursuant to this section.** *Theobald v. District Court*, 148 Colo. 466, 366 P.2d 563 (1961).

**Until the agency makes a determination, action of the judiciary is premature.** *Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. District Court ex rel. County of Adams*, 172 Colo. 144, 470 P.2d 864 (1970).

**Court may not nullify limitation on right to postpone suspension.** Where the general assembly, in the interest of public safety, has provided a reasonable limitation upon the right to secure postponement of the effective date of suspension of a driver's license by the director of revenue, requiring a showing of irreparable injury, the courts have no power to nullify by procedural rule

the limitations so imposed, the function of the courts being limited to a review of the acts of the directors. *Theobald v. District Court*, 148 Colo. 466, 366 P.2d 563 (1961).

**Court's discretion limited to determination of irreparable injury.** Under Rule 106(a)(4), C.R.C.P., the district court has no discretion whatever to determine that a driver has a right to a postponement of the effective date of a suspension order even though he makes no showing of irreparable injury. The only discretion the district court has under these circumstances is to determine whether "irreparable injury" would result if the director's order remains in effect pending review. Where no showing whatever is made on this question, there is nothing before the district court upon which its discretion could operate. *Theobald v. District Court*, 148 Colo. 466, 366 P.2d 563 (1961).

**Court's allowance of injunction would be in derogation of department's constitutional authority.** By virtue of the authority of the constitution, it is the duty of the department of revenue to carry into effect the provisions of the revenue law which it is required to execute. They are of a governmental character. The sole object of the action commenced in the district court is to obtain an injunction to restrain the department from performing its duties. If this should be permitted in a direct

proceeding, the result would be to directly subject executive officials to the jurisdiction of the courts when acting within their province and strip them of their constitutional powers. This is an authority that the judicial department cannot exercise in this manner, for the obvious reason that to concede it would be an assumption that the judicial was of superior authority to the executive department. Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. District Court ex rel. County of Adams, 172 Colo. 144, 470 P.2d 864 (1970).

**There is no specific statutory provision allowing for award of costs** where an individual pursues his right to judicial review of an administrative hearing officer's actions under § 24-4-106 and this section; such an award is erroneous because Rule 54(d), C.R.C.P., limits the imposition of costs against the state to "the extent permitted by law". Lucero v. Charnes, 44 Colo. App. 73, 607 P.2d 405 (1980).

**Finality of order of revocation.** An order of revocation issued at the conclusion of a hearing is final. Judicial review must be perfected within thirty days after the date of that hearing as specified in this section. If an appeal is not perfected within the statutory time limit, dismissal is mandated. Houston v. Dept. of Rev., 699 P.2d 15 (Colo. App. 1985).

**Applied** in Stortz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., Motor Vehicle Div., 195 Colo. 325, 578 P.2d 229 (1978); Arnold v. Charnes, 41 Colo. App. 338, 589 P.2d 1373 (1978); Marin v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 41 Colo. App. 557, 591 P.2d 1336 (1978); People v. District Court, 200 Colo. 65, 612 P.2d 87 (1980); Tomasi v. Thompson, 635 P.2d 538 (Colo. 1981); Croker v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 652 P.2d 1067 (Colo. 1982); Thurber v. Charnes, 656 P.2d 702 (Colo. 1983); Dept. of Rev. v. Borquez, 751 P.2d 639 (Colo. 1988).

#### **42-2-136. Unlawful possession or use of license.**

(1) (a) No person shall have in such person's possession a lawfully issued driver's, minor driver's, or temporary driver's license or instruction permit, knowing that such license or permit has been falsely altered by means of erasure, obliteration, deletion, insertion of new matter, transposition of matter, or any other means so that such license or permit in its thus altered form falsely appears or purports to be in all respects an authentic and lawfully issued license or permit.

(b) No person shall fraudulently obtain a driver's, minor driver's, or temporary driver's license or an instruction permit.

(2) No person shall have in such person's possession a paper, document, or other instrument which falsely appears or purports to be in all respects a lawfully issued and authentic driver's, minor driver's, or temporary driver's license or instruction permit, knowing that such instrument was falsely made and was not lawfully issued.



(3) No person shall display or represent as being such person's own any driver's, minor driver's, or temporary driver's license or any instruction permit which was lawfully issued to another person.

(4) No person shall fail or refuse to surrender to the department upon its lawful demand any driver's, minor driver's, or temporary driver's license or any instruction or temporary permit issued to such person which has been suspended, revoked, or canceled by the department. The department shall notify the district attorney's office in the county where such violation occurred, in writing, of all violations of this subsection (4).

(5) No person shall permit any unlawful use of a driver's license issued to such person.

(5.5) No person shall photograph, photostat, duplicate, or in any way reproduce any driver's license or facsimile thereof for the purpose of distribution, resale, reuse, or manipulation of the data or images contained in such driver's license unless authorized by the department or otherwise authorized by law.

(6) (a) Any person who violates any provision of subsections (1) to (5) of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor.

(b) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (5.5) of this section commits a petty offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-503.

(c) A person who violates this section violates section 18-5-121 and, in addition to any other penalty, is subject to the penalties of section 18-5-121 (6).

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2154, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (5.5) added and (6) amended, p. 354, § 2, effective August 6. **L. 2000:** (1) to (4) amended, p. 1357, § 33, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (1) amended, p. 941, § 8, effective July 1. **L. 2002:** (6)(b) amended, p. 1560, § 363, effective October 1. **L. 2021:** (6) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3300, § 709, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2025:** (6)(c) added, (HB 25-1076), ch. 16, p. 61, § 2, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-128 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** (1) For the penalty for a class 2 misdemeanor, see § 18-1.3-501.

(2) For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsection (6)(b), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-136 is similar to § 42-2-128 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**This statute forbids possession of a "fictitious" operator's license.** People v. LaRocco, 178 Colo. 196, 496 P.2d 314 (1972) (decided under repealed § 13-4-28, C.R.S. 1963).

### **42-2-137. False affidavit - penalty.**

Any person who makes any false affidavit or knowingly swears or affirms falsely to any matter or thing required by the terms of this part 1 to be sworn to or affirmed commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense. The department shall notify the district attorney's office in the county where such violations occurred, in writing, of all violations of this section.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2154, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-129 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II).

### **42-2-138. Driving under restraint - penalty - definitions.**

(1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1.5) of this section, any person who drives a motor vehicle or off-highway vehicle upon any highway of this state with knowledge that the person's license or privilege to drive, either as a resident or a nonresident, is under restraint for any reason other than conviction of DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD is guilty of a class A traffic infraction.

(b) Upon a second or subsequent conviction under paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) within five years after the first conviction thereunder, in addition to any penalty imposed pursuant to said paragraph (a) of this subsection (1), except as may be permitted by section 42-2-132.5, the defendant shall not be eligible to be issued a driver's or minor driver's license or extended any driving privilege in this state for a period of three years after such second or subsequent conviction.

(c) This subsection (1) shall apply only to violations committed on or after July 1, 1974.

(d) (I) A person who drives a motor vehicle or off-highway vehicle upon any highway of this state with knowledge that the person's license or privilege to drive, either as a resident or nonresident, is restrained under section 42-2-126 (3), is restrained solely or partially because of a conviction of DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD, or is restrained in another state solely or partially because of an alcohol-related driving offense commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense. Upon a second or subsequent conviction, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars nor more than three thousand dollars.

(II) In any trial for a violation of subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (d), a duly authenticated copy of the record of the defendant's former convictions and judgments for DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD or an alcohol-related offense committed in another state from any court of record or a certified copy of the record of any denial or revocation of the defendant's driving privilege under section 42-2-126 (3) from the department shall be prima facie evidence of the convictions, judgments, denials, or revocations and may be used in evidence against the defendant. Identification photographs and fingerprints that are part of the record of the former convictions, judgments, denials, or revocations and the defendant's incarceration after sentencing for any of the former convictions, judgments, denials, or revocations shall be prima facie evidence of the identity of the defendant and may be used in evidence against the defendant.

(e) Upon a second or subsequent conviction under subparagraph (I) of paragraph (d) of this subsection (1) within five years after the first conviction thereunder, in addition to the penalty prescribed in said subparagraph (I), except as may be permitted by section 42-2-132.5, the defendant shall not be eligible to be issued a driver's or minor driver's license or extended any driving privilege in this state for a period of four years after such second or subsequent conviction.

(f) Upon a verdict or judgment of guilt for a violation of subsection (1)(a) or (1)(d) of this section, the court shall require the offender to immediately surrender the offender's driver's license, minor driver's license, temporary driver's license, or instruction permit issued by this state, another state, or a foreign country. The court shall forward to the department a notice of the verdict or judgment of guilt on the form prescribed by the department, together with the offender's surrendered license or permit. Any person who violates the provisions of this subsection (1)(f) by failing to surrender his or her license or permit to the court commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(1.5) Any person who drives a motor vehicle or off-highway vehicle upon any highway of this state with knowledge that the person's license or privilege to drive, either as a resident or a nonresident, is under restraint for an outstanding judgment is guilty of a class A traffic infraction as defined in section 42-4-1701 (3).

(2) (a) In a prosecution for a violation of this section, the fact of the restraint may be established by certification that a notice was mailed by first-class mail pursuant to section 42-2-119 (2) to the last-known address of the defendant, or by the delivery of such notice to the last-known address of the defendant, or by personal service of such notice upon the defendant.

(b) In a prosecution for a violation of this section, the fact of restraint in another state may be established by certification that notice was given in compliance with such state's law.

(2.5) A municipality may enforce violations of subsection (1.5) of this section in municipal court. A municipal court shall not waive or reduce the three-point penalty.

(3) The department, upon receiving a record of conviction or crash report of any person for an offense committed while operating a motor vehicle, shall immediately examine its files to determine if the license or operating privilege of such person has been restrained. If it appears that said offense was committed while the license or operating privilege of such person was restrained for a reason other than an outstanding judgment, except as permitted by section 42-2-132.5, the department shall not issue a new license or grant any driving privileges for an additional period of one year after the date such person would otherwise have been entitled to apply for a new license or for reinstatement of a suspended license and shall notify the district attorney in the county where such violation occurred and request prosecution of such person under subsection (1) of this section.

(4) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Knowledge" means actual knowledge of any restraint from whatever source or knowledge of circumstances sufficient to cause a reasonable person to be aware that such person's license or privilege to drive was under restraint. "Knowledge" does not mean knowledge of a particular restraint or knowledge of the duration of restraint.

(b) "Restraint" or "restrained" means any denial, revocation, or suspension of a person's license or privilege to drive a motor vehicle in this state or another state.

(5) It shall be an affirmative defense to a violation of this section, based upon a restraint in another state, that the driver possessed a valid driver's license issued subsequent to the restraint that is the basis of the violation.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2155, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (1)(f) added, p. 683, § 2, effective July 1; (1)(b), (1)(e), and (3) amended, p. 1082, § 12, effective January 1, 2001; (1)(b) and (1)(e) amended, p. 1358, § 34, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** (1)(d), (2), (3), and (4)(b) amended and (5) added, p. 648, § 17, effective May 27. **L. 2008:** (1)(a) and (1)(d) amended, p. 249, § 13, effective July 1. **L. 2010:** (1)(a), (1)(b), and (1)(f) amended, (HB 10-1090), ch. 45, p. 171, § 1, effective August 11. **L. 2013:** (1)(a) and (1)(d)

amended, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1882, § 11, effective May 28. **L. 2017:** (1)(a) and (3) amended and (1.5) and (2.5) added, (HB 17-1162), ch. 208, p. 810, § 1, effective August 9. **L. 2020:** (1)(f) amended, (SB 20-136), ch. 70, p. 299, § 53, effective September 14. **L. 2021:** (1)(a) and (1)(d)(I) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3300, § 710, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (1)(d)(I) amended, (HB 22-1229), ch. 68, p. 347, § 36, effective March 1. **L. 2026:** (3) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 476, § 41, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-130 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Amendments to subsections (1)(b) and (1)(e) by Senate Bill 00-018 and Senate Bill 00-011 were harmonized, effective July 1, 2001.

(3) Section 47 of chapter 68 (HB 22-1229), Session Laws of Colorado 2022, provides that the act changing this section is effective March 1, 2022, but the governor did not approve the act until April 7, 2022.

**Cross references:** (1) For the penalty for a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II).

(2) For the legislative declaration in SB 20-136, see section 1 of chapter 70, Session Laws of Colorado 2020.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-128 is similar to § 42-2-130 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1 and to repealed § 13-3-31, CRS 53, relevant cases construing these provisions have been included in the annotations to this section.

**Driver may collaterally attack constitutionality** of uncounseled prior traffic offense convictions underlying the administrative order of suspension when prosecuted for driving under suspension. *People v. Gandy*, 685 P.2d 165 (Colo.

1984)(case arose prior to enactment of § 42-4-1505.3).

**This section deals with the subject of driving while license is suspended or revoked.** *Davis v. City & County of Denver*, 140 Colo. 30, 342 P.2d 674 (1959).

**Municipal ordinance dealing with such penalty is invalid.** Power to establish a licensing system carries with it authority to revoke and to penalize the driving of a motor vehicle while the license of the operator has been suspended or revoked, and the subject being predominately statewide and general, a municipal ordinance dealing

with the identical subject is invalid. *Davis v. City & County of Denver*, 140 Colo. 30, 342 P.2d 674 (1959).

**Notwithstanding § 43-5-207, recognizing the power of municipalities to regulate particular areas of traffic**—as parking, signal control, one-way streets, speed and traffic at intersections—does not specifically authorize such municipalities to punish the operator of a vehicle driving without a license, this authority has been preempted by the state and withheld from a municipality. *Davis v. City & County of Denver*, 140 Colo. 30, 342 P.2d 674 (1959).

**Renewing suspension pending hearing where suspension terminated violates due process.** The practice of renewing the suspension of a license, pending a hearing at which vacation of the renewed suspension is a certainty, violates due process of law. *Harris v. Colo.*, 516 F. Supp. 1128 (D. Colo. 1981).

**Knowledge of fact of revocation is an essential element** of crime of driving while license revoked. *Jolly v. People*, 742 P.2d 891 (Colo. 1987).

**Driving while license is denied, suspended, or revoked** pursuant to this section and driving after revocation pursuant to § 42-2-206 proscribe the same act, and defendant may not be convicted or punished under both statutes. *People v. Rodriguez*, 849 P.2d 799 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Driving while license denied, suspended, or revoked** under this section does not merge with § 42-2-206. A person is liable to be convicted under both provisions.

The elements are different because "operating" is a different standard than "driving" and "highways" do not include private ways. *People v. Zubiate*, 2013 COA 69, 411 P.3d 757, *aff'd*, 2017 CO 17, 390 P.3d 394, (disagreeing with *People v. Rodriguez* cited above) (disapproved by supreme court in *People v. Rock*, 2017 CO 84, 402 P.3d 472).

**Driving under restraint under this section is a lesser included offense of driving after revocation** under § 42-2-206. Although a person may commit driving after revocation without committing driving under restraint, a person could not commit driving under restraint without committing driving after revocation. *People v. Wambolt*, 2018 COA 88, 431 P.3d 681; *People v. Tun*, 2021 COA 34, 486 P.3d 490.

The "drive" element of driving under restraint is included within the "operate" element of driving after revocation because a person who drives a car necessarily operates it. *People v. Wambolt*, 2018 COA 88, 431 P.3d 681.

**The department of revenue can impose an additional period of revocation under subsection (3) upon receiving an accident report** for a person who is driving under revocation and after finding that the person was driving under restraint at the time of the accident. The statute authorizes such additional time without a conviction of driving under restraint, and such authorization is consistent with the remedial nature of the statute. *Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. Garner*, 66 P.3d 106 (Colo. 2003).

**Driving under restraint charges may be prosecuted only for those whose licenses have been suspended, denied, or revoked in the state of Colorado.** Therefore, charge of driving under restraint was dismissed against driver whose Massachusetts license was under restraint. Driving without a valid license is a lesser included offense of driving under restraint and the violation notice could proceed on the charge of driving without a license. *United States v. Rogers*, 865 F. Supp. 718 (D. Colo. 1994)(decided prior to 1994 repeal and reenactment).

**Statute authorizes only a permissive inference of the licensee's knowledge** of fact of revocation and not a conclusive presumption and, therefore, comports with due process of law. *Jolly v. People*, 742 P.2d 891 (Colo. 1987).

**Subsection (3) furthers a legitimate governmental purpose** by penalizing drivers under denial, suspension, or revocation who commit additional traffic offenses and does not violate equal protection guarantees. *Allen v. Charnes*, 674 P.2d 378 (Colo. 1984).

**Driving under restraint is a public welfare offense** that requires actual knowledge or knowledge of circumstances sufficient to cause a reasonable person to be aware that such person's license to drive was under restraint. *People v. Ellison*, 14 P.3d 1034 (Colo. 2000); *People v. Boulden*, 2016 COA 109, 381 P.3d 454.

**The second part of the driving under restraint statute that requires a reasonable person standard does not**

**violate due process of law** under the federal and Colorado Constitutions. *People v. Ellison*, 14 P.3d 1034 (Colo. 2000).

**Requiring "knowledge" limits punishment to those** who are subjectively aware of circumstances that would lead a responsible driver to realize his or her license was under restraint. Thus the "knowledge" requirement encourages a driver to monitor his or her infractions on the driving privilege hereby advancing the state interest in promoting driver responsibility. *People v. Ellison*, 14 P.3d 1034 (Colo. 2000).

**Section merely permits department to exercise power to renew or extend period of suspension.** *Ewing v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 624 P.2d 353 (Colo. App. 1980).

**Section includes power to extend denials.** The power to extend suspensions or revocations in subsection (3) also includes the power to extend denials. *Allen v. Charnes*, 674 P.2d 378 (Colo. 1984).

**It does not mandate exercise of discretion by the department.** *Ewing v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 624 P.2d 353 (Colo. App. 1980).

**No distinction between revocation under implied consent and order of denial.** There is no real distinction, for purposes of a prosecution under subsection (1)(a), between a driver whose license has been revoked under the implied consent law and a person against whom an order of denial has been entered. *People v. Lessar*, 629 P.2d 577 (Colo. 1981).

**Five-day jail sentence set forth in subsection (1)(a).** Subsection (1)(a) sets forth, in unmistakable terms, that a five-day jail sentence must be imposed when a defendant is convicted of violating this section. *People v. Burke*, 185 Colo. 19, 521 P.2d 783 (1974).

**The general assembly did not intend to repeal the mandatory sentencing provision of this section,** sub silentio, by implication, or otherwise by enactment of § 16-11-201. *People v. Burke*, 185 Colo. 19, 521 P.2d 783 (1974).

**Such provision was retained as additional exception to general probation provisions.** The driving under suspension sentencing requirements in subsection (1)(a) were retained by the general assembly as an additional exception to the general Colorado statutory probation provisions. *People v. Burke*, 185 Colo. 19, 521 P.2d 783 (1974).

**County court could not grant probation.** Where defendant was convicted under this section for driving while his license was suspended, and subsection (1)(a) mandated a five-day minimum jail sentence to which general statutory probation provisions did not apply, a county court could neither impose a probationary sentence nor grant probation. *People v. Burke*, 185 Colo. 19, 521 P.2d 783 (1974).

**Conviction of any motor vehicle offense authorizes extension of suspension.** Conviction of any motor vehicle offense prior to the expiration of a period of suspension is sufficient to support an extension of that suspension period by the department, pursuant to subsection (3).

*Conway v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 653 P.2d 411 (Colo. App. 1982).

The general assembly did not intend to limit the provisions of subsection (3) to persons charged or convicted of the offense of driving while license suspended. *Conway v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 653 P.2d 411 (Colo. App. 1982).

**Driving status of "denied" continues until conditions met.** Before a person against whom an order of denial has been entered is entitled to operate a motor vehicle, he must reapply for a new license at the end of the period of denial, pay the restoration fee required by § 42-2-124 (3), file proof of financial responsibility as required by § 42-7-406 (1), and must be in receipt and possession of the new license. Unless and until these conditions are satisfied, his driving status as "denied" continues, and he is subject to prosecution under subsection (1)(a) for driving under denial. *People v. Lessar*, 629 P.2d 577 (Colo. 1981).

An order of denial entered pursuant to the implied consent law will subject a driver to prosecution for driving under denial, when that person operates a motor vehicle after the expiration of the temporal term of the denial order but without having obtained a license in accordance with the conditions of the order. *People v. Lessar*, 629 P.2d 577 (Colo. 1981).

For purposes of extending the suspension of a Colorado driver's license pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, the initial suspension is not terminated until the driver has paid the restoration fee required by § 42-



2-124 (3). Conway v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 653 P.2d 411 (Colo. App. 1982).

**A person's driving status of "suspended" continues** unless and until the driver obtains removal of the suspension at the end of the designated period of suspension by paying the restoration fee and providing the requisite proof of insurance. Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. Brakhage, 735 P.2d 195 (Colo. 1987).

**Section 42-2-123 hearing not required.** The requirements for a hearing in § 42-2-123 cannot be extended to this section.

Harris v. Colo., 516 F. Supp. 1128 (D. Colo. 1981).

**Statute as basis for jurisdiction.** See People v. Pinyan, 190 Colo. 304, 546 P.2d 488 (1976).

**Applied** in People v. Roybal, 618 P.2d 1121 (Colo. 1980); People v. Mascarenas, 632 P.2d 1028 (Colo. 1981); Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. Smith, 640 P.2d 1143 (Colo. 1982); Corr v. District Court, 661 P.2d 668 (Colo. 1983); Klingbeil v. State, Dept. of Rev., 668 P.2d 930 (Colo. 1983); Harris v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 714 P.2d 1325 (Colo. App. 1985).

#### **42-2-139. Permitting unauthorized minor to drive.**

(1) No parent or guardian shall cause or knowingly permit his or her child or ward under the age of eighteen years to drive a motor vehicle upon any highway when such minor has not been issued a currently valid minor driver's license or instruction permit or shall cause or knowingly permit such child or ward to drive a motor vehicle upon any highway in violation of the conditions, limitations, or restrictions contained in a license or permit which has been issued to such child or ward.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2157, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2000:** (1) amended, p. 1358, § 35, effective July 1, 2001.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-131 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

## **ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-139 is similar to § 42-2-131 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Under this section it must be shown parent knowingly permitted child to**

**drive.** Even if conceded that defendant has on other occasions permitted his son to drive a car, before liability will attach, it is necessary that it be shown that the parent caused, or knowingly permitted, the son to drive the car. *Kirkpatrick v. McCarty*, 112 Colo. 588, 152 P.2d 994 (1944) (decided under repealed CSA, C. 16, § 153).

#### **42-2-140. Permitting unauthorized person to drive.**

(1) No person shall authorize or knowingly permit a motor vehicle owned by such person or under such person's hire or control to be driven upon any highway by any person who has not been issued a currently valid driver's or minor driver's license or an instruction permit or shall cause or knowingly permit such person to drive a motor vehicle upon any highway in violation of the conditions, limitations, or restrictions contained in a license or permit which has been issued to such other person.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2157, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
L. 2000: (1) amended, p. 1358, § 36, effective July 1, 2001.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-132 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

### **ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-140 is similar to § 42-2-132 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**This section does not give a civil cause of action for damages** in favor of third persons against one violating its provisions. It simply imposes a criminal penalty for a violation of its provisions. *Hertz Driv-Ur-Self Sys. v. Hendrickson*, 109 Colo. 1, 121

P.2d 483 (1942) (decided under repealed CSA, C. 16, § 154).

**Trial court erred in granting partial summary judgment in favor of defendant car dealer on negligence claim** of individual injured by an allegedly unlicensed motorist who was driving a car he purchased from the dealer ten days before the accident. The record contained

conflicting evidence as to the dealer's knowledge or belief of the driver's competency and possibly dangerous driving habits, it was not clear if title had transferred to the driver, and the negligence occurred when the car dealer, as the car owner, initially permitted the unlicensed driver to drive. *Schneider v. Midtown Motor Co.*, 854 P.2d 1322 (Colo. App. 1992).

#### **42-2-141. Renting or loaning a motor vehicle to another.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, no person shall rent or loan a motor vehicle to any other person unless the latter person is then duly licensed under this article or, in the case of a nonresident, duly licensed under the laws of the state or country of that person's residence except a nonresident whose home state or country does not require that an operator be licensed.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, a person shall not rent a motor vehicle to another person without first inspecting the driver's license of the person to whom the vehicle is to be rented and verifying that the license is unexpired. The inspection required by this subsection (2) may be performed through the use of an electronic device.

(3) A person who rents a motor vehicle to another person shall keep a record of the registration number of the motor vehicle, the name and address of the person to whom the vehicle is rented, the number of the driver's license of the person to whom the vehicle is rented or any authorized driver under subsection (4) of this section, and the place where the license was issued. The person who rents the motor vehicle may maintain the record in an electronic format and shall make the record available for inspection by any police officer or officer or employee of the department.

(4) A person may rent a motor vehicle to a person who is blind, as defined in section 26-2-103 (3), subject to all of the following conditions:

(a) The blind person is accompanied by at least one person with a valid license issued under this article or, in the case of a nonresident, a valid license issued under the laws of the state or country of such person's residence.

(b) The person renting the motor vehicle to a blind person:

(I) Inspects the driver's license of each person who accompanies the blind person and wishes to be authorized to drive the motor vehicle, which inspection may be performed through the use of an electronic device; and

(II) Verifies that the driver's license is unexpired.

(c) Only persons whose driver's licenses have been verified by the person renting the motor vehicle to the blind person are authorized to drive the motor vehicle, and the names of such persons must be listed in the rental agreement.

(d) The renter and the driver of the motor vehicle pursuant to this subsection (4) shall have the same financial or insurance responsibilities under Colorado law as other renters of motor vehicles.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2157, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** Entire section amended, p. 136, § 1, effective April 2. **L. 2019:** (2), (3), IP(4), (4)(b), and (4)(c) amended, (HB 19-1321), ch. 385, p. 3442, § 1, effective August 2.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-133 as it existed prior to 1994.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-141 is similar to § 42-2-133 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included in the annotations to this section.

**Civil liability.** This section does not give a civil cause of action for damages in favor of third persons against one violating its provisions but simply imposes a criminal

penalty for a violation of its provisions. Thus, an automobile renting agency is not liable to guest for injuries sustained while riding in a rented car on grounds that agency was guilty of negligence by renting automobile to driver who had no driver's license. *Hertz Driv-Ur-Self Sys. v. Hendrickson*, 109 Colo. 1, 121 P.2d 483 (1942) (decided under repealed CSA, C. 16, § 156).

### **42-2-142. Violation - penalty.**

Any person who violates any provision of this part 1 for which no other penalty is provided in this part 1 commits a class B traffic infraction and shall be punished as provided in section 42-4-1701 (3)(a).

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2158, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-134 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-2-142 is similar to § 42-2-134 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1 and to repealed § 13-3-36, CRS 53, and CSA, C. 16, § 157, relevant cases construing these provisions have been included in the annotations to this section.

**Legislative history of this section.** State v. Beckman, 149 Colo. 54, 368 P.2d 793 (1961).

**Issuance of license without payment of tax.** If the clerk issued a license without payment of the tax imposed, he probably would have been liable to fine and imprisonment. Bd. of Comm'rs v. Morris, 104 Colo. 139, 89 P.2d 248 (1939).

#### **42-2-143. Legislative declaration.**

The general assembly declares that the provisions of this article as enacted in Senate Bill No. 318 by the forty-ninth general assembly in its first regular session shall not supersede, unless in direct conflict, and shall be harmonized with, the provisions of any other act enacted in the same session which also amends, in any way, this article.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2158, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-135 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-2-144. Reporting by certified level II alcohol and drug education and treatment program providers - notice of administrative remedies against a driver's license - rules.**

(1) The department shall require all providers of level II alcohol and drug education and treatment programs certified by the behavioral health administration in the department of human services pursuant to section 42-4-1301.3 to provide quarterly reports to the department about

each person who is enrolled and who has filed proof of such enrollment with the department as required by section 42-2-126 (4)(d)(II).

(2) A person determined not to be in compliance with level II alcohol and drug education and treatment pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall be sent a letter from the department notifying the person of such noncompliance, any administrative remedies that may be taken against the person's privilege to drive, and the time period the person has to comply with the requirements for level II alcohol and drug education and treatment before administrative remedies will be exercised against the person's driving privilege.

(3) The department may promulgate rules necessary for the implementation of this section.

**Source:** **L. 2001:** Entire section added, p. 788, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2001, 2nd Ex. Sess.:** (1) amended, p. 1, § 2, effective September 25. **L. 2002:** (1) amended, p. 1922, § 19, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (1) amended, p. 251, § 14, effective July 1. **L. 2011:** (1) amended, (HB 11-1303), ch. 264, p. 1181, § 105, effective August 10. **L. 2017:** (1) amended, (SB 17-242), ch. 263, p. 1259, § 24, effective May 25. **L. 2022:** (1) amended, (HB 22-1278), ch. 222, p. 1579, § 204, effective July 1.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2001 act enacting this section, see section 1 of chapter 229, Session Laws of Colorado 2001. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2001 Second Extraordinary Session act amending subsection (1), see section 1 of chapter 1, Session Laws of Colorado 2001, Second Extraordinary Session. For the legislative declaration in SB 17-242, see section 1 of chapter 263, Session Laws of Colorado 2017.

#### **42-2-145. Electronic identification documents - rules - applicability - definitions.**

(1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Mobile identification document" means a verifiable electronic extension of a department-issued physical identification document issued under this article 2 that resides in a native mobile device wallet.

(b) "Physical identification document" means a physical driver's license or instruction permit or a physical identification card issued under this title 42.

(2) The provider of a mobile identification document must comply with the standards adopted by the department by rule, which may include the standards adopted by the American

Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators or the standards adopted by the International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission.

(3) The department shall promulgate rules setting criteria for the approval and implementation of mobile identification documents.

(4) Mobile identification documents may be accepted to verify an individual's age or identity in Colorado, but a person may require a physical identification document to verify the individual's age or identity.

(5) This section takes effect January 1, 2026.

**Source: L. 2025:** Entire section added, (HB 25-1076), ch. 16, p. 65, § 16, effective August 6 (see editor's note).

**Editor's note:** Section 18(1) of chapter 16 (HB 25-1076), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act adding this section takes effect August 6, 2025. Subsection (5) of this section provides that this section takes effect January 1, 2026.

## PART 2

### HABITUAL OFFENDERS

#### **42-2-201. Legislative declaration concerning habitual offenders of motor vehicle laws.**

(1) It is declared to be the policy of this state:

(a) To provide maximum safety for all persons who travel or otherwise use the public highways of this state;

(b) To deny the privilege of operating motor vehicles on such highways to persons who by their conduct and record have demonstrated their indifference to the safety and welfare of others and their disrespect for the laws of this state, the orders of its courts, and the statutorily required acts of its administrative agencies; and

(c) To discourage repetition of criminal acts by individuals against the peace and dignity of this state and its political subdivisions and to impose increased and added deprivation of the privilege to operate motor vehicles upon habitual offenders who have been convicted repeatedly of violations of the traffic laws.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2158, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

## ANNOTATION

**Classification not violative of equal protection.** The classification under the habitual traffic offender statute has a rational basis and does not violate the requirement of equal protection of the law. *People v. Scott*, 200 Colo. 365, 615 P.2d 680 (1980).

**Categorization of alcohol-related driving offenses is reasonably related to governmental interest.** To the extent that one might consider as a classification the categorization of alcohol-related driving offenses, in §§ 42-2-122 (1)(g) and (i) and 42-2-202 (2)(a)(I), such classification is reasonably related to the expressed governmental interest of providing maximum safety for all persons who travel or otherwise use the public highway. *Heninger v. Charnes*, 200 Colo. 194, 613 P.2d 884 (1980).

The legitimate legislative purpose of removing from the highway those drivers

who have demonstrated repeatedly the inability or unwillingness to conform to the traffic laws provides a rational basis for including several different types of traffic offenses of varying degrees of seriousness as predicate convictions for a finding of habitual traffic offender status. *Crocker v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 652 P.2d 1067 (Colo. 1982).

**Mandated punishment not cruel and unusual.** Punishment mandated by this part is not so disparate to the gravity of the offense as to constitute cruel and unusual punishment. *People v. Scott*, 200 Colo. 365, 615 P.2d 680 (1980).

**Applied** in *Reyher v. State*, Dept. of Rev., 39 Colo. App. 510, 571 P.2d 729 (1977); *People v. Able*, 200 Colo. 115, 618 P.2d 1110 (1980); *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Dooley*, 630 P.2d 608 (Colo. 1981).

### **42-2-202. Habitual offenders - frequency and type of violations.**

(1) An habitual offender is any person, resident or nonresident, who has accumulated convictions for separate and distinct offenses described in subsection (2) of this section committed during a seven-year period or committed during a five-year period for separate and distinct offenses described in subsection (3) of this section; except that, where more than one included offense is committed within a one-day period, such multiple offenses shall be treated for the purposes of this part 2 as one offense. The record as maintained in the office of the department shall be considered prima facie evidence of the said convictions.



(2) (a) An habitual offender is a person having three or more convictions of any of the following separate and distinct offenses arising out of separate acts committed within a period of seven years:

(I) DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI;

(II) Driving a motor vehicle in a reckless manner, in violation of section 42-4-1401;

(III) Driving a motor vehicle upon a highway while such person's license or privilege to drive a motor vehicle has been denied, suspended, or revoked, in violation of section 42-2-138 (1);

(IV) Knowingly making any false affidavit or swearing or affirming falsely to any matter or thing required by the motor vehicle laws or as to information required in the administration of such laws;

(V) Vehicular assault or vehicular homicide, or manslaughter or criminally negligent homicide while operating or driving a motor vehicle pursuant to section 18-3-105 (1)(b), or motor vehicle theft, as the offenses are described in title 18;

(VI) Conviction of the driver of a motor vehicle involved in any crash involving death or personal injuries for failure to perform the duties required of such person under section 42-4-1601.

(b) The offenses included in subparagraphs (I), (II), (III), and (V) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) shall be deemed to include convictions under any federal law, any law of another state, or any ordinance of a municipality that substantially conforms to the statutory provisions of this state regulating the operation of motor vehicles. For purposes of this paragraph (b), the term "municipality" means any home rule or statutory city or town, a territorial charter city, or a city and county.

(3) A person is also an habitual offender if such person has ten or more convictions of separate and distinct offenses arising out of separate acts committed within a period of five years involving moving violations which provide for an assessment of four or more points each or eighteen or more convictions of separate and distinct offenses arising out of separate acts committed within a period of five years involving moving violations which provide for an assessment of three or less points each in the operation of a motor vehicle, which convictions are required to be reported to the department and result in the assessment of points under section 42-2-127, including any violations specified in subsection (2) of this section.

(4) For the purpose of this section, the term "conviction" has the meaning specified in section 42-2-127 (6) and includes entry of judgment for commission of a traffic infraction as set forth in section 42-4-1701.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2158, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (2)(a)(I) amended, p. 1466, § 9, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (2)(a)(I) amended, p. 251, § 15, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** (2)(a)(I) amended, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1883, § 12, effective May 28. **L. 2017:** (2)(a)(III) amended, (HB 17-1162), ch. 208, p. 811, § 3, effective August 9. **L. 2023:** (2)(a)(V) amended, (SB 23-097), ch. 309, p. 1889, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2026:** (2)(a)(VI) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 477, § 42, effective August 12; (2)(a)(V) amended, (SB 26-072), ch. 200, p. 1144, § 5, effective September 1.

**Editor's note:** Section 8(2) of chapter 200 (SB 26-072), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to offenses committed on or after September 1, 2026.

**Cross references:** For collateral attacks of traffic convictions, see §§ 42-4-1702 and 42-4-1708.

## ANNOTATION

**Driver is not denied due process by the automatic revocation of his license** under § 42-2-205 upon obtaining his third alcohol-related conviction within seven years. The hearing officer is not required to consider any medical condition of alcoholism. *Hedstrom v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 662 P.2d 173 (Colo. 1983).

**Statute not aimed at driver committing single transgression.** The habitual traffic offender statute is aimed at drivers who chronically disregard traffic laws, rather than those who commit one serious transgression. *Crocker v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 652 P.2d 1067 (Colo. 1982).

**The offense of driving under denial of driving privileges is within the ambit of this section.** *Reyher v. State, Dept. of Rev.*, 39 Colo. App. 510, 571 P.2d 729 (1977).

**Categorization of alcohol-related driving offenses is reasonably related to governmental interest.** To the extent that one might consider as a classification the categorization of alcohol-related driving offenses in § 42-2-122 (1)(g) and (1)(i) and subsection (2)(a)(I) of this section, such classification is reasonably related to the expressed governmental interest of providing maximum safety for all persons who travel or otherwise use the public highway. *Heninger v. Charnes*, 200 Colo. 194, 613 P.2d 884 (1980).

**Failure to warn violator of point accumulation not breach of constitutional protections.** The failure to warn a person charged with a traffic offense that he will accumulate a designated number of points against his driving record upon conviction does not breach any constitutional

protections. *People v. Hampton*, 619 P.2d 48 (Colo. 1980).

Where a driver testifies at an administrative hearing that he had not been convicted of one offense that appears on his driving history record, and that, as to another offense, he entered a guilty plea without having been advised as to the number of points to be assessed, this testimony is insufficient to bring into question the constitutionality of the underlying convictions. *Reasoner v. Dept. of Rev.*, 628 P.2d 187 (Colo. App. 1981).

**Court must state assessable points before plea of guilty.** A traffic violation conviction is insufficient for the purpose of assessing points against the licensee where municipal court summons fails to state the number of points which could be assessed upon a plea of guilty. *Dunn v. Tice*, 43 Colo. App. 55, 598 P.2d 530 (1979).

**Similarity in treatment accorded to prior convictions comports with equal protection.** The similarity in treatment accorded by the habitual traffic offender act to prior convictions for driving while one's ability is impaired and driving while under the influence is reasonably related to the public-safety goals of the statute and comports with equal protection of the laws. *Van Gerpen v. Peterson*, 620 P.2d 714 (Colo. 1980).

**There is no denial of equal protection in imposition of statutory sanctions on habitual offender.** *Charnes v. Kiser*, 617 P.2d 1201 (Colo. 1980).

**To assert constitutional invalidity of traffic offense conviction**, a defendant must make a prima facie showing of invalidity; the prosecution must then prove the conviction was obtained in a manner consistent with the defendant's constitutional rights. *People v. DeLeon*, 625 P.2d 1010 (Colo. 1981); *Reasoner v. Dept. of Rev.*, 628 P.2d 187 (Colo. App. 1981).

**Driver may collaterally attack constitutionality of underlying conviction** which forms the basis for the determination that he is an habitual traffic offender. *Reasoner v. Dept. of Rev.*, 628 P.2d 187 (Colo. App. 1981).

**Section 42-2-202 (2)(b), which identifies "major traffic offenses" for habitual traffic offender purposes, is more specific in application than §§ 42-2-202 (4), 42-2-127 (6), and 42-2-124 (3), and must be given effect as an exception to the general rule established by the latter statutes.** The latter are general statutes of broad application that can be given full effect by authorizing the department to consider municipal court reckless driving convictions in revocation and suspension proceedings. *Rudlong v. Dept. of Rev., MVD*, 865 P.2d 941 (Colo. App. 1993).

**Convictions under the law of another state that "substantially conform" to the statutory provisions of Colorado may be included for purposes of habitual traffic offender status.** Thus, even if plaintiff's Idaho convictions are the equivalent of Colorado driving while ability impaired convictions, they may be considered for purposes of imposing habitual traffic

offender status. *Kramer v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 964 P.2d 629 (Colo. App. 1998).

**Right to counsel.** Absent a valid waiver of the right to counsel, a conviction obtained against a defendant who is not represented by counsel may not be used to establish habitual traffic offender status for the purpose of imposing punishment for violation of § 42-2-206. *People v. Hampton*, 619 P.2d 48 (Colo. 1980).

**Compliance with Crim. P. 11(b) required.** A trial court must comply with the requirements of Crim. P. 11(b) before accepting a guilty plea to the charge of driving while impaired. *Laughlin v. State*, 44 Colo. App. 341, 618 P.2d 689 (1980), rev'd on other grounds, 634 P.2d 49 (Colo. 1981).

**Driver's history record is prima facie evidence of its contents.** *Hoehl v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 624 P.2d 907 (Colo. App. 1980), overruled on other grounds, *Anadale v. Dept. of Rev.*, 674 P.2d 372 (Colo. 1984).

**Attack on accuracy of record raises question of fact for resolution by hearing**

**officer.** Where evidence is presented which rebuts the accuracy of any item in a person's driving record, there is a fact question to be resolved by the hearing officer. *Hoehl v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 624 P.2d 907 (Colo. App. 1980), overruled on other grounds, *Anadale v. Dept. of Rev.*, 674 P.2d 372 (Colo. 1984).

**Applied** in *Gillespie v. Dir. of Dept. of Rev.*, 41 Colo. App. 561, 592 P.2d 418 (1978); *Fuhrer v. Dept. of Motor Vehicles*, 197 Colo. 325, 592 P.2d 402 (1979); *Peshel v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 43 Colo. App. 58, 602 P.2d 875 (1979); *Cagle v. Charnes*, 43 Colo. App. 401, 604 P.2d 697 (1979); *Walker v. District Court*, 199 Colo. 128, 606 P.2d 70 (1980); *People v. Roybal*, 617 P.2d 800 (Colo. 1980); *People v. Torres*, 625 P.2d 1034 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Dooley*, 630 P.2d 608 (Colo. 1981); *State v. Laughlin*, 634 P.2d 49 (Colo. 1981); *Schmidt v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 656 P.2d 710 (Colo. App. 1982); *People v. Clements*, 665 P.2d 624 (Colo. 1983); *People v. Lesh*, 668 P.2d 1362 (Colo. 1983).

#### **42-2-203. Authority to revoke license of habitual offender.**

The department shall immediately revoke the license of any person whose record brings such person within the definition of an habitual offender in section 42-2-202. The procedure specified in section 42-2-125 (3) and (4) shall be employed for the revocation.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2159, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (HB 09-1234), ch. 91, p. 353, § 2, effective August 5.

#### **ANNOTATION**

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**Law reviews.** For article, "There Must Be Fifty Ways to Lose Your (Driver's) License", see 22 Colo. Law. 2385 (1993).

**This section contains adequate procedural safeguards** to afford a defendant due process of law. Crocker v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 652 P.2d 1067 (Colo. 1982).

**Traffic laws and revocation procedures are aimed at all drivers who** operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or while their ability is impaired, regardless of their status as alcoholics or problem drinkers. Heninger v. Charnes, 200 Colo. 194, 613 P.2d 884 (1980).

**Section does not create statutory classification of alcoholics** and problem drinkers with respect to traffic offenses. Heninger v. Charnes, 200 Colo. 194, 613 P.2d 884 (1980).

**Issuance of driver's license does not confer upon licensee right that is independently entitled to protection** against any and all governmental interference or restriction. Heninger v. Charnes, 200 Colo. 194, 613 P.2d 884 (1980).

**Revocation of driver's license implicates procedural due process protections.** People v. McKnight, 200 Colo. 486, 617 P.2d 1178 (1980).

**Revocation of driver's license does not burden right to travel interstate.** While the right to travel interstate is without question a fundamental right under the United States constitution, revocation of a driver's license pursuant to this section does

not burden this fundamental right. Heninger v. Charnes, 200 Colo. 194, 613 P.2d 884 (1980).

**Constitutional due process standards do not mandate that notice be given to persons adjudged habitual traffic offenders** under this section as to the possible criminal penalty for driving in violation of an administrative order revoking the habitual traffic offender's driver's license. People v. McKnight, 200 Colo. 486, 617 P.2d 1178 (1980).

**Revocation proceeding is not criminal proceeding.** People v. Able, 200 Colo. 115, 618 P.2d 1110 (1980).

**Procedural differences with habitual criminal proceeding are reasonable.** The differences in procedures between a license revocation proceeding and those procedures applicable to a habitual criminal prosecution are reasonably related to legitimate state objectives, as the subject matter addressed by these statutes is so different and the policy considerations underlying each statutory scheme are so distinct that the classifications cannot be found to be unreasonable or lacking in a rational relationship to legitimate state objectives. People v. Shaver, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981).

**Revocation proceeding is civil.** The administrative proceeding to revoke a driver's license because of habitual traffic offender status is a civil one. People v. Shaver, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981).

**Proceeding is civil in nature.** The administrative proceeding conducted by the division to consider defendant's eligibility to

retain a license to operate a motor vehicle in Colorado is civil in nature. *People v. Rocha*, 669 P.2d 1366 (Colo. 1983).

**Constitutional defense cannot be raised at hearing.** A defendant cannot invoke a constitutional defense in an administrative departmental hearing where the sole purpose is to determine if the department's records of the licensee's traffic offense convictions support the revocation of the licensee's driver's license pursuant to this section. *State v. Laughlin*, 634 P.2d 49 (Colo. 1981).

**There is a duty to comply with order of revocation until it is rescinded** pursuant to a direct appeal rather than a collateral attack. *People v. District Court*, 623 P.2d 55 (Colo. 1981).

**Driver with three driving while ability impaired convictions within a seven-year period is an habitual traffic offender and may have his or her license revoked by the department.** *Kramer v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 964 P.2d 629 (Colo. App. 1998).

**Convictions under the law of another state that "substantially conform" to the**

**statutory provisions of Colorado may be included for purposes of habitual traffic offender status.** Thus, even if plaintiff's Idaho convictions are the equivalent of Colorado driving while ability impaired convictions, they may be considered for purposes of imposing habitual traffic offender status. *Kramer v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 964 P.2d 629 (Colo. App. 1998).

**Applied** in *Dunn v. Tice*, 43 Colo. App. 55, 598 P.2d 530 (1979); *Anderson v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 44 Colo. App. 157, 615 P.2d 51 (1980); *Laughlin v. State*, 44 Colo. App. 157, 618 P.2d 689 (1980); *People v. Roybal*, 618 P.2d 1121 (Colo. 1980); *People v. Hampton*, 619 P.2d 48 (1980); *People v. Torres*, 625 P.2d 1034 (Colo. 1981); *Reasoner v. Dept. of Rev.*, 628 P.2d 187 (Colo. App. 1981); *People v. Dooley*, 630 P.2d 608 (Colo. 1981); *Berry v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 656 P.2d 721 (Colo. App. 1982); *People v. Clements*, 665 P.2d 624 (Colo. 1983); *People v. Lesh*, 668 P.2d 1362 (Colo. 1983); *DiMarco v. Dept. of Rev., MVD*, 857 P.2d 1349 (Colo. App. 1993).

#### **42-2-204. Appeals.**

An appeal may be taken from any action entered under the provisions of this part 2 as provided in section 42-2-135.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2160, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

## **ANNOTATION**

**Driver has duty to comply with revocation order until order rescinded.**

Driver whose license has been revoked in a proceeding pursuant to § 42-2-203 has the duty to comply with the order of revocation until it is rescinded pursuant to a direct

appeal rather than a collateral attack. *People v. Able*, 200 Colo. 115, 618 P.2d 1110 (1980).

**Applied** in *People v. District Court*, 623 P.2d 55 (Colo. 1981).

**42-2-205. Prohibition.**

(1) No license to operate motor vehicles in this state shall be issued to an habitual offender, nor shall an habitual offender operate a motor vehicle in this state:

(a) For a period of five years from the date of the order of the department finding such person to be an habitual offender except as may be permitted by section 42-2-132.5; and

(b) Until such time as financial responsibility requirements are met.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2160, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2000:** (1)(a) amended, p. 1082, § 11, effective January 1, 2001.

**ANNOTATION**

**Driver is not denied due process by the automatic revocation of his license** under this section upon obtaining his third alcohol-related conviction within seven years. The hearing officer is not required to consider any medical condition of alcoholism. *Hedstrom v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 662 P.2d 173 (Colo. 1983).

**Language of this section plainly mandates termination** of an habitual offender's right to operate a motor vehicle for a period of five years. *Fuhrer v. Dept. of Motor Vehicles*, 197 Colo. 325, 592 P.2d 402 (1979).

The department has no discretion but to revoke a license of an habitual offender for

five years. *Hedstrom v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 662 P.2d 173 (Colo. 1983).

**Language of this section is clear:** No individual shall operate a motor vehicle anywhere in the state of Colorado for five years after being revoked as a habitual offender. *U.S. v. Fritz*, 26 F. Supp. 2d 1285 (D. Colo. 1998).

**Constitutional protections afforded criminal defendants need not be provided.**

The only immediate consequence of a determination that the licensee is a habitual traffic offender is a loss of his driver's license for a period of five years. Thus, the constitutional protections afforded criminal defendants need not be provided to the

licensee in such a proceeding. *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981).

**Failure to warn violator of point accumulation not breach of constitutional protections.** The failure to warn a person charged with a traffic offense that he will accumulate a designated number of points against his driving record upon conviction does not breach any constitutional protections. *People v. Hampton*, 619 P.2d 48 (Colo. 1980).

**Period of prohibition may not be suspended.** No statutory authority exists allowing any suspension of the period of prohibition required under this section. *Berry v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 656 P.2d 721 (Colo. App. 1982).

**Department hearing officer has no discretion to issue probationary license.** *Fuhrer v. Dept. of Motor Vehicles*, 197 Colo. 325, 592 P.2d 402 (1979).

**Right to counsel.** Absent a valid waiver of the right to counsel, a conviction obtained against a defendant who is not represented by counsel may not be used to establish habitual traffic offender status for the purpose of imposing punishment for

violation of § 42-2-206. *People v. Hampton*, 619 P.2d 48 (Colo. 1980).

**Section not repealed by § 42-2-124.** The five-year period of revocation provided in this section is an exception to the general rule of a one-year period promulgated in § 42-2-124, and as such, there is no repeal of this section by implication. *Fuhrer v. Dept. of Motor Vehicles*, 197 Colo. 325, 592 P.2d 402 (1979).

**The phrase "financial responsibility requirements" is not unconstitutionally vague** when construed together with other provisions of title 42 in light of their common policy goals, the intent reflected by the overall legislative scheme, and the fact that mathematical certainty in drafting of statutes is not required. *People v. Revello*, 735 P.2d 487 (Colo. 1987).

**Revocation of license of habitual traffic offender remains in effect** beyond five-year period until statutory conditions for reinstatement of license are met. *People v. Purvis*, 735 P.2d 492 (Colo. 1987).

**Applied** in *Schmidt v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 656 P.2d 710 (Colo. App. 1982).

#### **42-2-206. Driving after revocation prohibited.**

(1) (a) (I) It is unlawful for any person to operate any motor vehicle in this state while the revocation of the department prohibiting the operation remains in effect. Any person found to be an habitual offender who operates a motor vehicle in this state while the revocation of the department prohibiting the operation is in effect commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(II) Any person convicted of violating subsection (1)(a)(I) of this section shall be sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment in the county jail for thirty days, or a mandatory minimum fine of three thousand dollars, or both. The minimum jail sentence and fine required by



this subsection (1)(a)(II) shall be in addition to any other penalty provided in section 42-4-1701. The court may suspend all or a portion of the mandatory jail sentence or fine if the defendant successfully completes no less than forty hours, and no greater than three hundred hours, of useful public service. In no event shall the court sentence the convicted person to probation. Upon the defendant's successful completion of the useful public service, the court shall vacate the suspended sentence. In the event the defendant fails or refuses to complete the useful public service ordered, the court shall impose the jail sentence, fine, or both, as required under this subsection (1)(a)(II).

(b) (I) A person commits the crime of aggravated driving with a revoked license if the person is found to be an habitual offender and thereafter operates a motor vehicle in this state while the revocation of the department prohibiting such operation is in effect and, as a part of the same criminal episode, also commits any of the following offenses:

- (A) and (B) Repealed.
- (C) Reckless driving, as described in section 42-4-1401;
- (D) Eluding or attempting to elude a police officer, as described in section 42-4-1413;
- (E) Violation of any of the requirements specified for crashes and crash reports in sections 42-4-1601 to 42-4-1606; or
- (F) Vehicular eluding, as described in section 18-9-116.5, C.R.S.

(II) Aggravated driving with a revoked license is a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense; except that a court shall sentence the offender to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of sixty days in the custody of a county jail.

(III) If a defendant is convicted of aggravated driving with a revoked license based upon the commission of DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI pursuant to sub-subparagraph (A) or (B) of subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b), as that crime existed before August 5, 2015:

- (A) The court shall convict and sentence the offender for each offense separately;
- (B) The court shall impose all of the penalties for the alcohol-related driving offense, as such penalties are described in section 42-4-1307;
- (C) The provisions of section 18-1-408, C.R.S., shall not apply to the sentences imposed for either conviction;
- (D) Any probation imposed for a conviction under this section may run concurrently with any probation required by section 42-4-1307; and
- (E) The department shall reflect both convictions on the defendant's driving record.

(2) For the purpose of enforcing this section in any case in which the accused is charged with driving a motor vehicle while such person's license, permit, or privilege to drive is revoked or is charged with driving without a license, the court, before hearing such charges, shall require the district attorney to determine whether such person has been determined to be an habitual offender and by reason of such determination is barred from operating a motor vehicle on the highways of this state. If the district attorney determines that the accused has been so held, the district attorney shall cause the appropriate criminal charges to be lodged against the accused.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2160, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 99:** (1) amended, p. 796, § 9, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (1)(a) amended, p. 682, § 1, effective July 1; (1)(a) and IP(1)(b)(I) amended and (1)(b)(I)(F) added, p. 710, § 46, effective July 1. **L. 2002:** (1)(a)(II) and (1)(b)(II) amended, p. 1560, § 364, effective October 1. **L. 2008:** (1)(b)(I)(A) and (1)(b)(I)(B) amended, p. 251, § 16, effective July 1. **L. 2010:** (1)(b)(III) added, (HB 10-1347), ch. 258, p. 1158, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2015:** (1)(b)(I)(A) and (1)(b)(I)(B) repealed and (1)(b)(II) and IP(1)(b)(III) amended, (HB 15-1043), ch. 262, p. 996, § 4, effective August 5. **L. 2021:** (1)(a) and (1)(b)(II) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3301, § 711, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2026:** (1)(a)(I) and (1)(b)(II) amended, (HB 26-1297), ch. 123, p. 535, § 6, effective August 12; IP(1)(b)(I) and (1)(b)(I)(E) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 477, § 43, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** Amendments to subsection (1)(a) by House Bill 00-1107 and House Bill 00-1426 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsections (1)(a)(II) and (1)(b)(II), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

## ANNOTATION

### I. General Consideration.

#### I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.

**Section is not unconstitutional as violative of equal protection**, despite the contention that it has created classifications providing that habitual traffic offenders be

subjected to mandatory sentencing, whereas other offenders whose conduct is of far greater culpability may be granted probation or be given suspended sentences. *People v. Scott*, 200 Colo. 365, 615 P.2d 680 (1980).

**Punishment is not cruel and unusual.**  
The punishment mandated by this section is

not so disparate to the gravity of the offense as to constitute cruel and unusual punishment. *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981).

**Procedures upon which prosecutions under section are based are fundamentally fair**, are adequate to assure an accurate determination of habitual traffic offender status, and accord due process of law to a licensee later accused of violating this section. *People v. McKnight*, 200 Colo. 486, 617 P.2d 1178 (1980).

**Constitutional standards for voluntary and understanding plea of guilty clearly are applicable** to the traffic offense convictions of driving under suspension. *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981).

**Section must be construed to prohibit use of conviction obtained without benefit or waiver of counsel** as a part of the foundation for the sentence of imprisonment which is mandated for violation of that statute. *People v. Roybal*, 618 P.2d 1121 (Colo. 1980).

Absent a valid waiver of the right to counsel, a conviction obtained against a defendant who is not represented by counsel may not be used to establish habitual traffic offender status for the purpose of imposing punishment for violation of this section. *People v. Hampton*, 619 P.2d 48 (Colo. 1980); *People v. Rocha*, 650 P.2d 569 (Colo. 1982).

A violation of a defendant's constitutional right to counsel in a traffic offense proceeding can be asserted as a defense in a subsequent prosecution for driving after

judgment prohibited based in essential part upon conviction of that traffic offense. *People v. Mascarenas*, 632 P.2d 1028 (Colo. 1981).

**Notification of criminal penalty for violation not required.** The department is not required to notify persons adjudged habitual traffic offenders of the possible criminal penalty for driving in violation of the order of revocation. *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981).

**Crim. P. 11(b)(4), not applicable to this section.** Where defendant's third conviction makes him subject to enhanced punishment as an habitual traffic offender under subsection (1), the attainment of this status is not a "penalty" within the meaning of Crim. P. 11(b)(4), and the defendant does not have to be advised of the possible consequences of multiple convictions before a court can increase the punishment for his attainment thereof. *People v. Heinz*, 197 Colo. 102, 589 P.2d 931 (1979).

**Although compliance with Crim. P. 11, may be considered by court.** Compliance with Crim. P. 11, although not conclusive of the issue of a defendant's waiver of counsel, is an appropriate factor for the court to consider in resolving a defendant's challenge to the admission of the order of revocation. *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981).

**Administrative hearing not "critical stage" of prosecution.** The department of motor vehicles' administrative hearing which results in license revocation pursuant to § 42-2-203 is not a "critical stage" of the prosecution for violation of this section. *People v. McKnight*, 200 Colo. 486, 617

P.2d 1178 (1980); *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981).

**Driving after revocation pursuant to this section** and driving while license denied, suspended, or revoked pursuant to § 42-2-130 proscribe the same act, and defendant may not be convicted or punished under both statutes. *People v. Rodriguez*, 849 P.2d 799 (Colo. App. 1992) (decided prior to 1994 amendment of title 42).

**Driving while license denied, suspended, or revoked** under this section does not merge with § 42-2-138. A person is liable to be convicted under both provisions. The elements are different because "operating" is a different standard than "driving" and "highways" do not include private ways. *People v. Zubiate*, 2013 COA 69, 411 P.3d 757, *aff'd*, 2017 CO 17, 390 P.3d 394 (disagreeing with *People v. Rodriguez* cited above) (disapproved by supreme court in *People v. Rock*, 2017 CO 84, 402 P.3d 472).

**Driving under restraint under § 42-2-138 is a lesser included offense of driving after revocation** under this section. Although a person may commit driving after revocation without committing driving under restraint, a person could not commit driving under restraint without committing driving after revocation. *People v. Wambolt*, 2018 COA 88, 431 P.3d 681; *People v. Tun*, 2021 COA 34, 486 P.3d 490.

The "drive" element of driving under restraint is included within the "operate" element of driving after revocation because a person who drives a car necessarily

operates it. *People v. Wambolt*, 2018 COA 88, 431 P.3d 681.

**Eluding or attempting to elude a police officer is a lesser included offense of aggravated driving with a revoked license.** *People v. Sims*, 2020 COA 78, 474 P.3d 189.

**Applied** in *People v. Meyers*, 617 P.2d 808 (Colo. 1980); *People v. Able*, 618 P.2d 1110 (Colo. 1980); *People v. Torres*, 625 P.2d 1034 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Hunt*, 632 P.2d 572 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Clements*, 665 P.2d 624 (Colo. 1983).

## II. ELEMENTS.

A. In General.

B. Emergency.

C. Collateral Attack on Prior Conviction.

A. In General.

**Two elements of crime of driving after judgment prohibited are:** (1) operation of a motor vehicle in this state; and (2) operation of a motor vehicle while the order of revocation of the appellant's driver's license as an habitual offender was in effect. *People v. Moore*, 200 Colo. 481, 615 P.2d 726 (1980).

**Proper charge of violation of section must include** not only an allegation that the license of an accused driver had been revoked upon a determination that he was an habitual traffic offender but also an allegation that the accused was operating a motor vehicle on the highways of this state while that revocation was still in effect.

People v. Moore, 200 Colo. 481, 615 P.2d 726 (1980).

**Knowledge of revocation order is essential element.** As a matter of statutory construction, knowledge of the order of revocation is an essential element in a driving after judgment prohibited prosecution. People v. Lesh, 668 P.2d 1362 (Colo. 1983); People v. Parga, 964 P.2d 571 (Colo. App. 1998); Griego v. People, 19 P.3d 1 (Colo. 2001).

The prosecution is required to prove the element of knowledge of the revocation order in a driving after judgment prohibited case, as mailing notice of the order is only prima facie proof of its receipt, and is not conclusive. People v. Lesh, 668 P.2d 1362 (Colo. 1983).

**To satisfy mens rea requirement for conviction on charge of felony driving after judgment prohibited, defendant must have actual knowledge of habitual traffic offender revocation.** For purposes of driving after judgment prohibited statute, "actual knowledge" is as defined in § 18-1-501 (6). The constructive knowledge definition contained in the misdemeanor driving-under-restraint statute is inapplicable to the felony offense of driving after judgment prohibited. People v. Parga, 964 P.2d 571 (Colo. App. 1998); Griego v. People, 19 P.3d 1 (Colo. 2001).

**Defendant's driving record relevant to establish knowledge of status as an habitual offender.** On retrial, jury may consider defendant's record of traffic offenses as circumstantial evidence suggesting that he has actual knowledge that

his license had been revoked as an habitual traffic offender. People v. Parga, 964 P.2d 571 (Colo. App. 1998).

**Improperly instructing jury on required culpable mental state is not harmless error.** People v. Parga, 964 P.2d 571 (Colo. App. 1998).

**The mens rea element for the offense of driving after judgment is not set forth in this section.** However, actual knowledge of the order of revocation of license as an habitual offender is an essential element of the offense. People v. Villa-Villa, 983 P.2d 181 (Colo. App. 1997).

**A defendant may be convicted under this section not only if he actually knew his license had been revoked but also if a reasonable person in the defendant's position would have known that his license was under revocation as an habitual offender.** People v. Villa-Villa, 983 P.2d 181 (Colo. App. 1997).

**Inability of a defendant to read and understand English does not render the notice of revocation insufficient** and does not, as a matter of law, constitute a defense to knowledge of revocation of driving privileges. People v. Villa-Villa, 983 P.2d 181 (Colo. App. 1997).

**When the documentary evidence included a proof of service, dated shortly before the alleged violation, of a notice stating that it was unlawful for the defendant to operate a motor vehicle and a certified copy of defendant's driving record, dated shortly after the alleged violation, showing that his license was**

**under revocation**, it was reasonable to conclude both that defendant's license was under revocation at the time of the alleged violation and that he knew of the revocation. *People v. Espinoza*, 195 P.3d 1122 (Colo. App. 2008).

**"Conviction" to include plea of guilty.** In enacting § 42-2-201 et seq., the general assembly was concerned with identifying and punishing habitual offenders of traffic laws. To give effect to that expressed concern, the definition of the term "conviction" must include a plea of guilty. *Walker v. District Court*, 199 Colo. 128, 606 P.2d 70 (1980).

**Sentence requirement in this section remains mandatory** and is not subject to plea bargaining to obtain a deferred sentence as generally allowed by § 16-7-403. *Walker v. District Court*, 199 Colo. 128, 606 P.2d 70 (1980).

**The term "operate" does not require actual movement of a vehicle.** "Operate" is the action of causing something to occur or to cause to function, usually by direct personal effort. *People v. Gregor*, 26 P.3d 530 (Colo. App. 2000); *People v. Stewart*, 55 P.3d 107 (Colo. 2002); *People v. Valdez*, 2014 COA 125, 411 P.3d 94.

**The trial court did not err in failing to define "operate" for the jury as requiring actual movement** because a person who is behind the wheel of a car with the engine running is in actual physical control of the vehicle and thus driving. *People v. Gregor*, 26 P.3d 530 (Colo. App. 2000).

**Operating a motor vehicle means exercising physical control over a motor vehicle.** The threat that impaired driving statutes seek to avoid is that a vehicle will be put into motion by an intoxicated occupant and thus pose a risk to the safety of the occupant and others. The risk remains present when the reason for a vehicle's inoperability is a temporary condition that can be quickly remedied. The "reasonably capable of being rendered operable" standard distinguishes between a vehicle that has simply run out of gas and one that is in a condition that renders it "totally inoperable". *People v. VanMatre*, 190 P.3d 770 (Colo. App. 2008).

**Prosecution not required to prove the operability of a vehicle beyond a reasonable doubt.** *People v. Valdez*, 2014 COA 125, 411 P.3d 94.

**Trial court did not commit plain error** in upholding the jury's separate convictions for driving under the influence and aggravated driving after revocation prohibited offenses and for imposing separate sentences for those crimes. *People v. Valdez*, 2014 COA 125, 411 P.3d 94.

B. Emergency.

**Existence of emergency does not affect criminality** of the conduct of driving in violation of this section. *People v. McKnight*, 200 Colo. 486, 617 P.2d 1178 (1980).

**Defendant must prove existence of emergency** by a preponderance of the evidence. *People v. McKnight*, 200 Colo. 486, 617 P.2d 1178 (1980).

**Trial judge determines existence of emergency.** The trial judge, and not the jury, must make the determination regarding the existence of an emergency. *People v. McKnight*, 200 Colo. 486, 617 P.2d 1178 (1980).

**The term "emergency" in this section is broader than the term used in the statute governing choice of evils defense** and so the trial court did not abuse its discretion by finding that an emergency existed for purposes of sentencing after ruling that no emergency existed for purposes of disallowing use of a choice of evils defense. *People v. Weiser*, 789 P.2d 454 (Colo. App. 1989).

C. Collateral Attack on Prior Conviction.

**There is a duty to comply with order of revocation until it is rescinded** pursuant to a direct appeal rather than a collateral attack. *People v. District Court*, 623 P.2d 55 (Colo. 1981).

**Section on its face does not preclude collateral attack** on the underlying traffic convictions. *People v. Roybal*, 618 P.2d 1121 (Colo. 1980).

**Defendant may collaterally attack prior convictions when later charged** with violation of this section. *People v. DeLeon*, 625 P.2d 1010 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Dooley*, 630 P.2d 608 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Swann*, 770 P.2d 411 (Colo. 1989).

**Bases for collateral attack limited.** A defendant cannot collaterally attack order of revocation on any bases other than lack of jurisdiction or a violation of constitutional

protections in the proceeding upon which the order was based. *People v. District Court*, 623 P.2d 55 (Colo. 1981).

**Unconstitutionally obtained conviction cannot be used in later proceeding** to support guilt or enhance punishment. *People v. Roybal*, 618 P.2d 1121 (Colo. 1980); *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981); *State v. Laughlin*, 634 P.2d 49 (Colo. 1981).

The order of revocation being an essential element of the crime of driving after judgment prohibited, it may not be admitted into evidence at trial if the underlying convictions supporting the order were obtained in derogation of the defendant's constitutional right to counsel. *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981).

**Defendant may attack constitutionality of underlying conviction.** In a criminal proceeding instituted pursuant to this section, a defendant may attack the constitutionality of his conviction for a traffic offense which provides the basis for his habitual traffic offender status. *State v. Laughlin*, 634 P.2d 49 (Colo. 1981).

Where constitutional defects are alleged, defendant may challenge convictions supporting his status as an habitual traffic offender at his trial for violation of this section. *People v. Hampton*, 619 P.2d 48 (Colo. 1980).

A defendant charged with driving after judgment prohibited has a right to challenge the constitutional validity of the traffic offense convictions which underlie that charge. *People v. Mascarenas*, 632 P.2d 1028 (Colo. 1981).

**Defendant must make prima facie showing that prior conviction is invalid** in order to bar the use of that conviction in a later proceeding. *People v. Roybal*, 618 P.2d 1121 (Colo. 1980); *People v. DeLeon*, 625 P.2d 1010 (Colo. 1981).

The defendant's burden on a challenge to the admission of an order of revocation is to make a prima facie showing that one or more of the underlying convictions was constitutionally invalid. *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Swann*, 770 P.2d 411 (Colo. 1989).

**What constitutes prima facie showing.** A prima facie showing in the context of a challenge to the validity of a conviction means evidence which, when considered in a light most favorable to the defendant and all reasonable inferences therefrom are drawn in his favor, would permit the court to find that one or more of the traffic offense convictions essential to the order of revocation was not obtained in accordance with the constitutional right to effective assistance of counsel or due process of law. *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Mascarenas*, 632 P.2d 1028 (Colo. 1981).

**Once prima facie showing that prior conviction is invalid has been made,** the prosecution has the burden to establish that the conviction was constitutionally obtained. *People v. Roybal*, 618 P.2d 1121 (Colo. 1980); *People v. DeLeon*, 625 P.2d 1010 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Mascarenas*, 632 P.2d 1028 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Swann*, 770 P.2d 411 (Colo. 1989).

**Burden of establishing constitutional validity is by preponderance.** The appropriate burden for the prosecution is to establish the constitutional validity of a traffic conviction by a preponderance of the evidence. *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981).

**Burden is distinct from proving guilt beyond reasonable doubt.** This standard of proof on admissibility of prior convictions is to be distinguished from, and does not in any manner implicate, the prosecution's burden of proving to the jury the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt on all essential elements of the crime charged. *People v. Shaver*, 630 P.2d 600 (Colo. 1981).

**Failure to make prima facie showing that prior conviction invalid.** Where defendant fails to present any affirmative evidence to show that the defendant's pleas were involuntary or without factual basis, or even that the court failed to inquire into these matters when accepting his pleas, the defendant has failed to make a prima facie showing that a prior conviction was invalid. *People v. Fleming*, 781 P.2d 1384 (Colo. 1989).

**No review in criminal proceeding of administrative decision.** A defendant's right to demonstrate the constitutional invalidity of a prior judicial determination of guilt does not include the right to obtain judicial review in a criminal proceeding of a prior administrative decision affecting defendant's status in other context. *People v. Rocha*, 669 P.2d 1366 (Colo. 1983).

**A defendant charged under this section cannot collaterally attack prior**



**uncounseled speeding convictions where**  
he failed to raise such issue during driving  
under suspension proceedings based on said

speeding convictions. *Wilson v. People*, 742  
P.2d 322 (Colo. 1987).

**42-2-207. No existing law modified.**

Nothing in this part 2 shall be construed as amending, modifying, or repealing any existing law of this state or any existing ordinance of any political subdivision relating to the operation of motor vehicles or the providing of penalties for the violation thereof; nor shall anything in this part 2 be construed as precluding the exercise of the regulatory powers of any division, agency, department, or political subdivision of this state having the statutory authority to regulate such operation or licensing.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2160, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**42-2-208. Computation of number of convictions.**

With respect to persons charged as habitual offenders, in computing the number of convictions, all convictions must result from offenses occurring on or after July 1, 1973.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2160, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

## PART 3

### IDENTIFICATION CARDS

**42-2-301. Definitions.**

As used in this part 3, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Department" means the department of revenue.
- (2) "Identification card" means the identification card issued under this article.
- (3) "Registrant" means a person who acquires an identification card under the provisions of this part 3.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2160, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-401 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-2-302. Department may or shall issue - limitations - rules.**

(1) (a) (I) A person who is a resident of Colorado may be issued an identification card by the department, attested by the applicant and department as to true name, date of birth, current address, and other identifying data the department may require.

(II) An application for an identification card shall contain the applicant's fingerprint.

(III) An application for an identification card shall include the applicant's social security number or a sworn statement made under penalty of law that the applicant does not have a social security number.

(IV) An identification card shall not be issued until any previously issued instruction permit or minor driver's or driver's license is surrendered or canceled.

(V) The applicant's social security number shall remain confidential and shall not be placed on the applicant's identification card. Such confidentiality shall not extend to the state child support enforcement agency, the department, or a court of competent jurisdiction when requesting information in the course of activities authorized under article 13 of title 26, C.R.S., or article 14 of title 14, C.R.S.

(VI) Every application shall include the opportunity for the applicant to self-identify his or her race or ethnicity. The race or ethnicity information that may be identified on the application shall not be printed on the identification card but shall be maintained in the stored information as defined by section 42-2-303 (1)(b)(II). That information must be accessible to a law enforcement officer through magnetic or electronic readers.

(b) (I) In addition to the requirements of subsection (1)(a) of this section, an application for an identification card must state that:

(A) The applicant understands that, as a resident of the state of Colorado, any motor vehicle owned by the applicant must be registered in Colorado pursuant to the laws of the state and the applicant may be subject to criminal penalties, civil penalties, and liability for any unpaid registration fees and specific ownership taxes if the applicant fails to comply with such registration requirements; and

(B) The applicant agrees, within thirty days after the date the applicant became a resident, to register in Colorado any vehicle owned by the applicant.

(II) The applicant shall verify the statements required by this paragraph (b) by the applicant's signature on the application.

(c) A sworn statement that is made under penalty of perjury shall be sufficient evidence of the applicant's social security number required by this subsection (1) and shall authorize the department to issue an identification card to the applicant. Nothing in this paragraph (c) shall be construed to prevent the department from canceling, denying, recalling, or updating an identification card if the department learns that the applicant has provided a false social security number.

(2) (a) The department shall issue an identification card only upon the furnishing of a birth certificate or other documentary evidence of identity that the department may require. An applicant who submits a birth certificate or other documentary evidence issued by an entity other than a state or the United States shall also submit such proof as the department may require that the applicant is lawfully present in the United States. An applicant who submits as proof of identity a driver's license or identification card issued by a state that issues drivers' licenses or identification cards to persons who are not lawfully present in the United States shall also submit such proof as the department may require that the applicant is lawfully present in the United States. The department may assess a fee under section 42-2-306 (1)(b) if the department is required to undertake additional efforts to verify the identity of the applicant.

(b) The department may not issue an identification card to any person who is not lawfully present in the United States.

(c) The department may not issue an identification card to any person who is not a resident of the state of Colorado. The department shall issue an identification card only upon the furnishing of such evidence of residency that the department may require.

(2.5) (a) The department shall issue a new identification card to a person who has a gender different from the sex denoted on that person's identification card when the department receives a new birth certificate issued pursuant to section 25-2-113.8 or when the department receives:

(I) A statement, in a form or format designated by the department, from the person, or from the person's parent if the person is a minor, or from the person's guardian or legal representative, signed under penalty of law, confirming the sex designation on the person's identification card does not align with the person's gender identity; and

(II) If the person is a minor under the age of eighteen, a statement, in a form or format designated by the department, signed under penalty of law, from a professional medical or mental health-care provider licensed in good standing in Colorado or with an equivalent license in good standing from another jurisdiction, stating that the sex designation on the identification card does not align with the minor's gender identity. This subsection (2.5)(a)(II) does not require a minor to undergo any specific surgery, treatment, clinical care, or behavioral health care.

(b) The department may only amend a sex designation for an individual's identification card three times upon the individual's request. Any further requests from the individual for additional sex designation changes require the submission of a court order indicating that the sex designation change is required.

(3) (a) The department has the authority to cancel, deny, or deny the reissuance of the identification card of a person upon determining that the person is not entitled to issuance of the identification card for the following reasons:

(I) Failure to give the required or correct information in an application or commission of any fraud in making such application;

(II) Permission of an unlawful or fraudulent use or conviction of misuse of an identification card;

(III) The person is not lawfully present in the United States; or

(IV) The person is not a resident of the state of Colorado.

(b) If the department cancels, denies, or denies the reissuance of the identification card of a person, such person may request a hearing pursuant to section 24-4-105, C.R.S.

(4) (a) Any male United States citizen or immigrant who applies for an identification card or a renewal or duplicate of any such card and who is at least eighteen years of age but less than twenty-six years of age shall be registered in compliance with the requirements of section 3 of the "Military Selective Service Act", 50 U.S.C. sec. 453, as amended.

(b) The department shall forward in an electronic format the necessary personal information of the applicants identified in paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) to the selective service system. The applicant's submission of an application shall serve as an indication that the applicant either has already registered with the selective service system or that he is authorizing the department to forward to the selective service system the necessary information for such registration. The department shall notify the applicant that his submission of an application constitutes consent to registration with the selective service system, if so required by federal law.

(5) The department shall not issue an identification card to a first time applicant in Colorado until the department completes its verification of all facts relative to such applicant's right to receive an identification card including the residency, identity, age, and current licensing status of the applicant. Such verification shall utilize appropriate and accurate technology and techniques. Such verification shall include a comparison of existing driver's license and identification card images in department files with the applicant's images to ensure such applicant has only one identity.

(6) The department shall not issue an identification card to a person who holds a valid minor driver's or driver's license.

(7) The department shall not issue an identification card to an individual whose authorization to be present in the United States is temporary unless the individual applies under and complies with part 5 of this article.

(8) The department shall promulgate rules establishing procedures for resolving minor spelling inconsistencies and accepting alternative documents to birth certificates to establish lawful presence.

(9) (a) In accordance with rules promulgated by the department and upon the applicant's submission, either electronically or by mail, of an application and payment of the required fee, the department may issue an identification card to the holder of a driver's license issued under section 42-2-114 or renewed under 42-2-118 if the applicant holds a valid license or if no more than one year has passed since the expiration of the applicant's driver's license.

(b) Once the department issues an identification card under this subsection (9), the department shall cancel any valid driver's license held by the applicant.

(c) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2161, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (2) amended and (3) added, p. 202, § 1, effective July 1; (1) amended, p. 1001, § 3, effective August 6. **L. 98:** (2) and (3)(a) amended, p. 295, §§ 3, 4, effective July 1. **L. 2001:** (1)(a) amended and (5) and (6) added, p. 941, § 6, effective July 1; (1)(a) amended and (1)(c) added, p. 783, § 2, effective August 8; (4) added, p. 647, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2002:** (2)(a) amended, p. 171, § 2, effective April 2. **L. 2005:** (1)(a) amended, p. 649, § 19, effective May 27. **L. 2006:** (1)(a) amended, p. 46, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** (7) added, (SB 13-251), ch. 402, p. 2352, § 3, effective August 7. **L. 2014:** (8) added, (SB 14-087), ch. 306, p. 1298, § 2, effective August 6. **L. 2016:** (1)(a)(VI) added, (HB 16-1021), ch. 322, p. 1308, § 3, effective June 10; (9) added, (HB 16-1269), ch. 78, p. 202, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2019:** (2.5) added, (HB 19-1039), ch. 377, p. 3406, § 4, effective January 1, 2020. **L. 2020:** (2.5)(a) amended, (SB 20-166), ch. 280, p. 1371, § 3, effective July 13. **L. 2021:** (2.5)(a)(II) amended, (SB 21-266), ch. 423, p. 2807, § 42, effective July 2; IP(1)(b)(I) and (1)(b)(I)(A) amended, (HB 21-1314), ch. 460, p. 3100, § 15, effective January 1, 2022. **L. 2025:** (2.5)(b) amended, (HB 25-1312), ch. 205, p. 931, § 12, effective October 1, 2026.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-402 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Amendments to subsection (1)(a) by Senate Bill 01-142 and House Bill 01-1125 were harmonized.

(3) Subsections (5) and (6) were originally numbered as (4) and (5) in House Bill 01-1125 but have been renumbered on revision for ease of location.

(4) Subsection (9)(c) provided for the repeal of subsection (9)(c), effective July 1, 2017. (See L. 2016, p. 1308.)

**Cross references:** For the short title ("Kelly Loving Act") in HB 25-1312, see section 1 of chapter 205, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

**42-2-303. Contents of identification card - disability identifier symbol - rules - definition.**

(1) (a) The identification card shall be the same size as a driver's license issued pursuant to parts 1 and 2 of this article. The card shall adequately describe the registrant, bear the registrant's picture, and bear the following: "State of Colorado", "Identification Card No. ....", and "This is not a driver's license." Each identification card issued to an individual under this section shall show a photograph of the registrant's full face.

(b) (I) If the department issues an identification card that contains stored information, the department shall include in the stored information only the information that is specifically referenced in subsection (1)(a) of this section, that appears in printed form on the face of the card issued by the department to the registrant, or that is any race or ethnicity information identified on an application under section 42-2-302 (1)(a)(VI); except that the department shall not include in the stored information:

(A) The registrant's social security number; or

(B) The fact that the registrant has requested that a disability identifier symbol be placed on the registrant's identification card in accordance with subsection (6) of this section.

(II) As used in this paragraph (b), "stored information" includes information that is stored on the identification card by means of magnetic or electronic encoding, or by any other technology designed to store retrievable information.

(2) Repealed.

(3) An identification card shall contain one or more security features that are not visible and are capable of authenticating such card and any information contained therein.

(4) (a) At the applicant's voluntary request, the department shall issue an identification card bearing an identifier of a branch of the United States armed forces, such as "Marine Corps", "Navy", "Army", "Air Force", "Space Force", or "Coast Guard", if the applicant possesses a

currently valid military identification document, a DD214 form issued by the United States government, or any other document accepted by the department that demonstrates that the applicant is an active member or a veteran of the branch of service that the applicant has requested be placed on the identification card. The applicant shall not be required to provide documentation that the applicant is an active member or a veteran of a branch of the United States armed forces to renew or be reissued an identification card bearing an identifier issued pursuant to this subsection (4). The department shall not place more than one branch of the United States armed forces identifier on an applicant's identification card.

(b) and (c) Repealed.

(5) (a) Upon the applicant presenting a DD214 form issued by the United States government or any other document accepted by the department that demonstrates that the applicant is a veteran of the United States armed forces, the department shall print the word "Veteran" on the identification card.

(b) The holder of an identification card bearing the word "Veteran" need not present documentation that the holder is a veteran of the United States armed forces to renew or reissue the identification card.

(c) The department shall not issue an identification card bearing the word "Veteran" if the applicant's documentation shows that the applicant received a dishonorable discharge.

(6) (a) (I) At an applicant's request, and upon completion of the application pursuant to subsection (6)(a)(II)(A) of this section, the department shall issue to the applicant an identification card bearing a disability identifier symbol if the applicant has a disability as defined in the federal "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990", 42 U.S.C. sec. 12101 et seq., and the disability interferes with the person's ability to effectively communicate with a peace officer.

(II) (A) The department shall promulgate a rule creating an application and renewal form that is signed by a professional, under penalty of perjury, to affirm that an applicant meets the eligibility requirements for a disability identifier symbol and setting out the penalties for authorizing a disability identifier symbol before verifying that the person has a disability that interferes with the person's ability to effectively communicate with a peace officer.

(B) As used in this subsection (6)(a)(II), "professional" means a physician licensed to practice medicine under article 240 of title 12 or practicing medicine under section 12-240-107 (3)(i), a physician assistant licensed under section 12-240-113, a mental health professional licensed or certified under article 245 of title 12, an advanced practice registered nurse registered under section 12-255-111, a person with a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling, or a physician, physician assistant, mental health professional, or advanced practice registered nurse

authorized to practice professionally by another state that shares a common border with Colorado.

(b) The disability identifier symbol placed on an identification card in accordance with this subsection (6) must be discreet and must represent all types of disabilities, including cognitive disabilities, neurological diversities, mental health disorders, sensory needs, chronic illness, chronic pain, and physical disabilities. The department shall develop the symbol by rule.

(c) The department shall not charge a fee for placing a disability identifier symbol on an identification card.

(d) The department shall notify peace officers in Colorado about the voluntary disability identifier symbol created in this subsection (6), noting that the symbol is not the exclusive or only determination of disability, and directing peace officers to relevant P.O.S.T. curriculum resources, including training in recognizing persons with disabilities, appropriate interactions with persons with disabilities, resources available to persons with disabilities and to those interacting with persons with disabilities, and the requirements of the federal "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990", 42 U.S.C. sec. 12101 et seq., as amended.

(e) A person may choose to no longer have the disability identifier symbol on the person's identification card. The department shall issue a person a new identification card without a disability identifier symbol at the request of the person. The department shall not charge a fee for the issuance of a new identification card without the disability identifier symbol. The department shall not retain any information regarding a person's disability when the person chooses to remove the disability identifier symbol from the person's identification card.

(f) By January 15, 2023, and each year thereafter, the department shall report to the house of representatives health and human services committee and transportation, housing, and local government committee and the senate health and human services committee and transportation and energy committee, or their successor committees, on the percentage of persons issued an identification card who have requested a disability identifier symbol issued in accordance with this subsection (6) in the previous calendar year.

**Source:** **L. 94:** (1) amended, p. 1453, § 2, effective May 25; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2161, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2001:** (3) added, p. 941, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (2) repealed, p. 650, § 20, effective May 27. **L. 2010:** (4) added, (HB 10-1209), ch. 322, p. 1498, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** (4)(b) repealed, (HB 13-1011), ch. 90, p. 291, § 2, effective August 7; (5) added, (HB 13-1119), ch. 177, p. 653, § 2, effective August 7. **L. 2016:** (1)(b)(I) amended, (HB 16-1021), ch. 322, p. 1308, § 4, effective June 10. **L. 2021:** (4)(a) amended, (HB 21-1231), ch. 206, p. 1080, § 14, effective May 28; (1)(b)(I) amended and (6)



added, (HB 21-1014), ch. 406, p. 2696, § 3, effective July 1, 2022. **L. 2026:** (6)(f) amended, (SB 26-169), ch. 311, p. 1816, § 68, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-403 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Amendments to subsection (1) by House Bill 94-1346 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

(3) Subsection (4)(c)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (4)(c), effective July 1, 2011. (See L. 2010, p. 1498.)

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 21-1014, see section 1 of chapter 406, Session Laws of Colorado 2021.

#### **42-2-304. Validity of identification card - rules.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, an identification card issued pursuant to this part 3 expires on the birthday of the registrant in the fifth year after issuance of the identification card. If an applicant applies to renew their identification card within a year after it has expired, the renewed identification card will be given the same expiration date as if it had been renewed on time, provided the photo the department has on file will meet the requirements of 6 CFR 37.25 (a)(1) for the federal "Real ID Act of 2005" at the time of the next expiration. The department may purge its records of such cards twelve years after issuance; except that any records concerning identification cards issued prior to April 16, 1996, may not be purged until October 1, 2003.

(1.5) (a) Any individual who has been issued an identification card pursuant to this section may renew the card prior to the expiration of the card upon application in person and payment of the required fee.

(b) The department shall not renew an identification card for a person if the person would not be eligible for an identification card pursuant to section 42-2-302 (2)(b) or (2)(c) or 42-2-505.

(1.7) (a) If allowed under federal law, the department shall allow renewal of an identification card issued under section 42-2-302 or 42-2-505 by mail subject to the following requirements:

(I) Renewal by mail shall be available to qualifying individuals as determined by the department of revenue including but not limited to persons with disabilities and individuals who are sixty-five years of age or older.

(II) Renewal by mail is only available every other renewal period; except that renewal by mail is available every renewal period if the applicant is sixty-five years of age or older.

(III) A person renewing by mail shall attest under penalty of perjury that he or she is lawfully present in the United States.

(IV) A person renewing by mail shall attest under penalty of perjury that he or she is a resident of the state of Colorado.

(b) Every applicant for renewal of an identification card by mail shall submit the required fee or surcharge, if any.

(c) The department may promulgate rules necessary for the implementation of this subsection (1.7).

(1.8) Repealed.

(1.9) (a) The department may allow an applicant to renew an identification card issued under section 42-2-302 or 42-2-505 by electronic means if the applicant:

(I) Is twenty-one years of age or older;

(II) Attests under penalty of perjury to being lawfully present in the United States;

(III) Attests under penalty of perjury to being a resident of Colorado; and

(IV) Pays any required fee or surcharge.

(b) Applicants who meet the qualifications of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1.9) may electronically renew only for two consecutive renewal periods.

(2) (a) An identification card issued on or before June 30, 2001, to a person less than eighteen years of age shall expire on the registrant's eighteenth birthday. Such person may renew the card prior to its expiration upon application in person and by paying the required fee. The renewed card for such person shall expire on the registrant's twenty-first birthday.

(b) An identification card issued to an individual prior to April 16, 1996, does not expire unless the true name or social security number, if any, of the individual changes. An individual who has been issued a card prior to April 16, 1996, may voluntarily surrender such card to the department and, upon payment of the fee required for an identification card application, may request issuance of a new identification card containing an expiration date pursuant to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section.

(b.5) An identification card issued on or after July 1, 2001, to a person less than twenty-one years of age shall expire on the registrant's twenty-first birthday.

(c) An identification card issued to an individual sixty-five years of age or older expires on the birthday of the registrant in the fifth year after issuance of the identification card.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2161, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** Entire section amended, p. 332, § 1, effective April 16. **L. 98:** (1.5) amended, p. 296, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (1) and (2)(a) amended and (2)(b.5) added, p. 1346, § 8, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** (1) amended, p. 650, § 21, effective May 27. **L. 2006:** (1.7) and (2)(c) added, pp. 570, 571, §§ 1, 2, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** (1.7)(a)(II) amended and (1.8) added, (SB 13-004), ch. 234, p. 1129, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2014:** (1.9) added, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1548, § 14, effective June 5. **L. 2018:** (1.5)(b), IP(1.7)(a), IP(1.8)(a), and IP(1.9)(a) amended, (SB 18-108), ch. 260, p. 1598, § 6, effective January 1, 2019. **L. 2021:** (1.8) repealed and (1.9)(a)(I) amended, (HB 21-1139), ch. 177, p. 967, § 2, effective May 24. **L. 2026:** (1) amended, (HB 26-1076), ch. 265, p. 1469, § 7, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-404 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-2-304.5. Cancellation or denial of identification card - failure to register vehicles in Colorado. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 1002, § 4, effective August 6. **L. 2021:** Entire section repealed, (HB 21-1314), ch. 460, p. 3098, § 6, effective January 1, 2022.

#### **42-2-305. Lost, stolen, or destroyed cards.**

If an identification card is lost, destroyed, or mutilated or a new name is acquired, the registrant may obtain a new identification card upon furnishing satisfactory proof of such fact to the department. Any registrant who loses an identification card and who, after obtaining a new identification card, finds the original card shall immediately surrender the original card to the department. The same documentary evidence shall be furnished for a new identification card as for an original identification card. A new identification card issued pursuant to this section shall expire on the birthday of the registrant in the fifth year after the issuance of the new identification card; except that, if the registrant is under the age of twenty-one years at the time the application for the new identification card is made, the new identification card shall expire on the registrant's twenty-first birthday, or if issued under part 5 of this article 2, the identification

card expires as provided in section 42-2-509 (1) or on the twenty-first birthday of the applicant as set by rule of the department.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2162, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1347, § 10, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2008:** Entire section amended, p. 1918, § 144, effective August 5. **L. 2018:** Entire section amended, (SB 18-108), ch. 260, p. 1598, § 7, effective January 1, 2019.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-405 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-2-306. Fees - disposition.**

(1) The department shall charge and collect the following fees:

(a) (I) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2007, p. 1572, § 5, effective July 1, 2007.)

(II) Except as provided in subparagraph (III.5) of this paragraph (a), a fee as determined by the department under section 42-2-114.5 for an identification card or renewal of an identification card.

(III) Repealed.

(III.5) The department shall not charge a fee to an applicant who is:

(A) Sixty years of age or older;

(B) Referred by a county department of human or social services pursuant to section 25.5-4-205 (3), 26-2-106 (3), or 26-5-101 (3)(o); or

(C) Referred by the department of corrections, the division of youth services, or a county jail.

(IV) and (V) Repealed.

(b) A fee as determined by the department under section 42-2-114.5 to cover the costs incurred for the reissuance of an identification card that has been canceled or denied under section 42-2-302 (3), or to verify the identity of the applicant.

(2) Fees collected under this section shall be remitted monthly to the state treasurer, who shall deposit the fee in the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(3) If there is money available from the appropriation made pursuant to section 25-4-2208 (3) or the gifts, grants, or donations accepted pursuant to section 25-4-2208 (5), the department shall not charge or collect the fees established in this section from an individual who demonstrates eligibility to receive assistance under the necessary document program established in section 25-4-2208 and administered by the office of health equity in the department of public health and environment.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2162, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (1) amended, p. 333, § 2, effective April 16. **L. 97:** (1) amended, p. 203, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (1)(a) amended, p. 934, § 3, effective August 5. **L. 2000:** (1)(a) amended, p. 1347, § 9, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (1)(a)(IV) amended and (1)(a)(V) added, p. 940, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2006:** (1)(a)(V)(B) amended, p. 657, § 3, effective April 24; (1)(a)(I) and (1)(a)(II) amended, p. 2023, § 119, effective July 1. **L. 2007:** (1)(a)(I), (1)(a)(II), and (2) amended, p. 1572, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (2) amended, (SB 09-274), ch. 210, p. 953, § 6, effective May 1; (1)(a)(V) amended, (SB 09-025), ch. 266, p. 1215, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2010:** (1)(a)(II) amended and (1)(a)(III.5) added, (SB 10-006), ch. 341, p. 1578, § 4, effective June 5; (1)(a)(V)(A) amended, (HB 10-1422), ch. 419, p. 2125, § 184, effective August 11. **L. 2014:** (1)(a)(II) and (1)(b) amended and (1)(a)(III), (1)(a)(IV), and (1)(a)(V) repealed, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1548, § 15, effective June 5. **L. 2015:** (1)(a)(II) amended, (SB 15-264), ch. 259, p. 969, § 94, effective August 5. **L. 2017:** (1)(a)(III.5)(C) amended, (HB 17-1329), ch. 381, p. 1986, § 69, effective June 6. **L. 2018:** (1)(a)(III.5)(B) amended, (SB 18-092), ch. 38, p. 454, § 143, effective August 8. **L. 2022:** (2) amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 913, § 13, effective July 1. **L. 2025:** (3) added, (SB 25-008), ch. 207, p. 936, § 4, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-406 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 18-092, see section 1 of chapter 38, Session Laws of Colorado 2018. For the legislative declaration in SB 25-008, see section 1 of chapter 207, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

#### **42-2-307. Change of address - penalty.**

(1) Any registrant who acquires an address different from the address shown on the identification card issued to the registrant shall, within thirty days thereafter, notify the department of such change as specified in section 42-2-119 (1)(a). The department may

thereupon take any action deemed necessary to ensure that the identification card reflects the proper address of the registrant.

(2) A person who violates this section is guilty of a civil infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2162, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 650, § 22, effective May 27. **L. 2010:** Entire section amended, (HB 10-1045), ch. 317, p. 1479, § 4, effective July 1, 2011. **L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3302, § 712, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-407 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a civil infraction, see § 18-1.3-503.

#### **42-2-308. No liability on public entity.**

No public entity shall be liable for any loss or injury directly or indirectly resulting from false or inaccurate information contained in identification cards provided for in this part 3.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2162, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-408 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-2-309. Unlawful acts.**

(1) It is unlawful for any person:

(a) To display, cause or permit to be displayed, or have in that person's possession any surrendered, fictitious, fraudulently altered, or fraudulently obtained identification card;

(b) To lend that person's identification card to any other person or knowingly permit the use thereof by another;

(c) To display or represent any identification card not issued to that person as being that person's card;

- (d) To permit any unlawful use of an identification card issued to that person;
  - (e) To do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required by this part 3, which would not include use of such card after the expiration date;
  - (f) To photograph, photostat, duplicate, or in any way reproduce any identification card or facsimile thereof in such a manner that it could be mistaken for a valid license, or to display or have in that person's possession any such photograph, photostat, duplicate, reproduction, or facsimile unless authorized by law;
  - (g) To photograph, photostat, duplicate, or in any way produce any identification card as defined in section 42-2-301 (2), or facsimile thereof, unless authorized by law, in such a manner that it could be mistaken for a valid identification card or to display or possess any such photograph, photostat, duplicate, production, or facsimile;
  - (h) To photograph, photostat, duplicate, or in any way reproduce any identification card or facsimile thereof for the purpose of distribution, resale, reuse, or manipulation of the data or images contained in such identification card unless authorized by the department or otherwise authorized by law.
- (2) (a) Notwithstanding section 42-2-310, a person who violates subsection (1)(a) or (1)(e) of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501.
- (b) A person who violates subsection (1)(b), (1)(c), (1)(d), (1)(f), (1)(g), or (1)(h) of this section commits a petty offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-503.

**Source:** **L. 94:** (1)(g) added, p. 495, § 1, effective March 31; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2162, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (1)(h) added, p. 355, § 3, effective August 6. **L. 2021:** (2) added, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3302, § 713, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-409 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Subsection (1)(g) enacted by Senate Bill 94-012 was harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

#### **42-2-310. Violation.**

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this part 3 commits a petty offense, pursuant to section 18-1.3-503.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2163, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2002:** Entire section amended, p. 1560, § 365, effective October 1. **L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3302, § 714, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** Entire section amended, (HB 22-1229), ch. 68, p. 349, § 43, effective March 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-410 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Section 47 of chapter 68 (HB 22-1229), Session Laws of Colorado 2022, provides that the act changing this section is effective March 1, 2022, but the governor did not approve the act until April 7, 2022.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

#### **42-2-311. County jail identification processing unit - report - repeal. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2009:** Entire section added, (SB 09-006), ch. 403, p. 2217, § 2, effective June 2.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (3)(b) provided that this section would be repealed if the revisor of statutes did not receive notification from the executive director of the department of revenue that the estimated amount of moneys to implement this section was received. The revisor of statutes did not receive such notice by June 30, 2012, and so this section was repealed, effective July 1, 2012. (See L. 2009, p. 2217.)

#### **42-2-312. County jail identification processing unit fund. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2009:** Entire section added, (SB 09-006), ch. 403, p. 2217, § 2, effective June 2. **L. 2013:** Entire section repealed, (HB 13-1300), ch. 316, p. 1708, § 135, effective August 7.



**42-2-313. Department consult with counties on county jail identification processing unit.**

The department shall meet with representatives of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Douglas, and Jefferson counties, the city and county of Denver, and the city and county of Broomfield on a regular basis to discuss future implementation of a county jail identification processing unit that would travel to county jails to process identification cards for prisoners, as well as to discuss intergovernmental agreements for cost-sharing solutions to fund the unit, solutions to technical and equipment issues that the department has identified, and implementation of program timelines.

**Source: L. 2009:** Entire section added, (SB 09-006), ch. 403, p. 2217, § 2, effective June 2.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2009 act adding this section, see section 1 of chapter 403, Session Laws of Colorado 2009.

## **PART 4**

### **COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES**

**Law reviews.** For article, "Handling Criminal or Traffic Citations Issued to Commercial Drivers", see 40 Colo. Law. 23 (Feb. 2011).

**42-2-401. Short title.**

This part 4 shall be known and may be cited as the "Commercial Driver's License Act".

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2163, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-501 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-401 was relocated to § 42-2-301.

**42-2-402. Definitions.**

As used in this part 4, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Commercial driver's license" means a license issued to an individual in accordance with the requirements of the federal "Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986", 49 App. U.S.C. sec. 2701 et seq., and any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder, that authorizes such individual to drive a commercial motor vehicle.

(2) "Commercial driver's license driving tester" or "driving tester" means an individual licensed by the department under the provisions of section 42-2-407 to perform commercial driver's license driving tests.

(3) "Commercial driver's license testing unit" or "testing unit" means a business, association, or governmental entity licensed by the department under the provisions of section 42-2-407 to administer the performance of commercial driver's license driving tests.

(4) (a) "Commercial motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle designed or used to transport passengers or property, if the vehicle:

(I) Has a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds or such lesser rating determined by federal regulation; or

(II) Is designed to transport sixteen or more passengers, including the driver; or

(III) Is transporting hazardous materials and is required to be placarded in accordance with 49 CFR part 172, subpart F.

(b) "Commercial motor vehicle" does not include:

(I) Recreational vehicles;

(II) Military vehicles that are driven by military personnel;

(III) Any farm vehicles:

(A) Controlled and operated by a farmer;

(B) Used to transport agriculture products, farm machinery, or farm supplies to or from a farm;

(C) Not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier; or

(D) Used within one hundred fifty miles of the person's farm;

(IV) Firefighting equipment.

(5) "Department" means the department of revenue.

(6) "Gross vehicle weight rating" or "GVWR" means the value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of a single or a combination (articulated) vehicle, or registered gross weight, whichever is greater. The GVWR of a combination (articulated) vehicle,

commonly referred to as the "gross combination weight rating" or "GCWR" is the GVWR of the power unit plus the GVWR of any towed unit.

(7) "Hazardous materials" means materials as defined under section 103 of the federal "Hazardous Materials Transportation Act of 1987", 49 App. U.S.C. sec. 1801, as may be amended from time to time.

(8) "Out-of-service order" means an "out-of-service order" as defined by 49 CFR 383.5.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2163, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2006:** (8) amended, p. 261, § 2, effective March 31.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-502 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-402 was relocated to § 42-2-302.

#### **42-2-403. Department authority - rules - federal requirements.**

(1) The department shall develop, adopt, and administer a procedure for licensing drivers of commercial motor vehicles in accordance with applicable federal law governing commercial motor vehicle safety and any rules promulgated thereunder. The department is hereby specifically authorized to adopt and effectuate, whether by rule, policy, or administrative custom or practice, any licensing sanction imposed by federal statutes or rules governing commercial motor vehicle safety.

(2) (a) The department shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary for the implementation of this part 4. Such rules and regulations shall govern all aspects of licensing commercial drivers, including, but not limited to, testing procedures, license issuance procedures, out-of-service regulations, denial procedures, including suspensions, revocations, cancellations and denials, records maintenance, reporting requirements, and cooperation with the commercial driver's license information system.

(b) The department, with the advice of the commissioner of education, shall develop testing and license issuance procedures for school bus drivers who are employed by any Colorado school district.

(c) (I) In addition to any other requirements, an application for a commercial driver's license shall state that:

(A) The applicant understands that, as a resident of the state of Colorado, any motor vehicle owned by the applicant must be registered in Colorado pursuant to the laws of the state and the

applicant may be subject to criminal penalties, civil penalties, cancellation or denial of the applicant's driver's license, and liability for any unpaid registration fees and specific ownership taxes if the applicant fails to comply with such registration requirements; and

(B) The applicant agrees, within thirty days after the date the applicant became a resident, to register in Colorado any vehicle owned by the applicant.

(II) The applicant shall verify the statements required by this paragraph (c) by the applicant's signature on the application.

(d) The department may not consider the following with regard to an application from a person for a commercial driver's license:

(I) A conviction for UDD;

(II) A license revocation imposed under section 42-2-126 (3)(b) if the person was under twenty-one years of age at the time of the offense and such person drove a motor vehicle while such person's BAC was at least 0.02 but not more than 0.05; or

(III) A license revocation imposed under section 42-2-126 (3)(e) if the person was under twenty-one years of age at the time of the offense and such person drove a commercial motor vehicle while such person's BAC was at least 0.02 but less than 0.04.

(e) With regard to every person who holds or applies for a commercial driver's license in this state, the department shall maintain, for at least three years, records of such person's application and of any convictions, disqualifications, and licensing actions for violation of state or local laws relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than parking violations, committed while the person was operating a commercial motor vehicle or that would affect the person's commercial driving privilege, and shall make such records available to the specified persons and entities as follows:

(I) To law enforcement officers, courts, prosecutors, administrative adjudicators, and motor vehicle licensing authorities in Colorado or any other state, all information on all such persons;

(II) To the federal secretary of transportation, all information on all such persons;

(III) To the individual to whom such information pertains, all such information pertaining to that individual;

(IV) To the motor carrier employer or prospective motor carrier employer of the individual to whom such information pertains, all such information pertaining to that individual.

(2.5) Any application for the issuance or renewal of a license pursuant to this section shall include the applicant's social security number as required in section 14-14-113, C.R.S.

(3) Nothing in this part 4 shall be construed to prevent the state of Colorado from complying with federal requirements in order to qualify for funds under the federal "Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986" or other applicable federal law.

(4) (a) Any male United States citizen or immigrant who applies for a commercial driver's license, or a renewal of any such license, and who is at least eighteen years of age but less than twenty-six years of age shall be registered in compliance with the requirements of section 3 of the "Military Selective Service Act", 50 U.S.C. App. sec. 453, as amended.

(b) The department shall forward in an electronic format the necessary personal information of the applicants identified in paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) to the selective service system. The applicant's submission of an application shall serve as an indication that the applicant either has already registered with the selective service system or that he is authorizing the department to forward to the selective service system the necessary information for such registration. The department shall notify the applicant that his signature serves as consent to registration with the selective service system, if so required by federal law.

(5) Notwithstanding any law or rule to the contrary, upon presentation of satisfactory evidence by an applicant, the department:

(a) Shall consider the training, education, or experience obtained by an applicant as a member of the United States armed forces or reserves, the National Guard of any state, the military reserves of any state, or the naval militia of any state; and

(b) May credit the training, education, or experience toward the qualifications to receive a license, certification, or registration.

(6) The department shall require initial applicants for the type of commercial driver's license that authorizes a person to operate a combination vehicle (class A under 49 CFR 383.153) to successfully pass training, when attending a commercial driving school certified for approval by the private occupational schools division in the department of higher education, on the recognition, prevention, and reporting of human trafficking.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2164, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (2)(d) added, p. 1466, § 10, effective July 1; (2.5) added, p. 1311, § 47, effective July 1; (2)(c) added, p. 1002, § 5, effective August 6. **L. 98:** (2)(d)(II) amended, p. 174, § 5, effective April 6. **L. 2001:** (4) added, p. 647, § 3, effective August 8. **L. 2004:** (1) and (3) amended and (2)(e) added, p. 890, §§ 1, 2, effective July 1, 2005. **L. 2008:** (2)(d) amended, p. 251, § 17, effective July 1. **L. 2016:** (5) added, (SB 16-134), ch. 195, p. 686, § 1, effective May 27. **L. 2018:** (6) added, (HB 18-1018), ch. 117, p. 815, § 1, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-503 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-403 was relocated to § 42-2-303.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 1997 act enacting subsection (2.5), see section 1 of chapter 236, Session Laws of Colorado 1997.

**42-2-404. Commercial driver's license - limitations - unlawful direction to operate a commercial motor vehicle - applicability - rules.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, no person shall operate a commercial motor vehicle upon the highways in this state on or after April 1, 1992, unless such person has attained the age of twenty-one years and has been issued and is in immediate possession of a commercial driver's license.

(1.5) (a) The department shall not issue a commercial driver's license to, and shall immediately cancel the commercial driver's license of, any person subject to a federal disqualification order on the basis of imminent hazard to public safety pursuant to 49 CFR 383.52.

(b) A person who is subject to a federal disqualification order on the basis of imminent hazard, or whose commercial or noncommercial driver's privilege is under restraint, shall not be eligible for a restricted, probationary, or hardship license that would permit the person to operate a commercial motor vehicle during the period of such disqualification or restraint.

(c) (I) The department shall not issue, renew, upgrade, or transfer a hazardous materials endorsement for a commercial driver's license that would have the effect of authorizing a person to operate a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous material in commerce unless the federal transportation security administration has determined that the person does not pose a security risk warranting a denial of the endorsement.

(II) Fingerprinting for the purpose of a criminal history record check for a hazardous materials endorsement on a commercial driver's license may be conducted by a state or local law enforcement agent or any other person who has the authorization or approval of a federal agency including, without limitation, the transportation safety administration or the federal bureau of investigation.

(III) A person enrolled in a commercial driver training school or holding a commercial driving learner's permit shall not be eligible to apply for or receive a hazardous materials endorsement and is prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous material at any time.

(2) No person who drives a commercial motor vehicle may have more than one driver's license.

(3) (a) In addition to any applicable federal penalty concerning commercial motor vehicle operators, any person who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section, or any rule or regulation promulgated by the department pursuant to this part 4, commits a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense; except that, if a person who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section presents a valid commercial driver's license to the court within thirty days after the date of the violation or at the person's first scheduled court appearance, the person, if convicted, is guilty of a class A traffic infraction.

(b) (I) An employer or an officer or agent of an employer shall not authorize or permit an employee to operate a commercial motor vehicle if the employer, officer, or agent knows or reasonably should know that the employee does not satisfy the requirements in subsection (1) of this section to operate a commercial motor vehicle.

(II) An employer, officer, or agent who violates subsection (3)(b)(I) of this section commits unlawful direction to operate a commercial motor vehicle. Unlawful direction to operate a commercial motor vehicle is a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(4) (a) This part 4 does not apply to any person who is at least eighteen years of age but less than twenty-one years of age and who operates a commercial motor vehicle upon the highways of this state solely in intrastate operations. In accordance with section 42-2-101 (4), a person of this age shall not operate any commercial motor vehicle upon the highways unless the person has been issued and is in immediate possession of a minor driver's license of the correct type or general class for the type or general class of motor vehicle that is issued.

(b) The department may promulgate rules authorizing a person who is at least eighteen years of age but less than twenty-one years of age to be licensed to drive a commercial vehicle in interstate commerce if the person:

(I) Holds a commercial driver's license; and

(II) Is authorized by federal law to drive a commercial vehicle in interstate commerce.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2165, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (4) amended, p. 1358, § 37, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2004:** (1.5) added, p. 891, § 3, effective July 1, 2005. **L. 2019:** (4) amended, (SB 19-018), ch. 2, p. 18, § 1, effective August 2. **L. 2021:** (3) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3302, § 715, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2023:** (3) amended, (SB 23-028), ch. 391, p. 2346, § 1, effective June 6. **L. 2024:** (3) amended, (HB 24-1135), ch. 208, p. 1280, § 1, effective August 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-504 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-404 was relocated to § 42-2-304.

**Cross references:** For the penalties for a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense and a class A traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701.

**42-2-405. Driver's license disciplinary actions - grounds for denial - suspension - revocation - disqualification.**

(1) A person who holds a commercial driver's license or who drives a commercial motor vehicle, as defined under this part 4, shall be subject, in addition to this part 4, to disciplinary actions, penalties, and the general provisions under parts 1, 2, and 3 of this article and article 7 of this title.

(2) In addition to applicable penalties imposed under the sections listed in subsection (1) of this section:

(a) A person who drives, operates, or is in physical control of a commercial motor vehicle while having any alcohol in his or her system, or who refuses to submit to a test to determine the alcoholic content of the driver's blood or breath while driving a commercial motor vehicle, shall be placed out of service as defined in section 42-2-402 (8).

(b) (I) If any person possesses or knowingly transports a schedule I drug or other substance identified in 49 CFR chapter III, subchapter B, appendix D, an amphetamine, a narcotic drug, a formulation of an amphetamine, or a derivative of a narcotic drug while operating a commercial vehicle during on-duty time, the department shall cancel such person's commercial driver's license for a period of six months or, if such person does not have a commercial driver's license, the department shall not issue a commercial driver's license to such person until at least six months have elapsed since the date of the latest such occurrence.

(II) If any person makes unlawful use of a schedule I drug or other substance identified in 49 CFR chapter III, subchapter B, appendix D, an amphetamine, a narcotic drug, a formulation of an amphetamine, or a derivative of a narcotic drug while operating a commercial vehicle during on-duty time, the department shall cancel such person's commercial driver's license for a period of one year or, if such person does not have a commercial driver's license, the department shall not issue a commercial driver's license to such person until at least one year has elapsed since the date of the latest such occurrence.

(3) For purposes of the imposition of restraints and sanctions against commercial driving privileges:



(a) A conviction for DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI, or a substantially similar law of any other state pertaining to drinking and driving, or an administrative determination of a violation of section 42-2-126 (3)(a) or (3)(b) shall be deemed driving under the influence; and

(b) A conviction for violating section 42-4-706, 42-4-707, 42-4-708, or a substantially similar law of any other state pertaining to conduct at or near railroad crossings, shall be deemed a railroad crossing offense.

(4) A commercial driver whose privilege to drive a commercial motor vehicle has been canceled or denied pursuant to this section may, following any applicable revocation period, apply for another type or class of driver's license in accordance with section 42-2-104, as long as there is no other statutory reason to deny such person such a license.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2165, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (2) amended, p. 272, § 2, effective April 8. **L. 97:** (3)(b)(II) amended, p. 1466, § 11, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (1) and (3) amended, p. 892, § 4, effective July 1, 2005. **L. 2006:** (3) amended, p. 261, § 3, effective March 31. **L. 2008:** (3)(a) amended, p. 252, § 18, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** (3)(a) amended, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1884, § 13, effective May 28.

#### ANNOTATION

**Arresting officer's report under former § 42-2-126 (3) provides jurisdiction.** The department had jurisdiction under this section to revoke commercial driver's license for one year where police officer's report contained all necessary information,

was sworn to under penalty of perjury, and used form supplied by department. Dept. of Rev. v. Hibbs, 122 P.3d 999 (Colo. 2005) (decided under law in effect prior to 2005 amendment to § 42-2-126 (3)).

#### **42-2-405.5. Violations of out-of-service order.**

(1) A person who operates a commercial motor vehicle in violation of an out-of-service order commits a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(2) No court shall accept a plea of guilty to another offense from a person charged with a violation of subsection (1) of this section; except that the court may accept such a plea upon a good faith representation by the prosecuting attorney that there is not a prima facie case for the original offense.

(3) Upon receipt of notice of a conviction or deferred sentence under subsection (1) of this section, the department shall immediately suspend the commercial driver's license for the

maximum period set forth in the United States federal regulations governing violations of out-of-service orders for commercial drivers and section 42-2-403 (1).

(4) Notice of suspension under subsection (3) of this section shall be mailed to the person by the department in compliance with section 42-2-119 (2).

(5) (a) Upon receipt of the notice of suspension, the person may request a hearing in writing if the person has surrendered to the department a commercial driver's license issued by any state. The department, upon notice to the person, shall hold a hearing as soon as practicable at the district office of the department closest to the residence of the person; except that, at the discretion of the department, all or part of the hearing may be conducted in real time by telephone or other electronic means in accordance with section 42-1-218.5.

(b) The only issues at such hearing are whether the driver was convicted of or received a deferred sentence for a violation of subsection (1) of this section and the appropriate length of suspension. If the driver was convicted, the license shall be suspended. The hearing officer may reduce the period of suspension based on findings at the hearing, including without limitation the circumstances of the violation, the prior driving record, and aggravating and mitigating factors. A hearing officer shall not reduce the suspension period below the minimum disqualification period imposed by 49 CFR 383.51.

(c) (I) The order of the hearing officer is the final agency action and may be appealed under section 42-2-135. A petition for judicial review must be filed within thirty-five days after the date of the order.

(II) Judicial review shall be on the record of the hearing without taking additional testimony. If the court finds that the department exceeded its constitutional or statutory authority, made an erroneous interpretation of the law, acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner, or made a determination that is unsupported by the evidence in the record, the court may reverse the department's determination.

(III) The court may grant a stay of the order only upon motion, after a hearing, and upon a finding that there is a reasonable probability that the petitioner will prevail upon the merits and that the petitioner will suffer irreparable harm if the order is not stayed.

**Source:** L. 2006: Entire section added, p. 261, § 4, effective March 31. L. 2015: (5)(c)(I) amended, (HB 15-1021), ch. 25, p. 64, § 4, effective August 5. L. 2026: (1) amended, (HB 26-1297), ch. 123, p. 535, § 7, effective August 12.

#### **42-2-406. Fees - rules.**

(1) A fee is required for the issuance of a commercial driver's license. The department shall set the fee in accordance with section 42-2-114.5. The department shall transfer the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2). The license expires on the birthday of the applicant in the fourth year after its issuance. When issuing a commercial driver's license, the office of the county clerk and recorder shall retain eight dollars and shall forward the remainder to the department for transmission to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(2) The fee for a person eighteen years of age or older for issuance of a minor driver's license that authorizes operation of a commercial motor vehicle upon the highways is the same as for a commercial driver's license issued under subsection (1) of this section. The department shall transfer the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2). When issuing a minor driver's license, the office of the county clerk and recorder shall retain eight dollars and shall forward the remainder to the department for transmission to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(3) (a) (I) The fee for the administration by commercial driver's license testing units of the driving test for licensing commercial drivers shall not exceed the fee set by rule.

(II) The department shall promulgate rules setting a limit on the amount that may be charged for the administration of the driving test by commercial driver's license testing units for licensing commercial drivers. The rules shall also provide for a lower fee limit for the administration of the driving test to an employee or volunteer of a nonprofit organization that provides specialized transportation services for the elderly and for persons with disabilities, to any individual employed by a school district, or to any individual employed by a board of cooperative services. The department shall promulgate such rules by December 1, 2008, and every three years thereafter.

(b) A fee is required for the administration of driving tests by the department. The department shall set the fee in accordance with section 42-2-114.5; except that the fee for the administration of the driving test to an employee or volunteer of a nonprofit organization that provides specialized transportation services for the elderly and for persons with disabilities, to any individual employed by a school district, or to any individual employed by a board of cooperative services shall not exceed forty dollars.

(c) The department may provide by rule for reduced fees for applicants who are retested after failing all or any part of the driving test.

(d) The department shall forward all fees collected for the administration of driving tests to the state treasurer, who shall credit them to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(4) An annual license fee is required for a commercial driver's license testing unit. The department shall set the fee in accordance with section 42-2-114.5. The department may provide by rule for reduced license fees for testing units operated by nonprofit organizations that provide specialized transportation services for the elderly and for persons with disabilities, by school districts, or by boards of cooperative services. The provisions of this subsection (4) do not apply to any public transportation system.

(5) An annual license fee is required for a commercial driver's license driving tester. The department shall set the fee in accordance with section 42-2-114.5. The department may provide by rule for reduced license fees for employees or volunteers of nonprofit organizations that provide specialized transportation services for the elderly and for persons with disabilities, for individuals employed by school districts, or for individuals employed by boards of cooperative services. The provisions of this subsection (5) do not apply to any public transportation system.

(6) The department shall forward all fees collected for the issuance of testing unit licenses and driving test licenses under subsections (4) and (5) of this section to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fees to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(7) Notwithstanding the amount specified for any fee in this section, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may reduce the amount of one or more of the fees if necessary pursuant to section 24-75-402 (3), C.R.S., to reduce the uncommitted reserves of the fund to which all or any portion of one or more of the fees is credited. After the uncommitted reserves of the fund are sufficiently reduced, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may increase the amount of one or more of the fees as provided in section 24-75-402 (4), C.R.S.

**Source:** **L. 94:** (1) and (1.5) amended, p. 539, § 2, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2166, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (1)(b)(II) amended, p. 120, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 98:** (7) added, p. 1353, § 100, effective June 1. **L. 2000:** (2) amended, p. 1359, § 38, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** (3) and (6) amended, p. 142, § 8, effective April 5. **L. 2007:** (1) and (2) amended, p. 1573, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (3) amended, p. 522, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2009:** (1), (2), (3)(d), and (6) amended, (SB 09-274), ch. 210, p. 954, § 7, effective May 1. **L. 2010:** (1), (2), (3)(d), and (6) amended, (HB 10-1387), ch. 205, p. 888, § 6, effective May 5. **L. 2012:** (1), (2), (3)(d), and (6) amended, (HB 12-1216), ch. 80, p. 265, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2014:** (1), (2), (3)(b), (3)(d), and (4) to (6) amended, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p.

1549, § 16, effective June 5. **L. 2022:** (1), (2), (3)(d), and (6) amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 913, § 14, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-2-506 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-406 was relocated to § 42-2-306.

(2) Amendments to subsections (1) and (1.5) by House Bill 94-1028 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

#### **42-2-407. Licensing of testing units and driving testers - hearings - regulations.**

(1) Commercial driver's license driving tests may be performed only by employees of the department or by commercial driver's license driving testers who are employed by commercial driver's license testing units, under contract with a commercial driver's license testing unit, or under contract with a statewide association working with transit agencies.

(2) The department is hereby authorized to issue, deny, suspend, or revoke licenses for the operation of commercial driver's license testing units. The department shall furnish all necessary instructions and forms to such testing units.

(3) The department is hereby authorized to issue, deny, suspend, or revoke licenses for commercial driver's license driving testers. The department shall furnish all necessary instructions and forms to such driving testers.

(4) The department shall supervise the activities of testing units and driving testers. The department shall provide for the inspection of testing units. Testing units shall be open for business at reasonable hours to allow inspection of the operations of such testing units.

(5) Testing units shall keep records as required by the department and shall make such records available to the department for inspection.

(6) The department shall require the surrender of the license of any commercial driver's license testing unit or commercial driver's license driving tester upon the suspension or revocation of such license.

(7) Any person aggrieved by the denial of issuance, denial of renewal, suspension, or revocation of a testing unit license or driving tester license shall be entitled to a hearing. Hearings held under this subsection (7) shall be conducted by a hearing officer before the department. Such hearing shall be held within thirty days after a written request for a hearing is received by the department. Such hearing shall be held before a hearing officer of the department and shall be held at the district office of the department which is nearest to the residence of the licensee, unless the hearing officer and the licensee agree that such hearing may be held at some

other district office. Such hearing officer may administer oaths and may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant books, records, and papers at such hearing. The aggrieved person shall not perform any act under the license pending the outcome of such hearing.

(8) (a) The department shall adopt regulations for the administration and operation of commercial driver's license testing units and the conduct of commercial driver's license driving testers.

(b) In order to address the critical shortage of transit drivers that is limiting the ability of transit agencies to offer robust services, as soon as practicable after May 26, 2022, the rules must include provisions allowing a testing unit that does not employ a driving tester to be licensed and conduct tests using a driving tester that is under contract with the testing unit or with a statewide association working with transit agencies.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2168, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
L. 2022: (1) and (8) amended, (SB 22-180), ch. 236, p. 1741, § 5, effective May 26.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-507 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-407 was relocated to § 42-2-307.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 22-180, see section 1 of chapter 236, Session Laws of Colorado 2022.

#### **42-2-408. Unlawful acts - penalty.**

(1) It is unlawful for any person other than an employee of the department to perform commercial driver's license driving tests, to act as a commercial driver's license testing unit, or to act as a commercial driver's license driving tester unless such person has been duly licensed by the department under the provisions of section 42-2-407.

(2) Any person who violates the provisions of this section commits a petty offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-503.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2169, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
L. 2021: (2) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3302, § 716, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-2-508 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-2-408 was relocated to § 42-2-308.

**42-2-409. Unlawful possession or use of a commercial driver's license.**

(1) (a) A person shall not have in his or her possession a lawfully issued commercial driver's license knowing that the license has been falsely altered by means of erasure, obliteration, deletion, insertion of new information, transposition of information, or any other means so that the license in its altered form falsely appears or purports to be in all respects an authentic and lawfully issued license.

(b) A person shall not fraudulently obtain a commercial driver's license.

(c) A person shall not have in his or her possession a paper, document, or other instrument that falsely appears or purports to be in all respects a lawfully issued and authentic commercial driver's license knowing that the instrument was falsely made and was not lawfully issued.

(d) A person shall not display, or represent as being his or her own, a commercial driver's license that was lawfully issued to another person.

(e) A person shall not fail or refuse to surrender to the department upon its lawful demand a commercial driver's license issued to the person that has been suspended, revoked, or canceled by the department. The department shall notify in writing the district attorney's office in the county where the violation occurred of all violations of this paragraph (e).

(f) A person shall not permit the unlawful use of a commercial driver's license issued to the person.

(g) A person shall not photograph, photostat, duplicate, or in any way reproduce a commercial driver's license or facsimile thereof for the purpose of distribution, resale, reuse, or manipulation of the data or images contained in the commercial driver's license unless authorized by the department or otherwise authorized by law.

(2) (a) A person who violates subsections (1)(a) to (1)(f) of this section commits a petty offense.

(b) A person who violates subsection (1)(g) of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor.

(3) (a) Upon receipt of a notice of conviction under this section, the department shall permanently revoke the person's right to receive a commercial driver's license.

(b) A notice of revocation under this section shall be mailed to the person by the department in compliance with section 42-2-119 (2).

(c) Upon receipt of the notice of revocation, the person or the person's attorney may request a hearing in writing. The department, upon notice to the person as provided in section 42-2-119 (2), shall hold a hearing as soon as practicable at the district office of the department closest to the residence of the person; except that, at the discretion of the department, all or part of the hearing may be conducted in real time by telephone or other electronic means in accordance with section 42-1-218.5.

(d) The order of the hearing officer is the final agency action and may be appealed under section 42-2-135. A petition for judicial review must be filed within thirty-five days after the date of the order.

(4) A court shall not accept a plea of guilty to another offense from a person charged with a violation of this section; except that the court may accept a plea of guilty to another offense upon a good faith representation by the prosecuting attorney that the attorney cannot establish a prima facie case if the defendant is brought to trial on the original offense.

**Source:** **L. 2006:** Entire section added, p. 165, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2015:** (3)(d) amended, (HB 15-1021), ch. 25, p. 64, § 5, effective August 5. **L. 2021:** (2) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3303, § 717, effective March 1, 2022.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a misdemeanor, see § 18-1.3-501; for the penalty for a petty offense, see § 18-1.3-503.

## PART 5

### COLORADO ROAD AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ACT

#### **42-2-501. Short title.**

This part 5 may be known and cited as the "Colorado Road and Community Safety Act".

**Source:** **L. 2013:** Entire part added, (SB 13-251), ch. 402, p. 2352, § 4, effective August 7.

#### **42-2-502. Legislative declaration.**

The purpose of this part 5 is to authorize an individual to qualify for a driver's license, minor driver's license, instruction permit, or identification card despite the individual not being lawfully



present or being temporarily lawfully present in the United States. This part 5 is not intended to change other qualifications, requirements, or consequences of holding the document under parts 1 to 3 of this article, article 7 of this title, or any other provision of law. The suspension or revocation of driving privileges, the required fees, financial responsibility requirements, rules of the road, administrative procedures and hearings, qualifications for a driver's license, violations and penalties, and other provisions that apply to driver's licenses, minor driver's licenses, instruction permits, and identification cards are not intended to be affected by this part 5.

**Source: L. 2013:** Entire part added, (SB 13-251), ch. 402, p. 2352, § 4, effective August 7.

#### **42-2-503. Definitions.**

As used in this part 5, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Identification document" means a driver's license, minor driver's license, instruction permit, or identification card issued by the department of revenue under parts 1 and 3 of this article.
- (2) "Proof of return filing" means the document issued under section 39-21-113 (4)(b), C.R.S., that certifies that the applicant filed a Colorado resident income tax return.
- (3) "Temporarily present" means a person whose authority to lawfully remain in the United States is temporary and who qualifies for a temporary identification document card under Pub.L. 109-13, Division B, Title II, sec. 202 (c)(2)(C).

**Source: L. 2013:** Entire part added, (SB 13-251), ch. 402, p. 2352, § 4, effective August 7.

#### **42-2-504. Applicability.**

- (1) This part 5 applies to identification documents for individuals who are not citizens of the United States and who do not have permanent residency status.
- (2) **Other provisions.** Parts 1 to 4 of this article 2 and article 7 of this title 42 apply to identification documents issued or renewed under this part 5, but to the extent there is a conflict, this part 5 supercedes parts 1 to 3 of this article 2 and article 7 of this title 42 for identification documents issued in compliance with this part 5.

(3) **Commercial driver's licenses.** This part 5 does not authorize the issuance of a commercial driver's license or commercial driving learner's permit under part 4 of this article to a person who is not lawfully present in the United States.

**Source: L. 2013:** Entire part added, (SB 13-251), ch. 402, p. 2352, § 4, effective August 7. **L. 2018:** (2) amended, (SB 18-108), ch. 260, p. 1595, § 1, effective January 1, 2019.

#### **42-2-505. Identification documents - individuals not lawfully present - rules.**

(1) **Documents issued.** An individual who is not lawfully present in the United States may apply for an identification document in accordance with this part 5. Any information collected prior to May 23, 2025, for the purpose of demonstrating eligibility for an identification document in accordance with this part 5 for an individual who does not have lawful immigration status in the United States must be managed in accordance with the data privacy policy adopted by the department of revenue. The department shall issue an identification document to an applicant who:

(a) Qualifies for the document applied for except for qualifications that conflict with this section;

(b) Signs an affidavit that the applicant is currently a resident and presents evidence of residence in Colorado that conforms to the standards of the federal "REAL ID Act of 2025", Pub.L. 109-13, Division B, Title II, sec. 201 et seq., or any rules promulgated under the act; and

(c) and (d) Repealed.

(e) Presents one of the following documents that is unexpired or has expired less than ten years before the date of the individual's application for an identification document:

(I) From the applicant's country of origin:

(A) A passport;

(B) A consular identification card; or

(C) A military identification document;

(II) On and after the earlier of January 1, 2027, or when the department is able to implement this subsection (1)(e)(II), an identifying document or a combination of identifying documents issued by an agency of the United States government or its contractors or subcontractors in accordance with rules promulgated by the department in accordance with subsection (4) of this section.

(1.5) (a) The department shall issue a new identification document to a person who has a gender different from the sex denoted on that person's identification document when the department receives a new birth certificate issued pursuant to section 25-2-113.8 or when the department receives:

(I) A statement, in a form or format designated by the department, from the person, or from the person's parent if the person is a minor, or from the person's guardian or legal representative, signed under penalty of law, confirming the sex designation on the person's identification document does not align with the person's gender identity; and

(II) If the person is a minor under the age of eighteen, a statement, in a form or format designated by the department, signed under penalty of law, from a professional medical or mental health-care provider licensed in good standing in Colorado or with an equivalent license in good standing from another jurisdiction, stating that the sex designation on the identification document does not align with the minor's gender identity. This subsection (1.5)(a)(II) does not require a minor to undergo any specific surgery, treatment, clinical care, or behavioral health care.

(b) The department may only amend a sex designation for an individual's identification document three times upon the individual's request. Any further requests from the individual for additional sex designation changes require the submission of a court order indicating that the sex designation change is required.

**(2) Document contents.**

(a) On an identification document issued pursuant to this section, the department shall place the phrase "Not valid for federal identification, voting, or federal public benefit purposes" clearly displayed on the face and incorporated into the machine readable zone. The department may use a substantially similar phrase if required by federal law.

(b) The department shall design the identification document issued under this section to be distinguishable from another identification document issued under this article in compliance with federal law.

**(3) Graduated driver's license requirements.** To be issued a minor driver's license under this section, an applicant who is under eighteen years of age must comply with section 42-2-104 (4).

**(4) Rules.** The department shall promulgate rules establishing exceptions processing to issue an identification document in accordance with this section and determining the types of documents, the standards for the documents, and the combination of the documents issued by an agency of the United States government or its contractors or subcontractors. The rules must address the following documents:

(a) An identifying document issued by the United States department of homeland security, its contractors or subcontractors, or the United States department of justice, including Form I-862, Notice to Appear; Form I-200, Warrant for Arrest of Alien; Form I-205, Warrant of Deportation; Form I-220A, Order of Release on Recognizance; and Form 220B, Order of Supervision, or the successor to any of the listed forms;

(b) An identification document issued under the intensive supervision appearance program by the United States immigration and customs enforcement agency within the United States department of homeland security;

(c) A verification-of-release document issued by the office of refugee resettlement in the United States department of health and human services;

(d) A voter identification document with a photograph; or

(e) A driver's license, instruction permit, or identification card.

**Source:** **L. 2013:** Entire part added, (SB 13-251), ch. 402, p. 2353, § 4, effective August 7. **L. 2018:** IP(1) and (1)(c) amended, (SB 18-108), ch. 260, p. 1595, § 2, effective January 1, 2019. **L. 2019:** (1.5) added, (HB 19-1039), ch. 377, p. 3407, § 5, effective January 1, 2020. **L. 2020:** (1.5)(a) amended, (SB 20-166), ch. 280, p. 1372, § 4, effective July 13. **L. 2021:** (1.5)(a)(II) amended, (SB 21-266), ch. 423, p. 2808, § 43, effective July 2; (2)(a) amended, (SB 21-199), ch. 351, p. 2283, § 7, effective July 1, 2022. **L. 2024:** (1)(b) and (1)(e) amended and (4) added, (SB 24-182), ch. 435, p. 3044, § 1, effective March 31, 2025; (1)(c)(III) added by revision, (SB 24-182), ch. 435, pp. 3044, 3046, §§ 1, 3. **L. 2025:** IP(1) amended and (1)(d) repealed, (SB 25-276), ch. 240, p. 1211, § 3, effective May 23; (1)(e)(II) amended, (HB 25-1076), ch. 16, p. 65, § 15, effective August 6; (1.5)(b) amended, (HB 25-1312), ch. 205, p. 931, § 13, effective October 1, 2026.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (1)(c)(III) provided for the repeal of subsection (1)(c), effective March 31, 2025. (See L. 2024, pp. 3044, 3046.)

**Cross references:** (1) For the legislative declaration in SB 25-276, see section 1 of chapter 240, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

(2) For the short title ("Kelly Loving Act") in HB 25-1312, see section 1 of chapter 205, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

**42-2-506. Identification documents - individuals temporarily lawfully present.**

(1) An individual who is temporarily present in the United States may apply for an identification document pursuant to this section. The department shall issue an identification document if the individual:

(a) Qualifies for the document applied for except for qualifications that conflict with this section; and

(b) Produces documents that satisfy the department that the individual is lawfully present in the United States.

**Source: L. 2013:** Entire part added, (SB 13-251), ch. 402, p. 2354, § 4, effective August 7. **L. 2014:** (1)(b) amended, (HB 14-1363), ch. 302, p. 1276, § 46, effective May 31. **L. 2022:** Entire section amended, (SB 22-204), ch. 423, p. 3010, § 1, effective January 1, 2023.

**42-2-507. Taxpayer identification number - confidentiality.**

The department shall keep the applicant's individual taxpayer identification number confidential and shall not place it on the applicant's document; except that this confidentiality requirement does not extend to the state child support enforcement agency, the department, or a court of competent jurisdiction when requesting information in the course of activities authorized under article 13 of title 26, C.R.S., or article 14 of title 14, C.R.S.

**Source: L. 2013:** Entire part added, (SB 13-251), ch. 402, p. 2354, § 4, effective August 7.

**42-2-508. Fees - operations - rule.**

(1) The department may promulgate a rule imposing an additional fee for issuance of a document issued under this part 5 to cover the direct and indirect cost of implementing this part 5. The department shall set the fee in accordance with section 42-2-114.5 (2). The department shall transfer the fees to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fees to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(2) (a) Repealed.

(b) By July 1, 2020, the department shall issue identification documents under this part 5 in an efficient manner at ten or more offices, including offices operating before July 1, 2020, that are geographically distributed throughout the state.

**Source: L. 2013:** Entire part added, (SB 13-251), ch. 402, p. 2354, § 4, effective August 7. **L. 2014:** Entire section amended, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1551, § 17, effective June 5. **L. 2019:** Entire section amended, (SB 19-139), ch. 298, p. 2757, § 1, effective May 28. **L. 2022:** (1) amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 914, § 15, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (2)(a) provided for the repeal of subsection (2)(a), effective July 1, 2020. (See L. 2019, p. 2757.)

#### **42-2-509. Renewal - duplicate - replacement - rules.**

##### **(1) Renewal.**

(a) An identification document issued under this part 5 expires three years after issuance. The holder of the document must apply for renewal in accordance with section 42-2-118 or 42-2-304, as applicable, to continue to hold a valid identification document; except that the holder:

(I) Need not demonstrate lawful presence if the identification document was issued under section 42-2-504;

(II) Is not permitted to extend the expiration date under section 42-2-118 (1)(b)(I); and

(III) Is not permitted to obtain an identification document using a sworn statement of the person's social security number.

(b) To renew an identification document issued under section 42-2-504 to a person who is not lawfully present, the holder must present the identification document and provide evidence of current Colorado residency as determined by the department by rule.

(2) **Duplicate permits, minor licenses, and identification cards - replacements.** If an instruction permit, minor driver's license, or identification card issued under this part 5 is lost, stolen, or destroyed, the person to whom it was issued may obtain a duplicate or replacement in accordance with section 42-2-117 or 42-2-305, as applicable.

**Source: L. 2013:** Entire part added, (SB 13-251), ch. 402, p. 2354, § 4, effective August 7. **L. 2018:** Entire section amended, (SB 18-108), ch. 260, p. 1596, § 3, effective January 1, 2019.

**42-2-510. Peace officers - arrest authority.**

An immigration status violation is a federal offense. A peace officer is not authorized to arrest an individual merely for possessing an identification document issued under this part 5.

**Source: L. 2013:** Entire part added, (SB 13-251), ch. 402, p. 2354, § 4, effective August 7.

**42-2-511. Driving test - third-party option - definition.**

(1) As used in this section, "driving test" means the demonstration of ordinary and reasonable care in the operation of a motor vehicle in accordance with section 42-2-111.

(2) To use the procedure set forth in subsection (3) of this section, an applicant for an identification document must fulfill the applicable requirements of this part 5 and part 1 of this article other than the driving test.

(3) If an applicant for an identification document under this part 5 fails the driving test, the applicant may retake the driving test from a vendor approved by the department to conduct the test. If the applicant passes the driving test within sixty days after failing the driving test, the applicant may reopen the application for a driver's license at any office authorized to issue identification documents to the applicant. To be issued the license under this part 5, the applicant must present evidence of passing the test.

**Source: L. 2016:** Entire section added, (HB 16-1415), ch. 139, p. 414, § 5, effective May 4.

## PART 6

### COMMERCIAL DRIVING SCHOOLS

**Editor's note:** This part 6 was added with relocations in 2017. Former C.R.S. section numbers are shown in editor's notes following those sections that were relocated.

**42-2-601. Definitions.**

As used in this part 6, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Commercial driving instructor" means an individual who has been employed by a commercial driving school.

(2) "Commercial driving school" means any business or any person who, for compensation, provides or offers to provide instruction in the operation of a motor vehicle, with the exceptions of secondary schools and institutions of higher education offering programs approved by the department of education and private occupational schools offering programs approved by the private occupational school division. The term shall not include any motorcycle operator safety training program established pursuant to section 43-5-502.

(3) "Department" means the department of revenue.

**Source: L. 2017:** Entire part added with relocations, (SB 17-224), ch. 179, p. 657, § 1, effective August 9.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 12-15-101 as it existed prior to 2017.

#### **42-2-602. Equipment of vehicles.**

(1) Every motor vehicle used by a commercial driving school in the conduct of its course of driver training shall be equipped as follows:

(a) The vehicle shall be equipped as provided in article 4 of this title 42.

(b) The vehicle shall be equipped with dual controls on the foot brake that will enable the commercial driving instructor to bring the car under control in case of emergency.

(c) The vehicle shall have an outside rear vision mirror on the commercial driving instructor's side of the vehicle.

(d) The vehicle shall be equipped with four-way emergency flashers.

(e) The vehicle shall be equipped with seat belts for the operator of the vehicle and for the commercial driving instructor.

**Source: L. 2017:** Entire part added with relocations, (SB 17-224), ch. 179, p. 658, § 1, effective August 9.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 12-15-114 as it existed prior to 2017.



**42-2-602.5. Criminal history of commercial driving instructors - rules - definition - repeal.**

***[Editor's note: For the applicability of this section, see the editor's note following this section.]***

(1) A commercial driving instructor shall not provide, and a commercial driving school shall not employ a commercial driving instructor to provide, driving instruction to a minor or at-risk adult if the commercial driving instructor has been, within the last twenty years, convicted of or plead guilty or nolo contendere to:

(a) A violation of article 3; part 4 or 8 of article 6; article 6.5; or part 4, 5, or 8 of article 7 of title 18;

(b) Any other crime that the department determines, by rule, places a minor or at-risk adult at risk of sexual misconduct or violence when with the commercial driving instructor; or

(c) A violation of article 2 of title 18, the basis of which is an offense listed in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) of this section.

(2) (a) A commercial driving school shall not employ or authorize a commercial driving instructor to provide driving instruction to a minor or at-risk adult unless the commercial driving instructor has obtained a fingerprint-based criminal history record check in accordance with subsection (2)(b) of this section; except that a commercial driving instructor may provide driving instruction on a probationary basis while the results of the record check are pending. The commercial driving school shall submit to the department the name of each commercial driving instructor that it intends to employ or to authorize to provide driving instruction to minors or at-risk adults.

(b) (I) The department shall require each commercial driving instructor who provides or is retained to provide driving instruction to minors or at-risk adults to have the applicant's fingerprints taken by a local law enforcement agency or any third party approved by the Colorado bureau of investigation for the purpose of obtaining a fingerprint-based criminal history record check. The commercial driving instructor shall authorize the entity taking the applicant's fingerprints to submit, and the entity shall submit, the complete set of the applicant's fingerprints to the Colorado bureau of investigation for the purpose of conducting a fingerprint-based criminal history record check.

(II) If an approved third party takes the person's fingerprints, the fingerprints may be electronically captured using Colorado bureau of investigation-approved livescan equipment. Third-party vendors shall not keep the applicant's information for more than thirty days.

(III) The Colorado bureau of investigation shall use the commercial driving instructor's fingerprints to conduct a criminal history record check using the bureau's records. The Colorado

bureau of investigation shall also forward the fingerprints to the federal bureau of investigation for the purpose of conducting a fingerprint-based criminal history record check. The Colorado bureau of investigation, commercial driving instructor, department, and entity taking fingerprints shall comply with the federal bureau of investigation's requirements to conduct a criminal history record check.

(IV) The Colorado bureau of investigation shall return the results of its criminal history record check to the department, and the department is authorized to receive the results of the federal bureau of investigation's criminal history record check. The department shall use the information resulting from the criminal history record checks to investigate and determine whether an applicant is qualified for employment as a commercial driving instructor pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

(V) When the federal bureau of investigation is unable to complete a fingerprint-based criminal history record check of a commercial driving instructor, the Colorado bureau of investigation shall inform the department and the department shall inform the commercial driving school, and the commercial driving school shall require the commercial driving instructor to conduct a criminal history record check of the person using Colorado bureau of investigation's records as a substitute for the fingerprint-based criminal history record check required in this subsection (2).

(VI) When the results of a criminal history record check of an applicant performed pursuant to this subsection (2) reveal a record of arrest without a disposition, the department shall require the applicant to submit to a name-based judicial record check, as defined in section 22-2-119.3 (6)(d).

(VII) The department shall notify the commercial driving school whether the commercial driving instructor qualifies or is disqualified from providing instruction in accordance with subsection (1) of this section.

(VIII) The commercial driving school shall pay the costs associated with the fingerprint-based criminal history record check to the Colorado bureau of investigation.

(3) As used in this section, "at-risk adult" has the meaning set forth in section 18-6.5-102 (2).

(4) (a) This section takes effect July 1, 2026.

(b) This subsection (4) is repealed, effective July 1, 2027.

**Source: L. 2024:** Entire section added, (HB 24-1021), ch. 174, p. 950, § 4, effective April 1, 2026 (see editor's note).

**Editor's note:** (1) Section 5(1) of chapter 174 (HB 24-1021), Session Laws of Colorado 2024, provides that the act adding this section takes effect April 1, 2026. Subsection (4)(a) of this section provides that this section takes effect July 1, 2026.

(2) Section 5(2) of chapter 174 (HB 24-1021), Session Laws of Colorado 2024, provides that the act adding this section applies to applications for instruction permits and driver's licenses submitted on or after January 1, 2027.

#### **42-2-603. Rules.**

(1) The department is authorized to promulgate rules as necessary to carry out the provisions of this part 6.

(2) Specifically, the department shall have power to adopt rules upon the following matters:

- (a) Prescribe the content of courses of instruction;
- (b) Prescribe the type of equipment to be used in said courses of instruction;
- (c) Prescribe records to be kept by a commercial driving school;
- (d) Prescribe the form of contracts and agreements used by commercial driving schools.

(3) In adopting the rules, the department shall:

(a) Use the guidelines concerning commercial driving schools adopted by the United States department of transportation; and

(b) Include in the curricula guidelines for sharing the road with equestrians that include, when sharing the road with equestrians, the advice that the driver:

(I) Proceed with due care and caution to avoid causing injury to the equestrian;

(II) Not exceed ten miles per hour; and

(III) (A) Maintain at least six feet of distance from the equestrian when passing unless traffic conditions make it impossible to maintain six feet of distance; or

(B) Maintain as much distance as possible from the equestrian if traffic conditions make it impossible to maintain six feet of distance.

(4) Rules adopted pursuant to this section shall be adopted in accordance with section 24-4-103.

**Source: L. 2017:** Entire part added with relocations, (SB 17-224), ch. 179, p. 658, § 1, effective August 9. **L. 2025:** (3) amended, (SB 25-149), ch. 266, p. 1378, § 10, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 12-15-116 as it existed prior to 2017.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 25-149, see section 1 of chapter 266, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

#### **42-2-604. Violations - penalty.**

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this part 6 is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than thirty days, or by both fine and imprisonment.

**Source: L. 2017:** Entire part added with relocations, (SB 17-224), ch. 179, p. 658, § 1, effective August 9.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 12-15-120 as it existed prior to 2017.

## **TAXATION**

### **ARTICLE 3**

#### **Registration, Taxation, and License Plates**

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## PART 1

### REGISTRATION AND TAXATION

#### **42-3-101. Legislative declaration.**

(1) The general assembly declares that its purpose in enacting this article is to implement by law the purpose and intent of section 6 of article X of the state constitution, wherein it is provided that "The general assembly shall enact laws classifying motor vehicles and also wheeled trailers, semitrailers, trailer coaches, and mobile and self-propelled construction equipment, prescribing methods of determining the taxable value of such property, and requiring payment of a graduated annual specific ownership tax thereon, which tax shall be in lieu of all ad valorem taxes upon such property; ...".

(2) The general assembly further declares that it intends to classify in this article the personal property so specified, to prescribe methods by which the taxable value of such classified property shall be determined, to require payment of a graduated annual specific ownership tax upon each item of such classified personal property, and to provide for the administration and collection of such tax, and for the apportionment and distribution of the revenue derived therefrom.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1071, § 2, effective August 8.

### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-3-101 is similar to § 42-3-101 as it existed prior to the 2005 amendment to article 3 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, a relevant case construing a former provision similar to that section has been included in the annotations to this section.

**The registration of vehicles is primarily a taxing scheme** whereby the owner of a vehicle is assessed an annual fee in lieu of an ad valorem tax on his vehicle. *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

**Taxing scheme applies to vehicles to be operated on Colorado highways.** The taxing scheme applies, with some exceptions, to all vehicles which are owned by Colorado residents and are primarily designed to be operated on Colorado highways. *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

If the vehicle is not to be operated on Colorado highways, the owner is not required to pay the ownership tax. *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

**The law is designed to be equitable.** *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

The taxing scheme is equitably tailored to tax those who have an opportunity to operate a vehicle on Colorado highways. *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

**Plaintiff not deprived of property right by enforcement of law.** *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

**Taxing scheme implemented by § 42-3-115.** *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

#### **42-3-101.5. Definitions.**

As used in this article 3, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Registration number" means the distinct registration number assigned to the owner of a vehicle and the vehicle pursuant to section 42-3-113 (1)(a).

**Source: L. 2025:** Entire section added, (SB 25-275), ch. 377, p. 2106, § 325, effective August 6.

#### **42-3-102. Periodic registration - rules.**

(1) The department may establish by rule a periodic vehicle registration program whereby certain vehicles shall be registered at:

(a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, twelve-month intervals beginning on the month following the month of application for registration, in which case the registration of these vehicles expires on the last day of the month of each twelve-month registration period;

(b) Five-year intervals upon payment of a five-year registration fee and any five-year specific ownership tax that may be due. An owner of any of the following motor vehicles may elect a five-year registration pursuant to this paragraph (b), which registration shall expire on the last day of the last month of each five-year registration period:

(I) A utility trailer; or

(II) Special mobile machinery.

(2) (a) Except for motor vehicles of model year 1981 or older and except for motorcycles of any model year, the department may register motor vehicles at two-year intervals upon payment of a two-year registration fee and a two-year specific ownership tax. The owner of a motor vehicle that is eligible as determined by the department for two-year registration may elect a two-year registration pursuant to this subsection (2), which registration shall expire on the last day of the last month of each two-year registration period.

(b) This subsection (2) shall not apply to class A property that is registered through the international registration plan. Such vehicles shall continue to be registered every twelve months.

(3) (a) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (3)(a) is effective until July 1, 2027.]*** The department may register vehicles at intervals of less than one year upon payment of the appropriate registration fees, surcharges, and specific ownership tax in order to allow the owner of more than one vehicle to provide for the owner's vehicle registrations to expire simultaneously. The owner of a vehicle that is eligible as determined by the authorized agent may elect a registration pursuant to this subsection (3). The department may adopt rules as necessary for the administration of this subsection (3).

(3) (a) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (3)(a) is effective July 1, 2027.]*** The department may register vehicles at intervals of less than one year upon payment of the appropriate registration fees, surcharges, and specific ownership tax in order to allow the owner to select the month of expiration during initial registration or registration renewal. The request must be made only one time in the twelve months after the transaction date. The owner of a vehicle that is eligible as determined by the authorized agent may elect a registration pursuant to this subsection (3). The department may adopt rules as necessary for the administration of this subsection (3).

(b) This subsection (3) shall not apply to class A property that is registered through the international registration plan. Such vehicles shall continue to be registered every twelve months.

(4) (a) (I) In lieu of registering under subsections (1) to (3) of this section, an applicant may register a commercial trailer or semitrailer under this paragraph (a) if:

(A) The trailer or semitrailer qualifies as Class A personal property;

(B) The owner is based outside Colorado in accordance with the international registration plan; and

(C) The owner complies with this section and sections 42-3-107 (28) and 42-3-313.

(II) A trailer or semitrailer registration issued under this subsection (4) does not expire except when the vehicle changes ownership in accordance with this article. The registration expires upon the sale or transfer of the trailer or semitrailer.

(III) The department shall issue a license plate to a trailer or semitrailer registered under this paragraph (a), but a validating sticker or tab is not issued nor required for the license plate.

(b) (I) In lieu of registering under subsections (1) to (3) of this section, an applicant may register a commercial trailer or semitrailer under this paragraph (b) if:

(A) The trailer or semitrailer qualifies as Class A personal property;

(B) The owner is based in Colorado in accordance with the international registration plan;

(C) The trailer or semitrailer is in at least its tenth year of service; and

(D) The owner complies with this section and sections 42-3-107 (28) and 42-3-313.

(II) A trailer or semitrailer registration issued under this paragraph (b) does not expire except when the vehicle changes ownership in accordance with this article. The registration expires upon the sale or transfer of the trailer or semitrailer.

(III) The department shall issue a license plate to a trailer or semitrailer registered under this paragraph (b), but a validating sticker or tab is not issued nor required for the license plate.

(c) Upon the sale or transfer of ownership of a trailer or semitrailer registered under this section, the owner shall notify the department of the sale or transfer. Upon registering a trailer or semitrailer under this section, the department shall notify the owner of this provision. The department shall also notify the public of the requirements of this section on its web page.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article or article 6 of this title, a person may register a trailer or semitrailer under this subsection (4) with a valid certificate of title from another jurisdiction of the United States without filing for a certificate of title in Colorado.

(e) Repealed.

(5) ***[Editor's note: Subsection (5) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of subsection (5) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]***

(a) In lieu of registering under subsections (1) to (3) of this section, an applicant may register a trailer under this subsection (5) if:

(I) The trailer qualifies as Class B or Class D personal property; and

(II) The owner complies with this section and sections 42-3-107 (29) and 42-3-315.

(b) A trailer registration issued under this subsection (5) does not expire until the trailer changes ownership in accordance with this article 3. The registration expires upon the transfer of the trailer.

(c) The department shall issue a license plate to a trailer registered under this subsection (5), but a validating sticker or tab is not issued nor required for the license plate.

(d) (I) Upon the transfer of ownership of a trailer registered under this section, the owner shall notify the department of the transfer.

(II) Upon registering a trailer under this section, the department shall notify the owner of the requirement of this subsection (5)(d) to notify the department of any transfer of the trailer registered under this subsection (5). The department shall also notify the public of the requirements of this subsection (5) on its web page.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1072, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2007:** (1)(a) amended and (3) added, p. 500, § 2, effective August 3. **L. 2010:** (1)(b)(II) amended, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1487, § 2, effective October 1. **L. 2012:** (4) added, (HB 12-1038), ch. 276, p. 1455, § 2, effective June 8. **L. 2022:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 22-1254), ch. 428, p. 3029, § 6, effective January 1, 2023; (3)(a) amended, (HB 22-1388), ch. 475, p. 3460, § 2, effective January 1, 2023. **L. 2025:** (3)(a) amended, (HB 25-1189), ch. 395, p. 2227, § 2, effective July 1, 2027; (5) added, (HB 25-1121), ch. 392, p. 2213, § 1, effective July 1, 2027. **L. 2026:** (4)(e) repealed, (HB 26-1295), ch. 121, p. 528, § 30, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) Section 7(2) of chapter 395 (HB 25-1189), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to titles issued and fees incurred on or after July 1, 2027.

(2) Section 5(2) of chapter 392 (HB 25-1121), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to registrations made on or after January 1, 2028.

**Cross references:** (1) For the legislative declaration contained in the 2007 act amending subsection (1)(a) and enacting subsection (3), see section 1 of chapter 136, Session Laws of Colorado 2007.

(2) For the legislative declaration in the 2012 act adding subsection (4), see section 1 of chapter 276, Session Laws of Colorado 2012.

(3) For the short title (the "Colorado Registration Fairness Act") in HB 22-1254, see section 1 of chapter 428, Session Laws of Colorado 2022.

#### **42-3-103. Registration required - exemptions - rules.**

(1) (a) Within sixty days after purchase, every owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or vehicle that is primarily designed to be operated or drawn upon any highway of this state or any owner of a trailer coach or of special mobile machinery whether or not it is operated on the highways, shall register such vehicle with the department. A person who violates this subsection (1) commits a class B traffic infraction.

(b) This subsection (1) does not apply to the following:

(I) A bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or other human-powered vehicle;

(II) Vehicles specifically exempted by section 42-3-104; and

(III) Any vehicle whose owner is permitted to operate it under provisions of this article concerning lienholders, manufacturers, dealers, nonresidents, and fleet owners.

(c) Repealed.

(2) An owner of a foreign vehicle operated within this state for the transportation of persons or property for compensation or for the transportation of merchandise shall register such vehicle and pay the same fees and tax required by this article with reference to like vehicles. This provision shall not be construed to require registration or reregistration in this state of any motor vehicle, truck, bus, trailer, semitrailer, or trailer coach that is used in interstate commerce, but registration or reregistration shall be required in accordance with or to the extent that reciprocity exists between the state of Colorado and a foreign country or another state, territory, or possession of the United States.

(3) Every nonresident person who operates a business within this state and owns and operates in such business any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or trailer coach within this state shall be required to register each such vehicle and pay the same fees and tax therefor as are required with reference to like vehicles owned by residents of this state. This provision shall not be construed to require registration or reregistration in this state of any motor vehicle, trailer, or trailer coach that is used in interstate commerce, but registration or reregistration shall be

required in accordance with or to the extent that reciprocity exists between the state of Colorado and a foreign country or another state, territory, or possession of the United States.

(4) (a) (I) Within ninety days after becoming a resident of Colorado, an owner of a vehicle required to be registered by subsection (1) of this section shall register the vehicle with the department, irrespective of the vehicle being registered within another state or country.

(II) To register a vehicle that is or was previously registered within another state or country, the owner must:

(A) Provide the department with documentation of the previous registration that contains the dates of the previous registration or a bill of sale for any vehicle not previously registered;

(B) Provide the department with evidence, described in subsection (4)(a)(III) of this section, of the date that the owner became a resident of Colorado; and

(C) Pay, in addition to the taxes and fees to register the vehicle, the vehicle's registration taxes and fees that are imposed in this article 3 and part 8 of article 4 of title 43, and that are prorated from the date the owner became a resident of Colorado to the date the owner applied to register the vehicle, unless the vehicle is Class A personal property or unless the owner registered the vehicle within ninety days after becoming a resident as determined by the documents and evidence provided under subsections (4)(a)(II)(A) and (4)(a)(II)(B) of this section. Prorated taxes and fees are assessed for a full month for the month the owner became a resident of Colorado and for the month the owner applied for registration and a full month for each month between when the owner became a resident and when the owner applied for registration.

(III) Evidence of Colorado residency may be a Colorado driver's license or identification, property tax receipt, utility bill indicating the utility service start date, lease agreement or mortgage statement, voter registration card, college enrollment papers or student identification card, tax records, pay stubs or other Colorado employer-issued documents, government or court-issued documents, or other evidence or documents specified in rule. The department shall promulgate rules specifying the documentation and evidence required to comply with subsections (4)(a)(II)(A) and (4)(a)(II)(B) of this section.

(IV) A person who violates this subsection (4)(a) is subject to the penalties provided in sections 42-6-139 and 43-4-804 (1)(d).

(b) Within forty-five days after the owner has returned to the United States, the provisions of this title relative to the registration of motor vehicles and the display of number plates shall not apply to motor vehicles registered with and displaying plates issued by the armed forces of the United States in foreign countries for vehicles owned by military personnel.

(c) (I) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) and section 42-1-102 (62) and (81), a nonresident shall be exempt from registering a motor vehicle owned by such person if the

motor vehicle is a private passenger vehicle weighing less than sixty-five hundred pounds and the person is:

(A) A nonresident, gainfully employed within the boundaries of this state, who uses a motor vehicle in commuting daily from such person's home in another state to and from such person's place of employment within this state; or

(B) A nonresident student who is enrolled in a full-time course of study at an institution of higher education located within this state, if the motor vehicle owned by such person displays a valid nonresident student identification tag issued by the institution where the student is enrolled.

(II) Any person who is exempt from the provisions of this title concerning the registration of a motor vehicle pursuant to this paragraph (c) shall comply with the applicable provisions of the motor vehicle registration laws of such person's state of residence.

(III) This paragraph (c) shall apply only if the state in which the owner resides extends the same privileges to Colorado residents gainfully employed or enrolled in an institution of higher education within the boundaries of that state.

(5) The provisions of this title 42 concerning the registration of vehicles and the display of number plates or of other identification do not apply to manufactured homes.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1073, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2007:** (1)(c) added, p. 1597, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (4)(a) amended, (SB 09-108), ch. 5, p. 50, § 6, effective March 2; (1)(b)(I) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1266, § 26, effective October 1. **L. 2010:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1487, § 3, effective October 1. **L. 2017:** IP(1)(b) and (1)(b)(I) amended, (HB 17-1151), ch. 98, p. 296, § 2, effective August 9. **L. 2019:** (1)(b)(I) amended, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2558, § 2, effective May 23. **L. 2021:** (1)(c)(II) added by revision, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, pp. 3303, 3331, §§ 718, 803. **L. 2022:** (4)(a) and (5) amended, (HB 22-1254), ch. 428, p. 3026, § 2, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** (1) Section 137 of Senate Bill 09-292 changed the effective date of subsection (1)(b)(I) from July 1, 2010, to October 1, 2009.

(2) Subsection (1)(c)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (1)(c), effective March 1, 2022. (See L. 2021, pp. 3303, 3331.)

**Cross references:** (1) For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).



(2) For the short title (the "Colorado Registration Fairness Act") in HB 22-1254, see section 1 of chapter 428, Session Laws of Colorado 2022.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-3-103 is similar to § 42-3-103 as it existed prior to the 2005 amendment to article 3 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, relevant cases construing that provision and its predecessors have been included in the annotations to this section.

**The requirements of this section relate to revenue rather than safety,** and a violation of its terms by failing to register the motor vehicle does not confer any additional rights upon one who is damaged by its operation unless there is some causal connection between the law violation and the injury of which complaint is made. *Carlson v. District Court*, 116 Colo. 330, 180 P.2d 525 (1947).

**One riding in unregistered automobile is a trespasser.** Under this section one riding in an automobile which has not been registered is a trespasser on the streets, and a city owes such a person no duty to keep the streets in a reasonable safe condition. *City of La Junta v. Dudley*, 82 Colo. 354, 260 P. 96 (1927).

**This article requires that trailer coaches and mobile homes be registered,**

**taxed, and licensed** in the same manner as automobiles. *State ex rel. Dept. of Rev. v. Modern Trailer Sales, Inc.*, 175 Colo. 296, 486 P.2d 1064 (1971) (decided prior to 1977 addition of subsection (5)).

**Effect of failure of former nonresident to register.** A former nonresident who has failed to register as required by this section does not for that reason remain a nonresident for the purpose of service of process. *Carlson v. District Court*, 116 Colo. 330, 180 P.2d 525 (1947).

**Trucking company was an interstate carrier and was legally accountable for the fees and taxes incurred by such vehicles in Colorado,** for purposes of determining whether it could challenge the constitutionality of a statute that increased motor vehicle carrier registration fees, because it was the owner of motor vehicles operated in interstate commerce during the relevant time period, even though it was a lessor and not the actual operator of the trucks in question. *Riverton Produce Co. v. State*, 871 P.2d 1213 (Colo. 1994).

### **42-3-104. Exemptions - specific ownership tax - registration - domicile and residency - rules - definitions.**

(1) Only those items of classified personal property that are owned by the United States government or an agency or instrumentality thereof, by the state of Colorado or a political

subdivision thereof, or by a service member either individually or jointly with a dependent shall be exempt from payment of the annual specific ownership tax imposed in this article.

(2) An item of classified personal property that is leased by the state of Colorado or a political subdivision thereof may be exempted by the department from payment of the annual specific ownership tax imposed in this article if the agreement under which such item is leased is first submitted to the department and approved by it. Such item shall remain exempt only if used and operated in strict conformance with the terms of such approved agreement.

(3) Registration is not required for the following:

- (a) Vehicles owned by the United States government or by an agency thereof;
- (b) Fire-fighting vehicles;
- (c) Police ambulances and patrol wagons;
- (d) Farm tractors and implements of husbandry designed primarily for use and used in agricultural operations;
- (e) Special mobile machinery used solely on property owned or leased by the owner of such machinery and equipment and not operated on the public highways of the state, if the owner lists all of the machinery or equipment for assessment and taxation under part 1 of article 5 of title 39, C.R.S.;
- (f) Special mobile machinery not operated on the highways of this state owned by a public utility and taxed under article 4 of title 39, C.R.S.;
- (g) Special mobile machinery that is covered by a registration exempt certificate issued by the department in accordance with section 42-3-107 (16)(g).

(4) At the request of the appropriate authority, motor vehicles owned and operated by the state of Colorado or any agency or institution thereof or by a town, city, county, or city and county may be assigned, in lieu of the distinct registration number specified in this article, a special registration number indicating that such vehicle is owned and operated by the state of Colorado or any agency or institution thereof or by a town, city, county, or city and county, but only one such special registration number shall be assigned to each vehicle. An application for the special registration provided in this section that is made by the state of Colorado or any agency or institution thereof shall be made to the department only. An application for the special registration provided in this section that is made by any town, city, county, or city and county shall be made only to the authorized agent in the county wherein the applicant local government entity is located, and any such special registration shall be obtained directly from such authorized agent. Special registrations obtained under this subsection (4) shall be renewed annually pursuant to the requirements prescribed by the department.

(5) (a) One Class B or Class C motor vehicle weighing less than sixteen thousand pounds empty weight owned by a person who is a veteran and has established rights to benefits under the provisions of Public Law 663, 79th Congress, as amended, and Public Law 187, 82nd Congress, as amended, or is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States who incurred a disability and is receiving compensation from the veterans administration or any branch of the armed forces of the United States for a fifty percent or more, service-connected, permanent disability, or for loss of use of one or both feet or one or both hands, or for permanent impairment or loss of vision in both eyes that constitutes virtual blindness is exempt from the imposition of the annual specific ownership tax imposed by this article 3. Only one such Class B or Class C motor vehicle per veteran is exempt.

(b) A person who has a license plate for a veteran who has a disability or a woman veteran who has a disability, as either plate is issued under section 42-3-213, qualifies for the exemption created in this subsection (5).

(6) One Class B or Class C motor vehicle weighing less than sixteen thousand pounds empty weight owned by a natural person who, while serving in the armed forces of the United States, was incarcerated by an enemy of the United States during armed conflict with the United States or who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor shall be exempt from the imposition of the annual specific ownership tax imposed by this article. Only one such Class B or Class C motor vehicle per former prisoner of war shall be exempted. A person who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor shall be exempt from the imposition of specific ownership tax under this subsection (6) only if the person qualifies for a survivor's of the attack on Pearl Harbor license plate issued pursuant to section 42-3-213 (6).

(7) Those items of classified personal property that are owned or leased by an individual or organization that is exempt from payment of Colorado ad valorem taxes shall be exempt from imposition of the annual specific ownership tax imposed by this article.

(8) Either one Class B or one Class C motor vehicle weighing less than sixteen thousand pounds empty weight owned by a natural person who received a purple heart or medal of valor and who is authorized to use the purple heart or military valor special license plate pursuant to section 42-3-213 shall be exempt from the imposition of the annual specific ownership tax imposed by this article. Only one such Class B or Class C motor vehicle per purple heart or medal of valor recipient shall be exempted.

(9) (a) Notwithstanding that a service member has registered to vote in Colorado or paid or not paid taxes in the service member's state of residence, personal property owned by the service member, either individually or jointly with a dependent, while the service member is a resident of another state but domiciled in Colorado in compliance with military orders, shall be exempt from the imposition of the annual specific ownership tax imposed by this article.

(b) The personal property of a service member who is a resident of another state but domiciled in Colorado in compliance with military orders shall be not be deemed to be located in, be present in, or have a situs in the local jurisdiction of Colorado.

(c) A service member shall neither lose nor acquire residency or domicile in Colorado for the purpose of taxation, with regard to personal property of the service member in any tax jurisdiction of Colorado, if the domicile is in compliance with military orders.

(d) The residency of a service member shall not be established solely for the purpose of taxation. A service member shall be deemed to be a resident of Colorado when the service member is not domiciled in Colorado if the domicile is in compliance with military orders and the service member is a resident as defined by section 42-1-102 (81).

(e) For the purpose of voting in a federal, state, or local election, a service member who is in Colorado in compliance with military orders shall not:

(I) Be deemed to have lost residence or domicile in another state regardless of whether the person intends to return to the other state;

(II) Be deemed to have acquired residence or domicile in another state; or

(III) Be deemed to become a resident of another state.

(f) The executive director of the department may issue forms and promulgate rules necessary to implement this subsection (9).

(10) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Dependent" means a service member's spouse, child, or an individual for whom the service member has provided more than one-half of the individual's support for at least one hundred eighty days immediately preceding an application for specific ownership tax exemption.

(b) "Service member" means a member of the United States armed forces.

(11) A Class A commercial vehicle that was registered in Colorado under the international registration plan, subsequently registered in another state, and then reregistered in Colorado is not subject to the specific ownership tax or registration fees during the period of time that the motor vehicle was registered in another state; except that the owner of a motor vehicle with an apportioned registration may be liable for the portion of the miles traveled in Colorado.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1075, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (8) amended, p. 1509, § 64, effective June 1; (6) and (8) amended, p. 920, § 2, effective January 1, 2007. **L. 2007:** (1) amended and (9) and (10) added, p. 1322, § 6, effective August 3. **L. 2010:** (11) added, (HB 10-1285), ch. 423, p. 2188, § 2, effective July 1; (3)(e) and (3)(f)

amended, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1488, § 4, effective October 1. **L. 2021:** (5) amended, (SB 21-253), ch. 319, p. 1959, § 2, effective September 7; IP(3) amended and (3)(g) added, (SB 21-257), ch. 478, p. 3417, § 1, effective July 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** Amendments to subsection (8) by Senate Bill 06-172 and House Bill 06-1391 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** For Public Law 663, 79th Congress, and Public Law 187, 82nd Congress, see 60 Stat. 915 and 65 Stat. 574, respectively, and 38 U.S.C. secs. 3901 to 3905.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-3-104 is similar to § 42-3-104 as it existed prior to the 2005 amendment to article 3 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, a relevant case construing a former provision similar to that section has been included in the annotations to this section.

**Army officers not exempt from tax.** United States Army officers stationed on military reservations are not exempt from the provisions of this section providing for payment of specific ownership tax. Bd. of Comm'rs v. Morris, 104 Colo. 139, 89 P.2d 248 (1939).

### **42-3-105. Application for registration - tax - definitions.**

(1) (a) Application for the registration of a vehicle required to be registered under this article shall be made by the owner or the owner's agent and, if applicable, simultaneously with the application for certificate of title, as required by this section. The application for registration, which shall be in writing and signed by the owner of the vehicle or the owner's duly authorized agent, shall include:

(I) The name of the applicant;

(II) The name and correct address of the owner determined pursuant to section 42-6-139, designating the county, school district, and city or town within the limits of which the owner resides;

(III) A description of the motor vehicle in a form required by the department;

(IV) The purpose for which the vehicle is used;

(V) Whether the vehicle is a commercial vehicle;

(VI) The notice described in subsection (2) of this section;

(VII) Whether the applicant requests that the department should, if it approves the application, mail to the owner the license plate required under this article; and

(VIII) Any other pertinent information as required by the department, including but not limited to a class B, class C, class D, or class F vehicle owner's or registrant's personal identification number as provided on a state-issued driver's license or assigned by the department.

(b) An application for new registration of a vehicle shall include the primary body color of the motor vehicle. A motor vehicle registration application submitted in person to an authorized agent or department office for a previously registered motor vehicle shall include the primary body color of the motor vehicle.

(c) (I) Except as provided in subsection (1)(c)(I.5) of this section, the department may require those vehicle-related entities specified by rule to verify information concerning any vehicle through the physical inspection of the vehicle. The information required to be verified by a physical inspection must include:

(A) The vehicle identification number or numbers;

(B) The make of vehicle;

(C) The vehicle model;

(D) The type of vehicle;

(E) The year of manufacture of such vehicle;

(F) The primary body color of such vehicle;

(G) The type of fuel used by such vehicle; and

(H) Repealed.

(I) Such other information as required by the department.

(I.5) The department shall not require a physical inspection as a condition for registration of a vehicle if:

(A) The applicant for a new registration for the vehicle presents either a copy of a manufacturer's certificate of origin or a purchase receipt from the dealer or the out-of-state seller from whom the applicant purchased the vehicle and either document indicates that the applicant purchased the vehicle as new; or

(B) At the time of application, the vehicle is currently registered in another county of the state.

(II) For the purposes of this subsection (1)(c), "vehicle-related entity" means an authorized agent, designated employee of an authorized agent, any Colorado law enforcement officer, any licensed Colorado dealer, any licensed inspection and readjustment station, or any licensed diesel inspection station.

(d) (I) The department or its authorized agents shall not register a motor vehicle or low-power scooter unless the applicant has a complying motor vehicle insurance policy pursuant to part 6 of article 4 of title 10, C.R.S., or a certificate of self-insurance in full force and effect as required by sections 10-4-619 and 10-4-624, C.R.S. The requirements of this paragraph (d) apply only to motor vehicles classified as Class C personal property under section 42-3-106 (2)(c), to light trucks that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight, to sports utility vehicles that are classified as Class B personal property under section 42-3-106 (2)(b), or to low-power scooters. The applicant shall provide the department or its authorized agents with the proof of insurance certificate or insurance identification card provided to the applicant by the applicant's insurer pursuant to section 10-4-604.5, C.R.S., or provide proof of insurance in such other media as is authorized by the department. Nothing in this paragraph (d) shall be interpreted to preclude the department from electronically transmitting insurance information to designated agents pursuant to section 42-7-604 for the purpose of ensuring compliance with mandatory insurance requirements.

(II) Any person who knowingly provides fraudulent information or documents pursuant to subsection (1)(d)(I) of this section to obtain registration of a motor vehicle or low-power scooter commits a class 2 misdemeanor and is subject to the civil penalties provided under section 42-6-139 (4).

(e) The department shall establish a set of standard color descriptions for use in identifying the primary body color of a motor vehicle. An application that specifies the primary body color shall use the standard color descriptions of the department to identify the primary body color of the motor vehicle.

(f) The owner of a motor vehicle that is required to be registered under this article need not comply with subparagraph (I) of paragraph (d) of this subsection (1) if such owner signs and submits to the department in compliance with this paragraph (f) a written statement of nonuse. Such written statement of nonuse shall include:

(I) The name, date of birth, driver's license number, and address of the motor vehicle's owner;

(II) The make, year, and vehicle identification number of the motor vehicle;

(III) The time period during which such vehicle will not be operated and a statement that the owner is neither operating such vehicle nor permitting any other person to operate such vehicle during the time period stated; and

(IV) Proof that the owner currently has insurance coverage under subparagraph (I) of paragraph (d) of this subsection (1).

(2) Upon applying for registration, the owner of a motor vehicle or low-power scooter shall receive a written notice printed on the application for registration in type that is larger than the other information contained on the application for registration. The department shall advise the applicant in the notice that motor vehicle insurance or operator's coverage is compulsory in Colorado, that noncompliance is a misdemeanor traffic offense, that the minimum penalty is a five-hundred-dollar fine, that the maximum penalty is one year's imprisonment and a one-thousand-dollar fine, and that the owner is required as a condition of registering the vehicle to either:

- (a) Sign a statement of nonuse under paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of this section; or
- (b) Provide proof of insurance under paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The owner of such vehicle or the owner's agent shall, upon filing the application for registration, pay such fees as are prescribed by sections 42-3-304 to 42-3-306, together with the annual specific ownership tax on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or trailer coach for which the license is to be issued.

(3.5) (a) A person registering a motor vehicle that is not a commercial vehicle and is a passenger motor vehicle, light-weight truck, motorcycle, or recreational vehicle may decline to pay the keep Colorado wild pass fee assessed pursuant to section 33-12-108 (4)(b). Nonpayment of the pass fee does not affect a person's ability to register a motor vehicle.

(b) As used in this subsection (3.5), unless the context otherwise requires:

- (I) "Keep Colorado wild pass" has the meaning set forth in section 33-12-108 (3)(d).
- (II) "Light-weight truck" has the meaning set forth in section 33-12-108 (3)(e).
- (III) "Pass fee" has the meaning set forth in section 33-12-108 (3)(i).

(4) (a) A motor vehicle dealer or used motor vehicle dealer licensed under article 6 of this title may act as an authorized agent of the department for the purposes of compliance with this section and collection of fees required for the registration of low-power scooters required by this article. When the owner of the low-power scooter complies with this section, the dealer shall forward to the department an affidavit swearing that the owner has insurance, the statement required by subsection (2) of this section, and the fees required by part 3 of this article for the registration of a low-power scooter.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in a civil action for damages or indemnification resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle, a motor vehicle dealer, used motor vehicle dealer, or employee thereof shall not be liable for an act or omission arising as a



result of the dealer or employee performing the functions of an agent pursuant to this subsection (4).

(c) Upon finding a pattern of failure to comply with the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4), the department may withdraw a motor vehicle dealer's or used motor vehicle dealer's authorization to act as an agent of the department.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1076, § 2, effective August 8; (1)(a) amended, p. 693, § 1, effective January 1, 2007. **L. 2006:** (1)(a)(II) and (1)(d)(I) amended, pp. 1509, 1510, §§ 65, 66, 67, effective June 1; (1)(d)(I) amended, p. 1015, § 11, effective July 1. **L. 2007:** (1)(a)(VIII) amended, p. 496, § 2, effective August 3. **L. 2008:** (2) amended, p. 1917, § 142, effective August 5. **L. 2009:** (1)(d) and (2) amended and (4) added, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1266, § 27, effective July 1, 2010. **L. 2014:** (2) amended, (SB 14-131), ch. 388, p. 1941, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** IP(1)(c)(I) amended and (1)(c)(I.5) added, (HB 17-1105), ch. 44, p. 129, § 1, effective March 16; (1)(c)(II) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 367, § 11, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** (1)(c)(I)(G) amended and (1)(c)(I)(H) repealed, (SB 18-102), ch. 77, p. 661, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2021:** (3.5) added, (SB 21-249), ch. 273, p. 1589, § 6, effective September 7; (1)(d)(II) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3303, § 719, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** (1) Amendments to subsection (1)(a) by House Bill 05-1107 and House Bill 05-1019 were harmonized, effective January 1, 2007.

(2) Amendments to subsection (1)(d)(I) by House Bill 06-1178 and House Bill 06-1391 were harmonized.

(3) Section 137 of Senate Bill 09-292 changed the effective date of subsections (1)(d), (2), and (4) from October 1, 2009, to July 1, 2010.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 18-102, see section 1 of chapter 77, Session Laws of Colorado 2018.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-3-105 is similar to § 42-3-105 as it existed prior to the 2005 amendment to article 3 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, relevant cases construing former

provisions similar to that section have been included in the annotations to this section.

**The purpose of the act** is to make automobile titles more safe and certain, to

protect those who deal therein and to obviate the necessity of relying upon circumstantial evidence as to the ownership thereof. *Blevins v. Truitt*, 134 Colo. 88, 299 P.2d 1100 (1956).

**The purpose of requiring the name of the owner in the registration of a motor vehicle** is for the proper identification of the registrant; it follows that a person is more readily identified by the name he habitually uses, and a regulation which requires an applicant to use a first name rather than an initial, which would actually hinder identification, contravenes the legislative intent and is unlawful. *Blevins v. Truitt*, 134 Colo. 88, 299 P.2d 1100 (1956).

**Director of revenue not authorized to require registration in name not regularly used.** This section authorizing the director of revenue to make regulations governing the registration of motor vehicles, including the name and address of the owner and "any

other information required by the department", does not authorize adoption of a regulation defining "name of owner" so as to require registration in a name other than that regularly used by the applicant. *Blevins v. Truitt*, 134 Colo. 88, 299 P.2d 1100 (1956).

**Payment of specific ownership tax tied to filing of registration application.** While § 42-3-123 does not in so many words mention "specific ownership tax", it does provide for "registration". And this section provides that the owner, upon filing an application for "registration", shall pay, among other fees, the "annual specific ownership tax on the vehicle for which the license is to issue". So, payment of the specific ownership tax is thereby necessarily tied into the act of filing an application for registration. *Bd. of County Comm'rs v. E. J. Rippey & Sons*, 161 Colo. 261, 421 P.2d 461 (1966).

#### **42-3-106. Tax imposed - classification - taxable value.**

(1) The owner of each item of classified personal property shall pay an annual specific ownership tax unless exempted by this article. Such specific ownership tax shall be annually computed in accordance with section 42-3-107 in lieu of all annual ad valorem taxes.

(2) For the purpose of imposing graduated annual specific ownership taxes, the personal property specified in section 6 of article X of the state constitution is classified as follows:

(a) Every motor vehicle, truck, laden or unladen truck tractor, trailer, and semitrailer used in the business of transporting persons or property over any public highway in this state as an interstate commercial carrier for which an application is made for apportioned registration, regardless of base jurisdiction, shall be Class A personal property.

(b) Every truck, laden or unladen truck tractor, trailer, and semitrailer used for the purpose of transporting property over any public highway in this state and not included in Class A shall be Class B personal property; except that multipurpose trailers shall be Class D personal property.

(c) Every motor vehicle not included in Class A or Class B shall be Class C personal property.

(d) Every utility trailer, camper trailer, multipurpose trailer, and trailer coach shall be Class D personal property.

(e) Every item of special mobile machinery, except power takeoff equipment, that is required to be registered under this article 3 or that is covered by a registration exempt certificate issued by the department in accordance with section 42-3-107 (16)(g) is Class F personal property. If a farm tractor, meeting the definition of special mobile machinery, is used for any purpose other than agricultural production for more than a seventy-two-hour period at the site where it is used for nonagricultural purposes, it is Class F personal property, but it is granted a prorated registration under section 42-3-107 to cover the use. The authorized agent shall notify the owner of the farm tractor of the prorated registration. Storing a farm tractor at a site does not give rise to a presumption that the tractor was used for the same purposes that other equipment is used for at the site.

(3) (a) An owner of a vehicle shall not permanently attach to the vehicle mounted equipment unless:

(I) The owner applies for registration of the mounted equipment to the authorized agent in the county where the equipment is required to be registered within twenty days after the equipment is mounted to the vehicle; or

(II) The mounted equipment is power takeoff equipment.

(b) The application shall be on forms prescribed by the department and shall describe the equipment to be mounted, including serial number, make, model, year of manufacture, weight, and cost.

(4) The taxable value of every item of classified personal property shall be the value determined for the year of its manufacture or the year it is designated by the manufacturer as a current model, and such determined taxable value shall not change. Regardless of the date of acquisition by an owner, the year of manufacture or the year for which designated by the manufacturer as a current model shall be considered as the first year of service. The maximum rate of specific ownership taxation shall apply to the taxable value in the first year of service, and annual downward graduations from such maximum rate shall apply to such taxable value for the number of later years of service specified for each class of personal property.

(5) Manufactured homes shall not be classified for purposes of imposing specific ownership taxes but shall be subject to the imposition of ad valorem taxes in the manner provided in part 2 of article 5 of title 39, C.R.S.

(6) (a) If a vehicle and the equipment mounted on the vehicle are the same model year:

(I) The owner of the vehicle and the mounted equipment may register both as Class F personal property; or

(II) The owner of the vehicle may register the vehicle as Class A, Class B, Class C, or Class D personal property and the mounted equipment may be registered as Class F personal property.

(b) If a vehicle and the equipment mounted on the vehicle are different model years:

(I) The owner of the vehicle shall register the vehicle as Class A, Class B, Class C, or Class D personal property; and

(II) The owner of the vehicle shall register the mounted equipment as Class F personal property.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1079, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2008:** (2)(b) and (2)(d) amended, p. 638, § 2, effective August 5. **L. 2010:** (2)(e) and (3) amended, (SB 10-144), ch. 289, p. 1345, § 2, effective July 1; (2)(e) amended and (6) added, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1488, § 5, effective October 1. **L. 2011:** (2)(e) amended, (HB 11-1093), ch. 258, p. 1132, § 1, effective June 2. **L. 2021:** (2)(e) amended, (SB 21-257), ch. 478, p. 3417, § 2, effective July 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** Amendments to subsection (2)(e) by House Bill 10-1172 and Senate Bill 10-144 were harmonized.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-3-106 is similar to § 42-3-106 as it existed prior to the 2005 amendment to article 3 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, relevant cases construing that provision and its predecessors have been included in the annotations to this section.

**The facial disparity in this section and § 42-3-107 between ownership tax rates applicable to interstate and intrastate vehicles ten years old and older violated the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution** where trucking company was

able to show that the statutes discriminated against interstate commerce by unfairly imposing an economic disadvantage upon interstate carriers that operated vehicles subject to the tax. *Riverton Produce Co. v. State*, 871 P.2d 1213 (Colo. 1994).

**The court concluded that the discriminatory provisions of this section and § 42-3-107 were severable from the remainder of the statutes** where the discrimination in tax rates was not "inextricably intertwined" with the valid provisions and where severing the disparity

between interstate and intrastate vehicles would not frustrate the legislature's efforts to raise revenue for the maintenance of its roads and highways. *Riverton Produce Co. v. State*, 871 P.2d 1213 (Colo. 1994).

**Specific ownership tax is in lieu of ad valorem taxes.** The so-called specific ownership tax on motor vehicles and trailers authorized by this section is a tax directly fixed according to a prescribed method with reference to each particular vehicle by the statute itself, and is in lieu of any and all ad valorem taxes. *N. Colo. Water Conservancy Dist. v. Witwer*, 108 Colo. 307, 116 P.2d 200 (1941).

**After having "elected" to make application for the registration of its special mobile equipment** and having in fact paid a special ownership tax thereon, the owner of such property is not thereafter subject to assessment by the county assessor by virtue of § 6 of art. X, Colo. Const., which provides, in part, that the graduated annual specific ownership tax shall be in lieu of all ad valorem taxes upon such property. *Bd. of County Comm'rs v. E.J. Rippy & Sons*, 161 Colo. 261, 421 P.2d 461 (1966).

**42-3-107. Taxable value of classes of property - rate of tax - when and where payable - department duties - apportionment of tax collections - definitions - rules - repeal.**

(1) (a) (I) Except as provided in subsections (1)(a)(I.5) and (1)(a)(IV) of this section, the taxable value of every item of Class A or Class B personal property greater than sixteen thousand pounds declared empty vehicle weight shall be the actual purchase price of such property. Such price shall not include any applicable federal excise tax, including the excise tax on the first retail sale of a heavy truck, trailer, or tractor for which the seller is liable, transportation or shipping costs, or preparation and delivery costs. The taxable value of every item of Class A or Class B personal property less than or equal to sixteen thousand pounds declared empty vehicle weight shall be seventy-five percent of the manufacturer's suggested retail price.

(I.5) (A) The taxable value of every item of Class A or Class B personal property greater than sixteen thousand pounds declared empty vehicle weight that meets the definition of category 4, category 4 A, category 4 B, category 4 C, category 7, category 7 A, and category 9 trucks, as defined in section 39-22-516.8, C.R.S., is seventy-five percent of the actual purchase price of such property.

(B) This subparagraph (I.5) is repealed, effective December 31, 2026.

(II) For the purposes of this section, the actual purchase price used to set taxable value shall be the price of the vehicle when the vehicle is initially purchased at the retail level by a person who intends to put the vehicle into initial use. The taxable value shall not change for the life of the vehicle.

(III) For the purposes of this section, "actual purchase price" means the gross selling price, including all property traded to the seller in exchange for credit toward the purchase of a vehicle.

(IV) (A) On or after January 1, 2024, but before January 1, 2028, the taxable value of every item of new Class A or Class B personal property that is a fleet vehicle and is greater than sixteen thousand pounds declared empty vehicle weight and that meets the definition of category 7 trucks, as defined in section 39-22-516.8 (1)(l), is fifty percent of the actual purchase price of such property.

(B) On or after January 1, 2024, but before January 1, 2028, the taxable value of every item of new Class A or Class B personal property that is a fleet vehicle and is less than or equal to sixteen thousand pounds declared empty vehicle weight and that meets the definition of category 7 trucks, as defined in section 39-22-516.8 (1)(l), is fifty percent of the manufacturer's suggested retail price of such property.

(C) On or after January 1, 2028, but before January 1, 2033, the taxable value of every item of new Class A or Class B personal property that is a fleet vehicle and is greater than sixteen thousand pounds declared empty vehicle weight and that meets the definition of category 7 trucks, as defined in section 39-22-516.8 (1)(l), is sixty percent of the actual purchase price of such property.

(D) On or after January 1, 2028, but before January 1, 2033, the taxable value of every item of new Class A or Class B personal property that is a fleet vehicle and is less than or equal to sixteen thousand pounds declared empty vehicle weight and that meets the definition of category 7 trucks, as defined in section 39-22-516.8 (1)(l), is sixty percent of the manufacturer's suggested retail price of such property.

(E) This subsection (1)(a)(IV) is repealed, effective January 1, 2034.

(b) Every licensed motor vehicle dealer in Colorado shall furnish on the application for title the manufacturer's suggested retail price and the actual purchase price on each new motor vehicle sold and delivered in Colorado.

(c) If a motor vehicle purchased outside Colorado is registered for the first time in Colorado and neither the manufacturer's suggested retail price nor the actual purchase price is available, the agent of the department shall establish the taxable value of such vehicle through the use of a compilation of values furnished by the department.

(2) The annual specific ownership tax payable on every item of Class A personal property shall be computed in accordance with the following schedule:

**Year of service**

**Rate of tax**

|                                                   |                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| First year                                        | 2.10% of taxable value                                 |
| Second year                                       | 1.50% of taxable value                                 |
| Third year                                        | 1.20% of taxable value                                 |
| Fourth year                                       | .90% of taxable value                                  |
| Fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth,<br>and ninth years | .45% of taxable value or \$10,<br>whichever is greater |
| Tenth and each later year                         | \$ 3                                                   |

(3) The owner of any Class A personal property shall file a list with the department describing each item owned, reciting the year of manufacture or model designation, and stating the original sale price of any mounted equipment mounted on or attached to such item after its manufacture or first retail sale. As soon thereafter as practicable, the department shall compute the annual specific ownership tax payable on each item shown on such list and shall send to the owner a statement showing the aggregate amount of specific ownership tax payable by such owner.

(4) In computing the amount of annual specific ownership tax payable on an item of Class A or Class B personal property, the department may take into account the length of time such item may be operated in intrastate or interstate commerce within Colorado, giving due consideration to any reciprocal agreements concerning general property taxation of such item as may exist between Colorado and other states, and also to the number of miles traveled by such item in each state.

(5) The annual specific ownership tax on Class A personal property shall become due and payable to the department on the last day of the month at the end of each twelve-month registration period and shall be renewed, upon application by the owner and payment of required fees, no later than one month after the date of expiration.

(6) The aggregate amount of specific ownership taxes to be collected by the department on Class A personal property during a registration period shall be apportioned to each county of the state in the proportion that the mileage of the state highway system located within the boundaries of each county bears to the total mileage of the state highway system.

(7) The department shall transmit all specific ownership taxes collected on items of Class A and Class F personal property to the state treasurer and shall advise the treasurer on the last day of each month of the amounts apportioned to each county from the preceding month's

collections. The state treasurer shall pay such amounts to the respective treasurers of each county.

(8) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (8), the annual specific ownership tax payable on every item of Class B personal property is:

| <b>Year of service</b>                            | <b>Rate of tax</b>                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| First year                                        | 2.10% of taxable value                                 |
| Second year                                       | 1.50% of taxable value                                 |
| Third year                                        | 1.20% of taxable value                                 |
| Fourth year                                       | .90% of taxable value                                  |
| Fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth,<br>and ninth years | .45% of taxable value or \$10,<br>whichever is greater |
| Tenth and each later year                         | \$ 3                                                   |

(b) (I) In lieu of paying the specific ownership tax required in paragraph (a) of this subsection (8), an owner who qualifies may pay ownership tax under this paragraph (b). The specific ownership tax payable on Class B personal property under sixteen thousand pounds empty weight is one dollar for each full year while the owner is a member of the United States armed forces and has orders to serve outside the United States. If the owner serves less than a full year outside the United States, the tax is the amount established by paragraph (a) of this subsection (8), prorated according to the number of months the owner was in the United States.

(II) In order to qualify for the tax rate imposed by this subsection (8)(b), the owner must:

(A) Show the department military orders to serve outside the United States or any evidence acceptable to the department that the owner served outside the United States.

(B) Repealed.

(III) If a person has already paid taxes at the rate required in paragraph (a) of this subsection (8) but is eligible to pay taxes under this paragraph (b), the department shall credit the person the difference between the rate in paragraph (a) of this subsection (8) and the prorated rate imposed in this paragraph (b) towards the person's specific ownership taxes for succeeding years.



(IV) This paragraph (b) only applies to a motor vehicle that is less than ten model-years old and less than sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(V) The owner need not sign an affidavit to qualify for the tax rate imposed by this subsection (8)(b). The department shall notify the owner that the motor vehicle must not be operated on the roadways when the reduced tax rate applies.

(9) (a) The taxable value of every item of Class C or Class D personal property shall be eighty-five percent of the manufacturer's suggested retail price, not including applicable federal excise tax, transportation or shipping costs, or preparation and delivery costs.

(b) Every licensed motor vehicle dealer in Colorado shall furnish on the application for title the manufacturer's suggested retail price of each new motor vehicle sold and delivered in Colorado.

(c) If a motor vehicle purchased outside of Colorado is registered for the first time in Colorado and the manufacturer's suggested retail price is not available, the agent of the department shall establish the taxable value of such vehicle through the use of a compilation of values furnished by the department.

(d) The computation of taxable values as set forth in this subsection (9) shall apply to each motor vehicle sold on or after September 1, 1981, and shall not apply to a motor vehicle sold or registered prior to that date.

(10) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (10), the annual specific ownership tax payable on every item of Class C personal property is:

| <b>Year of service</b>                            | <b>Rate of tax</b>     |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| First year                                        | 2.10% of taxable value |
| Second year                                       | 1.50% of taxable value |
| Third year                                        | 1.20% of taxable value |
| Fourth year                                       | .90% of taxable value  |
| Fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth,<br>and ninth years | .45% of taxable value  |
| Tenth and each later year                         | \$ 3                   |

(b) (I) In lieu of paying the specific ownership tax required in paragraph (a) of this subsection (10), an owner who qualifies may pay ownership tax under this paragraph (b). The specific ownership tax payable on Class C personal property is one dollar for each full year while the owner is a member of the United States armed forces and has orders to serve outside the United States. If the owner serves less than a full year outside the United States, the tax is the amount established by paragraph (a) of this subsection (10), prorated according to the number of months the owner was in the United States.

(II) In order to qualify for the tax rate imposed by this subsection (10)(b), the owner must:

(A) Show the department military orders to serve outside the United States or any evidence acceptable to the department that the owner served outside the United States.

(B) Repealed.

(III) If a person has already paid taxes at the rate required in paragraph (a) of this subsection (10) but is eligible to pay taxes under this paragraph (b), the department shall credit the person the difference between the rate in paragraph (a) of this subsection (10) and the prorated rate imposed in this paragraph (b) towards the person's specific ownership taxes for succeeding years.

(IV) This paragraph (b) only applies to a motor vehicle that is less than ten model-years old.

(V) The owner need not sign an affidavit to qualify for the tax rate imposed by this subsection (10)(b). The department shall notify the owner that the motor vehicle must not be operated on the roadways when the reduced tax rate applies.

(11) (a) In lieu of payment of the annual specific ownership tax in the manner specified in subsections (2), (8), and (10) of this section, a person who owns vehicles that are based in Colorado for rental purposes and whose primary business is the rental of such vehicles for periods of less than forty-five days, including renewals, to another person may elect to pay specific ownership tax as authorized in this subsection (11).

(b) To obtain authorization to pay specific ownership tax pursuant to this subsection (11), an owner shall apply to the authorized agent in the county in which the principal place of business of the owner of such rental vehicles in Colorado is located. Such authorization shall apply to all rental vehicles of the owner that satisfy the requirements set forth in this section.

(c) Upon receiving authorization as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (11), the owner shall collect from the user of a rental vehicle the specific ownership tax in an amount equivalent to two percent of the amount of the rental payment, or portion thereof, that is subject to the imposition of sales tax pursuant to part 1 of article 26 of title 39, C.R.S. Such specific ownership tax shall be collected on vehicles that are based in Colorado for rental purposes and rented from a place of business in Colorado. No later than the twentieth day of each month, the owner shall submit a report, using forms furnished by the department, to the authorized agent in

the county where the vehicles are rented and the remittance for all specific ownership taxes collected for the preceding month. A copy of the report shall be submitted simultaneously by the owner to the department. The department may also require, by rule, the owner to submit a copy of the owner's monthly sales tax collection form to the authorized agent when the owner's monthly report is submitted.

(d) Failure to submit the report or to remit the specific ownership tax collected for the preceding month by the last day of each month shall be grounds for the termination of the right of an owner to pay specific ownership tax under this subsection (11). If an owner fails to remit specific ownership tax received pursuant to this subsection (11), the authorized agent may collect such delinquent taxes in the manner authorized in subsection (21) of this section.

(e) A person who owns vehicles and whose primary business is the rental of such vehicles as specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection (11) shall be exempt from payment of the specific ownership tax at the time of registration if such tax is collected and remitted pursuant to this subsection (11). Such owner shall pay a fee of one dollar per rental vehicle registered at the time of registration. Such fee shall be in addition to other registration fees and shall be distributed pursuant to subsection (22) of this section.

(f) Every person who owns vehicles and whose primary business is the rental of such vehicles as specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection (11) shall register and pay all applicable taxes and fees for all vehicles rented from a place of business located in Colorado. If the owner of such vehicles fails to register or to pay such taxes and fees, the owner shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine equal to two percent of the annual gross dollar volume of the primary business of such person that is attributable to the rental of vehicles from a place of business in Colorado.

(12) (a) In lieu of payment of the annual specific ownership tax in the manner specified in subsections (2), (8), and (10) of this section, any person who owns vehicles that are based in a state other than Colorado for rental purposes and whose primary business is the rental of such vehicles for periods of less than forty-five days, including renewals, to another person shall pay specific ownership tax as prescribed in this subsection (12).

(b) The owner shall collect from the user of a rental vehicle the specific ownership tax in an amount equivalent to two percent of the amount of the rental payment, or portion thereof, that is subject to the imposition of sales tax pursuant to part 1 of article 26 of title 39, C.R.S. Such specific ownership tax shall be collected on all vehicles based in a state other than Colorado for rental purposes that are rented from a place of business in Colorado. By the twentieth day of each month, the owner shall submit a report, using forms furnished by the department, to the authorized agent in the county where the vehicles are rented, together with the remittance for all specific ownership taxes collected for the preceding month. A copy of the report shall be submitted simultaneously by the owner to the department. The department may also require, by

rule, the owner to submit a copy of the owner's monthly sales tax collection form to the authorized agent when the owner's monthly report is submitted.

(c) If any owner fails to remit specific ownership tax received pursuant to this subsection (12), the authorized agent may proceed to collect such delinquent taxes in the manner authorized in subsection (21) of this section.

(d) Every person who owns vehicles and whose primary business is the rental of such vehicles as specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection (12) shall pay all applicable taxes for all vehicles based in a state other than Colorado and rented from a place of business located in Colorado. If the owner of such vehicles fails to pay such taxes, the owner shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine in an amount equal to two percent of the annual gross dollar volume of the primary business of such person that is attributable to the rental of vehicles from a place of business in Colorado.

(13) The annual specific ownership tax payable on every item of Class D personal property shall be computed in accordance with the following schedule:

| <b>Year of service</b>                            | <b>Rate of tax</b>                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| First year                                        | 2.10% of taxable value                                 |
| Second year                                       | 1.50% of taxable value                                 |
| Third year                                        | 1.20% of taxable value                                 |
| Fourth year                                       | .90% of taxable value                                  |
| Fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth,<br>and ninth years | .45% of taxable value                                  |
| Tenth and each later year                         | .45% of taxable value or \$ 3,<br>whichever is greater |

(14) The department shall designate suitable compilations of the manufacturer's suggested retail price or actual purchase price of all items of Class A, Class B, Class C, and Class D personal property and shall provide each authorized agent with copies. Unless the actual purchase price is used as the taxable value, such compilation shall be uniformly used to compute the annual specific ownership tax payable on any item of such classified personal property purchased outside Colorado and registered for the first time in Colorado. Such actual purchase

price shall not be used unless the department receives or has received a manufacturer's statement or certificate of origin for such vehicle. The department shall provide continuing supplements of such compilation to each authorized agent in order that the agent may have available current information relative to the manufacturer's suggested retail price of newly manufactured items.

(15) (a) The property tax administrator shall compile and have printed a comprehensive schedule of all vehicles defined and designated as Class F personal property, wherein all such vehicles shall be listed according to make, model, year of manufacture, capacity, weight, and any other terms that serve to describe such vehicles.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection (15) for property acquired prior to January 1, 1997, the taxable value of Class F personal property shall be determined by the property tax administrator and shall be either:

(I) The factory list price and, in case any equipment has been mounted on or attached to such vehicle subsequent to its manufacture, the factory list price plus seventy-five percent of the original price of such mounted equipment, exclusive of any state and local sales taxes; or

(II) When the factory list price of such vehicle is not available, then seventy-five percent of its original retail delivered price, exclusive of any state and local taxes, and, in case any equipment has been mounted on or attached to such vehicle subsequent to its first retail sale, then seventy-five percent of such original retail delivered price plus seventy-five percent of the original retail delivered price of such mounted equipment, exclusive of any state and local sales taxes; or

(III) When neither the factory list price of such vehicle nor the original retail delivered price of the vehicle or any equipment subsequently mounted thereon is ascertainable, then such value as the property tax administrator shall establish based on the best information available to the property tax administrator.

(c) The taxable value of Class F personal property acquired on or after January 1, 1997, shall be determined by the property tax administrator and shall be either:

(I) Eighty-five percent of the manufacturer's suggested retail price and, in case any equipment has been mounted on or attached to such vehicle subsequent to its manufacture, eighty-five percent of the manufacturer's suggested retail price plus eighty-five percent of the manufacturer's suggested retail price of such mounted equipment, exclusive of any state and local sales taxes; or

(II) When the manufacturer's suggested retail price of such vehicle is not available, then one hundred percent of its original retail delivered price to the customer, exclusive of any state and local taxes, and, in case any equipment has been mounted on or attached to such vehicle subsequent to its first retail sale, then one hundred percent of such original retail delivered price

to the customer plus one hundred percent of the original retail delivered price to the customer of such mounted equipment, exclusive of any state and local taxes; or

(III) When neither the manufacturer's suggested retail price of such vehicle nor the original retail delivered price of either the vehicle or any equipment subsequently mounted thereon is ascertainable, then such value as the property tax administrator shall establish based on eighty-five percent of the value set forth in a nationally recognized standard or reference for such figures or, if such a standard or reference for the figures is not available, then on the best information available to the property tax administrator.

(d) By whichever of the above three methods determined, the taxable value of each item of Class F personal property shall be listed opposite its description in the schedule required by this subsection (15) to be compiled by the property tax administrator.

(e) The annual specific ownership tax payable on each item of Class F personal property shall be computed in accordance with the following schedule:

| <b>Year of service</b>    | <b>Rate of tax</b>                               |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| First year                | 2.10% of taxable value                           |
| Second year               | 1.50% of taxable value                           |
| Third year                | 1.25% of taxable value                           |
| Fourth year               | 1.00% of taxable value                           |
| Fifth year                | .75% of taxable value                            |
| Sixth and each later year | .50% of taxable value,<br>but not less than \$ 5 |

(f) The authorized agent shall include the value of all equipment that has been mounted on or attached to Class F personal property in the calculation of the annual specific ownership tax. The registrations for such personal property and equipment shall be made available to the county assessor.

(16) (a) In lieu of payment of the annual specific ownership tax in the manner provided in subsection (15) of this section, the owner of special mobile machinery who is an equipment dealer regularly engaged in the sale or rental of special mobile machinery and who rents or leases

such equipment to another person in which the owner has not held an interest for at least thirty days may elect to pay specific ownership tax as prescribed in this subsection (16).

(b) Authorization for payment of specific ownership tax under this subsection (16) shall be obtained from the authorized agent in the county in which the owner's principal place of business is located; except that, for an item of equipment that is covered by a registration exempt certificate issued by the department in accordance with subsection (16)(g) of this section, authorization for the payment of specific ownership tax under this subsection (16) shall be obtained directly from the department. Except in the case of an item of equipment that is covered by a registration exempt certificate issued by the department in accordance with subsection (16)(g) of this section, the owner shall also apply for an identifying decal for each item of equipment to be rented or leased that shall be affixed to the item when it is rented or leased. The owner shall keep records of each identifying decal issued and a description of the item of equipment to which it is affixed. The fee for each identifying decal shall be five dollars, paid upon application to the authorized agent. An identifying decal shall expire when the registration of the special mobile machinery to which it is affixed expires pursuant to section 42-3-114. An identifying decal shall not be issued to special mobile machinery unless the machinery is registered, but a decal may be issued concurrently with the registration and shall expire pursuant to section 42-3-114. The owner shall be required to remove an identifying decal upon the sale or change of ownership of such item of equipment. The fee of five dollars for each identifying decal as required by this section shall be distributed as follows:

(I) Two dollars shall be retained by the authorized agent issuing such decal; and

(II) Three dollars shall be available upon appropriation by the general assembly to fund the administration and enforcement of this section.

(c) (I) Upon receiving authorization under paragraph (b) of this subsection (16), the owner shall collect from the user the specific ownership tax in the amount equivalent to two percent of the amount of the rental or lease payment.

(II) No later than the twentieth day of each month, the owner shall submit a report, using forms furnished by the department, to the authorized agent in each county where the equipment is used, together with the remittance of the taxes collected for the use in the county for the preceding month. The owner shall simultaneously submit a copy of each report to the department. This subparagraph (II) does not apply when modified by subparagraph (III) of paragraph (d) of this subsection (16).

(d) (I) Except as modified by subparagraph (III) of this paragraph (d), the owner shall make the report monthly to the department and to the authorized agent in the county where the equipment is located with a user, even if no specific ownership taxes were collected by the owner in the previous month.

(II) Failure to make such report in a period of sixty days is grounds for the termination of the owner's right to pay the specific ownership taxes on the owner's Class F personal property in the manner provided under this subsection (16). If the owner fails to remit specific ownership taxes received from a renter or lessee during such sixty-day period, the authorized agent may proceed to collect the delinquent taxes in the manner authorized in subsection (21) of this section.

(III) The department shall allow the owner to file the report electronically with the department of revenue either by electronic transmission or by electronically readable media as determined by rule. If the filing is made under this subsection (16)(d)(III), the owner does not need to file with the authorized agent. The department shall make the information in the report available to the authorized agents in the counties where the equipment is rented or used. Except as provided in subsection (16)(g)(II) of this section, this subsection (16)(d)(III) does not relieve the owner of the requirement to remit payment of the tax to the county in accordance with subsection (16)(c)(II) of this section.

(e) The owner of an item of special mobile machinery that is required to be registered for highway use under section 42-3-304 (14) shall be exempt from payment of the specific ownership tax at the time of registration if such tax is collected and remitted under this subsection (16).

(f) (I) If the owner of special mobile machinery who is paying specific ownership tax under this subsection (16) regularly has more than ten pieces of special mobile machinery that are not exempt from registration pursuant to section 42-3-104 (3) in the state, the department may issue to the owner a registration period certificate. The owner must present the registration period certificate to the appropriate authorized agent no later than the tenth day after the month when registration of any motor vehicle is required by this article 3. When so presented, the twelve-month period stated in the registration period certificate governs the date when registration is required for each fleet vehicle not exempted from registration pursuant to section 42-3-104 (3) that is owned or leased by the owner.

(II) Notwithstanding any provision of this title, the department may promulgate rules to establish requirements for an owner to register a special mobile machinery fleet that is identified by special license plates or an identifying decal. The department shall not require the plates to have an annual validating tab or sticker. Registration fees payable on the machinery under a multi-year agreement are not discounted below the otherwise applicable annual registration fees.

(III) Special mobile machinery registered under this paragraph (f) or after the issuance of a registration period certificate or the execution of a multi-year agreement are subject to section 42-3-109.

(IV) (A) The owner shall pay the annual registration fees required by sections 42-3-304 to 42-3-306 for special mobile machinery, reduced by twenty-five percent for each elapsed quarter, before applying for the balance of the registration period.



(B) The fees and taxes for special mobile machinery registered under this paragraph (f) prior to the effective date of the registration period certificate or multi-year agreement must be apportioned in the manner required by subparagraph (III) of this paragraph (f).

(C) An authorized agent may issue individual registration number plates, an identifying decal, or certificates upon application by an owner of special mobile machinery or the owner's agent and the payment of a registration fee of seven dollars. Of the seven-dollar fee, three dollars and sixty cents is to be retained by the authorized agent or department issuing the plates, identifying decal, or certificates; forty cents is to be remitted monthly to the department, which shall then transmit it to the state treasurer for credit to the highway users tax fund; and three dollars is available upon appropriation by the general assembly to fund the administration and enforcement of this paragraph (f). The owner or the owner's agent may then affix the plate, identifying decal, or certificate to special mobile machinery purchased or brought into the state pending registration.

(V) An owner issued a registration period certificate under subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (f) may register and pay registration fees and other license fees due for the special mobile machinery no later than the twentieth day of each quarter for all new special mobile machinery delivered into the state during the preceding quarter. The owner shall submit a report identifying new equipment, using forms furnished by the department, to the authorized agent in the county where the machinery was first delivered into the state, together with the remittance for all fees due for the preceding quarter. The owner shall simultaneously submit a copy of each report to the department. The machinery is deemed registered pending the timely filing of the report so long as the machinery displays the numbered plate, identifying decal, or certificate required by the department.

(g) (I) An owner of special mobile machinery who pays specific ownership taxes in accordance with this subsection (16) may apply to the department for a registration exempt certificate, which the department shall issue to the owner if:

(A) The department verifies that the owner regularly has at least two hundred fifty items of special mobile machinery in the state;

(B) Each item of such special mobile machinery is clearly marked or painted in a manner that identifies it as being owned by the owner;

(C) Each item of special mobile machinery bears a visible and readily identifiable unique identification number assigned by the owner;

(D) Each item of special mobile machinery bears a visible toll-free telephone number for the owner that can be used for verification of ownership; and

(E) The owner of the special mobile machinery has paid all fees and surcharges referenced in this section.

(II) A person to whom the department has issued a registration exempt certificate shall pay all specific ownership tax for an item of special mobile machinery that is covered by the registration exempt certificate directly to the department.

(III) An item of special mobile machinery that is owned by a person to whom the department has issued a registration exempt certificate is not required to be registered, and the department shall not require the owner of any such item of the special mobile machinery to obtain license plates, annual validating tabs, or identifying decals for the item of special mobile machinery. Notwithstanding the exemptions from registration and licensing requirements for any such item of special mobile machinery, upon the application, renewal, or expiration of a registration exempt certificate, the owner of the item shall pay directly to the department all fees and surcharges, as indicated in subsection (16)(g)(V) of this section, that would otherwise be paid at the time of registration pursuant to subsection (16)(g)(V) of this section; except that the owner shall not pay any fee imposed pursuant to section 42-3-301 for the purpose of covering the direct costs of license plates, decals, or validating tabs or any fee that would otherwise be retained by an authorized agent for the purpose of defraying the direct costs incurred by the authorized agent in registering or issuing license plates, decals, or validating tabs for the item. The department shall transmit all additional registration fees imposed pursuant to section 42-3-310 that it receives from owners of special mobile machinery to whom the department has issued a registration exempt certificate to the county treasurer of each county of the state in proportion to the total amount of vehicle registrations statewide represented by vehicle registrations within the county, and each county treasurer shall apportion the fees within the county in the manner specified in section 42-3-310.

(IV) The department may promulgate rules to establish the process by which an owner applies for a registration exempt certificate, allow the department to verify that the owner satisfies the requirements set forth in subsection (16)(g)(I) of this section, and otherwise implement this subsection (16)(g).

(V) (A) An owner of an item of special mobile machinery that is issued a registration exempt certificate pursuant to this subsection (16)(g) shall pay, for each item of special mobile machinery, all fees and surcharges that would otherwise be paid at the time of registration and any other fees and surcharges due.

(B) Upon application for a registration exempt certificate for an item of special mobile machinery, the owner shall submit a report to the department that identifies all of the owner's special mobile machinery located in the state at the time of submittal of the report. The report must be on a form furnished by the department. When a registration exempt certificate application is approved, an owner shall make payment directly to the department for any item of special mobile machinery that is currently in the state, as identified in the report. An owner shall pay for each item of special mobile machinery an amount based on the period covered by the issued registration exempt certificate.

(C) Upon a request for renewal of a registration exempt certificate for an item of special mobile machinery, the owner shall submit a report to the department that identifies all of the owner's special mobile machinery located in the state at the time of submittal of the report and that identifies each item of the owner's special mobile machinery that is new or was delivered or operated in the state during the period covered by the expiring registration exempt certificate. The report must be on a form furnished by the department. Upon approval by the department of a request for renewal of a registration exempt certificate, an owner shall pay the department for each item of special mobile machinery located in the state at the time of submittal of the report and for each item of special mobile machinery that is new or was delivered or operated in the state during the period covered by the preceding registration exempt certificate, as indicated in the report. For each item of special mobile machinery that is new or was delivered or operated in the state during the term of the expiring registration exempt certificate, the owner shall pay the department for each item based on a period beginning in the month when a new, delivered, or operated item of special mobile machinery was added and ending on the expiration date of the expiring registration exempt certificate.

(D) Within twenty days after the expiration of a registration exempt certificate which has not been renewed, an owner shall submit a report to the department that identifies each item of special mobile machinery that is new, was delivered, or was operated during the term of the previous registration exempt certificate. The report must be on a form furnished by the department. For each item of special mobile machinery that is new, was delivered, or was operated during the term of the previous registration exempt certificate, the owner shall pay the department based on the period beginning in the month when the new, delivered, or operated machinery was added and ending on the expiration date of the expiring registration exempt certificate.

(17) (a) For purposes of this subsection (17), unless the context otherwise requires:

(I) "Owner" means an owner, as defined in section 42-1-102 (66), that owns an item of special mobile machinery. The term includes any person authorized to act on the owner's behalf.

(II) "Prorated specific ownership tax" means the prorated special mobile machinery specific ownership tax assessed pursuant to this subsection (17).

(III) "Special mobile machinery" means every item of Class F personal property described in section 42-3-106 (2)(e) that is required to be registered under section 42-3-103.

(b) In lieu of payment of the annual specific ownership tax in the manner provided in subsection (15) of this section, an owner may apply for and pay prorated specific ownership tax in accordance with this subsection (17).

(c) To be eligible for prorated specific ownership tax, an owner shall have entered into a written contract to perform a service requiring use of the special mobile machinery for which specific ownership tax under this section is required.

(d) (I) An owner who desires prorated specific ownership tax shall submit an application to the department. The application shall include the terms of the owner's service, which shall be evidenced by a copy of the written contract specified in paragraph (c) of this subsection (17) and signed by the owner. The validity of the contract shall be evidenced either by sufficient documentation to substantiate its validity or by the fact that such owner is an established business in Colorado, as shown by registration with the Colorado secretary of state or department of revenue as required by law.

(II) An owner of special mobile machinery that is not registered in Colorado shall submit the application upon the arrival in Colorado of the special mobile machinery for which specific ownership tax under this section is required.

(III) An owner of special mobile machinery that is registered in Colorado shall submit the application when the owner renews the registration of the special mobile machinery for which specific ownership tax under this section is required.

(IV) When satisfied as to the genuineness and regularity of the application submitted, the department shall assess, and the owner shall pay, the prorated specific ownership tax in an amount equal to the annual specific ownership tax that would otherwise be imposed pursuant to subsection (15) of this section, prorated by the number of months during which the owner is expected to use the special mobile machinery in Colorado.

(V) (A) Prorated specific ownership taxes shall be assessed for a period of not less than two months nor more than eleven months in a twelve-month period.

(B) After a prorated specific ownership tax has been assessed and paid, an owner may have the prorated specific ownership tax assessment period adjusted for between two and eleven months upon the owner's request to the department that the owner requires additional time to complete the contract referred to in paragraph (c) of this subsection (17) and upon payment of any additional prorated specific ownership tax pursuant to this subsection (17).

(e) (I) A person who, in an application made under this subsection (17), uses a false or fictitious name or address, knowingly makes a false statement, knowingly conceals a material fact, or otherwise perpetrates a fraud commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense. Such person continues to be liable for any unpaid specific ownership taxes.

(II) A person shall not operate special mobile machinery in Colorado unless the owner has paid the specific ownership tax assessed pursuant to this article, and a person shall not operate special mobile machinery in Colorado after the expiration of the period for which the specific ownership tax was paid. A person who violates this subparagraph (II) is subject to, in addition to

any other penalty, an administrative penalty of the lesser of five hundred dollars or double the amount of the specific ownership tax. The penalty may be levied by an authorized agent or a peace officer under the authority granted by section 42-8-104 (2). The violation is to be determined by, paid to, and retained by the municipality or county where the motor vehicle is or should have been registered, subject to judicial review pursuant to rule 106 (a)(4) of the Colorado rules of civil procedure.

(18) (a) The annual specific ownership tax provided in subsection (15) of this section for Class F personal property registered in Colorado shall be determined and collected by the authorized agent in the county in which the owner of such Class F personal property resides.

(b) (I) The owner of any Class F personal property shall, within sixty days after the purchase of new or used Class F personal property, apply for registration with the authorized agent.

(II) No person shall operate Class F personal property unless the property is registered with the authorized agent or exempt from registration pursuant to section 42-3-104 (3).

(c) The property tax administrator shall furnish each authorized agent with a printed copy of the schedule of taxable values of Class F personal property compiled as provided in subsection (15) of this section, and such schedule shall be uniformly used by every authorized agent in computing the amount of annual specific ownership tax payable on any Class F personal property. The property tax administrator shall also furnish continuing supplements of such schedule to each authorized agent in order that the agent may have available current information relative to the taxable value of newly manufactured Class F personal property.

(19) The annual specific ownership tax on each item of Class B, Class C, Class D, and Class F personal property shall become due and payable to the authorized agent in the county where such item is to be registered, shall be paid at the time of registration of such item, and if not paid within one month after the date a registration expires, shall become delinquent.

(20) Except as provided in subsection (27) of this section, it is the duty of each authorized agent to collect the registration fee on every item of classified personal property located in the agent's county when registered and to collect the specific ownership taxes payable on each such item registered, except those items classified as Class A upon which the specific ownership tax is collected by the department and except those items classified as Class F when such tax is collected under subsection (16) of this section, at the time of registration. The failure of any authorized agent to collect the registration fee and specific ownership tax on any item of classified personal property shall not release the owner thereof from liability for the registration of such vehicle.

(21) Each authorized agent shall advise the owner of any item of Class F personal property upon which the annual specific ownership tax is due, by notice mailed to such owner indicating the amount of tax due. If payment is not made, the authorized agent shall report such fact to the

county treasurer, who shall thereupon proceed to collect the amount of delinquent tax by distraint, seizure, and sale of the item upon which the tax is payable, in the same manner as is provided in section 39-10-113, C.R.S., for the collection of ad valorem taxes on personal property.

(22) Each authorized agent shall retain, out of the amount of annual specific ownership tax collected on each item of classified personal property, the sum of fifty cents as remuneration for the collection of such tax. The sums so retained shall be transmitted to the county treasurer and credited in the manner provided by law. In addition, each authorized agent shall retain, out of the amount of annual specific ownership tax collected on each item of classified personal property, the sum of fifty cents, which shall be transmitted to the state treasurer and credited to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(23) Each authorized agent shall transmit to the county treasurer, at least once each week, all specific ownership taxes collected on items of classified personal property, reporting the aggregate amount collected for each class.

(24) (a) Each January, the treasurer of each county shall calculate the percentages that the dollar amount of ad valorem taxes levied in the treasurer's county during the preceding calendar year for county purposes and for the purposes of each political and governmental subdivision located within the boundaries of the treasurer's county were of the aggregate dollar amount of ad valorem taxes levied in such county during the preceding calendar year for said purposes. The percentages so calculated shall be used for the apportionment between the county itself and each political and governmental subdivision located within its boundaries of the aggregate amount of specific ownership tax revenue to be paid over to the treasurer during the current calendar year.

(b) On the tenth day of each month, the aggregate amount of specific ownership taxes on Class A, B, C, D, and F personal property received or collected by the county treasurer during the preceding calendar month shall be apportioned between the county and each political and governmental subdivision located within the boundaries of the county according to the percentages calculated in the manner prescribed in paragraph (a) of this subsection (24), and the respective amounts so determined shall be credited or paid over to the county and each such subdivision.

(c) The fee for the collection of specific ownership taxes having been charged when collected by the authorized agent, the treasurer shall make no further charge against the amount of specific ownership taxes credited or paid over to any political or governmental subdivision located in the treasurer's county.

(d) An insolvent taxing district, as defined in section 32-1-1402 (2), C.R.S., that has increased its mill levy for the purpose of paying for maturing bonds of the district, interest on bonds of the district, or prior deficiencies of the district shall not be entitled to receive any larger proportion of the specific ownership taxes collected in the county in which such district is

located as the result of such increase in the district's mill levy. For the purpose of apportioning specific ownership tax revenues in a county, dollar amounts from the levying of ad valorem taxes by an insolvent taxing district located in the county for the purpose of paying for maturing bonds of the district, interest on bonds of the district, or prior deficiencies of the district shall be excluded from the calculation of the percentages required by paragraph (a) of this subsection (24).

(25) (a) (I) Except as provided in subsection (25)(b) of this section, the department shall allow a credit for taxes, surcharges, and registration fees paid on any item of Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D, or Class F personal property, other than Class F personal property for which the department has issued a registration exempt certificate in accordance with subsection (16)(g) of this section, if the owner disposes of the vehicle during the registration period or if the owner converts the vehicle from any class of personal property to Class F property. The credit may apply to payments of taxes, surcharges, and registration fees on a subsequent application by the owner for registration of an item of Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D, or Class F personal property made during the registration period, or the credit may be assigned by the owner to the transferee of the property for which taxes, surcharges, or registration fees were paid; except that, when the transferee is a dealer in new or used vehicles, the transferee shall account to the owner for any assignment of the credit.

(II) The credit authorized by this subsection (25)(a) is prorated based on the number of months remaining in the registration period after the transfer, conversion to Class F personal property, or disposal of the vehicle. The proration calculation for the credit begins with the first day of the month after the transfer, conversion to Class F personal property, or disposal and ends the last day of the month for which the vehicle was registered.

(III) The credit is allowed only if the total ownership tax, surcharge, and registration fee credit due exceeds ten dollars.

(b) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (25)(b) is effective until July 1, 2027.]*** The credit authorized in subsection (25)(a) of this section does not apply to fees imposed in sections 42-3-301; 42-3-304 (5), (6), (7), (19), and (22); 42-3-312; and 42-3-313.

(b) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (25)(b) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of subsection (25)(b) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]*** The credit authorized in subsection (25)(a) of this section does not apply to fees imposed in sections 42-3-301; 42-3-304 (5), (6), (7), (19), and (22); 42-3-312; 42-3-313; and 42-3-315.

(26) Notwithstanding the amount specified for the fees in paragraph (e) of subsection (11) and paragraph (b) of subsection (16) of this section, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may reduce the amount of one or more of the fees if necessary pursuant to section 24-75-402 (3), C.R.S., to reduce the uncommitted reserves of the

fund to which all or any portion of one or more of the fees is credited. After the uncommitted reserves of the fund are sufficiently reduced, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may increase the amount of one or more of the fees as provided in section 24-75-402 (4), C.R.S.

(27) (a) Notwithstanding any provision in this article to the contrary, a fleet owner may process the registration renewal for any fleet vehicle, with the exception of Class A personal property, in the county in which the fleet owner's principal office or principal fleet management facility is located instead of in the county in which the fleet vehicle is located at the time of registration. A fleet vehicle for which the registration renewal is processed pursuant to this subsection (27) shall continue to be registered in the county in which it is located at the time of registration. This subsection (27) shall not apply to a fleet vehicle that was not previously registered in Colorado at the time of registration.

(b) If a fleet owner chooses to process the registration renewal of a fleet vehicle in the county in which the owner's principal office or principal fleet management facility is located instead of in the county in which the vehicle is located, the authorized agent in the county where the owner's principal office or principal fleet management facility is located shall collect the registration fee and specific ownership tax payable on each fleet vehicle for which the registration renewal is processed by the fleet owner in such county.

(c) The authorized agent in a county in which a fleet vehicle registration renewal is processed pursuant to this section shall retain and not disburse the sum authorized pursuant to section 42-1-210 (1)(a) to defray the costs associated with vehicle registration. The authorized agent in the county in which a fleet vehicle registration renewal is processed pursuant to this section shall transmit to the department all fees and moneys collected by the agent pursuant to section 42-1-214.

(d) The authorized agent in the county in which a fleet vehicle registration renewal is processed pursuant to this section shall transmit the registration fees collected pursuant to section 42-3-310 to the department. The department shall then transmit such fees to the authorized agent in the county in which the fleet vehicle is located at the time of registration, and the authorized agent shall transmit such fees to the county treasurer pursuant to section 42-3-310.

(e) The annual specific ownership tax on each fleet vehicle for which the registration renewal is processed in the county in which the fleet owner's principal office or principal fleet management facility is located shall become due and payable to the authorized agent in such county pursuant to this article. The authorized agent in such county shall apportion the specific ownership taxes collected for all fleet vehicles for which the registration renewal is processed in such county pursuant to this subsection (27) to the counties in which the fleet vehicles are located at the time of registration in proportion to the number of fleet vehicles located in each county.



(f) (I) This subsection (27) applies to registration renewal for fleet vehicles.

(II) Repealed.

(g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the allocation of highway users tax fund moneys to counties or municipalities pursuant to sections 43-4-207 and 43-4-208, C.R.S.

(28) The prepaid annual specific ownership tax for a registration issued under section 42-3-102 (4) is ninety-five dollars and fifty cents.

(29) ***[Editor's note: Subsection (29) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of subsection (29) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]*** The owner must prepay two years of annual specific ownership tax to register a trailer under section 42-3-102 (5).

**Source:** **L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1080, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (11)(a) and (12)(a) amended, p. 975, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (1)(a)(I) amended, p. 810, § 2, effective September 1. **L. 2010:** (16)(a), IP(16)(b), (16)(e), (17)(b), (18)(b), and (25) amended, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1489, § 6, effective October 1. **L. 2011:** (16)(c) and (17)(e)(II) amended, (HB 11-1093), ch. 258, p. 1132, § 2, effective June 2; (27)(f)(II) repealed, (HB 11-1303), ch. 264, p. 1181, § 106, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** (28) added, (HB 12-1038), ch. 276, p. 1456, § 3, effective June 8. **L. 2012, 1st Ex. Sess.:** (16)(f) added, (SB 12S-001), ch. 3, p. 2433, § 1, effective August 15. **L. 2013:** (16)(c) and (16)(d) amended, (HB 13-1153), ch. 199, p. 810, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2014:** (1)(a)(I) amended and (1)(a)(I.5) added, (HB 14-1326), ch. 357, p. 1679, § 6, effective June 6; (8) and (10) amended, (SB 14-075), ch. 264, p. 1058, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2017:** (15)(f) and (27)(f)(I) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 367, § 12, effective August 9. **L. 2019:** (25) amended, (HB 19-1138), ch. 231, p. 2318, § 1, effective January 1, 2020. **L. 2021:** IP(16)(b), (16)(f)(I), and (25)(a)(I) amended and (16)(g) added, (SB 21-257), ch. 478, p. 3418, § 3, effective July 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (22) amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 914, § 16, effective July 1. **L. 2023:** (1)(a)(I) amended and (1)(a)(IV) added, (HB 23-1272), ch. 167, p. 811, § 15, effective May 11; (16)(d)(III), (16)(g)(I)(A), (16)(g)(I)(C), (16)(g)(I)(D), and (16)(g)(III) amended and (16)(g)(I)(E) and (16)(g)(V) added, (SB 23-049), ch. 319, p. 1924, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2025:** (25)(b) amended and (29) added, (HB 25-1121), ch. 392, p. 2214, § 2, effective July 1, 2027. **L. 2026:** IP(8)(b)(II), (8)(b)(II)(A), IP(10)(b)(II), and (10)(b)(II)(A) amended, (8)(b)(II)(B) and (10)(b)(II)(B) repealed, and (8)(b)(V) and (10)(b)(V) added, (HB 26-1200), ch. 69, p. 276, § 1, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) Subsections (16)(g)(V)(A), (16)(g)(V)(B), (16)(g)(V)(C), and (16)(g)(V)(D) were numbered as (16)(g)(V), (16)(g)(V)(A), (16)(g)(V)(B), and (16)(g)(V)(C), respectively, in SB 23-049 but have been renumbered on revision for ease of location.

(2) Section 5(2) of chapter 392 (HB 25-1121), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to registrations made on or after January 1, 2028.

(3) Section 4(2) of chapter 69 (HB 26-1200), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to taxes and fees due on or after August 12, 2026.

**Cross references:** (1) For the legislative declaration in the 2012 act adding subsection (28), see section 1 of chapter 276, Session Laws of Colorado 2012.

(2) For the legislative declaration in HB 14-1326, see section 1 of chapter 357, Session Laws of Colorado 2014. For the legislative declaration in HB 23-1272, see section 1 of chapter 167, Session Laws of Colorado 2023.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-3-107 is similar to § 42-3-107 as it existed prior to the 2005 amendment to article 3 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, relevant cases construing that provision and its predecessors have been included in the annotations to this section.

**The facial disparity in this section and § 42-3-106 between ownership tax rates applicable to interstate and intrastate vehicles ten years old and older violated the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution** where trucking company was able to show that the statutes discriminated against interstate commerce by unfairly imposing an economic disadvantage upon interstate carriers that operated vehicles subject to the tax. *Riverton Produce Co. v. State*, 871 P.2d 1213 (Colo. 1994).

**The court concluded that the discriminatory provisions of this section and § 42-3-106 were severable from the remainder of the statutes where the**

discrimination in tax rates was not "inextricably intertwined" with the valid provisions and where severing the disparity between interstate and intrastate vehicles would not frustrate the legislature's efforts to raise revenue for the maintenance of its roads and highways. *Riverton Produce Co. v. State*, 871 P.2d 1213 (Colo. 1994).

**This section implements § 6 of art. X, Colo. Const., and establishes procedures for the collection of the specific ownership tax.** *Cooper Motors, Inc. v. Bd. of County Comm'rs*, 131 Colo. 78, 279 P.2d 685 (1955).

**This section does not condition the payment of the tax** on the situs of the car within the state or the residence of the owner. *Bd. of Comm'rs v. Morris*, 104 Colo. 139, 89 P.2d 248 (1939).

**Water conservancy districts are not entitled to a portion of the specific ownership tax** collected by counties lying wholly or partially within the district. *N.*

Colo. Water Conservancy Dist. v. Witwer, 108 Colo. 307, 116 P.2d 200 (1941).

**A local government's determination of whether a violation of this section relating to the nonpayment of specific ownership tax for special mobile machinery has occurred requires notice and a hearing.** Because the local government must exercise multiple layers of discretion involving

several independent legal and factual issues, such a determination is a quasi-judicial act notwithstanding that the statute does not require notice or a hearing. Because no hearing was held, the county's determination is not reasonably supported by competent evidence and is therefore an abuse of discretion. *Hellas Constr., Inc. v. Rio Blanco County*, 192 P.3d 501 (Colo. App. 2008).

#### **42-3-108. Determination of year model - tax lists.**

All vehicles of the current year model, as designated by the manufacturer, shall, for the payment of the specific ownership tax, be considered in the first year of service regardless of the date of purchase, and those charged with the collection of annual specific ownership taxes on vehicles subject to specific ownership taxation shall use the year that the model was manufactured or constructed as the basis of computation of the annual specific ownership tax.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1093, § 2, effective August 8.

#### **42-3-109. Tax for registration period.**

Except as provided in sections 42-3-110, 42-3-304 (10), and 42-4-305 (5), the owner shall pay upon a purchased vehicle subject to registration under this article the prescribed fee for a twelve-month registration. In no event shall the specific ownership tax collected on any classified personal property be less than one dollar and fifty cents.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1093, § 2, effective August 8.

#### **42-3-110. Payment of motor vehicle registration fees and specific ownership taxes in installments.**

(1) An owner of a motor vehicle, other than a trailer or semitrailer, classified as Class A or Class B personal property under section 42-3-106 (2)(b) may apply to the department to pay the twelve-month registration fee and specific ownership tax for the owner's fleet of such vehicles in

installments. The department shall approve an application from a fleet owner to make payments for a fleet in installments if all the following requirements are met:

(a) The total of the twelve-month registration fee and the twelve-month specific ownership tax for the fleet equals one thousand dollars or more;

(b) The applicant pays one-third of the total amount due for registration and specific ownership tax with the application;

(c) The fleet owner does not owe past due motor vehicle registration fees or specific ownership taxes or outstanding penalties imposed for nonpayment of such fees or taxes;

(d) The owner is not denied the privilege of paying in installments pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of this section; and

(e) The fleet owner has a performance bond issued by a surety company authorized to do business in Colorado, a bank letter of credit, or a certificate of deposit in an amount equal to no less than the remaining amount of the annual registration fee and specific ownership tax that will be paid in installments. The performance bond, letter of credit, or certificate of deposit shall be payable to the department if the owner fails to pay the required installments.

(2) If an application to pay in installments is approved pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the applicant shall pay the remainder of the registration fee and specific ownership tax in two equal installments as follows:

(a) The first installment on or before the first day of the fifth month of the registration period; and

(b) The second installment on or before the first day of the ninth month of the registration period.

(3) (a) If a fleet owner fails to pay an installment under this section on or before the date the installment was due, the remaining amount of the unpaid registration fee and specific ownership tax for the fleet is due in full immediately. Such owner shall not operate the vehicles in such fleet on the highways of the state until the owner has paid such amount.

(b) If a fleet owner fails to pay an installment for a motor vehicle under this section within thirty days after the installment was due, the department may deny such owner the privilege of paying registration fees and specific ownership taxes in installments under this section.

(4) The provisions of this section do not modify the amount of the registration fee or specific ownership tax owed by an owner for a motor vehicle during a registration period.

(5) The department may promulgate rules to implement the installment payment process established by this section.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1093, § 2, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-109.5 as it existed prior to 2005, and the former § 42-3-110 was relocated to § 42-3-111.

**42-3-111. Tax year - disposition.**

(1) The annual specific ownership tax shall attach and apply to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or trailer coaches operated upon the highways of this state for the registration period within which it is levied and collected.

(2) Payment of an annual specific ownership tax on a trailer coach to the authorized agent of a county of this state in which the situs of the trailer coach is established at the time of registration for all of a registration period shall constitute the entire tax payable on such vehicle.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1094, § 2, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-110 as it existed prior to 2005, and the former § 42-3-111 was relocated to § 42-3-112.

**42-3-112. Failure to pay tax - penalty - rules - repeal.**

(1) (a) If a vehicle subject to taxation under this article 3 is not registered when required by law, the vehicle owner shall pay:

(I) A late fee of twenty-five dollars for each month or portion of a month following the expiration of the registration period, or, if applicable, the expiration of the grace period described in section 42-3-114 for which the vehicle is unregistered; except that the amount of the late fee must not exceed one hundred dollars; and

(II) In addition to the taxes and fees to register the vehicle, prorated registration taxes and fees from the date the vehicle was required by law to be registered to the date the owner applied to register the vehicle. Prorated taxes and fees are assessed for a full month for the month the owner became a resident of Colorado and for the month the owner applied for registration and a

full month for each month between when the owner became a resident and when the owner applied for registration.

(b) Both the late fee and prorated registration taxes and fees imposed in this subsection (1) are due when the vehicle is registered.

(1.5) (a) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the executive director of the department shall promulgate rules that establish circumstances in addition to the circumstances described in subsection (3) of this section in which a vehicle owner is exempt from paying the late fee described in subsection (1) of this section. The rules must apply uniformly throughout the state and must include exemptions for:

- (I) Acts of God and weather-related delays;
- (II) Office closures and furloughs;
- (III) Repealed.
- (IV) Medical hardships; and
- (V) Information technology failures.

(b) The executive director of the department shall also promulgate rules in accordance with article 4 of title 24, C.R.S., that allow the department or an authorized agent to reduce or waive the late fee that would otherwise be due upon the registration of a trailer that is a commercial or farm vehicle, as part of the normal operation, if the owner can establish, in accordance with criteria specified in the rules, that the trailer was idled so that it was not operated on any public highway in this state for at least a full registration period. Nothing in this paragraph (b) shall be construed to exempt the owner of an idled trailer from paying any fees imposed pursuant to this article other than the late fee before again operating the trailer on a public highway in this state or from paying any taxes imposed pursuant to this article. The owner shall provide to the department or authorized agent a sworn affidavit that states that the trailer has not been operated on the public highways during the period for which it was not registered as required and describes the nature of the business conditions that resulted in the removal of the trailer from service.

(c) The executive director of the department shall consult with the authorized agents in promulgating the rules required by subsection (1.5)(a) of this section.

(1.6) ***[Editor's note: Subsection (1.6) is effective only if an initiative that amends the state constitution to change existing law on transportation funding and to increase the amount of state revenue dedicated to road transportation is approved by the people at the next general election. See the editor's note following this section.]***

(a) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(a)(I) of this section, on and after January 1, 2027, and before July 1, 2030, the late fee imposed in subsection (1)(a)(I) of this section is set at fifteen dollars fifty cents for each month or portion of a month following the expiration of the registration period or, if applicable, the expiration of the grace period described in section 42-3-114 for which the vehicle is unregistered; except that the amount of the late fee must not exceed sixty-two dollars.

(b) This subsection (1.6) is repealed, effective July 1, 2030.

(1.7) (a) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the owner of the following vehicles that are subject to taxation under this article 3 who fails to register the vehicle when required by law shall pay a late fee of ten dollars:

(I) A vehicle without motive power that weighs sixteen thousand pounds or less; or

(II) A camper trailer, trailer coach, or multipurpose trailer regardless of its weight.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (1.7), the weight of a trailer of any kind is the empty weight.

(2) The department or the authorized agent that registers the motor vehicle shall retain ten dollars of the late registration fee. Each authorized agent shall remit to the department no less frequently than once a month, but otherwise at the time and in the manner required by the executive director of the department, the remainder of the late registration fees collected by the authorized agent. The executive director shall forward all late registration fees remitted by authorized agents plus the remainder of the late registration fees collected directly by the department to the state treasurer, who shall credit the late registration fees as follows:

(a) (I) For late registration fees forwarded on or before June 30, 2027, all fees to the highway users tax fund in accordance with section 43-4-804 (1)(e).

(II) This subsection (2)(a) is repealed, effective July 1, 2028.

(b) For late registration fees forwarded on and after July 1, 2027, two dollars of each late registration fee to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2) in the highway users tax fund and the remainder of the fees to the highway users tax fund in accordance with section 43-4-804 (1)(e).

(3) The late fee described in subsection (1) of this section shall not be imposed on a vehicle subject to taxation under this article 3 if:

(a) The person who owns the vehicle uses the vehicle in operating a commercial business and, as part of the normal operation of the business, idles the vehicle so that it is not operated on any public highway in this state for at least one full registration period. Nothing in this paragraph (a) shall be construed to exempt the owner of an idled vehicle from paying any fees imposed

pursuant to this article other than the late fee before again operating the vehicle on a public highway in this state or from paying any taxes imposed pursuant to this article.

(b) (I) The individual who owns the vehicle is in the active military service of the United States and is serving outside the state when a registration period and grace period for renewal of registration for the vehicle end and the vehicle is not operated on any public highway of the state between the time the registration period and grace period end and the time the vehicle is reregistered.

(II) In order to qualify under this subsection (3)(b) for exemption from payment of the late fee described in subsection (1) of this section, the owner of the vehicle must show the department military orders to serve outside the state or any evidence acceptable to the department that the owner served outside the state. The owner need not sign an affidavit to qualify under this subsection (3)(b) for exemption from payment of the late fee described in subsection (1) of this section. The department shall notify the owner that the vehicle must not have been used on the roadways when the exemption applies.

(III) Nothing in this subsection (3)(b) shall be construed to exempt the owner of such a vehicle from paying any fees imposed pursuant to this article 3 other than the late fee before again operating the vehicle on a public highway in this state or from paying any taxes imposed pursuant to this article 3.

(c) The vehicle registration expired during the period the vehicle was reported stolen.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 395, § 1, effective July 1; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1094, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (SB 09-108), ch. 5, p. 50, § 7, effective March 2; (3)(c) added, (HB 09-1230), ch. 232, p. 1068, § 5, effective August 5. **L. 2010:** (1.5) added, (HB 10-1212), ch. 126, p. 419, § 1, effective April 15; (1.7) added, (HB 10-1211), ch. 323, p. 1500, § 1, effective July 1; (1.7) amended, (SB 10-198), ch. 377, p. 1771, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** (1.5)(c) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 367, § 13, effective August 9. **L. 2022:** (1) and IP(1.5)(a) amended and (1.5)(a)(III) repealed, (HB 22-1254), ch. 428, p. 3027, § 3, effective January 1, 2023; (1.7) amended, (HB 22-1388), ch. 475, p. 3460, § 3, effective January 1, 2023. **L. 2026:** (2) amended, (HB 26-1102), ch. 266, p. 1480, § 3, effective June 3; IP(3) and (3)(b) amended, (HB 26-1200), ch. 69, p. 277, § 2, effective August 12; (1.6) added, (HB 26-1430), ch. 406, p. 2538, § 11, effective (see editor's note).

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-111 as it existed prior to 2005, and portions of the former § 42-3-112 were relocated to §§ 42-3-113, 42-3-209, and 42-3-210.



(2) This section was originally numbered as § 42-3-111, and the amendments to it in House Bill 05-1140 were harmonized with § 42-3-112 as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

(3) Section 5 of chapter 266 (HB 26-1102), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section takes effect only if section 21 of HB 26-1289 becomes law, in which case section 3 of HB 26-1102 takes effect upon the passage of HB 26-1102 or on the effective date of HB 26-1289, whichever is later. Section 21 of HB 26-1289 became law and took effect June 3, 2026. HB 26-1102 became law June 1, 2026, and section 3 of HB 26-1102 took effect June 3, 2026.

(4) Section 24(7) of chapter 406 (HB 26-1430), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that section 11 of HB 26-1430 takes effect only if an initiative that amends the state constitution to change existing law on transportation funding and to increase the amount of state revenue dedicated to road transportation is approved by the people at the 2026 general election, in which case the amended version of this section takes effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

(5) Section 4(2) of chapter 69 (HB 26-1200), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to taxes and fees due on or after August 12, 2026.

**Cross references:** (1) For the short title (the "Colorado Registration Fairness Act") in HB 22-1254, see section 1 of chapter 428, Session Laws of Colorado 2022.

(2) For the short title ("Colorado Budget Protection Act") and the legislative declaration in HB 26-1430, see sections 1 and 2 of chapter 406, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

**42-3-113. Records of application and registration - disability of a driver - rules - report - definitions.**

(1) The department shall file each application received and, when satisfied that the applicant is entitled to register the vehicle, shall register the vehicle and its owner as follows:

(a) The owner and vehicle are assigned a distinct registration number. Each registration number assigned to a vehicle and its owner is designated "urban" if the owner resides within the limits of a city or incorporated town. Each registration number assigned to a vehicle and its owner is designated "rural" if the owner resides outside the limits of a city or incorporated town. The authorized agent of each county shall certify to the department as soon as possible after the end of the calendar year, but not later than May 1 of the following year, the total number of vehicles classified as "urban" and the total number of vehicles classified as "rural".

(b) The registration shall be filed alphabetically under the name of the owner.

(c) The registration shall be filed numerically and alphabetically under the identification number and name of the vehicle.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (2.5) of this section, the department, upon registering a vehicle, shall issue to the owner two registration cards, each of which contains upon its face the following:

- (a) The date issued;
- (b) The registration number assigned to the owner and vehicle;
- (c) The name and address of the owner;
- (d) A notice, in type that is larger than the other information contained on the registration card:
  - (I) That motor vehicle insurance coverage is compulsory in Colorado;
  - (II) That noncompliance is a misdemeanor traffic offense;
  - (III) to (V) Repealed.
- (d.5) A notice containing the minimum and maximum penalties for failing to have motor vehicle insurance coverage under section 42-4-1409;
- (e) A notice that Colorado law provides for a one-month grace period after a registration is due for renewal;
- (f) A description of the registered vehicle, including the identification number;
- (g) If it was a new vehicle sold in this state after January 1, 1932, the date of sale by the manufacturer or dealer to the person first operating such vehicle; and
- (h) Such other statements of fact as may be determined by the department, but not the owner's signature.

(2.5) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, the department shall print one registration card without the owner's address and issue the card to the owner; except that, if the motor vehicle is a commercial vehicle, the department shall print both registration cards issued to the owner with the owner's address. The department shall print the following statement on each registration card that is printed without an address:

Thieves have been known to use the address from a registration card to steal from the vehicle's owner. For added security, you are encouraged to keep only this registration card in your vehicle. It does not contain your address.

(3) A notice for renewal of registration shall include a notice, in type that is larger than the other information contained in the notice, that specifies that motor vehicle insurance coverage is compulsory in Colorado, that noncompliance is a misdemeanor traffic offense, that the minimum penalty for such offense is a five-hundred-dollar fine, and that the maximum penalty for such offense is one year's imprisonment and a one-thousand-dollar fine.

(4) The department shall notify all registered owners of the provisions and requirements of subsections (2) and (3) of this section.

(5) The department shall not require the owner to sign the registration card.

(6) The registration card issued for a vehicle required to be registered under this article shall, at all times while the vehicle is being operated upon a highway, be in the possession of the driver or carried in the vehicle and subject to inspection by any peace officer.

(7) Within thirty days after moving from an address listed upon a vehicle registration, a person shall notify the county of residence in which the vehicle is to be registered.

(8) (a) As used in this subsection (8):

(I) "Eligible vehicle" means a motor vehicle that has a valid certificate of registration issued by the department of revenue to a person whose address of record is within the boundaries of the program area, as defined in section 42-4-304 (20). The term "eligible vehicle" does not include motor vehicles held for lease or rental to the general public, motor vehicles held for sale by motor vehicle dealers, including demonstration vehicles, motor vehicles used for motor vehicle manufacturer product evaluations or tests, law enforcement and other emergency vehicles, or nonroad vehicles, including farm and construction vehicles.

(II) "Program area fleet" means a person who owns ten or more eligible vehicles. In determining the number of vehicles owned or operated by a person for purposes of this subsection (8), all motor vehicles owned, operated, leased, or otherwise controlled by such person shall be treated as owned by such person.

(b) (I) Upon the registration of an eligible vehicle, the owner shall report on forms provided by the department:

(A) The types of fuel used by such vehicle; and

(B) Whether such vehicle is dual-fueled or dedicated to one fuel.

(II) The forms provided by the department shall include spaces for the following fuels: Gasoline, diesel, propane, electricity, natural gas, methanol or M85, ethanol or E85, biodiesel, and other.

(c) Upon registration of a vehicle that is a part of a program area fleet, the owner shall report on forms provided by the department that such vehicle is owned by a program area fleet and shall list the owner's tax identification number.

(d) Within a reasonable period of time and upon the request of a political subdivision or the state of Colorado or any institution of the state or the state's political subdivisions, the department shall provide a report listing the owners of eligible vehicles that use fuels other than gasoline or diesel, listing the fuel type of each such eligible vehicle, and identifying whether or not such eligible vehicles are part of a program area fleet.

(9) Except for vehicles owned by a trust created for the benefit of a person with a disability, for purposes of enforcing disabled parking privileges granted pursuant to section 42-4-1208, the department, when issuing a registration card under this section, shall clearly indicate on the card if an owner of a vehicle is a person with a disability as defined in section 42-3-204. If the vehicle is owned by more than one person and the registration reflects that joint ownership, the department shall clearly indicate on the registration card which of the owners are persons with disabilities and which of the owners are not.

(9.5) (a) Upon completion of the application created pursuant to subsection (9.5)(b) of this section, when registering or renewing the registration of a vehicle pursuant to this section, the department shall collect information that the owner of a vehicle voluntarily discloses about the disability of a person who is either authorized to drive, or a regular passenger of, the registered vehicle for a person who has a disability as defined in the federal "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990", 42 U.S.C. sec. 12101 et seq., and the disability interferes with the person's ability to effectively communicate with a peace officer. The department shall make this information immediately available to a peace officer who queries information about the registered vehicle.

(b) (I) The department shall promulgate a rule creating an application and renewal form that is signed by a professional, under penalty of perjury, to affirm that the driver or regular passenger of a vehicle has a disability and the disability interferes with the person's ability to effectively communicate with a peace officer and setting out the penalties for affirming before verifying that the person has a disability that interferes with the person's ability to effectively communicate with a peace officer.

(II) As used in this subsection (9.5)(b), "professional" means a physician licensed to practice medicine under article 240 of title 12 or practicing medicine under section 12-240-107 (3)(i), a physician assistant licensed under section 12-240-113, a mental health professional licensed or certified under article 245 of title 12, an advanced practice registered nurse registered under section 12-255-111, a person with a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling, or a physician, physician assistant, mental health professional, or advanced practice registered nurse authorized to practice professionally by another state that shares a common border with Colorado.

(c) The department shall not charge a fee for collecting or making this information available to peace officers.

(d) An owner of a vehicle may choose to no longer have the information regarding a disability available to a peace officer who queries the vehicle registration. At an owner's request, the department shall remove the disability information attached to the owner's vehicle registration. The department shall not retain any disability information for an owner who chooses to remove disability information from the owner's vehicle registration.

(e) By January 15, 2023, and each year thereafter, the department shall report to the house of representatives health and human services committee and transportation, housing, and local government committee and the senate health and human services committee and transportation and energy committee, or their successor committees, on the percentage of persons registering a vehicle who have disclosed disability information in accordance with this subsection (9.5) in the previous calendar year.

(10) (a) Whenever a person asks the department or any other state department or agency for the name or address of the owner of a motor vehicle registered under this section, the department or agency shall require the person to disclose if the purpose of the request is to determine the name or address of a person suspected of a violation of a state or municipal law detected through the use of an automated vehicle identification system as described in section 42-4-110.5. If the purpose of the request is to determine the name or address of such a suspect, the department or agency shall release such information only if the county or municipality for which the request is made complies with section 42-4-110.5.

(b) No person who receives the name or address of the registered owner of a motor vehicle from the department or from a person who receives the information from the department shall release such information to a county or a municipality unless the county or municipality complies with state laws concerning the use of automated identification devices.

(11) The department shall not place an expiration date on the registration card for a Class A commercial trailer or semitrailer registered in Colorado.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** (2) amended, p. 395, § 2, effective July 1; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1095, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2010:** (7) amended, (HB 10-1045), ch. 317, p. 1480, § 5, effective July 1, 2011. **L. 2012:** (11) added, (HB 12-1038), ch. 276, p. 1456, § 4, effective June 8. **L. 2013:** (2)(d)(III) and (2)(d)(IV) repealed, (2)(d.5) added, and (2)(e) and (3) amended, (SB 13-081), ch. 114, p. 389, § 1, effective April 8. **L. 2014:** IP(2), (2)(h), (5), (7), and (8)(a)(I) amended, (2)(d)(V) repealed, and (2.5) added, (SB 14-131), ch. 388, p. 1942, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** IP(1) and (1)(a) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 368, § 14, effective August 9. **L. 2021:** (9.5) added, (HB 21-1014), ch. 406, p. 2697, § 4, effective July 1,

2022. **L. 2025:** (1)(a) amended, (SB 25-275), ch. 377, p. 2106, § 326, effective August 6. **L. 2026:** (9.5)(e) amended, (SB 26-169), ch. 311, p. 1816, § 69, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-112 as it existed prior to 2005, and portions of the former § 42-3-113 were relocated to §§ 42-3-201 and 42-3-301.

(2) Subsection (2) was originally numbered as § 42-3-112 (2), and the amendments to it in House Bill 05-1140 were harmonized with § 42-3-113 (2) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in the 2012 act adding subsection (11), see section 1 of chapter 276, Session Laws of Colorado 2012. For the legislative declaration in HB 21-1014, see section 1 of chapter 406, Session Laws of Colorado 2021.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-3-113 is similar to § 42-3-112 as it existed prior to the 2005 amendment to article 3 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, a relevant case construing that provision has been included in the annotations to this section.

**municipal ordinances.** Regulation of automated vehicle identification systems to enforce traffic laws is a matter of mixed local and state concern. In the event of conflict, state law prevails. *City of Commerce City v. State*, 40 P.3d 1273 (Colo. 2002).

**Subsection (10) (formerly subsection (14)) supersedes conflicting provisions of**

**42-3-113.5. Electronic vehicle registration and titling - electronic transmission of vehicle lien information - authority - rules - cash fund - gifts, grants, and donations - repeal. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 2013:** Entire section added, (HB 13-1289), ch. 380, p. 2224, § 3, effective June 5; (1), (2)(a), and (2)(c) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2396, § 41, effective June 5. **L. 2014:** (2)(b) repealed, (HB 14-1363), ch. 302, p. 1276, § 47, effective May 31. **L. 2018:** (3) added by revision, (HB 18-1299), ch. 297, pp. 1811, 1815, §§ 5, 15.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section was relocated to § 42-1-234 in 2019.

(2) Subsection (3) provided for the repeal of this section, effective July 1, 2019. (See L. 2018, pp. 1811, 1815.)

#### **42-3-114. Expiration.**

Every vehicle registration under this article shall expire on the last day of the month at the end of each twelve-month registration period and shall be renewed, upon application by the owner, the payment of the fees required by law, and in accordance with section 42-3-113 (3), not later than the last day of the month following the date of expiration. No license plates other than those of the registration period to which they pertain shall be displayed on a motor vehicle operated on the highways of Colorado. A person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1098, § 2, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-124 as it existed prior to 2005, and the former § 42-3-114 was relocated to § 42-3-211.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

#### **42-3-115. Registration upon transfer - rules - definitions - repeal.**

(1) Repealed.

(2) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (2), the transferee, before operating or permitting the operation of a motor vehicle upon a highway, shall register the vehicle.

(b) A transferee may operate a motor vehicle on the highway before registering it if:

(I) The vehicle is exempt from registration pursuant to section 42-3-103 or 42-3-104; or

(II) The vehicle has been temporarily registered pursuant to section 42-3-203 (3); or

(III) (A) The transferee has purchased the motor vehicle within the last thirty-six hours from a person who is not a motor vehicle dealer under part 1 of article 20 of title 44;

(B) The vehicle was purchased either on a Saturday, on a Sunday, on a legal holiday, or between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m.;

(C) The vehicle is being driven from the place where the transferor stored the vehicle to the place where the transferee intends to store the vehicle;

(D) The owner possesses, in the vehicle, a bill of sale that shows the time and date of sale and that is signed by both the buyer and seller; and

(E) The owner possesses, in the vehicle, proof of insurance as required by section 42-4-1409.

(3) If a title to or interest in a motor vehicle is transferred by operation of law, as upon inheritance, devise, or bequest, order in bankruptcy of insolvency, execution, sale, repossession upon default in performing the terms of a lease or executory sales contract, chattel mortgage, secured transaction, or otherwise, the registration thereof shall expire, and the vehicle shall not be operated upon the highways unless the vehicle is registered; except that a person repossessing the vehicle pursuant to rights granted by a mortgage or applicable law may operate the vehicle upon the highways from the place of repossession to the vehicle's new place of storage, either upon displaying upon such vehicle the number plates issued to the former owner or without displaying number plates but under a written permit obtained from the department or the police authorities with jurisdiction over such highways and upon displaying upon such vehicle a placard bearing the name and address of the person authorizing and directing such movement, plainly readable from a distance of one hundred feet during daylight.

(4) The owner of a motor vehicle who has made a bona fide sale or transfer of such owner's title or interest and who has delivered possession of such vehicle and the certificate of title, properly endorsed, to the purchaser or transferee shall not be liable for any damages thereafter resulting from negligent operation of such vehicle by another.

(5) (a) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (5)(a) is effective until January 1, 2028.]*** Except as otherwise provided in subsections (5)(b), (5)(c), and (5)(d) of this section, on and after January 1, 2022, whenever the owner of a motor vehicle that is Class C personal property, as described in section 42-3-106 (2)(c), transfers or assigns the owner's title or interest, the number plates issued to the owner for the vehicle expire and shall not be transferred by the department to any other motor vehicle. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (5)(d) of this section, whenever the owner of a motor vehicle that is Class B personal property, as described in section 42-3-106 (2)(b); Class D personal property, as described in section 42-3-106 (2)(d); or Class F personal property, as described in section 42-3-106 (2)(e), transfers or assigns the owner's title or interest, the number plates issued to the owner for the vehicle expire and shall not be transferred by the department to any other motor vehicle. An owner of a motor vehicle whose number plates expire due to the operation of this subsection (5)(a) who wishes to retain the same combination of letters or numbers displayed on the expired license plates retains the priority right to use the combination and may, after surrendering the expired plates to the department, apply for



personalized license plates with the combination in the manner specified in section 42-3-211 when registering another motor vehicle.

(5) (a) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (5)(a) is effective January 1, 2028.]* Upon request of the owner of a motor vehicle, the department may transfer a number plate from one motor vehicle to another motor vehicle if at least one person is listed as an owner on the certificate of title for each motor vehicle.

(b) Subsection (5)(a) of this section does not apply to the transfer or assignment of an owner's title or interest in Class B, Class C, and Class D personal property that has number plates:

(I) That are personalized license plates issued in accordance with section 42-3-211, distinctive special license plates, group special license plates, or special alumni license plates issued in accordance with section 42-3-214; or

(II) That have a valuable registration number that has been reserved for use under the "Laura Hershey Disability Support Act", part 2 of article 88 of title 8.

(III) This subsection (5)(b) is repealed, effective January 1, 2028.

(c) In accordance with section 42-12-301 (6), subsection (5)(a) of this section does not apply to the transfer or assignment of an owner's title or interest in Class C personal property that is a horseless carriage.

(d) (I) Subsection (5)(a) of this section does not apply to number plates issued to a fleet operator that are easily legible and in good condition, and a fleet operator may transfer such number plates from one fleet vehicle to another when the fleet operator transfers or assigns the owner's title or interest in the fleet vehicle from which the number plates are being transferred.

(II) This subsection (5)(d) is repealed, effective January 1, 2028.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** (2) amended, p. 800, § 1, effective July 1; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1098, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (2)(b)(II) amended, p. 1510, § 68, effective June 1. **L. 2017:** (2)(b)(III)(A) amended, (SB 17-240), ch. 395, p. 2065, § 49, effective July 1. **L. 2018:** (2)(b)(III)(A) amended, (SB 18-030), ch. 7, p. 141, § 15, effective October 1. **L. 2019:** (1) repealed, (HB 19-1138), ch. 231, p. 2319, § 2, effective January 1, 2020. **L. 2021:** (5) added, (SB 21-069), ch. 419, p. 2780, § 3, effective September 7. **L. 2022:** (5)(a) and (5)(b) amended, (HB 22-1388), ch. 475, p. 3461, § 4, effective January 1, 2023. **L. 2023:** (5)(a) amended and (5)(d) added, (HB 23-1022), ch. 105, p. 379, § 1, effective January 1, 2024. **L. 2024:** (5)(b)(II) amended, (HB 24-1360), ch. 324, p. 2167, § 12, effective July 1. **L. 2026:** (5)(a) amended, (HB 26-1053), ch. 347, p. 2107, § 1, effective January 1, 2028; (5)(b)(III) and (5)(d)(II) added by revision, (HB 26-1053), ch. 347, pp. 2107, 2110, §§ 1, 8.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-126 as it existed prior to 2005, and portions of the former § 42-3-115 were relocated to § 42-3-212.

(2) Subsection (2) was originally numbered as § 42-3-126 (2), and the amendments to it in Senate Bill 05-014 were harmonized with § 42-3-115 (2) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 21-069, see section 1 of chapter 419, Session Laws of Colorado 2021. For the legislative declaration in HB 24-1360, see section 1 of chapter 324, Session Laws of Colorado 2024.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-3-115 is similar to § 42-3-126 as it existed prior to the 2005 amendment to article 3 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, relevant cases construing former provisions similar to that section have been included in the annotations to this section.

**The registration of vehicles is primarily a taxing scheme** whereby the owner of a vehicle is assessed an annual fee in lieu of an ad valorem tax on his vehicle. *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

**Taxing scheme applies to vehicles to be operated on Colorado highways.** The taxing scheme applies, with some exceptions, to all vehicles which are owned by Colorado residents and are primarily designed to be operated on Colorado highways. *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

If the vehicle is not to be operated on Colorado highways, the owner is not required to pay the ownership tax. *Sifuentes*

*v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

**The law is designed to be equitable.** *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

The taxing scheme is equitably tailored to tax those who have an opportunity to operate a vehicle on Colorado highways. *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

**Plaintiff not deprived of property right by enforcement of law.** *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

**How this section implements taxing scheme.** To implement the taxing scheme, this section provides for a pro rata credit of the registration tax when an owner of a registered vehicle transfers his interest in the vehicle. This transfer can be by operation of law. *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

**"Registered in the name of" should be construed to have the meaning accorded**

it by the applicable state law, especially where the phrase is used on an insurance company form given multi-state distribution.

Waggoner v. Wilson, 31 Colo. App. 518, 507 P.2d 482 (1972).

**42-3-116. Manufacturers or dealers - fees - rules - definition - penalty.**

(1) Upon application using the proper form and payment of the fees required by law, a manufacturer of, drive-away or tow-away transporter of, or dealer in, motor vehicles, trailers, special mobile machinery, or semitrailers operating such vehicle upon any highway, in lieu of registering each vehicle, may obtain from the department and attach to each such vehicle one number plate, as required in this article for different classes of vehicles. Such plate shall bear a distinctive number; the name of this state, which may be abbreviated; the year issued; and a distinguishing word or symbol indicating that such plate was issued to a manufacturer, drive-away or tow-away transporter, or dealer. Such plates may, during the registration period for which they were issued, be transferred from one such vehicle to another when owned and operated by or with the authority of such manufacturer or representative of such manufacturer or operated by such drive-away or tow-away transporter or dealer.

(2) No manufacturer of or dealer in motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers shall cause or permit a vehicle owned by such person to be operated or moved upon a public highway without displaying upon such vehicle a number plate, except as otherwise authorized in this article.

(3) A manufacturer of motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers may operate or move upon the highways any such vehicle from the factory where manufactured to a railway depot, vessel, or place of shipment or delivery, without registering the same and without an attached number plate, under a written permit first obtained from the police authorities with jurisdiction over such highways and upon displaying upon each such vehicle a placard bearing the name and address of the manufacturer authorizing or directing such movement, plainly readable from one hundred feet away during daylight.

(4) (a) Any dealer in motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers may operate, move, or transport a vehicle owned by such dealer on the streets and highways of this state without registering such vehicle and without an attached numbered plate if there is displayed on such vehicle a depot tag issued by the department. Such tag may be purchased from the department for a fee of five dollars. Such tags shall only be used for moving authorized vehicles for purposes of testing, repairs, or transporting them from the point of delivery to the dealer's place of business and for similar legitimate business purposes; but nothing in this section shall be construed to allow the use of such tag for private purposes.

(b) The executive director of the department shall promulgate rules for the use of depot tags and dealer plates, and a violation of such rules shall subject the violator to a suspension or

revocation of the violator's depot tag and dealer plates after a hearing pursuant to article 4 of title 24, C.R.S.

(5) A manufacturer or dealer, upon transferring a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, whether by sale, lease, or otherwise, to any person other than a manufacturer or dealer shall immediately give written notice of such transfer to the department upon the form provided by the department. Such notice shall contain the date of such transfer, the names and addresses of the transferor and transferee, and such description of the vehicle as may be required by the department.

(6) (a) (I) An application for a full-use dealer plate may be submitted by a motor vehicle dealer or wholesaler who:

(A) Has sold more than twenty-five motor vehicles in the twelve-month period preceding application;

(B) Purchases an existing motor vehicle dealership or wholesale business that has sold more than twenty-five vehicles during the twelve-month period preceding application; or

(C) Obtains a license to operate a new or used motor vehicle dealership or wholesale business with an inventory of fifty or more motor vehicles.

(II) Full-use dealer plates may be used in lieu of, in the same manner as, and to the same extent as number plates issued pursuant to section 42-3-201.

(b) (I) The department shall issue full-use dealer plates upon payment of the fee specified in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (b) and upon application of a motor vehicle dealer or wholesaler accompanied by satisfactory evidence that the applicant is entitled to the plate in accordance with the criteria established in subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (6).

(II) The department shall establish and annually adjust the annual fee for full-use dealer plates based on the average of specific ownership taxes and registration fees paid for passenger vehicles and light-duty trucks that are seven model years old or newer and that were registered during the one-year period preceding January 1 of each year. The department shall prorate the annual fee on a monthly basis. The department shall establish and annually adjust the annual fee for full-use dealer plates for motorcycles and autocycles based on the average of specific ownership taxes and registration fees paid for motorcycles and autocycles that are seven model years old or newer and that were registered during the one-year period preceding January 1 of each year. The department shall prorate the annual fee for motorcycles and autocycles on a monthly basis.

(III) Full-use dealer plates shall be valid for a period not to exceed one year.

(IV) Each full-use dealer plate shall be returned to the department within ten days after the sale or closure of a motor vehicle dealership or wholesale business listed in an application submitted pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b).

(c) Full-use dealer plates may be used only for vehicles owned and offered for sale by the dealer or wholesaler. Full-use dealer plates shall not be used on vehicles owned by dealerships or wholesalers that are commonly used by that dealer as tow trucks or vehicles commonly used by that dealer to pick up or deliver parts. At the dealer's or wholesaler's discretion, the full-use plate may be transferred from one motor vehicle to another motor vehicle. The dealer or wholesaler shall not be required to report any such transfer to the department.

(d) A motor vehicle dealer or wholesaler may assign a full-use dealer plate only to the following persons:

(I) Owners or co-owners of the licensed dealership or wholesale motor vehicle business;

(II) An employee of the motor vehicle dealer or wholesaler;

(III) To any person, including former, current, and prospective customers, in order to serve the legitimate business interest of the motor vehicle dealership or motor vehicle wholesale business; and

(IV) A spouse or dependent child living in the same household as the licensed dealer or wholesaler.

(e) As used in this subsection (6), "motor vehicle dealer or wholesaler" includes motor vehicle dealers, used motor vehicle dealers, and wholesalers as those terms are defined in section 44-20-102.

(7) (a) A person who sells special mobile machinery in the ordinary course of business may submit an application for a demonstration plate.

(b) (I) The department shall issue a demonstration plate upon payment of the fee specified in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (b) and upon application of a motor vehicle dealer or wholesaler accompanied by satisfactory evidence that the applicant is entitled to the plate in accordance with this subsection (7).

(II) The department shall establish and adjust the annual fee for a demonstration plate based on the average of specific ownership taxes and registration fees paid for items of special mobile machinery that are seven model years old or newer during the previous year.

(III) A demonstration plate shall be valid for one year.

(IV) The owner of a demonstration plate shall return the plate to the department within ten days after the sale or closure of the business that sells special mobile machinery in the ordinary course of business.

(c) No person shall operate special mobile machinery with a demonstration plate unless the machinery is offered for sale and being demonstrated for the purposes of a sale. The owner may transfer the plate from one item of special mobile machinery to another and without reporting the transfer to the department.

(d) A person who violates this subsection (7) commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1099, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2007:** (4)(a) amended, p. 30, § 5, effective August 3. **L. 2010:** (7) added, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1490, § 7, effective October 1. **L. 2011:** (7)(d) amended, (HB 11-1303), ch. 264, p. 1181, § 107, effective August 10. **L. 2017:** (6)(e) amended, (SB 17-240), ch. 395, p. 2065, § 50, effective July 1. **L. 2018:** (6)(e) amended, (SB 18-030), ch. 7, p. 141, § 16, effective October 1. **L. 2021:** (7)(d) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3303, § 720, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (6)(b)(II) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2582, § 7, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-127 as it existed prior to 2005.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class A traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3).

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-3-116 is similar to § 42-3-127 as it existed prior to the 2005 amendment to article 3 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, relevant cases construing that provision and its predecessors have been included in the annotations to this section.

**Legislative intent in adopting subsection (1)** was to accommodate dealers by not requiring registration of each vehicle in the dealer's inventory and to permit dealers to operate their vehicles upon highways with the ease of transferring one license plate from one vehicle to another.

Dept. of Rev. v. A & A Auto Wrecking, Inc., 625 P.2d 1021 (Colo. 1981).

**There was no violation when a dealer illegally gave a purchaser a dealer plate.** The statute was enacted to collect taxes and not to protect the public. Liebelt v. Bob Penkhus Volvo-Mazda, Inc., 961 P.2d 1147 (Colo. App. 1998).

**Department may not limit number of dealer licenses to one dealer.** A department of revenue regulation, limiting the number of dealer license plates that may be issued to an automobile dealer, is inconsistent with this section and is, therefore, invalid. A & A

Auto Wrecking, Inc. v. Dept. of Rev., 43 Colo. App. 85, 602 P.2d 10 (1979).

**Dealer may not obtain unlimited number of plates.** Subsection (1) does not provide that a dealer may obtain an unlimited number of dealer plates, nor would such an interpretation lead to a just and reasonable result. Dept. of Rev. v. A & A Auto Wrecking, Inc., 625 P.2d 1021 (Colo. 1981).

**Colorado appellate decisions support the proposition that nondelivery of the certificate of title to a motor vehicle does not prevent a change of ownership,** and that delivery of possession constitutes a transfer of ownership as between the parties involved. Hall v. Hong Seung Gee, 725 P.2d 1164 (Colo. App. 1986).

#### **42-3-117. Nonresidents.**

(1) A nonresident owner, except as otherwise provided in this section, owning a foreign motor vehicle may operate or permit such vehicle to operate within this state without registering such vehicle or paying fees so long as the vehicle is currently registered in the state, country, or other place of which the owner is a resident, and the motor vehicle displays the number plate or plates issued for such vehicle in the place of residence of such owner.

(2) An owner or operator of a foreign vehicle operated within this state for the transportation of persons or property for compensation or for the transportation of merchandise shall register such vehicle and pay the same fees as required for similar vehicles owned by residents of this state; except that a motor vehicle, truck, semitractor, truck tractor, bus, trailer, or semitrailer registered in a foreign state or country that has a registration reciprocity agreement with Colorado shall be registered in accordance with such agreement.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1101, § 2, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-128 as it existed prior to 2005, and portions of the former § 42-3-117 were relocated to § 42-3-218.

#### **42-3-118. Registration suspended upon theft - recovery - rules.**

(1) Repealed.

(2) (a) After receiving an application for a motor vehicle registration, the department or its authorized agent shall electronically verify with the department of public safety that the motor

vehicle has not been reported stolen. The department or its authorized agent shall not register a motor vehicle reported stolen in the system until the vehicle is recovered by the owner. The department shall promulgate rules setting forth procedures to notify the local law enforcement agency upon discovery that a person is attempting to register a stolen motor vehicle.

(b) This subsection (2) is effective July 1, 2009.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1102, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2008:** Entire section amended, p. 1024, § 1, effective August 5.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-130 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (1)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (1), effective July 1, 2009. (See L. 2008, p. 1024.)

#### **42-3-118.5. Inoperable vehicle - rules.**

(1) An owner of an inoperable vehicle that is not driven on roadways and is undergoing maintenance, repair, restoration, rebuilding, or renovation shall pay the annual specific ownership tax on the vehicle as provided in section 42-3-106.

(2) Upon payment of the specific ownership tax for a vehicle described in subsection (1) of this section, the department shall issue to the owner of the vehicle a license plate, sticker, decal, or other evidence of the payment as may be prescribed by the executive director of the department by rule. When the license plate or other evidence of payment is affixed to the vehicle, the owner of that vehicle may store the vehicle on private property for the purposes of maintenance, repair, restoration, rebuilding, or renovation.

**Source: L. 2022:** Entire section added, (HB 22-1388), ch. 475, p. 3461, § 5, effective January 1, 2023.

#### **42-3-119. No application for registration granted - when.**

(1) The department shall not grant an application for the registration of a vehicle in any of the following events:

(a) When the applicant for registration is not entitled thereto under this article;



(b) When the applicant has neglected or refused to furnish the department with the information required on the appropriate official form or reasonable additional information required by the department;

(c) When the registration fees required by law have not been paid;

(d) When a certification of emissions control is required pursuant to part 4 of article 4 of this title, and such certification has not been obtained.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1102, § 2, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-131 as it existed prior to 2005.

**42-3-120. Department may cancel or deny registration.**

(1) The department shall cancel the registration of any vehicle that the department determines is unsafe or unfit to be operated or is not equipped as required by law.

(2) The department shall cancel the registration of a vehicle whenever the person to whom registration number plates have been issued unlawfully uses or permits the unlawful use of the same.

(3) (a) Upon receiving written notice from the Colorado state patrol that a motor carrier has failed to timely pay civil penalties imposed in accordance with section 42-4-235 (2) or has failed to cooperate with the completion of a safety compliance review pursuant to section 42-4-235 (2)(c), the department shall:

(I) Cancel the registration of any vehicle that is owned by the carrier;

(II) Enter both the motor carrier and its vehicles as out-of-service in the federal motor carrier safety administration system of record; and

(III) Deny the registration of any vehicle that is owned by the carrier until the department receives notice from the Colorado state patrol that the penalty has been paid in full or that the carrier has cooperated with the completion of the safety compliance review, as applicable.

(b) Repealed.

(4) (a) Upon receiving written notice from the public utilities commission that a person has failed to timely pay civil penalties imposed in accordance with section 40-7-113, the department shall cancel the registration of any vehicle that is owned by the person for which the penalty was

assessed and shall deny the registration of any such vehicle until the department receives written notice from the public utilities commission that the penalty has been paid in full.

(b) On or after August 10, 2011, this subsection (4) applies to all vehicles regardless of when the vehicles were purchased.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1102, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2007:** (3) added, p. 857, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (4) added, (HB 09-1230), ch. 232, p. 1068, § 6, effective August 5. **L. 2011:** (3)(a) and (4) amended, (HB 11-1198), ch. 127, p. 424, § 22, effective August 10. **L. 2023:** (3)(a) amended, (SB 23-012), ch. 179, p. 876, § 2, effective August 7 (see editor's note).

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-132 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (3)(b)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (3)(b), effective July 1, 2009. (See L. 2007, p. 857.)

(3) Section 4 of chapter 179 (SB 23-012), Session Laws of Colorado 2023, provides that subsection (3)(a)(II) is effective April 30, 2024.

#### **42-3-121. Violation of registration provisions - penalty.**

(1) It is unlawful to commit any of the following acts:

(a) To operate or permit the operation, upon a highway, of a motor vehicle subject to registration under this article or to possess or control a trailer coach or trailer that is not registered and does not display the number plates issued for such vehicle or trailer coach for the current year, except for trailer coaches or trailers owned by a licensed dealer or licensed manufacturer while being held for sale or resale or while operated on the streets or highways with dealer plates or depot tags authorized pursuant to section 42-3-116;

(b) To display or permit to be displayed, to have in possession, or to offer for sale a certificate of title, validation tab or sticker, or registration number plate knowing the same to be fictitious or to have been stolen, canceled, revoked, suspended, or altered;

(c) To lend to or knowingly permit the use by one not entitled thereto a certificate of title, registration card, or registration number plate issued to the lending or permitting person;

(d) To fail or refuse to surrender to the department, upon demand, a certificate of title, registration card, or registration number plate that has been suspended, canceled, or revoked;

(e) To use a false name or address, to knowingly make a false statement, or to knowingly conceal a material fact in an application for the registration, renewal registration, or duplicate registration of a motor vehicle;

(f) To use or permit the use of a noncommercial or recreational vehicle to transport cargo or passengers for profit or hire or in a business or commercial enterprise;

(g) To use or permit the use of a truck or truck tractor registered as a collector's item pursuant to section 42-12-401 (1)(c) to transport cargo or passengers for profit or hire or in a business or commercial enterprise;

(h) To drive or permit to be driven a truck or truck tractor registered as a collector's item pursuant to section 42-12-401 (1)(c) for any purpose other than those purposes allowed in section 42-12-401 (1)(c).

(2) (a) A person who violates paragraph (a) or (c) of subsection (1) of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(b) A person who violates paragraph (b), (d), or (e) of subsection (1) of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(c) A person who violates paragraph (f) or (g) of subsection (1) of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1102, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2008:** (1)(a) amended, p. 638, § 3, effective August 5. **L. 2011:** (1)(g), (1)(h), and (2)(c) amended, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 243, § 4, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-133 as it existed prior to 2005, and the former § 42-3-121 was relocated to § 42-3-204.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty for a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II).

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-3-121 is similar to § 42-3-133 as it existed prior to the 2005 amendment to article 3 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, a relevant case construing that

provision has been included in the annotations to this section.

**This section does not prohibit altering a temporary license plate;** therefore, § 18-5-

102, prohibiting forgery, is the appropriate statute to prosecute persons who alter temporary license plates. *People v. Stansberry*, 83 P.3d 1188 (Colo. App. 2003).

#### **42-3-122. Perjury on a motor vehicle registration application.**

(1) A person commits perjury on a motor vehicle registration application if such person knowingly makes a materially false statement, other than those prohibited by sections 18-8-502 and 18-8-503, C.R.S., on a motor vehicle registration application that such person does not believe to be true, under an oath required or authorized by law.

(2) Perjury on a motor vehicle registration application is a petty offense.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1104, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2021:** (2) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3303, § 721, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-140 as it existed prior to 2005, and the former § 42-3-122 was relocated to § 42-3-207.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a petty offense, see § 18-1.3-503.

#### **42-3-123. Dishonored payment - recovery of taxes, fees, and plates.**

(1) If the registration of a vehicle required to be registered under this article is procured or perfected by the owner, or by a person or agent in the owner's behalf, and the registration fee and specific ownership tax are paid by check, money order, draft, bill of exchange, or other negotiable instrument that is dishonored and not paid by the person upon whom drawn, the registration shall be revoked as soon as the dishonored or unpaid instrument is returned to the authorized agent. Upon the return of such check, money order, draft, bill of exchange, or other negotiable instrument to the authorized agent, evidencing nonpayment or dishonor of same, the authorized agent shall notify the owner in writing, at the address appearing on the person's ownership tax receipt, by registered or certified mail, of the revoked registration resulting from such nonpayment or dishonor. The notice shall request the return to the authorized agent of the tax receipt, license fee receipt, and registration number plates issued under such revoked registration within ten days after the date of mailing of the notice.

(2) If the owner fails to return any requested documents or license plates to the authorized agent within a reasonable time, as specified by the authorized agent, after the date of mailing of the notice, the authorized agent may immediately repossess the tax receipt, license fee receipt, and license plates that were issued under the canceled registration, and the county sheriff or the Denver manager of safety, or an equivalent person in the city and county of Broomfield, upon request by an authorized agent, shall sequester or recover possession of the receipts and license plates within his or her jurisdiction. The sheriff, manager, or equivalent who has recovered possession of a receipt or license plate shall transfer the receipt or license plate to the authorized agent. An owner who attaches or uses license plates acquired under a canceled registration is subject to the penalties provided in section 42-3-121.

(3) The authorized agent, upon accounting for repossessed plates, shall receive a refund of any sum paid over to the county treasurer, or such equivalent position in the city and county of Broomfield, or to the department, as provided by sections 42-3-304 to 42-3-306, in each case where an owner or the owner's agent has issued a check, money order, draft, bill of exchange, or other negotiable instrument that has been dishonored and not paid by the person upon whom drawn; and, likewise, the county treasurer, or such equivalent position in the city and county of Broomfield, and the department making such refund shall further effect appropriate refunds and deductions as may be necessary to adjust and balance the books and records of the county treasurer and the department after making the initial refund to the authorized agent.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1104, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2017:** (2) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 368, § 15, effective August 9.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-141 as it existed prior to 2005, and the former § 42-3-123 was relocated to § 42-3-202.

#### **42-3-124. Violation - penalty.**

A person who violates a provision of this article for which no other penalty is provided in this article commits a class B traffic infraction and shall be punished as provided in section 42-4-1701 (3)(a).

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1105, § 2, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-142 as it existed prior to 2005, and portions of the former § 42-3-124 were relocated to §§ 42-3-114 and 42-3-203.

**42-3-125. Fleet operators - registration period certificates - multi-year registrations.**

(1) (a) The department may issue to a fleet operator, upon application of the fleet operator, a registration period certificate. Such registration period certificate shall be presented to the appropriate authorized agent no later than the tenth day of the month in which registration of any motor vehicle is required by this article. When so presented, the twelve-month period stated in the registration period certificate shall govern the date on which registration is required for all fleet vehicles owned or leased by the fleet operator.

(b) Notwithstanding section 42-3-207 (1)(b), the department may promulgate rules to establish requirements for a fleet operator to register the operator's fleet vehicles and have them identified by special license plates that do not require an annual validating tab or sticker. Registration fees payable on fleet vehicles under a multi-year agreement shall not be discounted below the otherwise applicable annual registration fees.

(2) (a) Vehicles registered by a fleet operator after the issuance of a registration period certificate or the execution of a multi-year agreement shall be subject to section 42-3-109.

(b) The annual registration fees prescribed in sections 42-3-304 to 42-3-306 for fleet vehicles shall be reduced by twenty-five percent at the end of each successive quarter of the registration period that has elapsed prior to making application for the balance of the registration period.

(3) The fees and taxes for vehicles registered prior to the effective date of the registration period certificate or multi-year agreement shall be apportioned in the manner prescribed in subsection (2) of this section.

(4) This section shall not apply to vehicles registered under reciprocal agreements between the state of Colorado and any foreign country or another state or territory or a possession of the United States.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1105, § 2, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-143 as it existed prior to 2005, and the former § 42-3-125 was repealed in House Bill 05-1107.

**42-3-126. Notice - primary body color.**

(1) If the primary body color of a motor vehicle is subsequently changed from the primary body color that is identified in the application for registration for the motor vehicle, the owner of the motor vehicle shall notify the department in writing, within thirty days after the color of such motor vehicle is changed, of the new primary body color of the motor vehicle. The primary body color of a motor vehicle shall be identified using the standard color descriptions of the department that are established pursuant to section 42-3-105 (1)(e).

(2) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire section added, p. 650, § 23, effective May 27; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1106, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (1) amended, p. 1511, § 69, effective June 1.

**Editor's note:** This section, as enacted by Senate Bill 05-047, was originally numbered as § 42-3-145 but was relocated to and harmonized with § 42-3-126 as enacted by House Bill 05-1107.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

**42-3-127. Sale of special mobile machinery.**

A person who sells special mobile machinery in the ordinary course of business shall notify in writing the buyer of the machinery that the machinery is required to be registered under this article. A person who violates this section commits a class B traffic infraction for each item of special mobile machinery sold without such a notice.

**Source: L. 2010:** Entire section added, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1491, § 8, effective October 1.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

## PART 2

### LICENSE PLATES

#### **42-3-201. Number plates furnished - style - periodic reissuance - tabs - rules - definition - repeal.**

(1) (a) (I) The department shall issue to every owner whose vehicle is registered two number plates; except that the department shall issue one number plate for the following:

- (A) A motorcycle;
- (B) A street rod vehicle;
- (C) A trailer or semitrailer;
- (D) A vehicle drawn by a motor vehicle;
- (E) An item of special mobile machinery; or
- (F) Repealed.
- (G) An autocycle.

(II) At the discretion of the executive director of the department, the department may issue one number plate for any vehicle not listed in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a).

(III) The department may require the return to the department of all number plates upon termination of the lawful use of such plates by the owner.

(IV) The department shall issue an autocycle a motorcycle license plate.

(b) (I) The department may issue the number plates required in this section for one or more registration periods. If the number plates are issued for multi-year use, the department may issue a validating tab or sticker to indicate the year of registration of the vehicle.

(II) Any validating tab or sticker that evidences the receipt of taxes under this article may be obtained by the department through normal purchasing procedures and may be produced and issued by the department through its authorized agents. Such validation tab or sticker shall be produced in accordance with the minimum specifications of the department, and such specifications shall reflect, at a minimum, the same quality control standards employed by the department of corrections in the production of such validation tab or sticker as those standards existed on January 1, 1999.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, the owner shall display on every number plate the registration number assigned to the vehicle and owner, the year number for which it is issued, the month in which it expires, and any other appropriate symbol, word, or



words designated by the department. The department may adopt rules for the issuance of permanent number plates that do not display the year number for which it is issued or the month in which it expires. Such plate and the required letters and numerals, except the year number for which issued, must be of sufficient size to be plainly readable from a distance of one hundred feet during daylight.

(3) The department shall issue for every passenger motor vehicle, rented without a driver, the same type of number plates as the type of plates issued for private passenger vehicles.

(4) The department shall issue, for every noncommercial or recreational vehicle registered as such pursuant to this article, numbered plates or other insignia of a color or design different from any other Colorado plates, to be determined by the department, in order that such numbered plates or other insignia may be plainly recognized at a distance of at least one hundred feet during daylight.

(5) (a) A new or replacement license plate issued by the department shall, to the extent that it is practical, have standardized coloring and identifying characters limited to no more than a total of six numbers and letters; except that such character limitation does not apply to personalized license plates issued under section 42-3-211.

(b) The department of revenue may require the replacement of any license plate as necessary to ensure that license plates are legible as required by section 42-3-202 (2).

(6) (a) The department shall promulgate rules that require the destruction, recycling, or other permanent disposal of license plates that are no longer used to evidence registration of a motor vehicle and are voluntarily given to the department, an authorized agent, or a person who receives license plates in the ordinary course of business.

(b) The department, an authorized agent, or a person who receives license plates in the ordinary course of business shall destroy, recycle, or dispose of a license plate in accordance with rules promulgated by the department under this subsection (6).

(7) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section, the department shall issue license plates to a Class A commercial trailer or semitrailer registered in Colorado that do not contain the month and year the trailer expires, and a validating sticker or tab is not issued nor required for the license plates.

(8) (a) Subject to the rules promulgated under subsection (8)(c)(II) of this section, the owner of a registered vehicle may display a digital number plate in lieu of one or both of the plates issued under subsection (1)(a)(I) of this section if the registration number and expiration date are clearly visible at a distance of one hundred feet in normal sunlight.

(b) Digital number plates need not display more than one color.

(c) (I) The department may permit, if not otherwise inconsistent with this article 3, the use on a digital number plate of:

- (A) Messages displayed on the plate; and
- (B) Other functionality made possible by the use of digital technology.

(II) The department, in consultation with the Colorado state patrol, shall adopt rules for the use of digital number plates. The rules must:

- (A) Set standards necessary for the safe use of digital number plates;
- (B) Establish requirements for product oversight and consumer support;
- (C) Establish requirements for product size, design, display, and functionality;
- (D) Establish a process for approval of digital number plates products for statewide use;
- (E) Set protocols for data sharing, privacy, and security;
- (F) Establish a process for revoking the authority to use a digital number plate;
- (G) Set testing requirements to approved digital number plates;
- (H) Set a process to determine the types of number plates that are eligible to use as digital number plates; and
- (I) Set reporting requirements for companies that sell digital number plates to the public.

(III) The department shall review the implementation of digital plates within one year after the effective date of the rules adopted in accordance with subsection (8)(c)(II) of this section. In performing the review, the department shall obtain comments and recommendations from the Colorado state patrol and persons who are interested in digital number plates. Within one year after performing the review, the department shall prepare a report based on the review and submit the report to the transportation legislation review committee, created in section 43-2-145.

(d) As used in this subsection (8), "digital number plate" means an electronic display that is mounted on a vehicle in the place of and that serves the function of a number plate issued by the department.

(e) This subsection (8) is repealed, effective September 1, 2027. Before the repeal, the use of digital number plates by the owner of a registered vehicle pursuant to this subsection (8) is scheduled for review in accordance with section 24-34-104.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1106, § 2, effective August 8; (5)(b) amended, p. 253, § 1, effective August 8. **L. 2008:** (6) added, p. 321, § 1, effective July 1.

**L. 2010:** (1)(a)(I)(E) amended, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1491, § 9, effective October 1. **L. 2012:** (2) amended and (7) added, (HB 12-1038), ch. 276, p. 1456, § 5, effective June 8. **L. 2014:** (1)(a)(I)(D) and (1)(a)(I)(E) amended and (1)(a)(I)(F) added, (HB 14-1367), ch. 303, p. 1286, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** (1)(a)(I)(D) and (1)(a)(I)(E) amended and (1)(a)(I)(F) repealed, (HB 17-1044), ch. 72, p. 229, § 3, effective March 23. **L. 2022:** (8) amended, (HB 22-1162), ch. 121, p. 561, § 1, effective August 10; (1)(a)(I)(D) and (1)(a)(I)(E) amended and (1)(a)(I)(G) and (1)(a)(IV) added, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2582, § 8, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-113 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (5)(b) was originally numbered as § 42-3-113 (5)(b), and the amendments to it in Senate Bill 05-153 were harmonized with § 42-3-201 (5)(b) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in the 2012 act amending subsection (2) and adding subsection (7), see section 1 of chapter 276, Session Laws of Colorado 2012.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-3-201 is similar to § 42-3-113 as it existed prior to the 2005 amendment to article 3 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, a relevant case construing a former provision similar to that section has been included in the annotations to this section.

**The provisions of subsection (3) do not offend §§ 3, 11, 14, 15, 28 of art. II, Colo.**

**Const.** Driverless Car Co. v. Armstrong, 91 Colo. 334, 14 P.2d 1098 (1932).

**Subsection (3) not unreasonable interference with private business.** The provisions of subsection (3), concerning motor vehicles which refer to driverless car owners, is not an unreasonable interference with a purely private business. Driverless Car Co. v. Armstrong, 91 Colo. 334, 14 P.2d 1098 (1932).

### **42-3-202. Number plates furnished to be attached - penalty.**

(1) (a) (I) Except as provided in subsection (1)(a)(II) of this section, the owner shall attach the number plates assigned to a self-propelled vehicle to the vehicle with one in the front and the other in the rear.

(II) The owner shall attach the number plate assigned to any of the following vehicles to the rear of the vehicle:

- (A) A motorcycle;
- (B) An autocycle;
- (C) A street rod vehicle;
- (D) A trailer, semitrailer, or other vehicle drawn by a motor vehicle; or
- (E) Special mobile machinery.

(III) The owner shall display number plates during the current registration year, except as otherwise provided in this article 3.

(b) If the department issues a validating tab or sticker to a motor vehicle pursuant to section 42-3-201, the current month validating tab or sticker shall be displayed in the bottom left corner of the rear license plate. The current year validating tab or sticker shall be displayed in the bottom right corner of the rear license plate. The tabs or stickers shall be visible at all times.

(2) (a) (I) The owner or driver of a motor vehicle shall securely fasten the license plate to the vehicle to which it is assigned so as to prevent the plate from swinging.

(II) Except when authorized by this article 3 or rule of the department, the rear license plate must be:

- (A) Horizontal at a height not less than twelve inches from the ground, measuring from the bottom of the plate;
- (B) In a place and position to be clearly visible;
- (C) Maintained free from foreign materials and clearly legible;
- (D) At the approximate center of the vehicle measured horizontally; and
- (E) Mounted on or within eighteen inches of the rear bumper.

(III) Except when authorized by this article 3, the front license plate must be:

- (A) Displayed horizontally on the front of a motor vehicle in the location designated by the motor vehicle manufacturer;
- (B) Maintained free from foreign materials; and
- (C) Clearly legible.

(b) A person shall not operate a motor vehicle with an affixed device or a substance that causes all or a portion of a license plate to be unreadable by a system used to automatically

identify a motor vehicle. Such a device includes, without limitation, a cover that distorts angular visibility; alters the color of the plate; or is smoked, tinted, scratched, or dirty so as to impair the legibility of the license plate.

(3) (a) A person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(b) A person who violates paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of this section commits a class A traffic infraction and shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars.

(4) Notwithstanding subsections (1) to (3) of this section, the owner of a military vehicle may elect to not display the vehicle's assigned license plate if the license plate is physically in the military vehicle and is available for inspection to any peace officer who requests the plate.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1108, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2008:** (1) amended, p. 321, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2010:** (4) added, (SB 10-075), ch. 169, p. 597, § 2, effective August 11; (1)(a) amended, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1491, § 10, effective October 1. **L. 2014:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 14-1367), ch. 303, p. 1286, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2015:** (2)(a) amended, (SB 15-090), ch. 334, p. 1360, § 2, see subsection (2) of the editor's note following this section. **L. 2017:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 17-1044), ch. 72, p. 229, § 4, effective March 23. **L. 2018:** (2)(a)(II) and (2)(a)(III) amended, (SB 18-028), ch. 85, p. 685, § 1, effective March 29. **L. 2022:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2583, § 9, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-123 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Section 6(1)(b) and 6(2) of chapter 334 (SB 15-090), Session Laws of Colorado 2015, provides that changes to this section take effect only if the department of revenue receives enough gifts, grants, and donations for materials, start-up costs, and computer programming necessary to implement this act, and take effect January 1, 2016, only if the revisor of statutes receives written notice that such funds were received. The revisor of statutes received the required notice, dated February 12, 2016.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-3-202 is similar to § 42-3-123 as it existed prior to the 2005 amendment to article 3 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, relevant cases construing that provision and its predecessors have been included in the annotations to this section.

**This section, when read with § 42-3-203, applies to temporary plates.** Temporary plates must be affixed in the rear and placed in accordance with this section. *People v. Hayes*, 2020 COA 175, 490 P.3d 1056.

**Where the suspect's license plate was obstructed by dirt**, in violation of this

section, the troopers had a reasonable suspicion that criminal activity was occurring. Although after stopping the vehicle, the troopers could see the plates well enough to discern that they were current, the continued obstruction of the plate constituted an ongoing license plate violation and thus a reasonable purpose for the stop. Because the troopers had a reasonable suspicion and a reasonable stop, they properly initiated an investigatory stop. *People v. Altman*, 938 P.2d 142 (Colo. 1997).

**Applied** in *People v. Clements*, 665 P.2d 624 (Colo. 1983).

**42-3-203. Standardized plates - notice of funding through gifts, grants, and donations - rules.**

(1) (a) Unless otherwise authorized by statute, the department shall issue all Class C vehicles a single type of standardized license plate. Unless otherwise authorized by statute, the department shall issue all Class B vehicles, except recreational trucks, a single type of standardized license plate.

(b) Repealed.

(2) An owner who has applied for renewal of registration of a vehicle but who has not received the number plates or plate for the ensuing registration period may operate or permit the operation of such vehicle upon the highways, upon displaying the number plates or plate issued for the preceding registration period, for such time as determined by the department as it may find necessary for issuance of such new plates.

(3) (a) (I) The department may issue individual temporary registration number plates and certificates good for a period not to exceed sixty days upon application by an owner of a motor vehicle or the owner's agent and the payment of a registration fee of two dollars, one dollar and sixty cents to be retained by the authorized agent or department issuing the plates and certificates and the remainder to be remitted monthly to the department to be transmitted to the state treasurer for credit to the highway users tax fund.

(II) The authorized agent may issue individual temporary registration number plates and certificates good for a period not to exceed sixty days upon application by an owner of special

mobile machinery or the owner's agent and the payment of a registration fee of two dollars, one dollar and sixty cents to be retained by the authorized agent or department issuing the plates and certificates and the remainder to be remitted monthly to the department to be transmitted to the state treasurer for credit to the highway users tax fund.

(III) It is unlawful for a person to use a number plate and certificate after it expires. A person who violates any provision of this paragraph (a) commits a class B traffic infraction.

(b) The department may issue to licensed motor vehicle dealers temporary registration number plates and certificates in blocks of twenty-five upon payment of a fee of six dollars and twenty-five cents for each block of twenty-five. The department shall transmit any money it receives from this sale to the state treasurer for credit to the highway users tax fund and allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(b), C.R.S. The department may promulgate rules creating a system for the dealer to:

(I) Print on the temporary plates the temporary registration number, vehicle identification number, and other information required by the department; and

(II) Print temporary registration certificates with the information required by the department.

(c) (I) Subject to subparagraph (III) of this paragraph (c), the department shall not issue more than two temporary registration number plates and certificates per year to a Class A or Class B motor vehicle.

(II) Beginning July 1, 2008, the department shall track by vehicle identification number the number of temporary registration number plates and certificates issued to a motor vehicle.

(III) The department may promulgate rules authorizing the issuance of more than two temporary registration number plates and certificates per year if the motor vehicle title work or lien perfection has caused the need for such issuance.

(d) (I) By July 1, 2016, the department shall make temporary registration number plates or certificates so that each complies with the requirements of section 42-3-202, including being fastened, visible, and readable; except that a temporary plate is affixed only to the rear of the vehicle. The department shall implement an electronic issuance system for temporary license plates. The department may promulgate rules to implement this system.

(II) and (III) Repealed.

(e) A dealer may issue a second temporary registration number plate in accordance with this subsection (3) if the dealer:

(I) Has issued a temporary plate to the owner when selling the motor vehicle to the owner;

(II) Has not delivered or facilitated the delivery of the certificate of title to the purchaser or the holder of a chattel mortgage as required in section 42-6-112 or 42-6-119 (3) within sixty days after the motor vehicle was purchased; and

(III) Has taken every reasonable action necessary to deliver or facilitate the delivery of the certificate of title.

(4) All or part of the face of the license plates furnished pursuant to this section shall be coated with a reflective material.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** (3)(b) amended, p. 145, § 20, effective April 5; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1108, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2007:** (3)(c) added, p. 1597, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2010:** (3)(a) amended, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1493, § 16, effective October 1. **L. 2014:** (1) amended, (HB 14-1367), ch. 303, p. 1286, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2015:** (3) amended, (SB 15-090), ch. 334, p. 1358, § 1, see subsection (3) of the editor's note following this section. **L. 2016:** (3)(e) added, (SB 16-140), ch. 287, p. 1169, § 2, effective August 10. **L. 2017:** (1)(b) repealed, (HB 17-1044), ch. 72, p. 230, § 5, effective March 23; (3)(d)(II) repealed, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 368, § 16, effective August 9.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-124 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (3)(b) was originally numbered as § 42-3-124 (3)(b), and the amendments to it in Senate Bill 05-041 were harmonized with § 42-3-203 (3)(b) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

(3) Section 6(1)(b) and 6(2) of chapter 334 (SB 15-090), Session Laws of Colorado 2015, provides that changes to this section take effect only if the department of revenue receives enough gifts, grants, and donations for materials, start-up costs, and computer programming necessary to implement this act, and take effect January 1, 2016, only if the revisor of statutes receives written notice that such funds were received. The revisor of statutes received the required notice, dated February 12, 2016.

(4) Subsection (3)(d)(III)(B) provided for the repeal of subsection (3)(d)(III), effective July 1, 2017. (See L. 2015, p. 1360.)

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

## ANNOTATION

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**This section applies § 42-3-202 to temporary plates.** Temporary plates must be affixed in the rear and placed in

accordance with § 42-3-202. *People v. Hayes*, 2020 COA 175, 490 P.3d 1056.

**42-3-204. Reserved parking for persons with disabilities - applicability - definitions - rules.**

(1) **Definitions.** As used in this section:

(a) "Disability" or "disabled" means a physical impairment that meets the standards of 23 CFR 1235.

(b) "Extended" means a condition that is not expected to change within thirty months after the issuance of an identifying figure, given the current state of medical or adaptive technology.

(c) "Holder" means a person with a disability who has lawfully obtained an identifying plate or placard.

(d) "Identification number" means the number on a Colorado driver's license, a Colorado identification document, or an identification document issued by the United States.

(e) "Identifying figure" means a figure that provides notice that a person is authorized to use a reserved parking space.

(f) "Identifying placard" means a placard bearing an identifying figure issued under this section or a similar provision in another state and refers to a ninety-day, three-year, or permanent placard.

(g) "Identifying plate" means a license plate bearing an identifying figure issued under this section or a similar provision in another state and refers to either a three-year or permanent license plate.

(g.5) "Parking device" means a single- or multi-space meter, kiosk, pay station, pay-by-space, pay-by-plate, pay-by-card, or other payment system or methodology for the parking of vehicles.

(h) "Permanent" means a condition that is not expected to change within a person's lifetime, given the current state of medical or adaptive technology.

(i) "Professional" means a physician licensed to practice medicine or practicing medicine under section 12-240-107 (3)(i), a physician assistant licensed under section 12-240-113, a podiatrist licensed under article 290 of title 12, an advanced practice registered nurse registered under section 12-255-111, or a physician, physician assistant, podiatrist, or advanced practice registered nurse authorized to practice professionally by another state that shares a common

border with Colorado. For the purposes of issuance of a ninety-day placard only, "professional" includes a chiropractor or physical therapist.

(i.5) "Remuneration-exempt identifying placard" means an identifying placard issued under this section that exempts the holder from paying remuneration at parking devices.

(i.7) "Remuneration-exempt qualifying disability" means a disability that limits an individual's:

- (I) Fine motor control in both hands;
- (II) Ability to reach a height of forty-eight inches from the ground due to lack of strength or mobility in the individual's finger, hand, or upper extremity; or
- (III) Ability to reach or access a parking meter due to the use of a wheelchair or other ambulatory device.

(j) "Reserved parking" means a parking space reserved for a person with a disability as set forth in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1).

(k) "Temporary" means a condition that is expected to last less than thirty months after the issuance of an identifying plate or placard, given the current state of medical or adaptive technology.

(2) **Administration by the department.**

(a) **Records.** The department shall maintain in its records for at least three years:

- (I) The registration information used to issue an identifying plate or placard;
- (II) Any violations of section 42-4-1208 by the holder of an identifying plate or placard; and
- (III) The application for an identifying plate or placard or an electronic or digital reproduction of the application.

(b) **Peace officers may access records.** Upon the moneys being available and appropriated from the disabled parking education and enforcement fund created in section 42-1-226, the department shall provide immediate electronic access to the records under this subsection (2) to a peace officer working within the course and scope of the officer's official duties.

(c) **Records confidential.** Identifying information about the person with the disability for whom an identifying plate or placard is issued is strictly confidential and only available to:

- (I) A peace officer, parking authority, or tolling authority acting within the course and scope of the official's duties; or
- (II) Personnel within the department for official business related to the identifying plate or placard.

(d) **Department to establish forms - rules.** The department shall promulgate a rule creating an application and renewal form that:

(I) Is signed by a professional, under penalty of perjury, to affirm that an applicant meets the eligibility requirements for an identifying plate or placard and setting out the penalties for authorizing an identifying plate or placard when an applicant is ineligible or before verifying that a person has a disability; and

(II) Contains a notice of the eligibility requirements to obtain an identifying plate or placard.

**(3) Types of plates or placards.**

(a) **Authorization.** The department may issue the following registration type for issuing disabled plates and placards that notify the public that the vehicle transports a person who may use reserved parking:

(I) A ninety-day identifying placard;

(II) A three-year identifying placard;

(II.5) A three-year remuneration-exempt identifying placard;

(III) A permanent identifying placard;

(IV) A three-year identifying plate;

(V) A permanent identifying plate;

(VI) A military license plate, issued under section 42-3-213 or 42-3-218 (3), with an additional identifying figure to indicate that the owner of the vehicle is authorized to make use of reserved parking for persons with disabilities.

**(b) Number of placards and license plates allowed.**

(I) (A) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b)(I)(B) of this section, the department may issue two identifying placards, two identifying plates, or one plate and one placard to an eligible individual.

(B) The department may issue two remuneration-exempt identifying placards to an eligible individual. A remuneration-exempt identifying placard does not count toward the limits on placards and plates specified in subsection (3)(b)(I)(A) of this section.

(II) The department may issue two military license plates under section 42-3-213 or 42-3-218 (3) with identifying figures or one military license plate under section 42-3-213 or 42-3-218 (3) with an additional identifying figure and one placard to a qualified individual.

(III) The department may issue one identifying plate or placard to each parent or guardian of a child with a disability who is under sixteen years of age, but the department shall not issue

more than two identifying placards, two identifying plates, or one plate and one placard for the child. This subsection (3)(b)(III) does not apply to a remuneration-exempt identifying placard.

(4) **Cost.** The cost for issuance of an identifying plate is the same as for a standard plate. There is no fee for an identifying placard.

(5) **Issuance of plate or placard - rules.**

(a) **Department to issue.** The department shall issue an identifying plate or placard to an applicant that pays any required fees and is qualified for the plate or placard under paragraph (h) of this subsection (5).

(b) **Identification number on placard.** The department shall place the last four digits of the holder's identification number on the face of an identifying placard. If an entity that transports persons with disabilities obtains a placard, the placard shall bear the true name of the entity providing the service rather than the identification number.

(c) **Expiration date on placard.** The department shall place the expiration date on an identifying placard using a date system that removes a portion of the placard to indicate the expiration date. The department shall affix to an identifying placard a validating sticker indicating the expiration date.

(d) **Department to give notice of rights and responsibilities.** When a person files an application for issuance or renewal of an identifying plate or placard under this section, the department shall provide to the applicant an informational pamphlet or other informational source, developed by the department, that describes reserved parking and the rights and responsibilities of the holders of identifying plates or placards. The department shall develop the pamphlet or other informational source.

(e) **Personalized and other specialty plates authorized.** An applicant may apply for a personalized identifying plate. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of identifying plates for the vehicle upon payment of the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized identifying plates under this paragraph (e) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of personalized plates. The fees under this paragraph (e) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for personalized identifying plates.

(f) **Trusts may use.** A person may use an identifying plate or placard on a motor vehicle that is owned by a trust created for the benefit of and in the name of a person who is eligible for reserved parking.

(g) **Placards issued by other states.** An identifying placard issued in another state or country is not valid for more than ninety days after the holder becomes a resident of Colorado. A person must surrender any currently held identifying placard issued in another state or country to be issued an identifying placard in Colorado.

(h) **Requirements for issuance of identifying placards or plates.**

(I) To qualify for an identifying placard or plate, an individual must submit:

(A) A written statement, made by a professional on a form published by the department, that the person has a physical impairment meeting the standards of 23 CFR 1235 and that the impairment is expected to be temporary, last thirty months, or be permanent, as the case may be;

(B) A signed affidavit affirming: Knowledge of the eligibility requirements; that the person to whom the placard or plate is issued is and remains eligible to use the placard or plate; and knowledge of the penalties for obtaining a plate or placard when ineligible; and

(C) A Colorado driver's license or identification document, or an identification document issued by the United States government, for the person who is entitled to use reserved parking.

(I.5) To qualify for a remuneration-exempt identifying placard, an individual must submit:

(A) A written statement, made by a professional on a form published by the department, that the individual has a remuneration-exempt qualifying disability;

(B) A signed affidavit affirming: Knowledge of the eligibility requirements; that the individual to whom the placard is issued is and remains eligible to use the placard; and knowledge of the penalties for obtaining a placard when ineligible; and

(C) A Colorado driver's license or identification document, or an identification document issued by the United States government, for the individual who is entitled to use a remuneration-exempt identifying placard.

(II) To qualify for a ninety-day identifying placard, a resident of another state who becomes disabled while in this state must submit a driver's license or identification document issued by the state of residence or the United States government along with the documents required by sub-paragraphs (A) and (B) of subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (h).

(III) A placard issued for a person under sixteen years of age may bear the parent's or guardian's identification number in lieu of the holder's number. If the placard bears the last four digits of a parent's or guardian's identification number, the department shall also place the letter "C" as a designator on the placard.

(IV) A state agency or business entity that transports persons with disabilities may obtain a permanent identifying plate or placard for reserved parking. To qualify for a three-year or permanent identifying plate or placard, the agency or business entity must:

- (A) Show that it transports persons with disabilities;
- (B) Provide a driver's license or identification document of its chief operations officer within Colorado;
- (C) Provide its employee identification number; and
- (D) Provide any other information required by the department by rule.

(i) **Requirements for identifying figure on military license plate.** To qualify for a military license plate with an identifying figure, the applicant must qualify for a permanent identifying plate under subparagraph (I) of paragraph (h) of this subsection (5) and meet the eligibility criteria in section 42-3-213 or 42-3-218 (3) for a military license plate. A military license plate with an identifying figure expires in accordance with the schedule established by the department for periodic registration under section 42-3-102 (1)(a).

(6) **Expiration and renewal.**

(a) **Ninety-day placards.** A ninety-day identifying placard expires on the last day of the month in which the ninetieth day after issuance occurs. The holder may apply for or renew the placard by meeting the requirements of paragraph (h) of subsection (5) of this section to qualify for the placard.

(b) **Three-year placards.** A three-year identifying placard expires on the last day of the thirty-sixth full month after the date of issuance or renewal. The holder may apply for or renew the placard by meeting the requirements of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (h) of subsection (5) of this section to qualify for the placard.

(c) **Permanent placards.**

(I) A permanent identifying placard expires on the last day of the thirty-sixth full month after the date of issuance or renewal. The holder may renew the placard by submitting:

(A) A written statement required by sub-subparagraph (A) of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (h) of subsection (5) of this section to qualify for the placard by mail or a Colorado driver's license, a Colorado identification document, or an identification document issued by the United States in person in the office of the department;

(B) An affidavit, made under penalty of perjury, that the person to whom the placard is issued remains eligible to use the placard;

(C) The date of birth and Colorado driver's license or identification card number of the person who may use reserved parking; and

(D) Every third renewal, a written statement required by sub-subparagraph (A) of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (h) of subsection (5) of this section to qualify for the placard.

(II) If the holder is an entity, the holder may renew the placard upon resubmitting and updating the information necessary to be issued the placard under subparagraph (IV) of paragraph (h) of subsection (5) of this section.

**(d) Three-year identifying plates.**

(I) A three-year identifying plate expires in accordance with the schedule established by the department for periodic registration under section 42-3-102 (1)(a). Eligibility for a three-year identifying plate expires on the last day of the thirty-sixth full month after the date of issuance or renewal. The holder may renew the plate by meeting the requirements of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (h) of subsection (5) of this section to qualify for the plate.

(II) If a three-year identifying plate is issued for a person under sixteen years of age using a parent's or guardian's identification document, the department shall place a "C" on the registration card issued under section 42-3-113 (2).

**(e) Permanent identifying plates.**

(I) A permanent identifying plate or military license plate with an identifying figure expires in accordance with the schedule established by the department for periodic registration under section 42-3-102 (1)(a). Eligibility for a permanent identifying plate or identifying figure for a military license plate expires on the last day of the thirty-sixth full month after the date of issuance or renewal. The holder may renew the plate by submitting:

(A) A current verification form as required by sub-subparagraph (A) of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (h) of subsection (5) of this section by mail or a Colorado driver's license, Colorado identification document, or identification document issued by the United States in person in the office of an authorized agent;

(B) An affidavit, made under penalty of perjury, that the person to whom the plate is issued remains eligible to use the plate;

(C) The date of birth and Colorado driver's license or identification card number of the person who may use reserved parking; and

(D) Every third renewal, a written statement required by sub-subparagraph (A) of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (h) of subsection (5) of this section to qualify for the plate.

(II) If the plate is issued for a person under sixteen years of age using a parent's or guardian's identification document, the department shall place a "C" on the registration card issued under section 42-3-113 (2).

(III) If the holder is an entity, the holder may renew the plate upon resubmitting and updating the information necessary to be issued the plate under subparagraph (IV) of paragraph (h) of subsection (5) of this section.

(f) **Placards issued before January 1, 2005.** Any identifying placard issued before January 1, 2005, expires on July 1, 2014.

(7) **Violations - department may revoke.**

(a) (I) Upon receipt of a sworn statement from a peace officer or an authorized parking enforcement official that a person has improperly used reserved parking in violation of section 42-4-1208, an identifying plate or placard may be revoked by the department. To be accepted by the department, the peace officer or authorized parking enforcement official must include with the statement the name of the person who misused the identifying plate or placard and either the identifying plate or placard number or the last four digits of the driver's license or identification document number printed on the placard.

(II) The revocation is effective forty-five days after the department receives the sworn statement unless a hearing is requested in accordance with paragraph (e) of this subsection (7).

(b) Upon receipt of a notice that the holder of an identifying plate or placard was convicted of, or pled nolo contendere to, a violation of section 42-4-1208, the department shall revoke each identifying placard or plate held by the person.

(c) **Revocation period.**

(I) Upon a first violation of section 42-4-1208, the department shall deny reissuance of the identifying plate or placard for twelve months after the date of revocation.

(II) Upon a second or subsequent violation of section 42-4-1208, the department shall deny reissuance of the identifying plate or placard for a period of at least five years after the date of the second or most recent subsequent revocation.

(d) **Written notice of revocation.** The department shall notify in writing the person issued the identifying plate or placard of the revocation. The department shall include in the notice:

(I) A demand for the return of the identifying plate or placard;

(II) A warning that continued use of the identifying plate or placard by any person is subject to the penalty set forth in section 42-4-1701; and

(III) A statement that the person may appeal the revocation by filing a written request with the department within thirty days after the department issued the notice.

(e) **Request for hearing.** If a person requests a hearing on the revocation of an identifying plate or placard within thirty days after the department issued the notice, the department shall hold a hearing before revoking the plate or placard. If a hearing is held and the hearing officer upholds the revocation, the revocation takes effect immediately.

(f) **Penalties.**



(I) A person who fails to return a revoked identifying placard or plate commits a class B traffic infraction.

(II) A person who attempts to obtain an identifying plate or placard when under revocation in accordance with this subsection (7) is subject to the penalties in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(VIII).

**Source:** **L. 2005:** (2)(e) amended, p. 145, § 18, effective April 5; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1109, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2007:** (2)(c) amended, p. 1321, § 5, effective August 3. **L. 2008:** (2)(e) repealed, p. 195, § 1, effective August 5; (1)(b)(II), (2)(b), (2)(c), and (3) amended, p. 136, § 29, effective January 1, 2009. **L. 2010:** (1)(b)(II) amended, (HB 10-1422), ch. 419, p. 2125, § 185, effective August 11; entire section amended, (HB 10-1019), ch. 400, p. 1918, § 2, effective January 1, 2011. **L. 2011:** (1)(g) amended, (SB 11-195), ch. 195, p. 758, § 1, effective May 23. **L. 2013:** (1)(f), (2)(a)(I)(C), (2)(a)(II)(F), and (3)(a) amended and (1)(i) and (2)(a)(II)(F.5) added, (SB 13-058), ch. 136, p. 446, § 1, effective April 19. **L. 2014:** Entire section R&RE, (HB 14-1029), ch. 252, p. 990, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2015:** (3)(a)(VI), (3)(b)(II), (5)(i), and IP(6)(e)(I) amended, (HB 15-1026), ch. 231, pp. 859, 860, §§ 1, 3, effective August 5; (3)(b)(II) amended, (HB 15-1136), ch. 158, p. 471, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2018:** IP(2)(d) and (5)(d) amended, (HB 18-1364), ch. 351, p. 2084, § 11, effective July 1; (1)(i.5), (1)(i.7), (3)(a)(II.5) and (5)(h)(I.5) added and (3)(b)(I) and (3)(b)(III) amended, (HB 18-1285), ch. 265, p. 1628, § 2, effective January 1, 2019. **L. 2019:** (1)(i) amended, (HB 19-1172), ch. 136, p. 1733, § 260, effective October 1. **L. 2020:** IP(2)(d) and (5)(d) amended, (HB 20-1392), ch. 132, p. 576, § 6, effective June 26. **L. 2024:** (1)(g.5) added and (3)(b)(I)(B) amended, (SB 24-019), ch. 195, p. 1191, § 1, effective November 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-121 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Amendments to § 42-3-121 (2)(d) by Senate Bill 05-041 were harmonized with House Bill 05-1107 and relocated to § 42-3-204 (2)(e).

(3) Amendments to subsection (1)(b)(II) by House Bill 10-1422 were superseded by House Bill 10-1019, effective January 1, 2011.

(4) Subsections (2)(a)(II)(H) and (3)(f)(II) provided for the repeal of subsections (2)(a)(II)(H) and (3)(f)(II), respectively, effective July 1, 2011. (See L. 2010, p. 1918.)

**Cross references:** For the short title ("The Chris Hinds Act") in HB 18-1285, see section 1 of chapter 265, Session Laws of Colorado 2018.

**42-3-205. Substitute plates - waiting period for reissuance of identical combination of numbers and letters.**

(1) If a number or personalized license plate issued under this article becomes lost, stolen, mutilated, or illegible, the person who is entitled thereto shall immediately apply for a substitute. Such application shall include evidence satisfactory to the department that such plate is lost, stolen, mutilated, or illegible and payment of the required fees. If the plate to be replaced is in the possession of the applicant, the plate shall be surrendered to the department along with the application.

(2) If an application made pursuant to subsection (1) of this section is accompanied by the personalized plate to be replaced, the department shall reissue a substitute plate bearing the identical sequential combination of letters and numbers that appears on the original plate.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1112, § 2, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-129 as it existed prior to 2005.

**42-3-206. Remanufacture of certain license plates.**

Persons who have been approved to be issued a license plate before July 1, 2003, pursuant to this section as it existed on July 1, 2003, shall be issued such plate, shall be authorized to continue using such plate, and shall not be required to pay additional fees beyond the existing taxes and fees imposed for motor vehicle registration. Such issuance of license plates that contain only two alphabetic figures and up to four numeric figures shall be issued as personalized license plates pursuant to section 42-3-211, which are a flat-style license plate. If the same alphanumeric combination is issued to multiple vehicles, the department shall compare the last four numbers of the vehicle identification number of the motor vehicles to which such plates are issued and issue such alphanumeric combination only to the vehicle with the lowest last four numbers.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1112, § 2, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-113.5 as it existed prior to 2005.

**42-3-206.5. Issuance of plates in a retired style authorized - additional fee - rules.**

(1) (a) Beginning January 1, 2023, or when the department is able to issue the license plates, the department shall issue license plates in previously retired styles for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight that had:

- (I) White letters and numbers on a background of green mountains and a white sky;
- (II) White letters and numbers on a background of black with a white border;
- (III) White letters and numbers on a background of blue with a white border; or
- (IV) White letters and numbers on a background of red with a white border.

(b) Repealed.

(c) On and after October 1, 2026, the amount of the taxes and fees for license plates in the previously retired style is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle plates; except that the department shall collect the following additional fees and donations:

(I) A one-time donation of twenty-two dollars and fifty cents for issuance or replacement of the license plate, which must be remitted to the Colorado disability funding authority created in section 8-88-301;

(II) A one-time fee of two dollars and fifty cents for issuance or replacement of the license plate, which must be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the disability support fund created in section 8-88-104;

(III) An annual renewal donation of twenty-two dollars and fifty cents, which must be remitted to the Colorado disability funding authority created in section 8-88-301; and

(IV) An annual renewal fee of two dollars and fifty cents, which must be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the disability support fund created in section 8-88-104.

(2) Repealed.

(2.5) The design for the previously retired license plate styles must conform with standards established by the department. After January 1, 2028, the department may stop producing plates in a previously retired style if the department determines that demand for that style, including willingness to pay an additional fee that fully defrays the costs of producing the license plates in the style, is not sufficiently high to justify production of the license plates.

(3) An applicant may apply for personalized license plates in a previously retired style if the department offers such plates for purchase. If the applicant complies with section 42-3-211, the department may issue such plates upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-

211 (6) for personalized license plates. If the applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of license plates in a previously retired style for the vehicle upon paying the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department as required by the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates in a previously retired style under this subsection (3) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) to renew such plates. The fees imposed by this subsection (3) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for license plates in a previously retired style.

(4) Repealed.

(5) All applications for license plates in a previously retired style must be made directly to the department.

(6) The executive director of the department may prepare any special forms and promulgate any rules necessary to implement this section.

(7) On or before January 1, 2027, if an applicant for a retired license plate that was issued pursuant to this section demonstrates a physical impairment that affects the applicant's mobility under the standards described in section 42-3-204 (1)(a), the department shall issue the previously retired license plate to the applicant with an identifying figure as defined in section 42-3-204 (1)(e) to indicate that the vehicle is authorized to transport an individual who is eligible to use reserved parking pursuant to section 42-4-1208.

**Source:** **L. 2021:** Entire section added, (SB 21-069), ch. 419, p. 2781, § 4, effective September 7. **L. 2022:** (1), (3), and (5) amended, (2) and (4) repealed, and (2.5) added, (SB 22-217), ch. 378, p. 2685, § 11, effective August 10. **L. 2024:** (1) amended and (7) added, (HB 24-1360), ch. 324, p. 2168, § 13, effective July 1. **L. 2026:** IP(1)(a), (1)(b), and (2.5) amended and (1)(c) added, (HB 26-1382), ch. 301, p. 1713, § 15, effective June 2.

**Editor's note:** (1) For subsection (1)(b) in HB 26-1382 in effect from June 2, 2026, to October 1, 2026, see chapter 301, Session Laws of Colorado 2026. (L. 2026, p. 1713.)

(2) Subsection (1)(b)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (1)(b), effective October 1, 2026. (See L. 2026, p. 1713.)

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 21-069, see section 1 of chapter 419, Session Laws of Colorado 2021. For the legislative declaration in HB 24-1360, see section 1 of chapter 324, Session Laws of Colorado 2024.

**42-3-207. Special plates - rules - new plates - retirement.**

(1) (a) Neither the department nor an authorized agent of the department shall collect any fee for the privilege of using a special plate unless such fee is expressly authorized by statute. The department or an authorized agent of the department shall not transfer money collected for the privilege of using a special plate unless such transfer is expressly authorized by statute.

(b) (I) A special license plate shall not be issued pursuant to this section unless such license plate was approved prior to January 1, 2001.

(II) Special license plates that have been approved pursuant to this section shall be retired, effective March 1, 2008, unless such plates are issued for at least three thousand vehicles. The executive director of the department shall promulgate rules to provide standards for the retirement of special license plates not issued for at least three thousand vehicles.

(2) Repealed.

(3) The department shall not issue an approval notification letter to any business entity conducted for profit.

(4) The amount of taxes and fees for special license plates issued pursuant to this section shall be the same as the amount of taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle registration plus an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars. The additional fee shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(b), C.R.S.

(5) Before seeking legislative action to authorize a new group special license plate, the nonprofit organization requesting the new plate shall obtain, from the director of the department of revenue, written notification that the group has complied with the requirements for a group special license plate.

(6) The department shall verify that the nonprofit organization proposing a group special license plate has collected the signatures of at least three thousand persons committed to purchasing the proposed license plate.

(7) The remaining inventory of any group special license plate or alumni association license plate that has not been issued to the minimum number of vehicles specified in law may continue to be issued until the inventory of the plates is exhausted.

(8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part 2, each organization that issues a certificate authorizing a person to obtain a group special license plate upon payment of a specified minimum donation may increase that minimum donation by ten dollars. Beginning July 1, 2019, an organization may annually adjust the donation increase authorized by this subsection

(8) to account for a change in inflation. The organization shall round the inflation adjustment upward or downward to the nearest one-dollar increment.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** (4) amended, p. 145, § 19, effective April 5; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1113, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2007:** (1)(b)(II) amended, p. 1986, § 1, effective June 1. **L. 2011:** (2) amended, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 286, § 1, effective April 8. **L. 2012:** (2) repealed, (3) amended, and (5), (6), and (7) added, (SB 12-007), ch. 88, p. 288, § 1, effective April 6. **L. 2018:** (8) added, (SB 18-046), ch. 46, p. 479, § 1, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-122 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (4) was originally numbered as § 42-3-122 (4), and the amendments to it in Senate Bill 05-041 were harmonized with § 42-3-207 (4) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

#### **42-3-208. Special plates - qualifications for issuance of special license plates.**

(1) The following special license plates created by rule by the department under section 42-3-207, as it existed when the plates were created, are subject to the following requirement:

(a) Repealed.

(b) The department or an authorized agent shall not issue a raptor education special license plate to an applicant until such applicant has provided to the department or an authorized agent sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the applicant is a member in good standing of the raptor education foundation and qualified by such foundation to receive a special license plate or the applicant is a member of the rocky mountain raptor program and qualified by such program to receive a special license plate.

(c) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2008, p. 228, § 1, effective August 5, 2008.)

(d) Repealed.

(e) (I) The "10th mountain division" license plate is hereby converted to a "support the 10th mountain division" license plate. The department shall place the word "support" prominently on the plate to indicate that the owner supports the 10th mountain division. When the registration of a motor vehicle assigned a "10th mountain division" license plate expires, the department shall replace the plate with a "support the 10th mountain division" license plate unless the owner qualifies for a "10th mountain division" license plate under section 42-3-213. The department shall not charge the fees imposed in section 42-3-207 or section 42-3-312 to replace the current

"10th mountain division" license plate with the "support the 10th mountain division" license plate.

(II) The department shall not issue a "support the 10th mountain division" license plate unless an applicant provides a certificate issued by the 10th mountain division foundation, inc., or a successor organization, confirming that the person meets the qualifications established by the foundation for the license plate. The 10th mountain division foundation, inc., may require specific levels of contributions to a 10th-mountain-division grant fund of not less than fifteen dollars and not more than one hundred dollars to qualify for the plate.

(III) On or after January 1, 2016, the department shall not renew the registration of a "support the 10th mountain division" license plate that was issued after August 6, 2014, unless the person meets the qualifications established by the 10th mountain division foundation, inc., or a successor organization, to renew the license plate. The 10th mountain division foundation, inc., may require specific levels of contributions to a 10th-mountain-division grant fund of not less than fifteen dollars and not more than one hundred dollars to renew the plate.

(IV) (A) The 10th Mountain Division Foundation, Inc., or its successor organization shall award grants from the 10th-mountain-division grant fund to fund programs, activities, and events that support veterans and preserve and promote the history and spirit of public service of the 10th mountain division.

(B) The 10th Mountain Division Foundation, Inc., or its successor organization shall file an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization. The statement is made under penalty of perjury with the department.

(C) If the department gives at least seven days' notice, the department of revenue may audit, during normal business hours, the records and books of the 10th mountain division foundation, inc., concerning the 10th-mountain-division grant fund. The audit must take place where the records are normally kept or at a place agreeable to both the department and the foundation.

(2) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2008, p. 228, § 1, effective August 5, 2008.)

(3) Special license plates subject to the requirements of this section shall be retired, effective January 1, 2009, unless such plates are issued to at least three thousand vehicles.

(4) The department shall issue firefighter license plates, created by rule by the department under section 42-3-207 as it existed when the plates were created, for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1113, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2007:** IP(1) amended, p. 1574, § 10, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (1)(c) and (2) amended and (3)

added, p. 228, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2009:** (1)(b) amended, (SB 09-175), ch. 226, p. 1027, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** (1)(a) and (1)(d) repealed, (SB 12-007), ch. 88, p. 289, § 2, effective April 6. **L. 2014:** IP(1) amended and (1)(e) added, (HB 14-1089), ch. 189, p. 705, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2015:** (4) added, (HB 15-1004), ch. 61, p. 148, § 1, effective August 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-117.5 as it existed prior to 2005.

## ANNOTATION

**2009 amendment to this section held unconstitutional.** By expanding the class of persons eligible to receive special license plates covered by an existing contract between the state and the raptor education

foundation, the legislation violated the contracts clauses of the state and federal constitutions. Raptor Educ. Found., Inc. v. State, 2012 COA 219, 296 P.3d 352.

### **42-3-209. Legislative license plates.**

(1) Upon the application of the owner of a passenger car, truck, or trailer classified as Class B or Class C personal property, as defined in section 42-3-106, or the duly authorized agent of such owner showing that such owner is a member of congress from the state of Colorado, the department may assign to such owner registration plates bearing a number together with appropriate words or letters indicating that such owner is a member of the congress of the United States, and a separate number series shall be used to further identify such license plates. Said license plates shall not be issued by the counties but shall be issued directly by the department.

(2) (a) (I) Upon application of an owner of either a passenger car or a truck not over sixteen thousand pounds empty weight showing that the owner is a member of the general assembly of the state of Colorado, the department may specially register the vehicle and assign to the owner registration plates bearing:

(A) The letter "H" if the member is a representative or the letter "S" if the member is a senator; and

(B) The number of the senatorial or representative district of the member.

(II) The letter and number combination in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a) is the owner's registration number.

(b) A member of the general assembly is eligible for special registration and license plates issued under this subsection (2) for the term that the member is elected to serve in office; except that the registration and plates expire when the person leaves office for any reason.



**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1114, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2014:** (2) amended, (HB 14-1284), ch. 162, p. 571, § 1, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former §§ 42-3-112 and 42-3-124 as they existed prior to 2005.

#### **42-3-210. Radio and television license plates.**

(1) A person who is the holder of a valid renewable amateur radio, standard radio, FM, or television license issued by the federal communications commission shall, upon application and payment of the additional registration fee prescribed in subsection (4) of this section, be entitled to have passenger cars or trucks that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight registered under the call sign letters assigned to such station by said commission and shall be furnished license plates bearing such call sign letters in lieu of the distinct registration number specified in section 42-3-113.

(2) A holder of an amateur radio license shall not be entitled to purchase more than one set of such special license plates for a registration period. A holder of a standard radio, FM, or television license shall not be entitled to purchase more than ten sets of such special license plates for a registration period.

(3) Such special registration and license plates shall be valid until the end of the registration period and may be renewed for the same term as any other renewal of registration upon application and payment of the prescribed registration fee so long as the holder of such radio or television license is licensed by the federal communications commission.

(4) An additional fee of two dollars shall be collected for each vehicle annually registered that is furnished amateur radio call plates, and an additional fee of five dollars shall be collected for each vehicle annually registered that is furnished standard radio, FM, and television call plates.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1115, § 2, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-112 as it existed prior to 2005.

**42-3-211. Issuance of personalized plates authorized - repeal.**

(1) The department may issue personalized license plates for motor vehicles in accordance with this section.

(2) (a) "Personalized license plates", as used in this section, means license plates that have displayed upon them the registration number assigned to the motor vehicle for which such registration number was issued in a combination of letters or numbers requested by the owner of the vehicle, subject to the limitations of this section.

(b) "Personalized license plates", as used in this section, includes special license plates that bear the words "street rod" and that may be issued only to a street rod vehicle.

(3) (a) Personalized license plates must be the same color and design as regular motor vehicle license plates, must consist of any combination of numbers or letters not exceeding seven positions and not less than two positions, except as otherwise provided in section 8-88-105 (4), and must not conflict with existing passenger, commercial, trailer, motorcycle, or other special license plates series; except that personalized license plates bearing the words "street rod" must be of a design determined by the executive director of the department, which design must be different from those used by the state for regular motor vehicle license plates.

(b) If number plates issued for vehicles include the county of vehicle registration, a vehicle owner shall have the option of obtaining a personalized license plate that does not include such county designation.

(4) Any person who is the registered owner of a motor vehicle registered with the department or who applies to register a motor vehicle or renew personalized license registration of a motor vehicle, upon payment of the fee prescribed in subsection (6) of this section, may apply to the department for personalized license plates in the manner prescribed in this section. Personalized license plates shall be issued for the annual registration period immediately following the year in which the application is made.

(5) An applicant for issuance of personalized license plates or renewal of such plates shall apply in such form and by such date as the department may require, indicating thereon the combination of letters or numbers requested as a registration number. There shall be no duplication of registration numbers, and the department may refuse to issue any combination of letters or numbers that carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency, are misleading, or duplicate any other license plates provided for in this article.

(6) (a) A fee of thirty-five dollars shall be charged in addition to the registration fee normally due upon the vehicle for the issuance of the same number of personalized license plates for a vehicle as are specified in section 42-3-201 for the issuance of number plates. Upon reissuance of the same personalized license plates in subsequent years, the additional fee shall be twenty-

five dollars. Such fee shall be due upon the original issuance or reissuance of personalized license plates other than a renewal of registration under paragraph (b) of this subsection (6).

(b) The department may provide for renewals of personalized license plates whereby such plates are retained by the applicant in subsequent years upon the payment, in addition to the normal registration fee, of an annual renewal fee of twenty-five dollars for which the department shall provide a distinctive tag or insignia to be affixed to such plates to signify that such vehicle has been properly registered for the year for which such license plate was renewed.

(c) The fee for transferring previously issued personalized license plates to another vehicle shall be twelve dollars in addition to other applicable fees.

(d) A person who fails to apply for the renewal or transfer of issued personalized license plates according to subsection (5) of this section shall lose the priority right to use the combination of letters or numbers displayed on the personalized license plates.

(e) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) to (d) of this subsection (6), in lieu of such fees, the fee for a license plate that contains only two alphabetic figures and up to four numeric figures shall be the actual cost of issuing such plate.

(7) (a) All applications for special registration of motor vehicles must be made directly to the department, and the department shall administer the special registrations.

(b) (I) (A) All fees received on or before June 30, 2026, from special registrations are credited to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201 and allocated and expended as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(b); except that two dollars of each such special registration fee collected pursuant to subsections (6)(a) to (6)(c) of this section are remitted to the county general fund.

(B) This subsection (7)(b)(I) is repealed, effective July 1, 2027.

(II) On and after July 1, 2026, all fees received from special registrations are credited to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2) in the highway users tax fund; except that two dollars of each special registration fee collected pursuant to subsections (6)(a) to (6)(c) of this section are remitted to the county general fund.

(8) The executive director of the department may prepare any special forms and issue any rules necessary to implement this section.

(9) (a) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (9)(a) is effective until January 1, 2028.]***  
A person who has been issued personalized license plates pursuant to this section, section 42-3-115 (5)(a), or section 42-3-206.5 may retain the unique combination of letters or numbers of such plate, notwithstanding that the person no longer has a registered motor vehicle, if the person pays an annual fee of twenty-five dollars, which shall be transferred to the highway users tax fund.

(9) (a) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (9)(a) is effective January 1, 2028.]* A person who has been issued personalized license plates pursuant to this section or section 42-3-206.5 may retain the unique combination of letters or numbers of such plate, notwithstanding that the person no longer has a registered motor vehicle, if the person pays an annual fee of twenty-five dollars, which shall be credited to the highway users tax fund.

(b) This subsection (9) shall not be construed to authorize a person to reserve license plates for which no motor vehicle has ever been registered according to this article 3, unless the license plate configuration was purchased pursuant to section 24-30-2208. This subsection (9) shall not be construed to require the department to send a renewal notice to the person who retains the unique combination of letters or numbers.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** (9) amended, p. 143, § 10, effective April 5, (9) further amended and relocated to (7), p. 1185, § 40, effective August 8; (9) added, p. 194, § 1, effective April 7; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1115, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2012:** (3)(a) amended, (SB 12-170), ch. 207, p. 820, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2016:** (3)(a) amended, (HB 16-1362), ch. 319, p. 1296, § 4, effective August 10. **L. 2022:** (9) amended, (SB 22-217), ch. 378, p. 2684, § 10, effective August 10. **L. 2024:** (3)(a) amended, (HB 24-1360), ch. 324, p. 2168, § 14, effective July 1. **L. 2026:** (3)(a) amended, (HB 26-1382), ch. 301, p. 1714, § 16, effective June 2; (7) amended, (HB 26-1102), ch. 266, p. 1481, § 4, effective June 3; (9)(a) amended, (HB 26-1053), ch. 347, p. 2109, § 5, effective January 1, 2028.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-114 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Section 43 of chapter 270, Session Laws of Colorado 2005, provides that section 40 of that chapter, which amends § 42-3-114 (9) as amended by section 10 of Senate Bill 05-041 and relocates it to § 42-3-211 (7), shall supersede § 42-3-211 (7) as contained in section 2 of chapter 270 and shall take effect on August 8, 2005.

(3) Subsection (9) was originally numbered as § 42-3-114 (12), and the enactment of it in House Bill 05-1068 was harmonized with § 42-3-211 (9) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

(4) Section 5 of chapter 266 (HB 26-1102), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section takes effect only if section 21 of HB 26-1289 becomes law, in which case section 4 of HB 26-1102 takes effect upon the passage of HB 26-1102 or on the effective date of HB 26-1289, whichever is later. Section 21 of HB 26-1289 became law and took effect June 3, 2026. HB 26-1102 became law June 1, 2026, and section 4 of HB 26-1102 took effect June 3, 2026.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in HB 24-1360, see section 1 of chapter 324, Session Laws of Colorado 2024.

**42-3-212. Issuance of optional plates authorized - retirement.**

(1) The department may issue optional license plates for passenger cars or trucks not over sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) Optional license plates shall have a background consisting of a graphic design representing the state flag of Colorado and shall consist of numbers or letters approved in accordance with rules of the department.

(3) An applicant may apply for personalized optional license plates. If the applicant complies with section 42-3-211, the department may issue such plates upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6) for personalized license plates. If the applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of optional license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department as required by the department. A person who has obtained personalized optional license plates under this subsection (3) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) to renew such plates. The fees imposed by this subsection (3) shall be in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for optional license plates.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for optional license plates shall be the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle plates plus an additional annual fee of twenty-five dollars. The additional fee shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(b), C.R.S.

(5) All applications for optional license plates shall be made directly to the department.

(6) The executive director of the department may prepare any special forms and issue any rules necessary to implement this section.

(7) The optional license plates authorized by this section shall be retired unless such plates have been issued for at least three thousand vehicles by July 1, 2007.

**Source: L. 2005:** (4)(a) amended, p. 143, § 11, effective April 5; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1117, § 2, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-115 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (4) was originally numbered as § 42-3-115 (4)(a), and the amendments to it in Senate Bill 05-041 were harmonized with § 42-3-212 (4) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

**42-3-213. License plates - military veterans - rules - retirement.**

(1) (a) The department shall issue one or more sets of license plates to the following persons who own a truck that does not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight, a passenger car, a motorcycle, or a noncommercial or recreational vehicle:

- (I) A recipient of the purple heart;
- (II) A former prisoner of war;
- (III) An honorably discharged or retired veteran of the armed forces of the United States;
- (IV) A disabled veteran of the armed forces of the United States;
- (V) A survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor;
- (VI) A recipient of the medal of honor;
- (VII) An honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or a retired, reserve, or active member of the United States Marine Corps;
- (VIII) A veteran of the Korean war;
- (IX) A recipient of a military award for valor;
- (X) A veteran of the Vietnam war;
- (XI) An honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or a retired, reserve, or active member of the United States Army;
- (XII) An honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or a retired, reserve, or active member of the United States Navy;
- (XIII) A recipient of a bronze star medal;
- (XIV) The current or past spouse, child, sibling, grandparent, or parent of a person who died in the line of duty while serving in the armed forces;
- (XV) An honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or a retired, reserve, auxiliary, or active member of the United States Coast Guard;
- (XVI) A serving member or honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or retired member of any component of the United States Air Force;

(XVII) An honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or a retired, reserve, or active member of the special forces of the United States armed forces;

(XVIII) Repealed.

(XIX) On or after January 1, 2009, a person who supports the United States Army fourth infantry division;

(XX) A veteran of the Afghanistan war;

(XXI) A veteran of the Iraq war;

(XXII) A veteran of world war II;

(XXIII) A veteran of operation desert shield or desert storm;

(XXIV) A recipient of the distinguished flying cross;

(XXV) Repealed.

(XXVI) A natural person who supports the civil air patrol;

(XXVII) A natural person who supports the USS Colorado (SSN 788);

(XXVIII) An honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or a retired, reserve, or active member of the 10th mountain division of the United States Army;

(XXIX) An honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or retired, reserve, or active member of a submarine crew of the United States Navy;

(XXX) An honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or retired woman veteran of the United States armed forces;

(XXXI) A woman veteran of the United States armed forces who has a disability;

(XXXII) A serving member of, honorably discharged or discharged veteran of, discharged LGBT veteran of, or retired member of any component of the United States Space Force; or

(XXXIII) An honorably discharged veteran or retired, active, or reserve member of a construction battalion of the United States Navy.

(a.5) Before issuing a license plate to a discharged LGBT veteran pursuant to this section, the department shall require the applicant to demonstrate status as a discharged LGBT veteran in the manner prescribed by the division of veterans affairs pursuant to section 28-5-103 (3)(c).

(b) (I) Except as provided in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (b), the amount of taxes and fees for license plates issued under this section are the same as that specified for regular motor vehicle registration plus an additional one-time issuance or replacement fee. The additional one-time fee is twenty-five dollars and shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to

the highway users tax fund for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(b), C.R.S.

(II) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(b)(I) of this section:

(A) No fee shall be charged for one set of prisoner of war special license plates issued pursuant to subsection (3) of this section for a passenger car, a truck, a motorcycle, or a noncommercial or recreational vehicle.

(B) No fee shall be charged for one set of disabled veteran license plates issued under subsection (5) of this section for a passenger car, truck, motorcycle, or noncommercial or recreational vehicle.

(C) No fee shall be charged for one set of medal of honor special license plates issued pursuant to subsection (7) of this section for a passenger car, a truck, a motorcycle, or a noncommercial or recreational vehicle.

(D) No fee shall be charged for one set of purple heart special license plates issued pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

(E) No fee shall be charged for one set of military valor special license plates issued pursuant to subsection (10) of this section.

(F) No fee shall be charged for one set of survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor special license plates issued pursuant to subsection (6) of this section.

(G) The one-time issuance fee imposed pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b) shall not be charged for one set, per applicant, of fallen service member special license plates issued pursuant to subsection (15) of this section.

(H) The department shall not charge the one-time issuance fee imposed pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b) for one set, per applicant, of world war II special license plates issued pursuant to subsection (23) of this section.

(I) The department shall not charge a fee for one set of distinguished flying cross special license plates issued under subsection (25) of this section if the cross was awarded for valor.

(J) The department shall not charge a fee for one set of disabled woman veteran license plates issued under subsection (32) of this section for a passenger car, truck, motorcycle, or noncommercial or recreational vehicle.

(K) The department shall not charge a fee for one set of Seabees license plates issued under subsection (34) of this section for a passenger car, truck, motorcycle, or noncommercial or recreational vehicle.



(III) Except as provided in subparagraphs (IV) and (V) of this paragraph (b), the fees collected pursuant to this paragraph (b) shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fees to the highway users tax fund.

(IV) One dollar of each additional fee collected from purchasers of license plates issued under subsections (4) and (5) of this section shall be retained by the authorized agent, and one dollar and fifteen cents of each additional fee shall be credited to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(V) One dollar of each additional fee collected from purchasers of license plates issued under subsection (8) of this section shall be retained by the authorized agent.

(c) All applications for the license plates described in this section shall be made directly to the department and shall include such information as the department may require.

(d) The executive director of the department may prepare such special forms and issue such rules as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

(e) Notwithstanding the weight limitation imposed by paragraph (a) of this subsection (1), a natural person eligible for a military veteran special license plate issued pursuant to this section may apply for such a license plate for a motor home, as defined in section 42-1-102 (57), upon the payment of the fees or taxes required by this article.

(f) A person who meets the conditions stated in subparagraph (XIV) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) is authorized to be issued a fallen service member special license plate. Except as provided by sub-subparagraph (G) of subparagraph (II) of paragraph (b) of this subsection (1), this paragraph (f) shall not be construed to authorize the spouse, child, sibling, grandparent, or parent to receive a license plate without paying the applicable fees or if such plate signifies more than that the deceased served in a branch of the armed forces.

(g) The department shall issue a license plate authorized under this section for a motor vehicle owned by a trust if:

(I) The trust is created for the benefit of a natural person who is qualified to receive the license plate under paragraph (a) of this subsection (1); and

(II) The trust name includes a natural person who is qualified to receive the license plate under paragraph (a) of this subsection (1).

(h) If an applicant for a military license plate issued under this section demonstrates a physical impairment affecting mobility under the standards provided in section 42-3-204 (1), the department shall issue a military license plate with an additional identifying figure, as defined in section 42-3-204 (1)(e), to indicate that the vehicle is authorized to transport a person who is eligible to use reserved parking under section 42-4-1208.

**(2) Recipient of a purple heart.**

(a) The purple heart special license plate shall be designed to indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which such license plate is attached is a recipient of the purple heart.

(b) A natural person who has been awarded a purple heart for wounds received in combat at the hands of an enemy of the United States may use a purple heart special license plate. When applying for such a license plate, the applicant shall submit to the department a letter of verification from the appropriate branch of the armed forces of the United States that the applicant has been awarded a purple heart.

**(3) Former prisoner of war.**

(a) The former prisoner of war special license plate shall be designed to indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which such license plate is attached is a former prisoner of war.

(b) A natural person who, while serving in the armed forces of the United States, was incarcerated by an enemy of the United States during a period of conflict with the United States may use the former prisoner of war special license plate.

(c) If a deceased former prisoner of war was authorized under this section to use a former prisoner of war special license plate, the surviving spouse of such former prisoner of war may apply to the department to retain any set or sets of such special plates that such former prisoner of war had obtained. Such surviving spouse shall be eligible to use such special plates upon the payment of any fees or taxes required by this article.

**(4) Honorably discharged or retired veteran of the U.S. armed forces.**

(a) The veteran of the United States armed forces special license plate shall indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which such plate is attached is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States.

(b) A natural person who has received an honorable discharge or is retired from a branch of the armed services of the United States may use a veteran of the United States armed forces special license plate. When applying for such a license plate, an applicant shall submit as proof of honorable discharge either a department of defense form 214 or an honorable discharge from an armed forces branch of the United States.

**(5) Disabled veterans.**

(a) (I) The disabled veteran license plate shall indicate that the owner of the motor vehicle to which the license plate is attached is a disabled veteran of the United States armed forces.

(II) Repealed.

(b) A natural person who has received an honorable discharge from a branch of the armed services of the United States and meets the requirements of section 42-3-304 (3)(a) may use a disabled veteran license plate. When applying for such a license plate, the applicant shall submit proof of honorable discharge from an armed forces branch of the United States.

(c) License plates qualifying for the exemption granted in sub-subparagraph (B) of subparagraph (II) of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of this section shall be issued only by the department and shall bear the inscription "D.V.", and a separate number series shall be used for such license plates. Additional license plates bearing such inscription may be issued by the department to eligible persons upon the payment of any fees or taxes required by this article.

**(6) Survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor.**

(a) The survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor special license plates shall be designed to indicate that the owner of the motor vehicle to which such license plates are attached is a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

(b) Any natural person may use a survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor special license plate if such person:

(I) Was a member of the United States armed forces on December 7, 1941;

(II) Was on station on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Hawaii time at Pearl Harbor, the island of Oahu, or offshore at a distance not to exceed three miles therefrom;

(III) Received an honorable discharge from the United States armed forces or is a discharged LGBT veteran; and

(IV) Holds a current membership in a national organization of survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

**(7) Recipient of a medal of honor.**

(a) The department shall design the medal of honor special license plate to indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which such license plate is attached is a recipient of the medal of honor.

(b) A natural person who has been awarded a medal of honor may use a medal of honor special license plate. When applying for such a license plate, the applicant shall submit to the department a letter of verification from the appropriate branch of the armed forces of the United States that the applicant has been awarded a medal of honor.

**(8) Honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or retired, active, or reserve member of the U.S. Marine Corps.**

(a) The United States Marine Corps special license plate shall indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which such plate is attached is a veteran, reserve member, or an active member of the United States Marine Corps.

(b) A natural person who has received an honorable discharge or is a discharged LGBT veteran, is retired, or is an active or reserve member of the United States Marine Corps may use a United States Marine Corps special license plate. When applying for such a license plate, an applicant shall submit proof of an honorable discharge or status as an LGBT veteran or proof that the applicant is currently an active or reserve member of the United States Marine Corps.

**(9) Veteran of the Korean war.**

(a) The veteran of the Korean war special license plate shall be designed to indicate that the owner of the motor vehicle to which such license plate is attached is a veteran of the Korean war.

(b) A natural person may use a veteran of the Korean war special license plate if such person was a member of the United States armed forces between June 27, 1950, and January 31, 1955.

**(10) Recipient of a military valor award.**

(a) The military valor special license plate shall be designed to indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle bearing such license plate has received a military award for valor.

(b) A natural person who has been awarded a military award for valor may use a military valor special license plate. When applying for such a license plate, the applicant shall submit to the department a copy of the military order awarding the military award for valor.

(c) For the purposes of this section, "military award for valor" or "military valor award" means the following awards:

- (I) Navy cross;
- (II) Distinguished service cross;
- (III) Air Force cross; or
- (IV) Silver star.

**(11) Veteran of the Vietnam war.**

(a) The veteran of the Vietnam war special license plate shall be designed to indicate that the owner of the motor vehicle to which such license plate is attached is a veteran of the Vietnam war.

(b) A natural person may use a veteran of the Vietnam war special license plate if the person was a member of the United States armed services between August 7, 1964, and May 7, 1975.

(c) The department or an authorized agent shall not issue a veteran of the Vietnam war special license plate to an applicant until the applicant provides a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is a veteran of the armed services who served between August 7, 1964, and May 7, 1975.

**(12) Honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or retired, active, or reserve member of the U.S. Army.**

(a) The United States Army special license plate shall be designed to indicate that the owner of the motor vehicle to which such license plate is attached is an honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or a retired, reserve, or active member of the United States Army.

(b) A natural person may use a United States Army special license plate if such person is an honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or a retired, reserve, or active member of the United States Army.

(c) The department or an authorized agent shall not issue an United States Army special license plate to an applicant until the applicant provides a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is an honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or a retired, reserve, or active member of the United States Army.

(d) Repealed.

**(13) Honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or retired, active, or reserve member of the U.S. Navy.**

(a) The United States Navy special license plate shall indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which such plate is attached is a veteran, a reserve member, or an active member of the United States Navy.

(b) A natural person who has received an honorable discharge, is a discharged LGBT veteran, is retired, or is an active or reserve member of the United States Navy may use a United States Navy special license plate. When applying for such a license plate, an applicant shall submit a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant has an honorable discharge, proof of the applicant's status as a discharged LGBT veteran, or proof that the applicant is currently an active or reserve member of the United States Navy.

(c) This subsection (13) shall take effect July 1, 2006.

**(14) Recipient of a bronze star medal.**

(a) The bronze star special license plate shall be designed to indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle bearing such license plate has received a bronze star medal. The bronze star for

valor license plate shall be designed to indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle bearing such license plate has received the bronze star medal with the "V" for valor distinction.

(b) On or after January 1, 2007, a natural person who has been awarded a bronze star may use a bronze star special license plate. A natural person who has been awarded a bronze star with the "V" for valor distinction may use a bronze star for valor special license plate. When applying for such a license plate, the applicant shall submit to the department a copy of the military order awarding the bronze star and a DD214 form issued by the United States government showing that the award was received by the applicant.

**(15) Fallen service member special license plate.**

(a) The fallen service member special license plate shall be designed to indicate that the owner of the motor vehicle to which the plate is attached is a family member of a person who died in the line of duty while serving in the armed forces. The plate shall bear the word "fallen" and the title of a person who serves in the branch of the armed forces in which the deceased served.

(b) A person who meets the conditions stated in subparagraph (XIV) of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section may use a fallen service member special license plate. The department or an authorized agent shall not issue a fallen service member special license plate to an applicant until the applicant provides a DD214 form issued by the United States government and other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is qualified to be issued the plate as determined by the department.

**(16) Honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or retired, active, auxiliary, or reserve member of the U.S. Coast Guard.**

(a) The United States Coast Guard special license plate shall indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which such plate is attached is a veteran, a reserve member, an auxiliary member, or an active member of the United States Coast Guard.

(b) On or after January 1, 2008, a natural person who has received an honorable discharge, is a discharged LGBT veteran, is retired, or is an active, auxiliary, or reserve member of the United States Coast Guard may use a United States Coast Guard special license plate.

(c) When applying for such a license plate, an applicant shall submit a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant has an honorable discharge, proof of the applicant's status as a discharged LGBT veteran, or proof that the applicant is currently an active, auxiliary, or reserve member of the United States Coast Guard.

**(17) Honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or retired, active, or reserve member of the U.S. Air Force.**

(a) Beginning January 1, 2008, the United States Air Force special license plate shall indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which such plate is attached is a veteran, reserve member, or active member of the United States Air Force.

(b) A natural person who has received an honorable discharge, is a discharged LGBT veteran, is retired, or is an active or reserve member of any component of the United States Air Force may use a United States Air Force special license plate.

(c) When applying for such a license plate, an applicant shall submit a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is a veteran, reserve member, or active member of any component of the United States Air Force.

**(18) Honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or active or reserve member of the U.S. Army special forces.**

(a) The United States Army special forces license plate shall indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which such plate is attached is a veteran, a reserve member, or an active member of the special forces of the United States Army.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2008, a natural person who has received an honorable discharge, is a discharged LGBT veteran, or is an active or reserve member of the United States Army special forces may use a United States Army special forces license plate. When applying for such a license plate, an applicant shall submit:

(I) Proof of an honorable discharge or retirement, proof of status as a discharged LGBT veteran, or proof that the applicant is currently an active or reserve member of the United States Army special forces;

(II) Orders or a DD214 form that shows an awarded prefix "3" or a designation of "5G", 18/180 series MOS, special forces tab, OSS, or UNPIK-8240.

(19) Repealed.

**(20) Honorably discharged, retired veteran, reserve, or active member of the United States Army - fourth infantry division.** The United States Army fourth infantry division special license plate shall be designed to indicate that the owner of the motor vehicle to which such license plate is attached supports the United States Army fourth infantry division.

**(21) Veteran of the Afghanistan war.**

(a) The veteran of the Afghanistan war special license plate shall be designed to indicate that the owner of the motor vehicle to which such license plate is attached is a veteran of the Afghanistan war.

(b) Effective January 1, 2011, a natural person may use a veteran of the Afghanistan war special license plate if such person was a member of the United States armed services between October 7, 2001, and the end of the conflict.

(c) The department or an authorized agent shall not issue a veteran of the Afghanistan war special license plate to an applicant until the applicant provides a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is a veteran of the armed services who served between October 7, 2001, and the end of the conflict.

**(22) Veteran of the Iraq war.**

(a) The veteran of the Iraq war special license plate shall be designed to indicate that the owner of the motor vehicle to which such license plate is attached is a veteran of the Iraq war.

(b) Effective January 1, 2011, a natural person may use a veteran of the Iraq war special license plate if such person was a member of the United States armed services between March 20, 2003, and the end of the conflict.

(c) The department or an authorized agent shall not issue a veteran of the Iraq war special license plate to an applicant until the applicant provides a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is a veteran of the armed services who served between March 20, 2003, and the end of the conflict.

**(23) Veteran of world war II.**

(a) The department shall design the veteran of world war II special license plate to indicate that the owner of the motor vehicle to which the license plate is attached is a veteran of world war II.

(b) Effective January 1, 2012, a natural person may use a world war II special license plate if the person was a member of the United States armed services between September 16, 1940, and July 25, 1947.

(c) The department or an authorized agent shall not issue a world war II special license plate to an applicant until the applicant provides a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is a veteran of the armed services who served between September 16, 1940, and July 25, 1947.

**(24) Veteran of operation desert shield or desert storm.**

(a) The department shall design the veteran of operation desert shield or desert storm license plate to indicate that the owner of the motor vehicle to which the license plate is attached is a veteran of operation desert shield or desert storm.



(b) Effective January 1, 2013, a natural person may use an operation desert shield or desert storm license plate if the person was a member of the United States armed services between August 2, 1990, and February 28, 1991.

(c) The department or an authorized agent shall not issue an operation desert shield or desert storm license plate to an applicant until the applicant provides a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is a veteran of the armed services who served between August 2, 1990, and February 28, 1991.

**(25) Recipient of a distinguished flying cross.**

(a) The department shall design a special license plate to indicate that the owner of a motor vehicle to which the license plate is attached has received the distinguished flying cross.

(b) A natural person who has been awarded a distinguished flying cross may use a distinguished flying cross special license plate. When applying for the license plate, the applicant shall submit to the department a copy of the military order awarding the distinguished flying cross or any other evidence the department may accept.

(26) Repealed.

**(27) Member of the civil air patrol.**

(a) The department of military and veterans affairs may design the civil air patrol license plate if the design conforms with standards established by the department and indicates that an owner of a motor vehicle to which the plate is attached supports the civil air patrol.

(b) A natural person who supports the civil air patrol may use a civil air patrol license plate.

**(28) USS Colorado.**

(a) The department of military and veterans affairs may design the USS Colorado (SSN 788) license plate if the design conforms with standards established by the department. The plate must indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which the plate is attached supports the USS Colorado submarine.

(b) A natural person who supports the USS Colorado (SSN 788) may use USS Colorado license plate.

**(29) Honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or active or reserve member of the 10th mountain division of the U.S. Army.**

(a) The department shall design the "10th mountain division" license plate to indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which the plate is attached is a veteran, a reserve member, or an active member of the 10th mountain division of the United States Army.

(b) A natural person who meets the conditions established in subsection (1)(a)(XXVIII) of this section may use a "10th mountain division" license plate. To qualify for the license plate, an applicant must submit a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is a veteran, a discharged LGBT veteran, a reserve member, or an active member of the 10th mountain division of the United States Army.

(c) By January 1, 2016, the department shall require each holder of a "10th mountain division" license plate to either submit the evidence of qualification required by paragraph (b) of this subsection (29) or return the plate to the department.

**(30) Honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran or retired, active, or reserve member of the U.S. Navy submarine service.**

(a) Beginning January 1, 2019, the department shall design the submarine service license plate to indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which the plate is attached is a veteran, reserve member, or active member of the submarine service of the United States Navy.

(b) A natural person who has received an honorable discharge from, is a discharged LGBT veteran of, is retired from, or is an active or reserve member of the submarine service may use a submarine service license plate.

(c) To qualify for a submarine service license plate, an applicant must submit a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is a veteran, reserve member, or active member of the submarine service of the United States Navy.

**(31) Honorably discharged, discharged LGBT, or retired woman veteran of the U.S. armed forces.**

(a) The United States woman veteran license plate must indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which the plate is attached is a woman veteran of the United States armed forces.

(b) A woman who has received an honorable discharge from, is a discharged LGBT veteran of, or is retired from the United States armed forces may use a United States woman veteran license plate. When applying for the license plate, an applicant must submit a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is a woman and has an honorable discharge from, or is retired from, the United States armed forces. An applicant who is a discharged LGBT veteran must submit a DD214 form and demonstrate status as a discharged LGBT veteran.

(c) The department shall begin issuing the United States woman veteran license plate on the earlier of January 1, 2020, or when the department is able to begin issuing the plate.

**(32) Disabled women veterans.**

(a) The license plate that honors United States women veterans who have disabilities must indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which the plate is attached is a woman veteran of the United States armed forces who has a disability.

(b) A woman veteran who has received an honorable discharge from or is retired from the United States armed forces and meets the requirements of section 42-3-304 (3)(a) may use a license plate that honors United States women veterans who have disabilities. To be issued the license plate, an applicant must be a woman and must submit a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant has an honorable discharge from or is retired from the United States armed forces.

(c) The department shall design the license plate issued under this subsection (32) to indicate that the license plate is issued to a woman veteran who has a disability. The department may issue additional license plates under this subsection (32) to eligible persons upon the payment of any fee required by this article 3.

(d) The department shall begin issuing the United States disabled woman veteran license plate on or before January 1, 2022.

**(33) Honorably discharged or discharged veteran, honorably discharged or discharged LGBT veteran, or retired, active, or reserve member of the U.S. Space Force.**

(a) The department shall design the United States Space Force license plate to indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which such plate is attached is a veteran, reserve member, or active member of the United States Space Force.

(b) A natural person who has received an honorable discharge, is a discharged LGBT veteran, is retired, or is an active or reserve member of any component of the United States Space Force may use a United States Space Force license plate.

(c) When applying for a United States Space Force license plate, an applicant shall submit a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is a veteran, reserve member, or active member of any component of the United States Space Force.

(d) The department shall begin issuing the United States Space Force license plate on or before January 1, 2023.

**(34) Honorably discharged veteran or retired, active, or reserve member of the Seabees.**

(a) Beginning January 1, 2024, the department shall design the Seabees license plate to indicate that an owner of a motor vehicle to which the plate is attached is an honorably discharged, retired, active, or reserve member of a construction battalion of the United States Navy.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2024, or when the department is able to issue the plates designed pursuant to subsection (34)(a) of this section, the department shall issue the Seabees license plate to an individual who has received an honorable discharge from, is retired from, or is an active member or a reserve member of any construction battalion of the United States Navy.

(c) To qualify for a Seabees license plate, an applicant must submit a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant was honorably discharged from, is retired from, or is an active or a reserve member of a construction battalion of the United States Navy.

**Source: L. 2005:** (1)(b)(I) amended, p. 143, § 12, effective April 5; (1)(a)(XII) and (13) added, p. 664, §§ 1, 2, effective August 8; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1118, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (1)(a)(XIII) and (14) added, p. 1685, §§ 1, 2, effective August 7; IP(1)(a) amended and (1)(a)(XIV), (1)(f), and (15) added, pp. 1752, 1753, §§ 1, 2, 3, effective January 1, 2007; (1)(b)(II)(E) and (1)(b)(II)(F) added, p. 920, § 1, effective January 1, 2007. **L. 2007:** (1)(a)(XIV) and (1)(f) amended and (1)(a)(XVII), (1)(b)(II)(G), and (18) added, pp. 1320, 1321, §§ 1, 4, 3, 2, effective August 3; (1)(a)(XV) and (16) added, p. 666, §§ 1, 2, effective August 3; (1)(a)(XVI) and (17) added, p. 2088, §§ 1, 2, effective August 3; (9)(b) amended, p. 433, § 1, effective August 3. **L. 2008:** (1)(a)(XVIII) and (19) added, p. 912, §§ 1, 2, effective July 1; (1)(a)(XIX) and (20) added, p. 1026, §§ 1, 2, effective August 5; (1)(g) added, p. 2273, § 5, effective January 1, 2009. **L. 2010:** (1)(a)(XX), (1)(a)(XXI), (21), and (22) added, (HB 10-1139), ch. 236, p. 1032, §§ 1, 2, effective August 11; (5)(a)(II) amended, (HB 10-1019), ch. 400, p. 1930, § 7, effective January 1, 2011. **L. 2011:** (1)(a)(XXII), (1)(b)(II)(H), and (23) added, (SB 11-037), ch. 126, p. 392, §§ 1, 2, 3, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** (1)(a)(XXI) and (1)(a)(XXII) amended and (1)(a)(XXIII) and (24) added, (HB 12-1162), ch. 150, p. 539, § 1, effective August 8; (1)(a)(XXIV) and (25) added, (HB 12-1153), ch. 145, p. 524, § 1, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** (1)(a)(XXV) and (26) added, (SB 13-120), ch. 387, p. 2256, § 1, effective August 7; (1)(a)(XXVI) and (27) added, (SB 13-060), ch. 213, p. 890, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2014:** IP(1)(a), (1)(b)(I), (1)(b)(II)(B), (1)(b)(IV), (1)(b)(V), (1)(c), (1)(g), (5)(a), and (5)(b) amended, (HB 14-1029), ch. 252, p. 1004, § 4, effective July 1; (1)(a)(XIV) and (15)(a) amended, (SB 14-132), ch. 179, p. 654, § 1, effective August 6; (1)(a)(XXV) and (1)(a)(XXVI) amended and (1)(a)(XXVII) and (28) added, (SB14-041), ch. 321, p. 1402, § 1, effective August 6; (1)(a)(XXV) and (1)(a)(XXVI) amended and (1)(a)(XXVIII) and (29) added, (HB 14-1089), ch. 189, p. 706, § 2, effective August 6; (1)(b)(II)(I) added, (SB 14-030), ch. 263, p. 1056, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2015:** (1)(h) added and (5)(a)(II) repealed, (HB 15-1026), ch. 231, p. 860, § 4, effective August 5. **L. 2017:** (18)(b)(II) amended, (HB 17-1149), ch. 102, p. 378, § 2, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** (1)(a)(XXIX) and (30) added, (HB 18-1244), ch. 358, p. 2122, § 2, effective August 8; (11)(b) and (11)(c) amended, (HB 18-1361), ch. 342, p. 2035, § 1, effective August 8. **L. 2019:** (1)(a)(XXVIII) and (1)(a)(XXIX) amended and (1)(a)(XXX) and (31) added,

(SB 19-205), ch. 220, p. 2245, § 1, effective August 2. **L. 2021:** (27)(a) and (28)(a) amended, (SB 21-266), ch. 423, p. 2808, § 44, effective July 2; (1)(a)(XXIX), (1)(a)(XXX), and IP(1)(b)(II) amended and (1)(a)(XXXI), (1)(b)(II)(J), and (32) added, (SB 21-253), ch. 319, p. 1958, § 1, effective September 7; (1)(a)(VII), (1)(a)(XI), (1)(a)(XII), (1)(a)(XV), (1)(a)(XVI), (1)(a)(XVII), (1)(a)(XXV), (1)(a)(XXVIII), (1)(a)(XXIX), (1)(a)(XXX), (6)(b)(III), (8)(b), (12)(a), (12)(b), (12)(c), (13)(b), (16)(b), (16)(c), (17)(b), IP(18)(b), (18)(b)(I), (26)(b), (29)(b), (30)(b), and (31)(b) amended and (1)(a.5) added, (SB 21-026), ch. 42, p. 177, § 17, effective November 11. **L. 2022:** (1)(b)(IV) amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 914, § 17, effective July 1; (1)(a)(XXX) and (1)(a)(XXXI) amended and (1)(a)(XXXII) and (33) added, (SB 22-190), ch. 480, p. 3500, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2023:** (1)(a)(XXXI) and (1)(a)(XXXII) amended and (1)(a)(XXXIII), (1)(b)(II)(K), and (34) added, (SB 23-212), ch. 358, p. 2142, § 2, effective August 7. **L. 2025:** (1)(a)(XVIII), (1)(a)(XXV), (19), and (26) repealed, (HB 25-1076), ch. 16, p. 62, § 8, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-115.5 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (1)(a)(XII) was originally numbered as § 42-3-115.5 (1)(a)(XI) in House Bill 05-1313 and was harmonized with § 42-3-213 (1)(a)(XII) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107. Subsection (1)(b)(I) was originally numbered as § 42-3-115.5 (1)(c)(I) in Senate Bill 05-041 and was harmonized with § 42-3-213 (1)(b)(I) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107. Subsection (13) was originally numbered as § 42-3-115.5 (12) in House Bill 05-1313 and was harmonized with § 42-3-213 (13) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

(3) Subsection (1)(a)(XIV) was originally numbered as (1)(a)(XIII) in House Bill 06-1072 but has been renumbered on revision for ease of location. Subsection (15) was originally numbered as (14) in House Bill 06-1072 but has been renumbered on revision for ease of location.

(4) Subsection (12)(d)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (12)(d), effective July 1, 2007. (See L. 2005, p. 1118.)

(5) Amendments to subsections (1)(a)(XXIX) and (1)(a)(XXX) by SB 21-026 and SB 21-253 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** (1) For the legislative declaration in HB 17-1149, see section 1 of chapter 102, Session Laws of Colorado 2017. For the legislative declaration in HB 18-1244, see section 1 of chapter 358, Session Laws of Colorado 2018. For the legislative declaration in SB 23-212, see section 1 of chapter 358, Session Laws of Colorado 2023.

(2) For the short title ("Restoration of Honor Act") in SB 21-026, see section 1 of chapter 42, Session Laws of Colorado 2021.

#### **42-3-214. Special plates - alumni associations - retirement.**

(1) The department shall issue one or more sets of special alumni license plates to applicants under this section for passenger cars or trucks that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight. For the purposes of this section, recreational vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight shall be classified as passenger cars.

(2) (a) An alumni association for a private or public college or university located within Colorado may apply directly to the department for the establishment of a special license plate for the alumni association. The department shall accept applications to establish special alumni license plates annually according to the schedule established by the department. An alumni association shall not apply for a license plate until the alumni association has commitments for license plate purchases from at least five hundred persons and provides a list of the names and addresses of such persons to the department.

(b) An alumni association applying for the establishment of a special alumni license plate is responsible for all costs of designing such plate and shall pay such costs before the license plate is produced. Any design for a special alumni license plate shall conform with standards established by the department and shall be approved by the department.

(c) For the purpose of this section, "college or university" means an institution of higher education that offers at least a bachelor degree in an educational program and that is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association.

(3) (a) A person may apply for a special alumni license plate for a motor vehicle if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides the department or authorized agent a certificate issued by the alumni association confirming that such person meets the qualifications for the license plate established by the alumni association pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (3). The department shall prepare a certificate form to be used by alumni associations when confirming that a person is eligible to obtain special alumni license plates.

(b) An alumni association may establish the following qualifications to use the special alumni license plates:

- (I) Membership in the alumni association; or
- (II) Specified levels of contributions to the college or university.
- (III) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2008, p. 1286, § 1, effective May 27, 2008.)

(c) An alumni association establishing qualifications to use special license plates shall set a one-time fee to qualify for the special license plates, which fee shall be used for the following purposes:

(I) Scholarships for students attending the university or college; or

(II) Support of academic programs at the university or college.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special alumni license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates plus a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for each motor vehicle to issue or replace such license plates. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(b), C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized special alumni license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If any applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of special alumni license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning such existing plates in to the department as required by the department. A person who has obtained personalized special alumni license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of such personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for the special alumni license plates.

(6) Special alumni license plates shall be renewed in the same manner as other license plates under section 42-3-113 or, for personalized plates, under section 42-3-211.

(7) The department shall retire the special alumni license plates authorized by this section unless the plates have been issued for at least five hundred vehicles by July 1, 2016. A person who was issued a special alumni license plate on or before July 1, 2016, may continue to use the plate after July 1, 2016.

**Source: L. 2005:** (4) amended, p. 144, § 13, effective April 5; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1124, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2007:** (7) amended, p. 1986, § 2, effective June 1. **L. 2008:** IP(3)(b), (3)(b)(III), and (7) amended and (3)(c) added, p. 1286, § 1, effective May 27. **L. 2011:** (7) amended, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 286, § 2, effective April 8.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-115.7 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (4) was originally numbered as § 42-3-115.7 (5)(a), and the amendments to it in Senate Bill 05-041 were harmonized with § 42-3-214 (4) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

**42-3-215. Special plates - United States olympic committee - retirement. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 2005:** (4)(a) amended, p. 144, § 14, effective April 5; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1126, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** Entire section repealed, (SB 13-081), ch. 114, p. 390, § 2, effective April 8.

**Editor's note:** This section was similar to former § 42-3-115.8 as it existed prior to 2005.

**42-3-216. Special plates - Colorado foundation for agriculture and natural resources - definitions - retirement. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 2005:** (5)(a) amended, p. 144, § 15, effective April 5; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1127, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2007:** (7) amended, p. 1986, § 3, effective June 1. **L. 2013:** Entire section repealed, (SB 13-081), ch. 114, p. 391, § 3, effective April 8.

**Editor's note:** This section was similar to former § 42-3-116.5 as it existed prior to 2005.

**42-3-217. Special plates - Colorado commission of Indian affairs.**

(1) The department shall issue one or more sets of special license plates to applicants under this section for passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight. The American Indian special license plate shall not be issued for motorcycles until January 1, 2007.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the American Indian special license plate. The department may begin issuance of such special license plate when the Rocky Mountain Indian chamber of commerce has commitments for special license plate purchases for at least two thousand special license plates and provides a list of the names and addresses of persons purchasing such plates to the department.

(b) The Rocky Mountain Indian chamber of commerce is responsible for the costs of designing the special license plate and shall pay such costs before the license plate is produced. The design for the special license plate shall conform with standards established by the department.



(3) (a) A person may apply for an American Indian special license plate for a motor vehicle if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides a certificate issued by the Rocky Mountain Indian chamber of commerce confirming that such person meets the qualifications for the license plate established pursuant to this subsection (3).

(b) The Colorado commission of Indian affairs shall establish a specific level of contribution to a scholarship fund that qualifies a person to obtain special license plates under this section and shall set appropriate qualifications in order for an applicant to receive a scholarship. The scholarship fund shall be administered by a nonprofit organization, association, or corporation selected and supervised by the Colorado commission of Indian affairs. Such scholarship shall not be awarded to an applicant unless the applicant can demonstrate that he or she is a Colorado resident and such scholarship will be used to attend an institution of higher education within Colorado. Such nonprofit organization shall issue a report to the Colorado commission of Indian affairs accounting for revenues and expenditures at least every other year.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates plus a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for each motor vehicle for issuing or replacing such license plates. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund, created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S., for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(b), C.R.S.

(5) On or after January 1, 2007, an applicant may apply for personalized American Indian special license plates. If the applicant complies with section 42-3-211, the department may issue such plates upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6) for personalized license plates. If the applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of American Indian special license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning such existing plates in to the department as required by the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) to renew such plates. The fees imposed by this subsection (5) shall be in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for license plates issued pursuant to this section.

(6) Special license plates issued under this section shall be renewed in the same manner as other license plates under section 42-3-113 or, for personalized plates, under section 42-3-211.

**Source: L. 2005:** (4) amended, p. 144, § 16, effective April 5; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1129, § 2, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-116.7 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (4) was originally numbered as § 42-3-116.7 (5), and the amendments to it in Senate Bill 05-041 were harmonized with § 42-3-217 (4) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

**42-3-217.5. Special plates - breast cancer awareness - retirement.**

(1) There is hereby established the breast cancer awareness special license plate. The department shall issue breast cancer special license plates to applicants for passenger cars, trucks, or motorcycles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) The department shall work with interested parties to design the breast cancer awareness special license plate. The design for the special license plate shall conform with standards established by the department.

(3) (a) A person may apply for a breast cancer awareness special license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section.

(b) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates issued under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuing or replacing each such special license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(c) In addition to the taxes and fees specified in paragraph (b) of this subsection (3), a person applying for a new or replacement breast cancer awareness special license plate shall pay a surcharge of twenty-five dollars. A person applying on or before June 30, 2012, to renew a breast cancer awareness special license plate shall have the option to pay the twenty-five dollar surcharge but shall not be required to pay the surcharge in order to renew the special plate. On or after July 1, 2012, a person applying to renew a breast cancer awareness special license plate shall pay the twenty-five dollar surcharge required by this paragraph (c). The department shall transmit the surcharge to the state treasurer, who shall credit the surcharge to the breast and cervical cancer prevention and treatment fund created in section 25.5-5-308 (8)(a), C.R.S.

(4) Any renewal of a special license plate issued under this section shall be handled in the same manner as other license plates under the provisions of section 42-3-113 or, for personalized plates, under the provisions of section 42-3-211.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized breast cancer awareness special plates. If the applicant complies with the requirements of section 42-3-211, the department may issue such plates upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6) for personalized license plates. If the applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the

applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of breast cancer awareness special license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6) to renew such plates. The fees imposed by this subsection (5) shall be in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for breast cancer awareness special license plates.

(6) and (7) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** Entire section added, p. 724, § 1, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (3)(b), (4), and (5) amended, p. 1511, § 70, effective June 1. **L. 2008:** (7) added, p. 229, § 2, effective August 5. **L. 2009:** (3)(c) added and (6) and (7) repealed, (HB 09-1164), ch. 215, pp. 972, 973, §§ 2, 3, effective May 2. **L. 2014:** (3)(c) amended, (HB 14-1045), ch. 137, p. 471, § 3, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** Amendments to § 42-3-116.8 by House Bill 05-1247 were harmonized with House Bill 05-1107 and relocated to § 42-3-217.5.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in HB 09-1164, see section 1 of chapter 215, Session Laws of Colorado 2009.

**42-3-218. Special plates - active and retired members of the Colorado National Guard - retirement.**

(1) The department shall issue special license plates for a passenger car or a truck that does not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight owned by an active or retired member of the Colorado National Guard, as defined in section 28-3-101 (12), C.R.S.

(2) (a) The special license plates must have a white background with blue lettering and must be of a design determined by the executive director of the department. The plates indicate that the owner of the motor vehicle is a member of the Colorado National Guard.

(b) If an applicant for a Colorado National Guard license plate under this section demonstrates a physical impairment affecting mobility under the standards provided in section 42-3-204 (1), the department shall issue a Colorado National Guard license plate with an additional identifying figure, as defined in section 42-3-204 (1)(e), to indicate that the vehicle is authorized to transport a person who is eligible to use reserved parking under section 42-4-1208.

(3) A natural person who is an active or retired member of the Colorado National Guard may use the special license plates provided for by this section.

(4) The amount of taxes and fees for such special license plates shall be the same as the amount of taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle registration plus an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars. The additional fee shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(b), C.R.S.

(5) Applications for special license plates provided for in this section shall include such information as the department may require. At the time of application, the applicant shall submit a proof of eligibility form prepared by the department of military and veterans affairs verifying active or retired status. If the owner of a vehicle registered pursuant to this section ceases to be an active member of the Colorado National Guard and has not qualified for retirement from the Colorado National Guard, such person shall return the special license plates to the department upon expiration of the registration. Upon retiring from the Colorado National Guard, a person wishing to retain such special license plates shall submit a verification of retired status that is issued by the department of military and veterans affairs to establish eligibility for retention of the plates. A retired member of the Colorado National Guard is required to verify retired status only once under this section.

(6) The executive director of the department may prepare any special forms and issue such rules as may be necessary to implement this section.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** (4) amended, p. 145, § 17, effective April 5; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1130, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2015:** (2) amended, (HB 15-1026), ch. 231, p. 860, § 5, effective August 5.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-117 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (4) was originally numbered as § 42-3-117 (5)(a), and the amendments to it in Senate Bill 05-041 were harmonized with § 42-3-218 (4) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

#### **42-3-219. Special registration of collector's items. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1131, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (1)(a) and (3)(a) amended and (1)(c) added, p. 64, §§ 2, 3, effective August 7. **L. 2007:** (1)(b)(I) amended, p. 1462, § 1, effective August 3. **L. 2008:** (10) repealed, p. 229, § 3, effective

August 5. **L. 2011:** Entire section repealed, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 249, § 22, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section was relocated to § 42-12-301 in 2011.

#### **42-3-220. Temporary special event license plates.**

(1) The department may issue a temporary special event license plate to a person or group of people in connection with a special event for a passenger vehicle or a truck that does not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) An applicant for a special event license plate shall submit to the department the name, date or dates, and location of the special event to which the request for the license plate is connected; the dates the license plate is needed; the quantity of license plates requested; a list of vehicle information including the vehicle identification number, make, model, and year of each vehicle; a certified letter stating that insurance coverage will be in place for each vehicle during its use for the period for which the temporary plate is issued; and any other information required by the department.

(3) The department may determine the amount of an application fee for special event license plates and determine the fee, not to exceed twenty-five dollars, for the issuance of each temporary special event license plate. Such fee shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the license plate cash fund, created in section 42-3-301 (1).

(4) The executive director of the department may prepare any special forms and issue any rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1133, § 2, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-117.7 as it existed prior to 2005.

#### **42-3-221. Special plates - Denver Broncos.**

(1) Beginning January 1, 2007, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the Denver Broncos special license plate.

(b) The Denver Broncos may design the special license plate. The design for the special license plate shall conform with standards established by the department and shall be subject to the department's approval.

(3) A person may apply for a Denver Broncos special license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate, issued by the Denver Broncos Charities or a successor organization, confirming that such person has donated thirty dollars to the Denver Broncos Charities.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of each such license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized Denver Broncos special license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Denver Broncos special license plates for the vehicle upon payment of the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized Denver Broncos special license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of such personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for personalized Denver Broncos special license plates.

(6) The Denver Broncos license plate shall be retired if three thousand plates are not issued by July 1, 2009.

**Source: L. 2006:** Entire section added, p. 2037, § 1, effective August 7.

#### **42-3-222. Special plates - support public education.**

(1) Beginning January 1, 2007, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, and noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the support public education special license plate.

(b) The design for the special license plate shall conform with standards established by the department and shall be subject to the department's approval.

(3) (a) A person may apply for a support public education special license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate, issued by impact on education, inc., Colorado legacy foundation, or either entity's successor, confirming that the person has donated twenty dollars to either organization or either entity's successor. When receiving the donation, impact on education, inc., Colorado legacy foundation, or either entity's successor shall ask the donor to specify in writing which nonprofit education organization qualified under paragraph (c) of this subsection (3) should receive the moneys. Impact on education, inc., Colorado legacy foundation, or either entity's successor shall compile and provide to the donor and the department a list of organizations that the entity has verified qualify for donations under paragraph (c) of this subsection (3).

(b) Impact on education, inc., Colorado legacy foundation, or either entity's successor shall use the moneys collected under this subsection (3) to support programs that focus on student learning in public schools located in Colorado.

(c) Impact on education, inc., Colorado legacy foundation, or either entity's successor shall transmit the entire donation to the nonprofit education organization pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (3) if the organization:

(I) Exists;

(II) Is affiliated with a school district or the state charter institute;

(III) Is a nonprofit entity exempt from federal income taxes pursuant to section 501 (c)(3) of the federal "Internal Revenue Code of 1986", as amended; and

(IV) Agrees to spend all of the donation on programs that focus on student learning in Colorado.

(d) Impact on education, inc., Colorado legacy foundation, or either entity's successor shall not use the moneys collected under this subsection (3) to support political parties, candidates for public office, ballot initiatives, referenda, or any other political activities.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for the support public education special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of each such license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized support public education special license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of support public education special license plates for the vehicle upon payment of the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized support public education special license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6) for renewal of such personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for personalized support public education special license plates.

(6) The department may stop issuing the support public education special license plate if three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2016. A person who was issued a support public education special license plate on or before July 1, 2016, may continue to use the plate after July 1, 2016.

**Source:** **L. 2006:** Entire section added, p. 1066, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2009:** (6) amended, (SB 09-175), ch. 226, p. 1027, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2011:** (3) and (6) amended, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 286, § 3, effective April 8.

**Editor's note:** This section was originally numbered as § 42-3-221 in House Bill 06-1404 but was renumbered on revision for ease of location.

#### **42-3-223. Special plates - support the troops - retirement.**

(1) On or after July 1, 2007, the department shall issue one or more sets of support the troops special license plates to applicants under this section for passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, and noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) There is hereby established the United States support the troops special license plate. The plate shall conform with standards established by the department, and the plate shall feature the statement "Support The Troops".

(3) (a) A person may apply for and shall be issued a support the troops special license plate for a motor vehicle if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this subsection (3) and provides a certificate issued by the nonprofit organization selected by the adjutant general



pursuant to subsection (4) of this section showing that the person has donated twenty-five dollars to such organization.

(b) The amount of the taxes and fees for support the troops special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates plus a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for each motor vehicle for issuance of such license plates. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the highway users tax fund for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(b), C.R.S.

(c) Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue personalized support the troops special license plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of special license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning such existing plates in to the department as required by the department. A person who has obtained personalized support the troops special license plates under this paragraph (c) is required to pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of such personalized plates. The fees under this paragraph (c) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for the special license plates.

(4) The adjutant general, appointed pursuant to section 28-3-105, C.R.S., shall select a nonprofit organization that aids veterans, active service members, and the families thereof to administer the donations collected pursuant to subsection (3) of this section. The adjutant general shall select the organization in consultation with the Colorado board of veterans affairs, created in section 28-5-702, C.R.S. The organization shall use the moneys to aid veterans, active service members, and the families thereof but may keep up to seven percent of the moneys for administrative costs. The organization may use the moneys to aid veterans, active service members, and the families thereof by making grants to or selecting other nonprofit organizations to provide the aid so long as no more than seven percent of the moneys are used for administrative costs. Once an organization is selected, it shall continue to administer the funds unless good cause is shown for removal.

(5) Special license plates issued under this section shall be renewed in the same manner as other license plates under section 42-3-113 or, for personalized plates, under section 42-3-211.

(6) The special license plates authorized by this section shall not be renewed unless such plates have been issued for at least three thousand vehicles by July 1, 2009.

**Source: L. 2006:** Entire section added, p. 1484, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2012:** (2) amended, (SB 12-007), ch. 88, p. 289, § 3, effective April 6.

**Editor's note:** This section was originally numbered as § 42-3-221 in Senate Bill 06-080 but was renumbered on revision for ease of location.

**42-3-224. Special plates - Colorado "Kids First".**

(1) The department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the Colorado "Kids First" special license plate. The department may stop issuing the Colorado "Kids First" special license plate if three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2016. A person who was issued a Colorado "Kids First" special license plate on or before July 1, 2016, may continue to use the plate after July 1, 2016.

(b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (SB 09-175), ch. 226, p. 1027, § 3, effective July 1, 2009.)

(c) The Rocky Mountain research and prevention institute may design the special license plate. The design for the special license plate shall conform with standards established by the department and shall be subject to the department's approval.

(3) (a) A person may apply for a Colorado "Kids First" special license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate, issued by the Rocky Mountain research and prevention institute or a successor organization, confirming that such person meets the qualifications for the license plate established pursuant to this section.

(b) The Rocky Mountain research and prevention institute or a successor organization may establish a specific level of contribution to a health promotion and injury prevention fund that qualifies a person to obtain special license plates under this section. Such fund shall be used to fund programs, activities, and events that help promote the health of children and prevent injury to children.

(c) The Rocky Mountain research and prevention institute or its successor organization shall file an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization. The statement shall be filed under penalty of perjury with the department.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of each such license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized Colorado "Kids First" license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Colorado "Kids First" license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized Colorado "Kids First" license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of such personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for Colorado "Kids First" license plates.

**Source:** **L. 2006:** Entire section added, p. 1622, § 1, effective July 1, 2007. **L. 2009:** (2)(a) and (2)(b) amended, (SB 09-175), ch. 226, p. 1027, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2011:** (2)(a) amended, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 287, § 4, effective April 8.

**Editor's note:** This section was originally numbered as § 42-3-221 in Senate Bill 06-100 but was renumbered on revision for ease of location.

#### **42-3-225. Special plates - Italian-American heritage.**

(1) Beginning January 1, 2008, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the Italian-American heritage special license plate, which shall be issued to any person who pays the taxes and fees required under this section.

(b) The department may stop issuing the Italian-American heritage special license plate if at least three thousand plates are not issued by July 1, 2016. A person who was issued an Italian-American heritage special license plate on or before July 1, 2016, may continue to use the plate after July 1, 2016.

(c) The Italian-American heritage special license plate shall be designed:

(I) To celebrate Italian-American heritage; and

(II) In accordance with standards established by the department and be subject to the department's approval.

(3) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of each such license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(4) An applicant may apply for personalized Italian-American heritage special license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Colorado Italian-American heritage license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized Italian-American heritage special license plates under this subsection (4) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of such personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (4) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for the Italian-American heritage special license plates.

**Source:** L. 2007: Entire section added, p. 967, § 1, effective August 3. L. 2008: (2)(b) amended, p. 229, § 4, effective August 5. L. 2009: (2)(b) amended, (SB 09-175), ch. 226, p. 1028, § 4, effective July 1. L. 2011: (2)(b) amended, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 288, § 5, effective April 8.

#### **42-3-226. Special plates - share the road.**

(1) Beginning January 1, 2008, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the share the road special license plate. The department may stop issuing the share the road special license plate if three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2011. A person may continue to use the share the road special license plate after July 1, 2011.

(b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (SB 09-175), ch. 226, p. 1028, § 5, effective July 1, 2009.)

(c) The design for the special license plate shall conform with standards established by the department and shall be subject to approval by Bicycle Colorado, Inc.

(3) (a) A person may apply for a share the road special license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate, issued by Bicycle Colorado, Inc., or a successor organization, confirming that such person meets the qualifications for the license plate established pursuant to this section.

(b) Bicycle Colorado, Inc., or a successor organization, may establish a specific level of contribution to a share the road education fund that qualifies a person to obtain special license plates under this section. Such fund shall be used to fund programs, activities, and events that educate bicyclists, motorists, law enforcement, and transportation officials on the rights and responsibilities of bicycling, safely sharing the road, and reducing bicycle crashes.

(c) Bicycle Colorado, Inc., or its successor organization, shall file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of each such license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized share the road license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of share the road license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized share the road license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of such personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for share the road license plates.

**Source:** L. 2007: Entire section added, p. 2075, § 1, effective August 3. L. 2009: (2)(a) and (2)(b) amended, (SB 09-175), ch. 226, p. 1028, § 5, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section was originally numbered as § 42-3-225 in Senate Bill 07-067 but was renumbered on revision for ease of location.

**42-3-227. Special plates - Colorado horse development authority.**

(1) On or after January 1, 2009, the department shall issue Colorado horse development authority special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) The Colorado horse development authority may design the special license plates. The design for the special license plates shall conform with standards established by the department and shall be subject to the department's approval.

(3) A person may apply for Colorado horse development authority special license plates if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate, issued by the Colorado horse development authority or a successor organization, confirming that the person has donated thirty dollars to the Colorado horse development authority.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of each such license plate. The department shall transmit the one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized Colorado horse development authority special license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such license plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Colorado horse development authority special license plates for the vehicle upon payment of the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized Colorado horse development authority special license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized license plates. The fees imposed under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for personalized Colorado horse development authority special license plates.

(6) The department may stop issuing the Colorado horse development authority special license plate if three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2016. A person who was issued a Colorado horse development authority special license plate on or before July 1, 2016, may continue to use the plate after July 1, 2016.

**Source: L. 2008:** Entire section added, p. 858, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2009:** (6) amended, (SB 09-175), ch. 226, p. 1028, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2011:** (6) amended, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 288, § 6, effective April 8.

#### **42-3-228. Special plates - Colorado carbon fund.**

(1) The department shall issue Colorado carbon fund special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) The Colorado carbon fund may design the Colorado carbon fund special license plates. The design for the special license plates shall conform with standards established by the department and shall be subject to the department's approval.

(3) A person may apply for the Colorado carbon fund special license plates if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate, issued by natural capitalism solutions, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, or any successor organization, confirming that such person has made to the Colorado carbon fund, or its successor, the donation required to qualify for the special license plates.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of each such license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized Colorado carbon fund special license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such personalized license plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Colorado carbon fund special license plates for the vehicle upon payment of the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing license plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized Colorado carbon fund special license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of such personalized license plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for personalized Colorado carbon fund special license plates.

(6) The department may stop issuing the Colorado carbon fund special license plate if three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2016. A person who was issued a Colorado

carbon fund special license plate on or before July 1, 2016, may continue to use the plate after July 1, 2016.

**Source: L. 2008:** Entire section added, p. 995, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2009:** (6) amended, (SB 09-175), ch. 226, p. 1029, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2011:** (6) amended, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 288, § 7, effective April 8. **L. 2012:** (2) and (3) amended, (HB 12-1315), ch. 224, p. 983, § 54, effective July 1. **L. 2018:** (2) and (3) amended, (SB 18-003), ch. 359, p. 2149, § 13, effective June 1.

#### **42-3-229. Special plates - boy scouts.**

(1) Beginning July 15, 2009, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the boy scouts centennial special license plate, which shall be issued from July 15, 2009, to June 30, 2016, or so long as the department has the special license plates in stock, whichever occurs later.

(b) A person may continue to use the boy scouts centennial special license plate after June 30, 2011, in accordance with this section.

(c) The department is authorized to begin issuance of the special license plate authorized by this subsection (2) if the boy scouts obtain commitments for the purchase of at least three thousand special license plates and provide to the department a list of the names and addresses of persons requesting such plates by January 15, 2009.

(d) Repealed.

(e) The design for the special license plate shall conform with standards established by the department.

(3) A person may apply for a special license plate created by this section if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of each such license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.



(5) An applicant may apply for personalized special license plates created by this section. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of special license plates created by this section for the vehicle upon paying the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized special license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of such personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for the special license plates created by this section.

**Source: L. 2008:** Entire section added, p. 2271, § 2, effective January 1, 2009. **L. 2011:** (2)(a) amended, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 288, § 8, effective April 8; (2)(d) repealed, (HB 11-1303), ch. 264, p. 1182, § 108, effective August 10.

#### **42-3-230. Special plates - "Alive at Twenty-five". (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2009:** Entire section added, (HB 09-1100), ch. 279, p. 1246, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2011:** (6) amended, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 288, § 9, effective April 8. **L. 2025:** Entire section repealed, (HB 25-1076), ch. 16, p. 63, § 9, effective August 6.

#### **42-3-231. Special plates - Colorado ski country.**

(1) On or after January 1, 2010, the department shall issue Colorado ski country special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) Colorado ski country USA, inc., may design the special license plates. The plate shall conform with standards established by the department and be subject to approval by the department. The plate shall feature the tagline "Ski Country USA".

(3) A person shall be issued Colorado ski country special license plates if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of

each such license plate. The department shall transmit the one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized Colorado ski country special license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such license plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Colorado ski country special license plates for the vehicle upon payment of the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized Colorado ski country special license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized license plates. The fees imposed under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for personalized Colorado ski country special license plates.

(6) (a) The department shall retire the Colorado ski country special license plate if three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2016. A person who was issued a Colorado ski country special license plate on or before July 1, 2016, may continue to use the plate after July 1, 2016.

(b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2011, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 288, § 10, effective April 8, 2011.)

**Source: L. 2009:** Entire section added, (SB 09-161), ch. 412, p. 2281, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2011:** (6) amended, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 288, § 10, effective April 8. **L. 2012:** (2) amended, (SB 12-007), ch. 88, p. 289, § 4, effective April 6.

#### **42-3-232. Special plates - donate life.**

(1) On or after January 1, 2010, the department shall issue donate life special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) The American transplant foundation, inc., may design the special license plates. The design for the special license plates shall conform with standards established by the department and shall be subject to the department's approval.

(3) A person shall be issued donate life special license plates if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of each such license plate. The department shall transmit the one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized donate life special license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such license plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of donate life special license plates for the vehicle upon payment of the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized donate life special license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of personalized license plates. The fees imposed under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for personalized donate life special license plates.

(6) (a) The department shall retire the donate life special license plate if three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2016. A person who was issued a donate life special license plate on or before July 1, 2016, may continue to use the plate after July 1, 2016.

(b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2011, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 289, § 11, effective April 8, 2011.)

**Source: L. 2009:** Entire section added, (HB 09-1347), ch. 357, p. 1860, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2011:** (6) amended, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 289, § 11, effective April 8.

#### **42-3-233. Special plates - Colorado state parks.**

(1) On or after January 1, 2011, the department shall issue Colorado state parks special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) The foundation for Colorado state parks may design the special license plates. The design for the special license plates shall conform with standards established by the department and shall be subject to the department's approval.

(3) A person may apply for Colorado state parks special license plates if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate, issued by the foundation for Colorado state parks or a successor organization,

confirming that the person has donated forty-four dollars to the foundation for Colorado state parks or a successor organization. All moneys collected pursuant to this subsection (3) and all interest and income earned on the investment of such moneys shall be expended on Colorado state parks projects and shall not be used for the administration of the foundation for Colorado state parks or a successor organization. The foundation for Colorado state parks or a successor organization shall hold the moneys collected pursuant to this subsection (3) in a separate account from all other moneys and retain the records of the expenditures of moneys collected pursuant to this subsection (3) for at least three years after the expenditure is made.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of each such license plate. The department shall transmit the one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized Colorado state parks special license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such license plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Colorado state parks special license plates for the vehicle upon payment of the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized Colorado state parks special license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized license plates. The fees imposed under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for personalized Colorado state parks special license plates.

(6) The department may stop issuing the Colorado state parks special license plate if three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2016. A person who was issued a Colorado state parks special license plate on or before July 1, 2016, may continue to use the plate after July 1, 2016.

**Source: L. 2010:** Entire section added, (SB 10-103), ch. 304, p. 1437, § 1, effective August 11. **L. 2011:** (6) amended, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 289, § 12, effective April 8.

**42-3-234. Special plates - adopt a shelter pet - pet overpopulation authority - pet overpopulation fund - adopt a shelter pet account - definitions.**

(1) Beginning the earlier of January 1, 2011, or when the department is able to issue the plates created by this section, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified

applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, and noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the adopt a shelter pet special license plate.

(b) The design for the special license plate shall conform with standards established by the department and shall be subject to the department's approval.

(3) A person may apply for an adopt a shelter pet special license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect the following fees and donations:

(a) A one-time, twenty-five-dollar fee for issuance or replacement of the license plate, which fee shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.;

(b) A one-time, thirty-dollar donation for issuance or replacement of the license plate, which donation shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the adopt a shelter pet account in the pet overpopulation fund created in subsection (7)(f) of this section; and

(c) An annual twenty-five-dollar license plate renewal donation, which donation shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the adopt a shelter pet account in the pet overpopulation fund created in subsection (7)(f) of this section; except that the department and its authorized agents may retain the portion of the donation necessary to offset implementing this subsection (4)(c), up to a maximum of two dollars.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized adopt a shelter pet special license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of adopt a shelter pet special license plates for the vehicle upon payment of the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized adopt a shelter pet special license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of such personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for personalized adopt a shelter pet special license plates.

(6) (a) The department shall retire the adopt a shelter pet license plate if three thousand plates are not issued by July 1, 2016. A person who was issued an adopt a shelter pet license plate on or before July 1, 2016, may continue to use the plate after July 1, 2016.

(b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2011, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 289, § 13, effective April 8, 2011.)

(7) (a) There is created the Colorado pet overpopulation authority, which is a body corporate and a political subdivision of the state. The authority is not an agency of state government and is not subject to administrative direction by any state agency.

(b) (I) The powers of the authority are vested in a board of directors consisting of the following:

(A) One representative of the Animal Assistance Foundation or its successor organization;

(B) One representative of an animal shelter;

(C) One representative of a state veterinary medical association;

(D) One representative of a Colorado animal control agency;

(E) One representative from the department of agriculture;

(F) One member from a pet animal rescue;

(G) One member of the general public who has an interest in animal welfare who is not a member of a board of any animal welfare organization;

(H) One member who is from western Colorado and represents an animal shelter or a pet animal rescue or is a veterinary professional registered with the state board of veterinary medicine;

(I) One member who is from eastern Colorado and represents an animal shelter or a pet animal rescue or is a veterinary professional registered with the state board of veterinary medicine;

(J) One member who is from southern Colorado and represents an animal shelter or a pet animal rescue or is a veterinary professional registered with the state board of veterinary medicine; and

(K) One representative from a pet animal facility licensed and in good standing pursuant to section 35-80-104 located in a county with a population of fifty thousand or less.

(II) The commissioner of agriculture shall appoint the board members to three-year terms; except that three of the members appointed on September 1, 2001, shall serve an initial term of two years. Each member shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner and shall continue in

office until the member's successor is appointed and qualified. Initial members of the authority shall be appointed no later than September 1, 2001.

(III) On the expiration of the term of a member of the board, that member's successor shall be appointed by the commissioner of agriculture for a term of three years; except that, in the case of a vacancy, the commissioner shall appoint an individual who shall serve for the unexpired term.

(c) (I) Each board member shall meet the following qualifications at the time of appointment and throughout the member's term of office:

(A) Residency in this state; and

(B) Demonstration of an active interest in the education of the community regarding the benefits of pet overpopulation control in Colorado.

(II) The commissioner of agriculture shall immediately declare the office of any member of the board vacant whenever the commissioner finds that the member is not qualified under this subsection (7)(c) or that the member is unable to perform the duties of the office.

(III) Members shall serve without compensation for any service provided to the authority. Members shall not receive any reimbursement from the board for any expenses incurred fulfilling their responsibilities pursuant to this subsection (7).

(IV) Except as provided in subsection (7)(b)(I)(G) of this section, a board member may be a member of a board or subcommittee of a board of an animal welfare organization, but no more than one member of the board may be on the board or subcommittee of the board of the same animal welfare organization.

(V) A member of the board shall recuse themselves from any board action or vote if they have a conflict of interest in relation to the board action or vote, including any allocation of funding to the member made pursuant to this subsection (7).

(d) The board may:

(I) Adopt an education program concerning pet overpopulation with emphasis on the importance of spaying and neutering to control pet overpopulation;

(II) Develop, adopt, and implement a process to fund and expend money for the activities and responsibilities of the board. Funding for the board includes the money available in the fund.

(III) Accept gifts, grants, and donations, including personal services, for the activities and responsibilities of the board. Any gift, grant, or donation other than personal services shall be deposited into the fund.

(IV) Develop, adopt, and implement a cooperative process to work with local veterinarians, licensed animal shelters, and local communities concerning animal sheltering and pet overpopulation control in this state.

(e) The board shall annually publish on the fund website the name of each grantee receiving money from the fund, the amount of each grant provided to a grantee, when a grantee received a grant, and the names of each board member.

(f) (I) Donations collected pursuant to subsection (7)(d) of this section and section 39-22-2201 shall be transmitted to the state treasurer and credited to the pet overpopulation fund, which fund is created in the state treasury. All interest derived from the deposit and investment of money in the fund is credited to the fund.

(II) All unexpended and unencumbered money remaining in the fund at the end of any state fiscal year remains in the fund, does not revert back to the general fund or any other fund, and shall not be used for any purpose other than the purposes set forth in this subsection (7). Such money is appropriated continually to the state treasurer, who shall transfer all available money in the fund to the authority at least quarterly unless the board expressly requests otherwise. The board shall expend money from the fund for the implementation of this subsection (7).

(III) When expending money to implement this subsection (7), the authority shall give priority to the areas that have an insufficient number of pet animal veterinary resources to adequately meet local needs.

(IV) At least seventy percent of the money annually awarded for all grants that are funded by fund must be annually allocated for rural community facilities. The board shall consider awarding at least fifty percent of the money designated for rural community facilities to counties with a population of fifty thousand or less.

(V) There is created in the fund the adopt a shelter pet account, which consists of money donated to qualify for the adopt a shelter pet special license plate pursuant to this section.

(VI) (A) The authority shall use the money in the adopt a shelter pet account to support the spaying and neutering and other medical costs of animals in animal shelters and rescues, to support overpopulation education programs, and to support the trap-neuter-return established in subsection (7)(j)(II) of this section; except that up to ten percent of the money in the adopt a shelter pet account may be used for the administration of the account.

(B) The authority shall not favor a particular shelter model when allocating money from the adopt a shelter pet account.

(g) Except as provided in this subsection (7), the authority shall not be funded by or through any state agency.



(h) Nothing in this subsection (7) shall be construed to authorize the authority to adopt rules to implement this subsection (7).

(i) A pet animal facility applying for a grant described in subsection (7)(j)(II) of this section from the adopt a shelter pet account must be licensed and in good standing pursuant to section 35-80-104.

(j) (I) As used in this subsection (7), unless the context otherwise requires:

(A) "Animal welfare facility" means a pet animal facility, a pet animal rescue, or a spay and neuter organization.

(B) "Animal shelter" has the meaning set forth in section 35-80-102 (1).

(C) "Authority" means the Colorado pet overpopulation authority created in subsection (7)(a) of this section.

(D) "Community cat" means a free-roaming domestic cat that may have a caretaker and is not socialized to humans.

(E) "Ear-tipping" means the removal of approximately one quarter of a community cat's left ear while under anesthesia, which serves as a visual indicator of sterilization.

(F) "Fund" means the pet overpopulation fund created in subsection (7)(f)(I) of this section.

(G) "Pet animal rescue" has the meaning set forth in section 35-80-102 (11.2).

(H) "Rural community facility" means an animal welfare facility that is located in a Colorado county with a population of two hundred thousand or less.

(I) "Spay and neuter organization" means a nonprofit organization primarily offering spay and neuter services performed by a licensed veterinarian, as defined in section 35-80-102 (8.7).

(J) "Trap-neuter-return" means a nonlethal process of humanely trapping, sterilizing, vaccinating for rabies, ear-tipping, and returning to their habitats community cats.

(II) The authority shall establish a trap-neuter-return funded by the adopt a shelter pet account. The authority may award money from the adopt a shelter pet account to animal welfare facilities located in Colorado to implement trap-neuter-return for the purposes described in subsection (7)(j)(III) of this section.

(III) An animal welfare facility awarded money for the trap-neuter-return is authorized to spend the money only on:

(A) Trapping, sterilizing, vaccinating, and ear-tipping community cats in Colorado;

(B) Veterinary care for the treatment and sterilization of community cats in Colorado;

(C) Training for community cat caretakers and animal control personnel in humane trapping and trap-neuter-return protocols in Colorado; and

(D) An animal welfare facility that is a spay and neuter organization, veterinary materials and support for mobile clinics in Colorado.

**Source: L. 2010:** Entire section added, (HB 10-1214), ch. 394, p. 1872, § 3, effective August 11. **L. 2011:** (6) amended, (HB 11-1236), ch. 98, p. 289, § 13, effective April 8. **L. 2026:** (4)(b) and (4)(c) amended and (7) added with relocations, (HB 26-1183), ch. 203, p. 1158, § 10, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (7) is similar to former § 35-80-116.5 as it existed prior to 2026.

#### **42-3-235. Livery license plates - luxury limousines.**

(1) The livery license plate is hereby established. The plate consists of red letters on a white background and features the words "Colorado" across the top and "Livery" across the bottom of the plate.

(2) (a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) to (d) of this subsection (2), a person providing luxury limousine service under article 10.1 of title 40, C.R.S., shall register the motor vehicle used for such purposes pursuant to this article and display livery license plates on the vehicle. Upon registration, the department shall issue livery license plates for the vehicles in accordance with this section. The department shall not issue a livery license plate unless the person either submits a verification document issued pursuant to section 40-10.1-303, C.R.S., or the public utilities commission electronically verifies the authorization to provide luxury limousine service under section 40-10.1-303, C.R.S.

(b) A person providing luxury limousine service under article 10.1 of title 40, C.R.S., may provide such services without registering the motor vehicle or using livery license plates if the motor vehicle is rented, but the person shall not provide such services using a rented motor vehicle for more than thirty days.

(c) Repealed.

(d) If a motor vehicle is used to provide both taxicab services and luxury limousine services, the department shall issue the motor vehicle a taxicab license plate in accordance with section 42-3-236.

(3) Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue personalized livery license plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of special livery license plates upon paying the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning the existing plates in to the department. A person who has obtained personalized livery license plates under this subsection (3) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of such personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (3) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for the livery license plates.

(4) No person shall operate a motor vehicle with a livery license plate or temporary livery license plate unless the motor vehicle to which the plates are attached is required by subsection (2) of this section to bear livery license plates. A person who violates this section commits a class B traffic infraction, punishable by a fine of seventy-five dollars.

(5) If the person who owns the motor vehicle with livery plates is not the same person under whose authority the motor vehicle operates pursuant to article 10.1 of title 40, C.R.S., the person with such authority may request that the department of revenue require the plate to be replaced. Upon a request being made, the department shall require the owner to return the livery license plate and be issued a new license plate.

(6) This section is effective January 1, 2011.

**Source: L. 2010:** Entire section added, (HB 10-1161), ch. 319, p. 1484, § 2, effective August 11. **L. 2011:** (2)(a) amended and (2)(d) added, (HB 11-1234), ch. 142, p. 496, § 3, effective July 1; (2)(a), (2)(b), and (5) amended, (HB 11-1198), ch. 127, p. 424, § 23, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** (1) Amendments to subsection (2)(a) by House Bill 11-1198 and House Bill 11-1234 were harmonized.

(2) Subsection (2)(c) provided for the repeal of subsection (2)(c), effective January 1, 2012. (See L. 2010, p. 319.)

#### **42-3-235.5. Tow truck license plates - conditions for use - transitional provisions.**

(1) The tow truck license plate is hereby established. The plate consists of black letters on a yellow background and features the words "Colorado" across the top and "Tow Truck" across the bottom of the plate.

(2) A person who is authorized to operate as a towing carrier under article 10.1 of title 40, C.R.S., shall register a motor vehicle used for towing purposes under this article and display either tow truck license plates or apportioned plates on the vehicle. Upon registration, the department shall issue tow truck license plates for the vehicle in accordance with this section. The department shall not issue tow truck license plates unless the person either submits a verification document or the public utilities commission electronically verifies the authorization as provided in section 40-10.1-402, C.R.S.

(3) Repealed.

(4) A person shall not operate a motor vehicle with tow truck license plates or temporary tow truck license plates unless the motor vehicle to which the plates are attached is required by subsection (2) of this section to bear tow truck license plates.

(5) If the person who owns the motor vehicle with tow truck license plates is not the person under whose authority the motor vehicle operates under article 10.1 of title 40, C.R.S., the person with the authority may request that the department require the plates to be replaced. Within thirty days after receiving the request, the department shall require the owner of the motor vehicle to return the tow truck license plates and be issued new license plates. The owner of the motor vehicle shall surrender the tow truck license plates to the department within ten days after receiving notice from the department unless the owner of the motor vehicle obtains authority to operate a tow truck under part 4 of article 10.1 of title 40, C.R.S., either directly or as an agent, and either the person submits a verification document or the public utilities commission electronically verifies the authorization as provided in section 40-10.1-402, C.R.S.

(6) A person who violates this section commits a class B traffic infraction, punishable by a fine of seventy-five dollars.

(7) This section is effective January 1, 2013.

**Source: L. 2012:** Entire section added, (HB 12-1327), ch. 217, p. 933, § 4, effective May 24.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (3)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (3), effective January 1, 2014. (See L. 2012, p. 933.)

#### **42-3-236. Taxicab license plates - taxicabs.**

(1) The taxicab license plate is hereby established. The plate consists of black letters on a yellow background and features the words "Colorado" across the top and "taxicab" across the bottom of the plate.

(2) A person that is authorized to provide taxicab service or large-market taxicab service under article 10.1 of title 40 shall register a motor vehicle used for taxicab purposes under this article 3 and display taxicab license plates on the vehicle. Upon registration, the department shall issue taxicab license plates for the vehicle in accordance with this section. The department shall not issue a taxicab license plate unless the person either submits a verification document or the public utilities commission electronically verifies the authorization as provided in section 40-10.1-207.

(3) Repealed.

(4) A person shall not operate a motor vehicle with a taxicab license plate or temporary taxicab license plate unless the motor vehicle to which the plates are attached is required by subsection (2) of this section to bear taxicab license plates.

(5) If the person who owns the motor vehicle with taxicab license plates is not the person under whose authority the motor vehicle operates under article 10.1 of title 40, the person with the authority may request that the department require the plate to be replaced. Within thirty days after receiving the request, the department shall require the owner of the motor vehicle to return the taxicab license plate and be issued a new license plate. The owner of the motor vehicle shall surrender the taxicab license plate to the department within ten days after receiving notice from the department unless the owner of the motor vehicle obtains authority to operate a taxicab under part 2 or 7 of article 10.1 of title 40, either directly or as an agent, and either the person submits a verification document or the public utilities commission electronically verifies the authorization as provided in section 40-10.1-207.

(6) A person who violates this section commits a class B traffic infraction, punishable by a fine of seventy-five dollars.

(7) This section is effective January 1, 2012.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire section added, (HB 11-1234), ch. 142, p. 496, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2018:** (2) and (5) amended, (HB 18-1320), ch. 363, p. 2170, § 11, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (3) provided for the repeal of subsection (3), effective January 1, 2013. (See L. 2011, p. 496.)

#### **42-3-237. Special plates - girl scouts.**

(1) Beginning January 1, 2012, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or

noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the girl scouts centennial special license plate.

(b) The girl scouts of Colorado may design the girl scouts centennial special license plate, but the plate must conform with standards established by the department.

(3) A person may apply for a special license plate under this section if the person pays the taxes and fees required by this section.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for the issuance or replacement of each such license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized special license plates created by this section. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of special license plates created by this section for the vehicle upon paying the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized special license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of such personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for the special license plates created by this section.

(6) The department may stop issuing the girl scouts centennial special license plate if three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2017. A person who was issued the plate on or before July 1, 2017, may continue to use the plate after July 1, 2017.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire section added, (SB 11-197), ch. 291, p. 1355, § 1, effective August 10.

#### **42-3-238. Special plates - juvenile diabetes.**

(1) Beginning the earlier of January 1, 2012, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants under this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the juvenile diabetes special license plate. The department may stop issuing the juvenile diabetes special license plate if three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2014. A person may continue to use the juvenile diabetes special license plate after July 1, 2014.

(b) The juvenile diabetes research foundation may design the special license plate. The design for the special license plate must conform with standards established by the department and is subject to the department's approval.

(3) A person may apply for a juvenile diabetes special license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of each such license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized juvenile diabetes special license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of juvenile diabetes special license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized juvenile diabetes special license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of such personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire section added, (HB 11-1166), ch. 276, p. 1241, § 1, effective August 10.

#### **42-3-239. Special plates - Colorado Avalanche or Denver Nuggets.**

(1) Beginning the earlier of January 1, 2012, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants under this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the Colorado Avalanche and Denver Nuggets special license plates. The department may stop issuing either the Colorado Avalanche or Denver Nuggets special license plate if a total of three thousand license plates, of either design, are not issued by July 1, 2016. A person may continue to use either the Colorado Avalanche or Denver Nuggets special license plate after July 1, 2016.

(b) Kroenke sports charities may design the special license plates, but the design must conform with standards established by the department.

(3) (a) A person may apply for a Colorado Avalanche or Denver Nuggets special license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate, issued by Kroenke sports charities or its successor organization, confirming that the applicant has donated forty-five dollars to Kroenke sports charities.

(b) Kroenke sports charities, or its successor organization, shall file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of each such license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized Colorado Avalanche or Denver Nuggets special license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Colorado Avalanche or Denver Nuggets special license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized Colorado Avalanche or Denver Nuggets special license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire section added, (HB 11-1316), ch. 192, p. 738, § 1, effective August 10.



#### **42-3-240. Special plates - Craig hospital.**

(1) Beginning the earlier of January 1, 2012, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants under this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the Craig hospital special license plate. The department may stop issuing the Craig hospital special license plate if three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2016. A person may continue to use the Craig hospital special license plate after July 1, 2016.

(b) Craig hospital may design the special license plates, but the design must conform with standards established by the department.

(3) (a) A person may apply for a Craig hospital special license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section.

(b) Craig hospital, or its successor organization, shall file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of each such license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized Craig hospital license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue such plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Craig hospital special license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized Craig hospital special license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of such personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire section added, (HB 11-1298), ch. 251, p. 1090, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2018:** (3)(a) amended, (HB 18-1275), ch. 168, p. 1143, § 1, effective August 8.

#### **42-3-241. Special plates - Colorado Rockies.**

(1) Beginning the earlier of January 1, 2013, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants under this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the Colorado Rockies special license plate. The department may stop issuing the Colorado Rockies special license plate if a total of three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2017. A person who was issued a Colorado Rockies special license plate on or before July 1, 2017, may continue to use the Colorado Rockies special license plate after July 1, 2017, regardless of whether the department stops issuing the special license plate.

(b) The Colorado Rockies baseball club foundation may design the special license plate if the plate conforms with standards established by the department.

(3) (a) A person may apply for a Colorado Rockies special license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate, issued by the Colorado Rockies baseball club foundation, or its successor organization, confirming that the applicant has donated fifty-two dollars and eighty cents to the foundation.

(b) The Colorado Rockies baseball club foundation, or its successor organization, shall file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section are the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized Colorado Rockies special license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Colorado Rockies special license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized Colorado Rockies license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2012:** Entire section added, (HB 12-1295), ch. 89, p. 290, § 1, effective August 8.

**42-3-242. Special plates - fallen heroes.**

(1) Beginning the earlier of January 1, 2013, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants under this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the fallen heroes special license plate. The department may stop issuing the fallen heroes special license plate if a total of three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2017. A person who was issued a fallen heroes special license plate on or before July 1, 2017, may continue to use the fallen heroes special license plate after July 1, 2017, regardless of whether the department stops issuing the special license plate.

(b) The Colorado chapter of the concerns of police survivors, inc., may design the special license plate if the plate conforms with standards established by the department.

(3) (a) A person may apply for a fallen heroes license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate, issued by the Colorado chapter of the concerns of police survivors, inc., or its successor organization, confirming that the applicant has donated fifty dollars to the Colorado chapter of the concerns of police survivors, inc.

(b) The Colorado chapter of the concerns of police survivors, inc., or its successor organization, shall file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section are the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized fallen heroes special license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of fallen heroes special license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized fallen heroes special license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for

renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2012:** Entire section added, (HB 12-1023), ch. 134, p. 460, § 1, effective August 8.

#### **42-3-243. Special plates - child loss awareness.**

(1) Beginning the earlier of January 1, 2013, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to applicants under this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the child loss awareness license plate. The department may stop issuing the child loss awareness special license plate if a total of three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2017. A person who was issued a child loss awareness special license plate on or before July 1, 2017, may continue to use the child loss awareness special license plate after July 1, 2017, regardless of whether the department stops issuing the special license plate.

(b) The Rowan tree foundation may design the special license plates if the design conforms with standards established by the department.

(3) A person may apply for a child loss awareness license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section are the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized child loss awareness license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of child loss awareness license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized child loss awareness license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2012:** Entire section added, (HB 12-1131), ch. 146, p. 526, § 1, effective August 8.

**42-3-244. Special plates - flight for life Colorado.**

(1) Beginning the earlier of January 1, 2013, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants under this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the flight for life Colorado license plate. The department may stop issuing the flight for life Colorado license plate if a total of three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2017. A person who was issued a flight for life Colorado license plate on or before July 1, 2017, may continue to use the plate after July 1, 2017, regardless of whether the department stops issuing the license plate.

(b) Flight for life Colorado may design the special license plate if the plate conforms with standards established by the department.

(3) (a) A person may apply for a flight for life Colorado license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate issued by flight for life Colorado, or its successor organization, confirming that the applicant has donated twenty-five dollars to flight for life Colorado.

(b) Flight for life Colorado, or its successor organization, shall file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section are the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized flight for life Colorado license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of flight for life Colorado license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized flight for life Colorado license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for

renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2012:** Entire section added, (HB 12-1302), ch. 215, p. 926, § 1, effective August 8.

**42-3-245. Special plates - wildlife sporting.**

(1) Beginning the earlier of January 1, 2013, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants under this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight; except that the department shall not issue the license plate until the proponents comply with section 42-3-207 (6).

(2) (a) There is hereby established the wildlife sporting license plate. The department may stop issuing the license plate if a total of three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2017. A person who was issued a license plate on or before July 1, 2017, may continue to use the license plate after July 1, 2017, regardless of whether the department stops issuing the special license plate.

(b) The division of parks and wildlife may design the special license plate in consultation with sportsmen's advisory groups. The plate must conform with standards established by the department.

(3) A person may apply for a wildlife sporting license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section.

(4) (a) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees specified for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect the following fees:

(I) A one-time, twenty-five-dollar fee for issuance or replacement of the license plate, which fee the department shall transmit to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.;

(II) A one-time, ten-dollar fee for issuance or replacement of the wildlife sporting license plate, which fee the department shall transmit to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the wildlife cash fund created in section 33-1-112, C.R.S.; and

(III) An annual twenty-five-dollar renewal fee, which the department shall transmit to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the wildlife cash fund created in section 33-1-112, C.R.S.; except that the department and its authorized agents may retain the portion of the fee necessary to offset implementing this subparagraph (III), up to a maximum of two dollars.

(b) The division of parks and wildlife shall use the money from fees paid under subparagraphs (II) and (III) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) for the following purposes:

(I) Providing grants to create and enhance shooting ranges and areas throughout Colorado to increase public recreational shooting opportunities, including hunter education, marksmanship training, and youth shooting;

(II) Providing grants to local and county governments, park and recreation departments, water districts, angling organizations, and others for projects to improve fishing opportunities in Colorado.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized wildlife sporting license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of wildlife sporting license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized wildlife sporting license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2012:** Entire section added, (HB 12-1275), ch. 194, p. 773, § 1, effective August 8.  
**L. 2013:** (1) amended, (HB 13-1300), ch. 316, p. 1708, § 136, effective August 7.

#### **42-3-246. Special plates - "Protect Our Rivers".**

(1) Beginning the earlier of January 1, 2014, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants under this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the "Protect Our Rivers" license plate. The department may stop issuing the "Protect Our Rivers" license plate if three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2017. A person may continue to use the "Protect Our Rivers" license plate after July 1, 2017.

(b) Colorado trout unlimited may design the special license plates, but the design must conform with standards established by the department.

(3) (a) A person may apply for a "Protect Our Rivers" license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate, issued by Colorado trout unlimited or its successor organization, confirming that the applicant has donated twenty-five dollars to Colorado trout unlimited.

(b) Colorado trout unlimited shall file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization unless the department stops issuing the license plate pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of this section.

(c) Colorado trout unlimited shall not use any moneys from a donation made under paragraph (a) of this subsection (3) for litigation or lobbying.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section are the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of each license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized "Protect Our Rivers" license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of "Protect Our Rivers" license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized "Protect Our Rivers" license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2013:** Entire section added, (SB 13-224), ch. 245, p. 1184, § 1, effective August 7.

#### **42-3-247. Special plates - emergency medical services (EMS).**

(1) Beginning the earlier of January 1, 2015, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the EMS license plate. The department may stop issuing the EMS license plate if three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2019. A person who was issued an EMS license plate on or before July 1, 2019, may continue to use the license



plate after July 1, 2019, regardless of whether the department stops issuing the special license plate.

(b) The emergency medical services association of Colorado may design the special license plate, but the plate must conform with standards established by the department.

(3) (a) A person may apply for an EMS license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate issued by the emergency medical services association of Colorado, or its successor organization, confirming that the applicant has donated ten dollars to the emergency medical services association of Colorado.

(b) The emergency medical services association of Colorado, or its successor organization, shall file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization unless the department stops issuing the license plate.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section are the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized EMS license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of EMS license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized EMS license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2014:** Entire section added, (SB 14-036), ch. 334, p. 1486, § 1, effective August 6.

#### **42-3-248. Special plates - Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).**

(1) Beginning the later of January 1, 2016, or when the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the ALS Association has complied with section 42-3-207 (6), the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the ALS license plate. The department may stop issuing the ALS license plate if three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2020. A person who was issued an ALS license plate on or before July 1, 2020, may continue to use the license plate after July 1, 2020, regardless of whether the department stops issuing the special license plate.

(b) The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the ALS Association may design the special license plate, but the plate must conform to standards established by the department.

(3) A person may apply for an ALS license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized ALS license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of ALS license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized ALS license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2015:** Entire section added, (SB 15-229), ch. 293, p. 1195, § 1, effective August 5.

#### **42-3-249. Special plates - Rocky Mountain National Park.**

(1) Beginning the earlier of November 15, 2015, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the Rocky Mountain National Park license plate. The department may stop issuing the Rocky Mountain National Park license plate if three thousand license plates are not issued by July 1, 2020. A person who was issued a Rocky Mountain

National Park license plate on or before July 1, 2020, may continue to use the license plate after July 1, 2020, regardless of whether the department stops issuing the special license plate.

(b) The Rocky Mountain Conservancy may design the special license plate, but the plate must conform with standards established by the department.

(3) (a) At least once every five years, the department shall designate an organization to qualify applicants to be issued the Rocky Mountain National Park license plate. The organization must:

- (I) Be based in Colorado;
- (II) Have been in existence for at least ten years;
- (III) Manage a conservation program for the benefit of the park;
- (IV) Help promote the stewardship of the park;
- (V) Fund trail building and maintenance within the park;
- (VI) Provide interns or volunteers to staff visitor centers or deliver education programs to visitors; and
- (VII) Have provided at least five hundred thousand dollars' worth of support annually to the park for the last five years.

(b) A person may apply for a Rocky Mountain National Park license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate issued by the organization chosen in accordance with this subsection (3) confirming that the applicant has made a donation to the organization. The organization may establish a minimum donation amount to qualify for the plate. The amount must neither be less than twenty-five dollars nor more than seventy-five dollars. The organization shall use the donation to support Rocky Mountain National Park in a manner specified by the national park service.

(c) The organization chosen in accordance with this subsection (3) shall file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization unless the department stops issuing the license plate.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized Rocky Mountain National Park license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Rocky Mountain National Park license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2015:** Entire section added, (HB 15-1313), ch. 243, p. 898, § 1, effective August 5.

#### **42-3-250. Special plates - Pueblo chile license plate.**

(1) Beginning on the earlier of September 1, 2018, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the Pueblo chile license plate. The department may stop issuing the Pueblo chile license plate if fewer than three thousand license plates are issued by July 1, 2022. A person who was issued a Pueblo chile license plate on or before July 1, 2022, may continue to use the license plate after July 1, 2022, regardless of whether the department stops issuing the special license plate.

(b) The department shall use a design from an association of Pueblo chile growers, but the design must conform to department standards and be approved by the department.

(3) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(4) An applicant may apply for personalized Pueblo chile license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Pueblo chile license plates for the vehicle upon

paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (4) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (4) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2017:** Entire section added, (HB 17-1012), ch. 142, p. 472, § 1, effective April 18.

#### **42-3-251. Special plates - aviation license plate.**

(1) Beginning on the earlier of September 1, 2018, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the aviation license plate. The department may stop issuing the aviation license plate if fewer than three thousand license plates are issued by July 1, 2022. A person who was issued an aviation license plate on or before July 1, 2022, may continue to use the license plate after July 1, 2022, regardless of whether the department stops issuing the special license plate.

(b) The department shall use a design of the Colorado Aviation Business Association, but the design must conform to department standards and be approved by the department.

(3) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(4) An applicant may apply for personalized aviation license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of aviation license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (4) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (4) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2017:** Entire section added, (HB 17-1212), ch. 378, p. 1947, § 1, effective August 9.

**42-3-252. Special plates - childhood cancer awareness plate - short title.**

(1) The short title of this section is the "Gabriel Santistevan Childhood Cancer License Plate Act".

(2) Beginning on or before January 1, 2019, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(3) (a) There is hereby established the childhood cancer awareness license plate. The department may stop issuing the plate if fewer than three thousand plates are issued by July 1, 2023. A person who was issued a childhood cancer awareness license plate on or before July 1, 2023, may continue to use it after July 1, 2023, regardless of whether the department stops issuing the special license plate.

(b) The department shall use a design from an organization meeting the standards of subsection (4) of this section, but the design must conform to department standards and be approved by the department.

(4) (a) At least once every five years, the department shall designate an organization to qualify applicants to be issued the childhood cancer awareness license plate. The organization must:

(I) Be headquartered in Colorado;

(II) Have been in existence for at least five years;

(III) Ensure that the money from the donations required in subsection (4)(b) of this section covers costs for operations in Colorado or is spent, in accordance with subsection (4)(a)(IV) of this section, in Colorado; and

(IV) Spend at least fifty percent of the organization's revenue financially assisting:

(A) Families with minors being treated in Colorado for cancer; or

(B) Research foundations that provide money for pediatric cancer research.

(b) A person may apply for a childhood cancer awareness license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate issued by the organization chosen in accordance with this subsection (4) confirming that the applicant has made a donation to the organization. The organization may establish a

minimum donation amount to qualify for the plate. The amount must neither be less than twenty-five dollars nor more than seventy-five dollars. The organization shall use the donation to financially assist:

- (I) Families of a minor being treated in Colorado for cancer; or
- (II) Research foundations that provide money for pediatric cancer research.

(c) To qualify applicants to have a childhood cancer awareness license plate, the organization chosen in accordance with this subsection (4) must file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization unless the department stops issuing the license plate.

(5) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(6) An applicant may apply for personalized childhood cancer awareness license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of childhood cancer awareness license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (6) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (6) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2018:** Entire section added, (HB 18-1255), ch. 226, p. 1434, § 1, effective August 8.

#### **42-3-253. Special plates - Mesa Verde National Park.**

(1) The department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

- (2) (a) There is hereby established the Mesa Verde National Park license plate.

(b) The department shall use a design from an organization meeting the standards of subsection (3) of this section, but the design must conform to department standards and be approved by the department.

(3) (a) At least once every five years, the department shall designate an organization to qualify applicants to be issued the Mesa Verde National Park license plate. The organization must:

- (I) Be headquartered in Colorado;
- (II) Have been in existence for at least twenty years;
- (III) Be a nonprofit organization exempt from taxation;
- (IV) Help promote the stewardship of the park;
- (V) Fund capital improvements and other rehabilitation projects within the park;
- (VI) Help fund educational programs that promote the park's cultural and natural resources; and
- (VII) Have donated land to enlarge the park's boundaries.

(b) A person may apply for a Mesa Verde National Park license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate issued by the organization chosen in accordance with this subsection (3) confirming that the applicant has made a donation to the organization. The organization may establish a minimum donation amount to qualify for the plate. The amount must neither be less than twenty-five dollars nor more than seventy-five dollars. The organization shall use the donation to support Mesa Verde National Park in a manner specified by the national park service.

(c) To qualify applicants to have a Mesa Verde National Park license plate, the organization chosen in accordance with this subsection (3) must file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(5) A person may apply for personalized Mesa Verde National Park license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Mesa Verde National Park license plates for



the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (5) must pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2019:** Entire section added, (HB 19-1255), ch. 348, p. 3235, § 1, effective August 2.

**42-3-254. Special plates - Colorado professional fire fighters - definition.**

(1) The department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the Colorado professional fire fighters license plate.

(b) The department shall use a design from an organization meeting the standards of subsection (3) of this section, but the design must conform to department standards and be approved by the department.

(3) (a) At least once every five years, the department shall designate an organization to qualify applicants to be issued the Colorado professional fire fighters license plate. The organization must:

(I) Be headquartered in Colorado;

(II) Have been in existence for at least fifteen years;

(III) Have a minimum of three thousand members residing in Colorado;

(IV) Be a nonprofit organization exempt from taxation; and

(V) Provide aid and support, either directly or through an affiliated entity, to Colorado professional fire fighters.

(b) (I) A person may apply for a Colorado professional fire fighters license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate issued by the organization chosen in accordance with this subsection (3) confirming that the applicant has made a donation to the designated organization and that the applicant is a member in good standing of the designated organization. The organization may establish a minimum donation amount to qualify for the plate. The organization

must verify that the person requesting a certificate is or was a professional fire fighter and shall provide a certificate only to an individual who is or was a professional fire fighter.

(II) The organization chosen in accordance with this subsection (3) shall use the donation required in this subsection (3)(b) to directly aid and support first responders, fire fighters, and family members of first responders or fire fighters. The organization shall file an annual statement accounting for the collection and use of the donations.

(c) To qualify applicants to have a Colorado professional fire fighters license plate, the organization chosen in accordance with this subsection (3) must file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization.

(d) A signed affidavit, submitted under penalty of perjury, is sufficient evidence that the organization has met the minimum membership as required in subsection (3)(a)(III) of this section.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(4.5) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (4.5) is effective until January 1, 2028.]*** Notwithstanding section 42-3-115 (5)(b)(I), whenever a person who has been issued the Colorado professional fire fighters license plate transfers or assigns the person's title or interest in a motorcycle, passenger car, truck, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicle upon which the license plate is affixed, the license plate expires and the department shall not transfer the license plate to another motor vehicle. A person whose license plate expires due to the operation of this subsection (4.5) may apply again for the Colorado professional fire fighters license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and fulfills the other requirements in this section.

(4.5) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (4.5) is effective January 1, 2028.]*** Notwithstanding section 42-3-115 (5)(a), whenever a person who has been issued the Colorado professional fire fighters license plate transfers or assigns the person's title or interest in a motorcycle, passenger car, truck, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicle upon which the license plate is affixed, the license plate expires and the department shall not transfer the license plate to another motor vehicle. A person whose license plate expires due to the operation of this subsection (4.5) may apply again for the Colorado professional fire fighters license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and fulfills the other requirements in this section.

(5) The general assembly determines that the Colorado professional fire fighters license plate is a distinctive special license plate, and, therefore, section 42-3-207 (5), (6), and (7) does not apply to this section.

(6) For the purposes of this section, "professional fire fighter" means an officer of or member of the following if the officer or member receives compensation to directly end destructive fires:

- (a) A fire department; or
- (b) A fire-fighting agency of the state or of a political subdivision of the state.

**Source: L. 2019:** Entire section added, (SB 19-167), ch. 221, p. 2247, § 1, effective August 2. **L. 2021:** (3)(a)(II) amended and (3)(d) added, (HB 21-1218), ch. 120, p. 460, § 1, effective September 7. **L. 2024:** (4.5) added, (HB 24-1319), ch. 227, p. 1402, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2026:** (4.5) amended, (HB 26-1053), ch. 347, p. 2109, § 4, effective January 1, 2028.

#### **42-3-255. Special plates - support foster families.**

(1) On or after January 1, 2022, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the support foster families license plate.

(b) The department shall use a design from Foster Source, registered as a nonprofit organization under section 26 U.S.C. sec. 501 (c), but the design must conform to department standards and be approved by the department.

(3) (a) At least once every five years, the department shall designate an organization to qualify applicants to be issued the support foster families license plate. The organization must:

- (I) Be registered as a nonprofit organization under 26 U.S.C. sec. 501 (c);
- (II) Be headquartered in Colorado;
- (III) Have been in existence for at least four years;
- (IV) Have been founded by foster parents or former foster parents;
- (V) Have at least one partnership with a Colorado county or city and county; and
- (VI) Provide services to and support for foster care families in Colorado.

(b) A person may apply for a support foster families license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate issued by the organization designated under subsection (3)(a) of this section confirming that the applicant has made a donation to the organization. The organization may establish a minimum donation amount to qualify for the license plate. The organization shall use each donation to support foster care families in Colorado.

(c) To qualify applicants to have a support foster families license plate, the organization designated under subsection (3)(a) of this section must file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates issued under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plates. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(5) A person may apply for personalized support foster families license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department shall issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of support foster families license plates for the vehicle after paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who obtains personalized license plates under this subsection (5) must pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees imposed under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source:** L. 2021: Entire section added, (HB 21-1073), ch. 345, p. 2246, § 1, effective September 7.

#### **42-3-256. Special plates - hospice and palliative care.**

(1) On and after January 1, 2022, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the hospice and palliative care license plate.

(b) The department shall use a design from an organization meeting the standards of subsection (3) of this section, but the design must conform to department standards and be approved by the department.

(3) (a) At least once every five years, the department shall designate an organization to qualify applicants to be issued the hospice and palliative care license plate. The organization must:

- (I) Be incorporated or based in Colorado;
- (II) Have been in existence for at least forty years;
- (III) Hold an annual statewide hospice or palliative care conference in Colorado;
- (IV) Provide education and educational resources about Colorado hospice and palliative care to Colorado providers of care and to members of the public; and
- (V) Be a nonprofit organization, as the term is used in 26 U.S.C. sec. 501 (c)(3).

(b) (I) A person may apply for a hospice and palliative care license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate issued by the organization chosen in accordance with this subsection (3) confirming that the applicant has made a donation to the designated organization. The organization may establish a minimum donation amount to qualify for the license plate. The organization shall use each donation to support hospice and palliative care programming in Colorado.

(II) The department shall not renew the registration of a hospice and palliative care license plate unless the person who was issued the license plate meets the qualifications established by the organization chosen in accordance with this subsection (3) to renew the license plate. The organization may require specific levels of donations, not to exceed one hundred dollars, to renew the license plate.

(c) To qualify applicants to be issued a hospice and palliative care license plate, the organization chosen in accordance with this subsection (3) must file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plates. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(5) A person may apply for personalized hospice and palliative care license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates,

the department may issue the license plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of hospice and palliative care license plates for the vehicle after paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (5) must pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2021:** Entire section added, (HB 21-1128), ch. 321, p. 1971, § 1, effective September 7.

#### **42-3-257. Special plates - support pollinators.**

(1) The department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the support pollinators license plate.

(b) The department shall use a design from an organization that meets the standards of subsection (3) of this section, but the design must conform to department standards and be approved by the department.

(3) (a) At least once every five years, the department shall designate an organization to qualify applicants to be issued the support pollinators license plate. To qualify, the organization must:

- (I) Be a statewide organization headquartered in Colorado;
- (II) Have been in existence for at least five years;
- (III) Be a nonprofit organization exempt from taxation;
- (IV) Help promote the health of native pollinators, which also supports the people of the state;
- (V) Help increase native pollinator habitat, including supporting protections for pollinator habitat and health;
- (VI) Help educate the public about the value of native plants for pollinators; and
- (VII) Help fund educational programs that promote Colorado's pollinator biodiversity.

(b) A person may apply for a support pollinators license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate issued by the organization designated in accordance with this subsection (3) confirming that the applicant has made a donation to the organization. The organization shall use the donation to:

- (I) Help promote the health of native pollinators;
- (II) Help increase native pollinator habitat; and
- (III) Help fund educational programs that promote Colorado's native pollinator biodiversity.

(c) To qualify applicants to have a support pollinators license plate, the organization designated in accordance with this subsection (3) must file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(5) A person may apply for personalized support pollinators license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department shall issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of support pollinators license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (5) must pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2021:** Entire section added, (HB 21-1145), ch. 286, p. 1693, § 1, effective September 7.

#### **42-3-258. Special plates - Colorado nurses - definition.**

(1) Beginning the earlier of January 15, 2022, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with

this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the Colorado nurses license plate.

(b) The nurses foundation that satisfies all applicable requirements may design the Colorado nurses license plate, but the license plate must conform with standards established by the department.

(c) For the purposes of this section, the department shall utilize signatures collected by the Stephen T. Marchello Scholarship Foundation to satisfy the requirement described in section 42-3-207 (6) and shall apply those signatures to the application for a special group license plate by the Colorado Nurses Association.

(3) (a) A person may apply for a Colorado nurses license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate issued by the nurses foundation confirming that the applicant has made a donation to the nurses foundation in an amount that the nurses foundation may determine but that may not exceed one hundred dollars.

(b) The nurses foundation shall file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization unless the department stops issuing the Colorado nurses license plate.

(c) For each donation that the nurses foundation receives in association with the sale of a Colorado nurses license plate, the nurses foundation shall use a portion of the donation to provide scholarships to nurses from minority populations.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized Colorado nurses license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Colorado nurses license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized Colorado nurses license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.



(6) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "nurses foundation" means a Colorado-based nurses foundation that is dedicated to advancing nursing through scholarship, leadership development, and nurse recognition.

**Source:** L. 2021: Entire section added, (HB 21-1219), ch. 262, p. 1529, § 2, effective September 7.

**Cross references:** For the short title ("Councilwoman Jennifer Allen-Thomas Colorado Nurses License Plate Act") in HB 21-1219, see section 1 of chapter 262, Session Laws of Colorado 2021.

#### **42-3-259. Electric vehicle license plates.**

(1) The electric vehicle license plate is hereby established. On or after January 1, 2022, the department shall design the plate to indicate that the motor vehicle to which the plate is attached is an electric motor vehicle.

(2) (a) Upon registering an electric motor vehicle, the department shall issue electric vehicle license plates for the motor vehicle unless the owner elects to use different license plates in accordance with subsection (2)(b) of this section. An owner that is issued the plates shall display the plates on the electric motor vehicle in accordance with section 42-3-202.

(b) The owner of the electric motor vehicle may elect to use different license plates issued under this article 3 or the rules promulgated under this article 3, not including the license plates issued in accordance with section 42-3-203. If this article 3 or the rules promulgated under this article 3 require different license plates to be issued for a motor vehicle, the department shall issue the different license plates for the motor vehicle. If an electric motor vehicle is not issued electric vehicle license plates, the owner shall use the decal issued in section 42-3-304 (25) to identify the electric motor vehicle.

(3) Except as provided in section 42-3-304 (25), the amount of the taxes and fees for the electric vehicle license plates issued under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates.

(4) An owner may apply for personalized electric vehicle license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of electric vehicle license plates for the electric

motor vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. An owner that has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (4) must pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (4) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2021:** Entire section added, (HB 21-1141), ch. 339, p. 2197, § 4, effective September 7.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in HB 21-1141, see section 1 of chapter 339, Session Laws of Colorado 2021.

**42-3-260. Special plates - Special Olympics Colorado - short title - definition.**

(1) The short title of this section is the "Teri Leiker Act".

(2) Beginning on or before January 1, 2022, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(3) (a) There is hereby established the Special Olympics Colorado license plate.

(b) The department shall select a design for the Special Olympics Colorado license plate from a designated organization that meets the standards in subsection (4)(a) of this section, but the design must conform to department standards and be approved by the department.

(4) (a) At least once every five years, the department shall designate an organization that may qualify applicants to be issued the Special Olympics Colorado license plate. The organization must:

(I) Be headquartered in Colorado;

(II) Have been in existence for at least forty years;

(III) Provide year-round sports training and athletic competitions for children and adults with intellectual disabilities;

(IV) Collaborate with schools throughout Colorado to bring students together, with and without disabilities, through shared activities that include sports, leadership opportunities, and health education and fitness; and

(V) File with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization.

(b) A person may apply for a Special Olympics Colorado license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department a certificate issued by a designated organization confirming that the person has made a donation to the organization. The designated organization may establish a minimum donation amount of no less than sixty dollars and no more than one hundred dollars to qualify for the special license plate. A designated organization shall only spend the donations in Colorado to support athletes with intellectual disabilities.

(5) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the special license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(6) A qualified applicant may apply to the department for personalized Special Olympics Colorado license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the qualified applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If a qualified applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Special Olympics Colorado license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (6) must pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (6) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

(7) As used in this section, "designated organization" means an organization designated by the department that meets the criteria set forth in subsection (4)(a) of this section.

**Source: L. 2021:** Entire section added, (HB 21-1323), ch. 336, p. 2169, § 1, effective September 7.

#### **42-3-261. Special plates - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority - short title.**

(1) The short title of this section is the "Delta Sigma Theta Sorority License Plate Act".

(2) Beginning the earlier of January 1, 2023, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with

this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(3) (a) There is hereby established the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority license plate.

(b) The department shall use a design that conforms to department standards.

(4) A person may apply for the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

(5) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(6) An applicant may apply for personalized Delta Sigma Theta Sorority license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (6) must pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) to renew the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (6) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2022:** Entire section added, (HB 22-1103), ch. 269, p. 1947, § 2, effective August 10.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in HB 22-1103, see section 1 of chapter 269, Session Laws of Colorado 2022.

#### **42-3-262. Special plates - Colorado rotary - fees - definition.**

(1) Beginning on or before January 1, 2023, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with

this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the Colorado rotary license plate.

(b) The department shall use a design for the Colorado rotary license plate from the rotary districts of Colorado, but the design must conform to department standards and be approved by the department.

(3) A person qualifies for Colorado rotary license plates if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department a certificate issued by a rotary district of Colorado confirming that the person is a member in good standing.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the special license plates. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(5) A qualified applicant may apply to the department for personalized Colorado rotary license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the qualified applicant complies with section 42-3-211, except as provided in this subsection (5). If a qualified applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Colorado rotary license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed in section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

(6) As used in this section, "rotary district of Colorado" means the district of 5440, 5450, or 5470 within the Rotary International organization.

**Source: L. 2022:** Entire section added, (HB 22-1154), ch. 215, p. 1417, § 1, effective August 10.

#### **42-3-263. Special plates - CASA license plate - definition.**

(1) As used in this section, "CASA" means Court Appointed Special Advocates.

(2) Beginning on the earlier of January 1, 2023, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(3) (a) There is hereby established the CASA license plate.

(b) The department shall use a design that indicates that the owner of the vehicle supports CASA, conforms to department standards, and is approved by the department.

(4) A person may apply for a CASA license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required by this section.

(5) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(6) An applicant may apply for personalized CASA license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of CASA license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (6) must pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) to renew the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (6) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2022:** Entire section added, (HB 22-1241), ch. 319, p. 2264, § 1, effective August 10.

#### **42-3-264. Special plates - Pikes Peak international hill climb.**

(1) Beginning January 1, 2023, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the Pikes Peak international hill climb license plate.

(b) Pikes Peak International Hill Climb, registered as a nonprofit organization under 26 U.S.C. sec. 501 (c)(3), may design the special license plate, but the design must conform to standards established by the department and be approved by the department.

(3) A person may apply for a Pikes Peak international hill climb special license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required by this section.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized Pikes Peak international hill climb license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Pikes Peak international hill climb license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (5) must pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) to renew the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2022:** Entire section added, (SB 22-107), ch. 246, p. 1827, § 1, effective May 26.

#### **42-3-265. Special plates - epilepsy awareness.**

(1) On January 1, 2023, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the epilepsy awareness license plate.

(b) The department shall use a design from an organization designated under subsection (3)(a) of this section, but the design must conform to department standards and be approved by the department.

(3) (a) At least once every five years, the department shall designate an organization to qualify applicants to be issued the epilepsy awareness license plate. The organization must:

- (I) Be headquartered in Colorado;
- (II) Have been in existence for at least five years;
- (III) Be a nonprofit organization exempt from taxation;
- (IV) Provide education to the public about epilepsy, seizures, and seizure first aid care;
- (V) Offer programs for youth and adults with epilepsy; and
- (VI) Fund services and support for those affected by epilepsy in Colorado.

(b) A person may apply for an epilepsy awareness license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate issued by the organization designated under subsection (3)(a) of this section confirming that the applicant has made a donation to the organization. The organization may establish a minimum donation amount to qualify for the license plate. The organization shall use each donation to support those affected by epilepsy in Colorado.

(c) To qualify applicants to have an epilepsy awareness license plate, the organization designated under subsection (3)(a) of this section must file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized epilepsy awareness license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of epilepsy awareness license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (5) must pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) to renew the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2022:** Entire section added, (HB 22-1014), ch. 256, p. 1886, § 1, effective August 10.



**42-3-266. Special plates - one hundred fiftieth anniversary.**

(1) Beginning on or after August 1, 2023, and before August 1, 2027, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight. A person who has been issued a license plate under this section may continue to use the plate after August 1, 2027.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of statehood license plate.

(b) The department shall hold a competition to design a special license plate to commemorate the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of Colorado becoming a state. The department shall close the competition by February 1, 2023, and choose a design by March 1, 2023.

(c) A person may apply for a one hundred fiftieth anniversary of statehood license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section.

(3) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates.

(4) A qualified applicant may apply to the department for personalized one hundred fiftieth anniversary of statehood license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the qualified applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If a qualified applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of one hundred fiftieth anniversary of statehood license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (4) must pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (4) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2022:** Entire section added, (HB 22-1388), ch. 475, p. 3462, § 6, effective January 1, 2023.

**42-3-267. Special plates - "Born to Be Wild" - gray wolf conflict mitigation and prevention.**

(1) On or before January 1, 2024, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is established the "Born to Be Wild" license plate.

(b) For the "Born to Be Wild" license plate established pursuant to this section, the department shall use a design approved by the department, which design must conform to standards set by the department.

(3) A person may apply for the "Born to Be Wild" license plates if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section.

(4) (a) The amount of taxes and fees for special license plates issued pursuant to this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect the following additional fees:

(I) A one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for the issuance or replacement of the "Born to Be Wild" license plates. The department shall transmit the money from the fee collected pursuant to this subsection (4)(a) to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(II) An annual fifty dollar fee for the issuance or replacement or continued use of the "Born to Be Wild" license plates. The department shall transmit the money from the fee collected pursuant to this subsection (4)(b) to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the wildlife cash fund created in section 33-1-112.

(III) A one-time special license plate issuance fee as specified in section 42-3-312.

(b) The division of parks and wildlife shall use the money from fees paid pursuant to subsection (4)(a) of this section for nonlethal methods of mitigating and preventing conflict with gray wolves as described in section 33-1-112 (1)(c).

(5) An applicant for the "Born to Be Wild" license plates may apply for personalized "Born to Be Wild" license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of "Born to Be Wild" license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (5) must pay the annual fee imposed by section

42-3-211 (6)(b) to renew the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2023:** Entire section added, (HB 23-1265), ch. 231, p. 1215, § 2, effective August 7.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in HB 23-1265, see section 1 of chapter 231, Session Laws of Colorado 2023.

#### **42-3-268. Special plates - "In God We Trust".**

(1) Beginning on January 1, 2024, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is hereby established the "In God We Trust" license plate.

(b) The department shall design the plate in cooperation and consultation with interested persons to feature the statement "In God We Trust".

(3) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the special license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(4) An applicant may apply to the department for personalized "In God We Trust" license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of "In God We Trust" license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (4) must pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) to renew the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (4) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2023:** Entire section added, (SB 23-025), ch. 314, p. 1908, §1, effective August 7.

**42-3-269. Special plates - stegosaurus state fossil.**

(1) On January 1, 2024, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is established the stegosaurus state fossil license plate.

(b) The department shall use a design from an organization designated under subsection (3)(a) of this section, but the design must conform to department standards and be approved by the department.

(3) (a) At least once every five years, the department shall designate an organization to qualify applicants to be issued the stegosaurus state fossil license plate. The organization must:

(I) Be headquartered in Colorado;

(II) Have been in existence for at least five years;

(III) Be a nonprofit organization exempt from taxation;

(IV) Provide educational services about the science and history of dinosaurs, dinosaur fossils, and related paleontology sites in Colorado;

(V) Support the stewardship and preservation of dinosaur fossils, tracks, and other natural resources;

(VI) Manage land and paleontology sites that are registered as part of a national natural landmark; and

(VII) Have been conducting preservation, stewardship, and management of dinosaur fossils, dinosaur tracks, paleontology sites, and other natural resources for at least five years.

(b) A person may apply for a stegosaurus state fossil license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate issued by the organization designated under subsection (3)(a) of this section confirming that the applicant has made a donation to the organization. The organization may establish a minimum donation amount to qualify for the license plate. The organization shall use each donation to provide educational programs about dinosaurs to children, families, and others and preserve dinosaur fossils, dinosaur tracks, and other significant prehistoric sites in the state.

(c) To be eligible to qualify applicants for the stegosaurus state fossil license plate, the organization designated under subsection (3)(a) of this section must file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized stegosaurus state fossil license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of stegosaurus state fossil license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (5) must pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) to renew the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2023:** Entire section added, (SB 23-145), ch. 238, p. 1283, § 1, effective August 7.

#### **42-3-270. Special plates - Chicana/o license plate.**

(1) Beginning on January 1, 2025, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is established the Chicana/o license plate.

(b) The department shall design the special license plate with input from interested persons to show that the owner supports the Latin American community.

(3) (a) At least once every five years, the department shall designate one or more organizations to qualify applicants to be issued the Chicana/o license plate. An organization is eligible to be selected and retained if the organization is a nonprofit organization exempt from taxation, has a division in Colorado, and:

(I) Provides Chicana/o youth leadership training;

- (II) Promotes and facilitates access to higher education for Chicana/o students;
- (III) Provides Chicana/o youth violence prevention programs;
- (IV) Works to increase the cultural, social, political, and economic well-being of the Chicana/o community; or
- (V) Provides ethnic studies educational programs, including those related to Chicana/o history, institutional racism, and immigration.

(b) An organization chosen to qualify applicants to be issued a license plate may provide services directly or by acting as a fiscal agent by implementing a grant program to other organizations that provide services. To qualify for a grant using money raised under this section, the organization must meet the requirements established in subsection (3)(a) of this section. To implement this program as a fiscal agent making grants, the fiscal agent shall not retain or spend more than ten percent of the money raised under this section on administrative costs.

(c) A person may apply for a Chicana/o license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section and provides to the department or an authorized agent a certificate issued by the organization chosen in accordance with subsection (3)(a) of this section confirming that the applicant has made a donation to the organization. The organization may establish a minimum donation amount to qualify for the license plate. The organization shall use the donation to support Latin American communities.

(d) The organization chosen in accordance with subsection (3)(a) of this section shall file with the department an annual statement verifying that it is a nonprofit organization.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect the fee specified in section 42-3-312 and an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized Chicana/o license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Chicana/o license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (5) shall pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) for renewal of the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2024:** Entire section added, (HB 24-1105), ch. 380, p. 2572, § 1, effective August 7.

**42-3-271. Special plates - Colorado agriculture.**

(1) On January 1, 2025, or when the department is able to issue the plates, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) There is established the Colorado agriculture license plate.

(b) The department shall use a design:

(I) That includes a tagline to read "Feeding the World"; and

(II) Submitted by or developed with the Logan County Cattlewomen, but the design must conform to department standards and be approved by the department.

(3) A person may apply for a Colorado agriculture license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required under this section.

(4) The amount of the taxes and fees for special license plates under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for regular motor vehicle license plates; except that the department shall collect the fee specified in section 42-3-312 and an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the license plate. The department shall transmit the additional one-time fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

(5) An applicant may apply for personalized Colorado agriculture license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of Colorado agriculture license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person who has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (5) must pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) to renew the personalized plates. The fees under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2024:** Entire section added, (HB 24-1369), ch. 347, p. 2351, § 1, effective August 7.

**42-3-272. Special plates - wild horses - legislative declaration - repeal.**

(1) Beginning on the earlier of January 1, 2027, or when the department is able to issue the plate, the department shall issue special license plates to qualified applicants in accordance with this section for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, or noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles that do not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight.

(2) (a) The wild horse license plate is established.

(b) The department shall design the plate in cooperation and consultation with the department of agriculture to indicate that the motor vehicle to which the plate is attached is owned by a person that supports the human preservation of wild horses.

(3) (a) (I) A person may apply for a wild horse license plate if the person pays the taxes and fees required in this section and makes a donation of:

(A) On or before June 30, 2028, one hundred dollars to the wild horse fund, created in section 35-66-104, for use by the wild horse population management program established in sections 35-1-119 and 35-66-108; or

(B) On or after July 1, 2028, fifty dollars to the wild horse fund, created in section 35-66-104, for use by the wild horse population management program established in sections 35-1-119 and 35-66-108.

(II) This subsection (3)(a)(II) and subsection (3)(a)(I)(A) of this section are repealed, effective July 1, 2028.

(b) To renew a wild horse license plate, the owner must make an annual donation of fifty dollars to the wild horse fund, created in section 35-66-104.

(c) The authorized agent shall collect the donation required in subsection (3)(a) or (3)(b) of this section and transfer the donation to the department of revenue. The state treasurer shall credit the donations to the wild horse fund, created in section 35-66-104.

(d) The general assembly finds and declares that a donation received under subsection (3)(a) or (3)(b) of this section is a custodial fund and, therefore, is not subject to appropriation or to section 20 of article X of the state constitution.

(4) (a) The amount of the taxes and fees for a special license plate required under this section is the same as the amount of the taxes and fees for a regular motor vehicle license plate; except that, beginning July 1, 2028, the department shall collect the fee specified in section 42-3-312



and an additional one-time fee of twenty-five dollars for issuance or replacement of the special license plates. The state treasurer shall credit the fee to the highway users tax fund, created in section 43-4-201.

(b) (I) The executive director of the department shall notify the state treasurer of the number of wild horse license plates sold. The executive director of the department, the commissioner of agriculture, and the state treasurer shall jointly determine the frequency of the notifications.

(II) Upon receiving the notification required in subsection (4)(b)(I) of this section, the state treasurer shall transfer:

(A) Twenty-five dollars from the wild horse fund, created in section 35-66-104, to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account, created in section 42-1-211;

(B) Twenty-five dollars from the wild horse fund, created in section 35-66-104, to the highway users tax fund, created in section 43-4-201; and

(C) Fifteen dollars and ninety-four cents from the wild horse fund, created in section 35-66-104, to the license plate cash fund, created in section 42-3-301.

(III) On December 30, 2026, the state treasurer shall transfer twenty-four thousand two hundred dollars from the wild horse fund, created in section 35-66-104, to the license plate cash fund, created in section 42-3-301.

(IV) On June 30, 2028, the state treasurer shall transfer twenty-four thousand two hundred dollars from the license plate cash fund, created in section 42-3-301, to the wild horse fund, created in section 35-66-104.

(V) This subsection (4)(b) is repealed, effective July 1, 2028.

(5) An applicant may apply to the department for personalized wild horse license plates. Upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) for personalized license plates, the department may issue the plates if the applicant complies with section 42-3-211. If an applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of wild horse license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee required by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in the existing plates to the department. A person that has obtained personalized license plates under this subsection (5) must pay the annual fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(b) to renew the personalized plates. The fees assessed under this subsection (5) are in addition to all other applicable taxes and fees.

**Source: L. 2026:** Entire section added, (HB 26-1306), ch. 204, p. 1166, § 3, effective August 12.

## PART 3

### FEES AND CASH FUNDS

#### **42-3-301. License plate cash fund - license plate fees - repeal.**

(1) (a) In addition to the payment of any fees for motor vehicle registration or for the issuance of license plates, decals, or validating tabs, each owner of a motor vehicle issued a license plate, decal, or validating tab for a motor vehicle pursuant to this article shall also pay a fee to cover the direct costs of such plates, decals, or tabs. The amount of the fee imposed pursuant to this section shall be as specified in paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of this section.

(b) Fees collected pursuant to this section shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the license plate cash fund, which fund is hereby created. The fund shall be administered by the state treasurer. Moneys in the fund shall be appropriated by the general assembly for the direct costs incurred by the department in purchasing, as provided in section 17-24-109.5 (2), C.R.S., license plates, decals, and validating tabs from the division of correctional industries, referred to in this section as the "division", in the department of corrections, and issuing license plates pursuant to this article. At the end of each fiscal year, any unexpended and unencumbered moneys in the fund remain in the fund.

(c) Repealed.

(2) (a) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (2)(a) is effective until January 1, 2028.]*** The fees imposed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section are limited to the amount necessary to recover the costs of the production and distribution of any license plates, decals, or validating tabs issued pursuant to this article 3, including additional production and distribution resulting from the enactment of section 42-3-115 (5)(a) by Senate Bill 21-069, enacted in 2021, and the related support functions provided to the department of revenue by the division. The correctional industries advisory committee, established pursuant to section 17-24-104 (2), shall annually review and recommend to the director of the division the amounts of the fees to be imposed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section. The director of the division, in cooperation and consultation with the department of revenue and the office of state planning and budgeting, shall annually establish the amounts of the fees imposed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to recover the division's costs pursuant to this subsection (2).

(2) (a) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (2)(a) is effective January 1, 2028.]*** The fees imposed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section are limited to the amount necessary to recover the costs of the production and distribution of any license plates, decals, or validating tabs issued pursuant to this article 3 and the related support functions provided to the department of revenue by the division. The correctional industries advisory committee, established pursuant to section 17-24-104 (2), shall annually review and recommend to the director of the division the amounts of the fees to be imposed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section. The director of the

division, in cooperation and consultation with the department of revenue and the office of state planning and budgeting, shall annually establish the amounts of the fees imposed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to recover the division's costs pursuant to this subsection (2).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article 3, with the exception of special license plates issued pursuant to section 42-3-213 for purple heart recipients, medal of valor recipients, former prisoners of war, survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor, veterans who have disabilities, women veterans who have disabilities, or recipients of a medal of honor, the fees imposed by this subsection (2) apply to all other special license plates issued in accordance with this article 3.

(c) The department may seek and accept gifts, grants, or donations from private or public sources for the purposes of this section; except that the department may not accept a gift, grant, or donation that is subject to conditions that are inconsistent with this section or any other law of the state.

(3) (a) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the department shall not collect the fee imposed in this section for the issuance of the wild horse license plate created in section 42-3-272.

(b) This subsection (3) is repealed, effective July 1, 2028.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** (1) amended, p. 143, § 9, effective April 5; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1134, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (2)(a)(II) amended, p. 2038, § 2, effective August 7; (2)(a)(II) amended, p. 1485, § 2, effective August 7; (2)(a)(II) amended, p. 1068, § 2, effective August 7; (2)(b) amended, p. 921, § 3, effective January 1, 2007; (2)(a)(II) amended, p. 1623, § 2, effective July 1, 2007. **L. 2007:** (2)(a)(II) amended, p. 968, § 2, effective August 3; (2)(a)(II) amended, p. 2076, § 2, effective August 3. **L. 2008:** (2)(a)(II) amended, p. 2272, § 3, effective January 1, 2009. **L. 2009:** (1)(b) and (2)(a) amended, (HB 09-1133), ch. 307, p. 1654, § 1, effective August 5; (2)(a)(VIII) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1267, § 28, effective October 1. **L. 2014:** (1)(b) amended, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1551, § 18, effective June 5. **L. 2015:** (2)(c) added, (SB 15-090), ch. 334, p. 1360, § 3, see subsection (6) of the editor's note following this section. **L. 2017:** (2)(a) amended, (SB 17-031), ch. 92, p. 282, § 11, effective August 9. **L. 2021:** (2)(a) amended, (SB 21-069), ch. 419, p. 2782, § 5, effective September 7; (2)(b) amended, (SB 21-253), ch. 319, p. 1959, § 3, effective September 7. **L. 2025:** (1)(c) amended, (SB 25-293), ch. 380, p. 2114, § 1, effective June 3. **L. 2026:** (3) added, (HB 26-1306), ch. 204, p. 1168, § 4, effective August 12; (2)(a) amended, (HB 26-1053), ch. 347, p. 2110, § 6, effective January 1, 2028.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-113 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (1) was originally numbered as § 42-3-113 (6), and the amendments to it in Senate Bill 05-041 were harmonized with § 42-3-301 (1) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

(3) Amendments to subsection (2)(a)(II) by House Bill 06-1339, Senate Bill 06-080, and House Bill 06-1404 were harmonized, effective August 7, 2006, and those amendments were harmonized with Senate Bill 06-100, effective July 1, 2007.

(4) Amendments to subsection (2)(a)(II) by House Bill 07-1120 and Senate Bill 07-067 were harmonized.

(5) Amendments to subsection (2)(a)(VIII) by House Bill 09-1026 were superseded by the amendments to subsection (2)(a) in House Bill 09-1133.

(6) Section 6(1)(b) and 6(2) of chapter 334 (SB 15-090), Session Laws of Colorado 2015, provides that changes to this section by the act take effect only if the department of revenue receives enough gifts, grants, and donations for materials, start-up costs, and computer programming necessary to implement this act, and take effect January 1, 2016, only if the revisor of statutes receives written notice that such funds were received. The revisor of statutes received the required notice, dated February 12, 2016.

(7) Subsection (1)(c)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (1)(c), effective July 1, 2026. (See L. 2025, p. 2114.)

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 21-069, see section 1 of chapter 419, Session Laws of Colorado 2021.

#### **42-3-302. Special plate fees.**

(1) The fees collected pursuant to sections 42-3-213 and 42-3-217 for the issuance of a license plate pursuant to sections 42-3-213 (9) and 42-3-217 shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the license plate cash fund created in section 42-3-301.

(2) Repealed.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1135, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2017:** (2) repealed, (HB 17-1137), ch. 45, p. 136, § 8, effective August 9.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-122.5 as it existed prior to 2005.

**42-3-303. Persistent drunk driver cash fund - programs to deter persistent drunk drivers.**

(1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the persistent drunk driver cash fund, which shall be composed of moneys collected for penalty surcharges under section 42-4-1307 (10)(b). The moneys in the fund are subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly:

(a) To pay the costs incurred by the department concerning persistent drunk drivers under sections 42-2-126 (10) and 42-7-406 (1.5);

(b) To pay for costs incurred by the department for computer programing changes related to treatment compliance for persistent drunk drivers pursuant to section 42-2-144;

(c) (I) To support programs that are intended to deter persistent drunk driving or intended to educate the public, with particular emphasis on the education of young drivers, regarding the dangers of persistent drunk driving.

(II) The departments of transportation, revenue, and human services and the judicial branch shall coordinate programs intended to accomplish the goals described in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (c).

(d) On and after July 1, 2007, to pay a portion of the costs for intervention or treatment services required under sections 42-2-125, 42-2-126, 42-2-132, 42-2-132.5, and 42-4-1301.3 for a persistent drunk driver, as defined in section 42-1-102 (68.5), who is unable to pay for the required intervention or treatment services;

(e) To assist in providing court-ordered alcohol treatment programs for indigent and incarcerated offenders;

(f) To assist in providing approved ignition interlock devices, as defined in section 42-2-132.5 (9)(a), for indigent offenders; and

(g) To assist in providing continuous monitoring technology or devices for indigent offenders.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1135, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** Entire section amended, p. 1369, § 8, effective January 1, 2007. **L. 2008:** (1)(a) amended, p. 252, § 19, effective July 1. **L. 2010:** (1)(c)(II) amended and (1)(e), (1)(f), and (1)(g) added, (HB 10-1347), ch. 258, p. 1158, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2011:** IP(1) amended, (HB 11-1268), ch. 267, p. 1221, § 5, effective June 2; IP(1) amended, (HB 11-1303), ch. 264, p. 1182, § 109, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** IP(1) and (1)(f) amended, (HB 12-1168), ch. 278, p. 1484, § 7, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-130.5 as it existed prior to 2005.

**42-3-304. Registration fees - passenger-mile taxes - clean screen fund - fees - report - rules - definitions - repeal.**

(1) (a) In addition to other fees specified in this section, an applicant shall pay a motorist insurance identification fee in an amount determined by paragraph (d) of subsection (18) of this section when applying for registration or renewal of registration of a motor vehicle under this article.

(b) The following vehicles are exempt from the motorist insurance identification fee:

(I) Vehicles that are exempt from registration fees under this section or are owned by persons who have qualified as self-insured pursuant to section 10-4-624, C.R.S.

(II) Repealed.

(c) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (SB 09-274), ch. 210, p. 955, § 8, effective May 1, 2009.)

(2) With respect to passenger-carrying motor vehicles, the weight used in computing annual registration fees shall be that weight published by the manufacturer in approved manuals, and, in case of a dispute over the weight of such vehicle, the actual weight determined by weighing such vehicle on a certified scale, as provided in section 35-14-122 (6), C.R.S., shall be conclusive. With respect to all other vehicles, the weight used in computing annual registration fees shall be the empty weight, determined by weighing such vehicle on a certified scale or in the case of registration fees imposed pursuant to section 42-3-306 (5), the declared gross vehicle weight of the vehicle declared by the owner at the time of registration.

(3) No fee is payable for the annual registration of a vehicle when:

(a) The owner of the vehicle is a veteran who in an application for registration shows that the owner has established such owner's rights to benefits under the provisions of Pub.L. 79-663, as amended, and Pub.L. 82-187, as amended, or is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States who incurred a disability and who is, at the date of application, receiving compensation from the veterans administration or any branch of the armed forces of the United States for a fifty percent or more, service-connected disability, or for loss of use of one or both feet or one or both hands, or for permanent impairment or loss of vision in both eyes that constitutes virtual or actual blindness. The exemption provided in this subsection (3)(a) applies to the original qualifying vehicle and to any vehicle subsequently purchased and owned by the same veteran but does not apply to more than one vehicle at a time.

(b) Repealed.

(c) The owner of such vehicle is the state or a political or governmental subdivision thereof; but any such vehicle that is leased, either by the state or any political or governmental subdivision thereof, shall be exempt from payment of an annual registration fee only if the agreement under which it is leased has been first submitted to the department and approved, and such vehicle shall remain exempt from payment of an annual registration fee only so long as it is used and operated in strict conformity with such approved agreement.

(d) The owner of such vehicle is a former prisoner of war being issued special plates pursuant to section 42-3-213 (3) or is the surviving spouse of a former prisoner of war retaining the special plates that were issued to such former prisoner of war pursuant to section 42-3-213 (3).

(e) The owner of such vehicle is the recipient of a purple heart being issued special plates pursuant to section 42-3-213 (2).

(f) The owner of such vehicle is a recipient of a medal of honor issued special plates pursuant to section 42-3-213 (7).

(g) The owner of the vehicle is a recipient of a medal of valor and is issued special license plates pursuant to section 42-3-213 (10).

(h) The owner of the vehicle survived the attack on Pearl Harbor and is issued special license plates pursuant to section 42-3-213 (6).

(4) Upon registration, the owner of each motorcycle shall pay a surcharge of four dollars, which shall be credited to the motorcycle operator safety training fund created in section 43-5-504, C.R.S.

(5) In lieu of registering each vehicle separately, a dealer in motorcycles or autocycles shall pay to the department an annual registration fee of twenty-five dollars for the first license plate issued pursuant to section 42-3-116 (1), a fee of seven dollars and fifty cents for each additional license plate issued up to and including five plates, and a fee of ten dollars for each license plate issued in excess of five.

(6) In lieu of registering each vehicle separately:

(a) A dealer in motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers, except dealers in motorcycles or autocycles, shall pay to the department an annual fee of thirty dollars for the first license plate issued pursuant to section 42-3-116 (1), and a fee of seven dollars and fifty cents for each additional license plate issued up to and including five, and a fee of ten dollars for each license plate issued in excess of five; and

(b) A manufacturer of motor vehicles shall pay to the department an annual fee of thirty dollars for the first license plate issued pursuant to section 42-3-116 (1), and a fee of seven dollars and fifty cents for each additional license plate so issued up to and including five, and a fee of ten dollars for each additional license plate issued.

(7) (a) Every drive-away or tow-away transporter shall apply to the department for the issuance of license plates that may be transferred from one vehicle or combination to another vehicle or combination for delivery without further registration. The annual fee payable for the issuance of such plates shall be thirty dollars for the first set and ten dollars for each additional set. No transporter shall permit such license plates to be used upon a vehicle that is not in transit, or upon a work or service vehicle, including a service vehicle utilized regularly to haul vehicles, or by any other person.

(b) Each such transporter shall keep a written record of all vehicles transported, including the description thereof and the names and addresses of the consignors and consignees, and a copy of such record shall be carried in every driven vehicle; except that, when a number of vehicles are being transported in convoy, such copy, listing all the vehicles in the convoy, may be carried in only the lead vehicle in the convoy.

(c) This subsection (7) shall not apply to a nonresident engaged in interstate or foreign commerce if such nonresident is in compliance with the in-transit laws of the state of his or her residence and if such state grants reciprocal exemption to Colorado residents. The department may enter into reciprocal agreements with any other state or states containing such reciprocal exemptions or may issue written declarations as to the existence of any such reciprocal agreements.

(8) (a) Subsections (5), (6)(a), and (7) of this section shall not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer operated by a dealer or transporter for such dealer's or transporter's private use or to a motor vehicle bearing full-use dealer plates issued pursuant to section 42-3-116 (6)(d).

(b) Paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of this section shall only apply to a motor vehicle if owned and operated by a manufacturer, a representative of a manufacturer, or a person so authorized by the manufacturer. A motor vehicle bearing manufacturer plates shall be of a make and model of the current or a future year and shall have been manufactured by or for the manufacturer to which such plates were issued.

(9) In addition to the registration fees imposed by section 42-3-306 (4)(a), the following additional registration fee shall be imposed on such vehicles:

(a) For farm trucks less than seven years old, twelve dollars;

(b) For farm trucks seven years old but less than ten years old, ten dollars;



(c) For farm trucks ten years old or older, seven dollars.

(10) (a) In addition to the registration fees imposed by section 42-3-306 (5)(a) and (13), for motor vehicles described in section 42-3-306 (5)(a) and (13), the following additional registration fee shall be imposed:

(I) For light trucks and recreational vehicles less than seven years old, twelve dollars;

(II) For light trucks and recreational vehicles seven years old but less than ten years old, ten dollars;

(III) For light trucks and recreational vehicles ten years old or older, seven dollars.

(b) In addition to the registration fees imposed by section 42-3-306 (5)(b), (5)(c), or (12)(b), an additional registration fee of ten dollars shall be assessed.

(c) The department shall adopt rules that allow a vehicle owner or a vehicle owner's agent to apply for apportioned registration for a vehicle that is used in interstate commerce and that qualifies for the registration fees provided in section 42-3-306 (5). In establishing the amount of such apportioned registration, such rules shall take into account the length of time such item may be operated in Colorado or the number of miles such item may be driven in Colorado. The apportioned registration, if based upon the length of time such item may be operated in Colorado, shall be valid for a period of between two and eleven months. Such rules shall also allow for extensions of apportioned registration periods. During such rule-making, the department shall confer with its authorized agents regarding enhanced communications with the authorized agents and the coordination of enforcement efforts.

(11) The additional fees collected pursuant to section 42-3-306 (2)(b)(II) and subsection (9) of this section and paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (10) of this section shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund to be allocated pursuant to section 43-4-205 (6)(b), C.R.S.

(12) An owner or operator that desires to make an occasional trip into this state with a truck, truck tractor, trailer, or semitrailer that is registered in another state shall obtain a permit from the public utilities commission as provided in article 10.1 of title 40, C.R.S. This subsection (12) does not apply to the vehicles of a public utility that are temporarily in this state to assist in the construction, installation, or restoration of utility facilities used in serving the public.

(13) In addition to the annual registration fees prescribed in this section for vehicles with a seating capacity of more than fourteen and operated for the transportation of passengers for compensation, the owner or operator of every such vehicle operated over the public highways of this state shall pay a passenger-mile tax equal to one mill for each passenger transported for a distance of one mile. The tax shall be credited to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S., as required by section 43-4-203 (1)(c), C.R.S., and allocated and expended as

specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(d), C.R.S. The tax assessed by this subsection (13) shall not apply to passenger service rendered within the boundaries of a city, city and county, or incorporated town by a company engaged in the mass transportation of persons by buses or trolley coaches.

(14) (a) The owner or operator of special mobile machinery having an empty weight not in excess of sixteen thousand pounds that the owner or operator desires to operate over the public highways of this state shall register such vehicle under section 42-3-306 (5)(a).

(b) The owner or operator of special mobile machinery with an empty weight exceeding sixteen thousand pounds that the owner or operator desires to operate over the public highways of this state shall register the vehicle under section 42-3-306 (5)(b).

(15) The owner of special mobile machinery, except that mentioned in sections 42-1-102 (44) and 42-3-104 (3), that is not registered for operation on the highway shall pay a fee of one dollar and fifty cents, which shall not be subject to any quarterly reduction.

(16) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a farmer or rancher from occasionally exchanging transportation with another farmer or rancher when the sole consideration involved is the exchange of personal services and the use of vehicles.

(17) (a) (I) The owner shall present to the authorized agent a certified scale ticket showing the weight of a truck if the truck:

(A) Is subject to the registration fee imposed in section 42-3-306 (5);

(B) Weighs more than four thousand five hundred pounds but not more than ten thousand pounds; and

(C) Has been modified, including mounting equipment other than recreational equipment, and the modifications change the truck's weight by three hundred pounds or more.

(II) The owner of a truck shall present to the authorized agent a manufacturer's certificate of origin, a certificate of title, a certified scale ticket, or other approved document or system, as any of these options is required or authorized by rule, if the truck:

(A) Is subject to the registration fee imposed in section 42-3-306 (5);

(B) Weighs more than four thousand five hundred pounds but not more than ten thousand pounds; and

(C) Has not been modified to change the truck's weight by three hundred pounds or more.

(b) The department shall furnish appropriate identification, by means of tags or otherwise, to indicate that a vehicle registered under this section is not subject to clearance by a port of entry weigh station.

(18) (a) In addition to any other fee imposed by this section, the owner shall pay, at the time of registration, a fee of fifty cents on every item of Class A, B, or C personal property required to be registered pursuant to this article 3. The fee shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to a special account within the highway users tax fund, to be known as the AIR account, and such money shall be used, subject to appropriation by the general assembly, to cover the direct costs of the motor vehicle emissions activities of the department of public health and environment in the presently defined nonattainment area and to pay for the costs of the air quality control commission in performing its duties under section 25-7-106.3. In the program areas within counties affected by this article 3, the authorized agent shall impose and retain an additional fee of up to seventy cents on every such registration to cover reasonable costs of administration of the emissions compliance aspect of vehicle registration. The department of public health and environment may accept and expend grants, gifts, and money from any source for the purpose of implementing its duties and functions under this section or section 25-7-106.3.

(a.5) (I) For state fiscal years commencing on or before July 1, 2024, and on or after July 1, 2026, the state treasurer shall credit all interest and income derived from the AIR account to the AIR account.

(II) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(e) of this section to the contrary, for the state fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2025, in accordance with section 24-36-114 (1), the state treasurer shall credit all interest and income derived from the deposit and investment of money in the AIR account to the general fund.

(III) Repealed.

(b) In addition to any other fee imposed by this section, at the time of registration of any motor vehicle in the program area subject to inspection and not exempt from registration, the owner shall pay a fee of one dollar and fifty cents. Such fee shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the AIR account within the highway users tax fund, and such moneys shall be expended only to cover the costs of administration and enforcement of the automobile inspection and readjustment program by the department of revenue and the department of public health and environment, upon appropriation by the general assembly. For such purposes, the revenues attributable to one dollar of such fee shall be available for appropriation to the department of revenue, and the revenues attributable to the remaining fifty cents of such fee shall be available for appropriation to the department of public health and environment.

(c) There shall be established two separate subaccounts within the AIR account, one for the revenues available for appropriation to the department of public health and environment pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection (18) and one for the revenues available for appropriation to the department of revenue pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (18) and section 42-4-305. After the state treasurer transfers moneys in the department of revenue

subaccount to the department of revenue equal to the amount appropriated to the department of revenue from the AIR account for the fiscal year, the state treasurer shall transfer from the balance in the department of revenue subaccount to the department of public health and environment subaccount any amount needed to cover appropriations made to the department of public health and environment from the AIR account for that fiscal year for the administration and enforcement of the automobile inspection and readjustment program. Transfers from the department of revenue subaccount to the department of public health and environment subaccount shall be made on a monthly basis after the transfers to the department of revenue equal to the department of revenue's appropriation for that fiscal year have been made. The state treasurer shall not transfer to the department of public health and environment an amount that exceeds the amount of the appropriation made to the department of public health and environment from the AIR account for the fiscal year. Any transfer made pursuant to this paragraph (c) shall be subject to any limits imposed or appropriations made by the general assembly for other purposes and any limitations imposed by section 18 of article X of the state constitution.

(d) (I) (A) Repealed.

(B) In addition to any other fee imposed by this section, the owner, in order to register a motor vehicle or low-power scooter, must pay a motorist insurance identification fee. The department shall annually adjust the fee based upon appropriations made by the general assembly for the operation of the motorist insurance identification database program. The department shall transmit the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2). This subsection (18)(d)(I)(B) takes effect July 1, 2019.

(II) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (SB 09-274), ch. 210, p. 955, § 8, effective May 1, 2009; (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1268, § 30, effective July 1, 2010.)

(e) (I) On July 1, 2026, the state treasurer shall transfer five thousand six hundred seventy-four dollars from the AIR account's subaccount available for appropriation to the department of public health and environment under subsections (18)(a) and (18)(b) of this section to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211.

(II) This subsection (18)(e) is repealed, effective July 1, 2027.

(19) (a) If the air quality control commission determines pursuant to section 42-4-306 (23)(b) to implement an expanded clean screen program in the enhanced emissions program area, on and after the specific dates determined by the commission for each of the following subparagraphs:

(I) In addition to any other fee imposed by this section, authorized agents, acting as agents for the clean screen authority, shall collect at the time of registration an emissions inspection fee

in an amount determined by section 42-4-311 (6)(a) on every motor vehicle that the department of revenue has determined from data provided by its contractor to have been clean screened; except that the motorist need not pay the emissions inspection fee if the authorized agent determines that a valid certification of emissions compliance has already been issued for the vehicle being registered indicating that the vehicle passed the applicable emissions test at an enhanced inspection center, inspection and readjustment station, motor vehicle dealer test facility, or fleet inspection station.

(II) Authorized agents may retain three and one-third percent of the fee so collected to cover the agent's expenses in the collection and remittance of the fee. County treasurers shall, no later than ten days after the last business day of each month, remit the remainder of the fee to the clean screen authority created in section 42-4-307.5. The clean screen authority shall transmit the fee to the state treasurer, who shall deposit the remainder in the clean screen fund, which fund is hereby created. The clean screen fund is a pass-through trust account to be held in trust solely for the purposes and the beneficiaries specified in this subsection (19). Money in the clean screen fund is not fiscal year spending of the state for purposes of section 20 of article X of the state constitution and is a custodial fund that is not subject to appropriation by the general assembly. Interest earned from the deposit and investment of money in the clean screen fund shall be credited to the clean screen fund, and the clean screen authority may also expend interest earned on the deposit and investment of the clean screen fund to pay for its costs associated with the implementation of House Bill 01-1402, enacted at the first regular session of the sixty-third general assembly. The clean screen authority may also expend interest earned on the deposit and investment of the clean screen fund to pay for its costs associated with the implementation of House Bill 06-1302, enacted at the second regular session of the sixty-fifth general assembly.

(III) The clean screen authority shall transmit moneys from the clean screen fund monthly to the contractor in accordance with the fees determined by section 42-4-311 (6)(a) within one week after receipt by the authority from the department of revenue of a notification of the number of registrations of clean-screened vehicles during the previous month.

(IV) Repealed.

(b) In specifying dates for the implementation of the clean screen program pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (19), the commission may specify different dates for the enhanced and basic emissions program areas.

(c) This subsection (19) shall not apply to El Paso county if the commission has excluded such county from the clean screen program pursuant to section 42-4-306 (23)(a).

(d) Any moneys remaining in the clean screen fund upon termination of the AIR program shall revert to the AIR account established in paragraph (a) of subsection (18) of this section.

(20) In addition to any other fee imposed by this section, there shall be collected, at the time of registration, a fee of ten dollars on every light- and heavy-duty diesel-powered motor vehicle in the program area registered pursuant to this article in Colorado. Such fee shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the AIR account in the highway users tax fund, and such moneys shall be used, subject to appropriation by the general assembly, to cover the costs of the diesel-powered motor vehicle emissions control activities of the departments of public health and environment and revenue.

(21) In order to promote an effective emergency medical network and thus the maintenance and supervision of the highways throughout the state, in addition to any other fees imposed by this section, there shall be assessed an additional fee of two dollars at the time of registration of any motor vehicle. Such fee shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the emergency medical services account created by section 25-3.5-603, C.R.S., within the highway users tax fund.

(22) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (22) is effective until July 1, 2027.]*** In addition to any other fees imposed by this section, the authorized agent may collect and retain, and an applicant for registration shall pay at the time of registration, a reasonable fee, as determined from time to time by the authorized agent, that approximates the direct and indirect costs incurred, not to exceed five dollars, by the authorized agent in shipping and handling those license plates that the applicant has, pursuant to section 42-3-105 (1)(a), requested that the department mail to the owner.

(22) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (22) is effective July 1, 2027.]*** In addition to any other fees imposed by this section, an authorized agent may collect and retain, and an applicant for registration must pay at the time of registration, a fee, as determined by the authorized agent, that is necessary to recover the direct costs incurred by the authorized agent in shipping and handling motor vehicle documents or license plates that the applicant has requested that the department or authorized agent mail to the owner. On an annual basis, an authorized agent may, on or before October 15, calculate and publish on county public-facing media the fee that applies to the registration period beginning January 1 of the following year.

(23) Repealed.

(24) In addition to any other fee imposed by this section, at the time of registration, the owner shall pay a fee of one dollar on every item of Class A, B, or C personal property required to be registered by this article. Notwithstanding section 43-4-203, the department shall transmit the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the peace officers standards and training board cash fund, created in section 24-31-303 (2)(b); except that authorized agents may retain five percent of the fee collected to cover the agents' expenses in the collection and remittance of the fee. All of the money in the fund that is collected under this subsection (24) shall be used by the peace officers standards and training board for the purposes specified in section 24-31-310.

(25) (a) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (25)(a) is effective unless an initiative that amends the state constitution to change existing law on transportation funding and to increase the amount of state revenue dedicated to road transportation is approved by the people at the next general election. See the editor's note following this section.]*** In addition to any other fee imposed by this section, for registration periods beginning during state fiscal years prior to state fiscal year 2022-23, each authorized agent shall annually collect a fee of fifty dollars at the time of registration on every electric motor vehicle. For registration periods beginning during state fiscal year 2022-23 or during any subsequent state fiscal year, each authorized agent shall continue to collect the fee, and the amount of the fee for registration periods beginning during any given state fiscal year is the amount of the fee collected for registration periods beginning during the prior state fiscal year, adjusted for inflation; except that an adjustment shall be made only if the rate of inflation is positive and the adjustment must be the lesser of the actual rate of inflation or five percent. The department of revenue shall annually calculate the inflation-adjusted amount of the fee for registration periods beginning during each state fiscal year and shall publish the amount no later than April 15 of the calendar year in which the state fiscal year begins. The authorized agent shall transmit the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit thirty dollars, adjusted for inflation, of each fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, and twenty dollars, adjusted for inflation, of each fee to the electric vehicle grant fund created in section 24-38.5-103.

(25) (a) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (25)(a) is effective only if an initiative that amends the state constitution to change existing law on transportation funding and to increase the amount of state revenue dedicated to road transportation is approved by the people at the next general election. See the editor's note following this section.]***

(I) In addition to any other fee imposed by this section, for registration periods beginning during state fiscal years prior to state fiscal year 2022-23, each authorized agent shall annually collect a fee of fifty dollars at the time of registration on every electric motor vehicle. For registration periods beginning during state fiscal year 2022-23 or during any subsequent state fiscal year, each authorized agent shall continue to collect the fee, and the amount of the fee for registration periods beginning during any given state fiscal year is the amount of the fee collected for registration periods beginning during the prior state fiscal year, adjusted for inflation; except that an adjustment shall be made only if the rate of inflation is positive and the adjustment must be the lesser of the actual rate of inflation or five percent. The department of revenue shall annually calculate the inflation-adjusted amount of the fee for registration periods beginning during each state fiscal year and shall publish the amount no later than April 15 of the calendar year in which the state fiscal year begins. The authorized agent shall transmit the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit thirty dollars, adjusted for inflation, of each fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, and twenty dollars, adjusted for inflation, of each fee to the electric vehicle grant fund created in section 24-38.5-103.

(II) (A) Notwithstanding subsection (25)(a)(I) of this section, the fee imposed in subsection (25)(a)(I) of this section is set at the following amounts during the following fiscal years beginning on January 1, 2027:

| <b>Fiscal Year</b> | <b>Fee</b> |
|--------------------|------------|
| 2026-27            | \$38.35    |
| 2027-28            | \$39.50    |
| 2028-29            | \$40.68    |
| 2029-30            | \$41.91    |

(B) This subsection (25)(a)(II) is repealed, effective July 1, 2031.

(a.5) (I) In addition to any other fee imposed by this section, including the fee imposed by subsection (25)(a) of this section, for registration periods beginning during state fiscal year 2022-23 or during any subsequent state fiscal year, each authorized agent shall annually collect an electric motor vehicle road usage equalization fee at the time of registration on every battery electric motor vehicle as specified in subsections (25)(a.5)(II) and (25)(a.5)(III) of this section and on every plug-in hybrid electric motor vehicle as specified in subsections (25)(a.5)(IV) and (25)(a.5)(V) of this section. The authorized agent shall transmit the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the highway users tax fund for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (6.8).

(II) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (25)(a.5)(II) is effective unless an initiative that amends the state constitution to change existing law on transportation funding and to increase the amount of state revenue dedicated to road transportation is approved by the people at the next general election. See the editor's note following this section.]* For registration periods beginning during state fiscal years 2022-23 through 2031-32, the amount of the electric motor vehicle road usage equalization fee for a battery electric motor vehicle is as follows:

| <b>Fiscal Year</b> | <b>Fee</b> |
|--------------------|------------|
| 2022-23            | \$4        |
| 2023-24            | \$8        |



|         |      |
|---------|------|
| 2024-25 | \$12 |
| 2025-26 | \$16 |
| 2026-27 | \$26 |
| 2027-28 | \$36 |
| 2028-29 | \$51 |
| 2029-30 | \$66 |
| 2030-31 | \$81 |
| 2031-32 | \$96 |

(II) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (25)(a.5)(II) is effective only if an initiative that amends the state constitution to change existing law on transportation funding and to increase the amount of state revenue dedicated to road transportation is approved by the people at the next general election. See the editor's note following this section.]* For registration periods beginning during state fiscal years 2022-23 through 2031-32, the amount of the electric motor vehicle road usage equalization fee for a battery electric motor vehicle is as follows:

| <b>Fiscal Year</b>                   | <b>Fee</b> |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 2022-23                              | \$4        |
| 2023-24                              | \$8        |
| 2024-25                              | \$12       |
| 2025-26                              | \$16       |
| 2026-27 before January 1, 2027       | \$26       |
| 2026-27 on and after January 1, 2027 | \$16.12    |
| 2027-28                              | \$22.32    |
| 2028-29                              | \$31.62    |

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 2029-30 | \$40.92 |
| 2030-31 | \$81    |
| 2031-32 | \$96    |

(III) For registration periods beginning during state fiscal year 2032-33 or during any subsequent state fiscal year, the amount of the electric motor vehicle road usage equalization fee for a battery electric motor vehicle is the amount of the fee for registration periods beginning during the prior state fiscal year, adjusted for inflation; except that an adjustment shall be made only if the rate of inflation is positive and the adjustment must be the lesser of the actual rate of inflation or five percent. The department of revenue shall annually calculate the inflation adjusted amount of the electric motor vehicle road usage equalization fee for a battery electric motor vehicle for registration periods beginning during each state fiscal year and shall notify authorized agents of the amount no later than the May 1 of the calendar year in which the state fiscal year begins.

(IV) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (25)(a)(IV) is effective unless an initiative that amends the state constitution to change existing law on transportation funding and to increase the amount of state revenue dedicated to road transportation is approved by the people at the next general election. See the editor's note following this section.]* For registration periods beginning during state fiscal years 2022-23 through 2031-32, the amount of the electric motor vehicle road usage equalization fee for a plug-in hybrid electric motor vehicle is:

| <b>Fiscal Year</b> | <b>Fee</b> |
|--------------------|------------|
| 2022-23            | \$3        |
| 2023-24            | \$5        |
| 2024-25            | \$8        |
| 2025-26            | \$11       |
| 2026-27            | \$13       |
| 2027-28            | \$16       |
| 2028-29            | \$19       |

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| 2029-30 | \$21 |
| 2030-31 | \$24 |
| 2031-32 | \$27 |

(IV) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (25)(a)(IV) is effective only if an initiative that amends the state constitution to change existing law on transportation funding and to increase the amount of state revenue dedicated to road transportation is approved by the people at the next general election. See the editor's note following this section.]*** For registration periods beginning during state fiscal years 2022-23 through 2031-32, the amount of the electric motor vehicle road usage equalization fee for a plug-in hybrid electric motor vehicle is:

| <b>Fiscal Year</b>                   | <b>Fee</b> |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 2022-23                              | \$3        |
| 2023-24                              | \$5        |
| 2024-25                              | \$8        |
| 2025-26                              | \$11       |
| 2026-27 before January 1, 2027       | \$13       |
| 2026-27 on and after January 1, 2027 | \$8.06     |
| 2027-28                              | \$9.92     |
| 2028-29                              | \$11.78    |
| 2029-30                              | \$13.12    |
| 2030-31                              | \$24       |
| 2031-32                              | \$27       |

(V) For registration periods beginning during state fiscal year 2032-33 or during any subsequent state fiscal year, the amount of the electric motor vehicle road usage equalization fee for a plug-in hybrid electric motor vehicle is the amount of the fee for registration periods commencing during the prior state fiscal year, adjusted for inflation; except that an adjustment shall be made only if the rate of inflation is positive and the adjustment must be the lesser of the actual rate of inflation or five percent. The department of revenue shall calculate the inflation adjusted amount of the electric motor vehicle road usage equalization fee for a plug-in hybrid electric motor vehicle for registration periods beginning during each state fiscal year and shall notify authorized agents of the amount no later than the May 1 of the calendar year in which the state fiscal year begins.

(a.6) Because the electric motor vehicle fee imposed pursuant to subsection (25)(a) of this section and the electric motor vehicle road usage equalization fee imposed pursuant to subsection (25)(a.5) of this section are intended to equalize the average aggregate amount of registration fees and motor fuel charges annually paid by owners of electric motor vehicles and owners of motor vehicles powered exclusively by internal combustion engines, and because motor fuel charges are paid throughout the year rather than at the time of annual motor vehicle registration, the department shall implement a pilot program to allow fees imposed pursuant to this subsection (25) to be paid on an automated prorated quarterly basis. After evaluating the success of the pilot program after the second year of implementation, the department shall make the pilot program permanent unless there is compelling evidence that the pilot program has not been successful. The department may promulgate rules to implement this subsection (25)(a.6).

(a.7) (I) In lieu of any other fee imposed by this subsection (25), for registration periods beginning during state fiscal year 2022-23 or during any subsequent state fiscal year, each authorized agent shall annually collect a commercial electric motor vehicle road usage equalization fee in the amount specified in subsection (25)(a.7)(II) or (25)(a.7)(III) of this section. The authorized agent shall transmit the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it as specified in subsection (25)(a.7)(IV) of this section.

(II) For registration periods beginning during state fiscal year 2022-23, the amount of the commercial electric motor vehicle road usage equalization fee is:

(A) Fifty dollars for a commercial electric motor vehicle that weighs more than ten thousand pounds but not more than sixteen thousand pounds;

(B) One hundred dollars for a commercial electric motor vehicle that weighs more than sixteen thousand pounds but not more than twenty-six thousand pounds; and

(C) One hundred fifty dollars for a commercial electric motor vehicle that weighs more than twenty-six thousand pounds.

(III) For registration periods beginning during state fiscal year 2023-24 or during any subsequent state fiscal year, the amount of the commercial electric motor vehicle road usage equalization fee is the amount of the fee for registration periods commencing during the prior state fiscal year, adjusted for inflation; except that an adjustment shall be made only if the rate of inflation is positive and the adjustment must be the lesser of the actual rate of inflation or five percent. The department of revenue shall calculate the inflation adjusted amount of the commercial electric motor vehicle road usage equalization fee for a commercial electric motor vehicle for registration periods beginning during each state fiscal year and shall notify authorized agents of the amount no later than the May 1 of the calendar year in which the state fiscal year begins.

(IV) The state treasurer shall credit fee revenue collected pursuant to this subsection (25)(a.7) as follows:

(A) Seventy percent to the highway users tax fund for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (6.8); and

(B) Thirty percent to the state highway fund created in section 43-1-219 for the purpose of funding freight-related projects that ease effective, efficient, and safe freight transport.

(a.8) During the 2026 legislative interim, the Colorado energy office, the department of transportation, and the department of public health and environment, after consulting with the community access enterprise created in section 24-38.5-303 (1), the clean fleet enterprise created in section 25-7.5-103 (1)(a), the clean transit enterprise created in section 43-4-1203 (1)(a), and the nonattainment area air pollution mitigation enterprise created in section 43-4-1303 (1)(a), shall jointly complete a written report and present the report at a hearing of the transportation legislation review committee created in section 43-2-145 (1)(a). The report shall detail progress on all projects completed or undertaken using funding provided pursuant to Senate Bill 21-260, enacted in 2021, identify other projects expected to be completed in the next five years, specifically document the use of general fund money provided pursuant to Senate Bill 21-260, enacted in 2021, and make recommendations as to whether additional general fund money should be provided for similar uses in light of current economic conditions, inflation, and other project completion cost factors, and available state revenue. The report shall also include the joint recommendations of the office and the departments as to whether, beginning in state fiscal year 2027-28 or a later state fiscal year, the amount of any or all of the fees imposed by this subsection (25) should be adjusted or, due to increased use of such motor vehicles, fees should also be imposed on hydrogen fuel cell motor vehicles that are powered by electricity produced from a fuel cell that uses hydrogen gas as fuel to ensure that the goal of equalizing the average aggregate amount of registration fees and motor fuel charges annually paid by owners of electric motor vehicles and owners of motor vehicles powered exclusively by internal combustion engines continues to be realized. When developing their recommendations regarding the fees, the office and the departments shall take into account, at a minimum, the most recent available

reliable data on current average fuel efficiency and current fuel efficiency for the most fuel-efficient motor vehicles for the Colorado light-duty and commercial motor vehicle fleets or, if Colorado data is not available, the United States light-duty and commercial motor vehicle fleets, and the most recent available reliable projections of future average fuel efficiency and future fuel efficiency for the most fuel-efficient motor vehicles for the Colorado light-duty and commercial motor vehicle fleets or, if Colorado data is not available, for the United States light-duty and commercial motor vehicle fleets. To the extent feasible based on the data available, analysis of commercial motor vehicle fleet data shall account separately for different categories or weight classes of commercial motor vehicles.

(a.9) As used in this subsection (25), unless the context otherwise requires:

(I) "Battery electric motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle that is powered exclusively by a rechargeable battery pack that can be recharged by being plugged into an external source of electricity and that has no secondary source of propulsion.

(II) "Commercial electric motor vehicle" means an electric motor vehicle that is a commercial vehicle.

(III) "Electric motor vehicle" means a battery electric motor vehicle and a plug-in hybrid electric motor vehicle.

(IV) "Inflation" means the average annual percentage change in the United States department of transportation, federal highway administration, national highway construction cost index or its applicable predecessor or successor index for the five-year period ending on the last December 31 before a state fiscal year for which an annual inflation adjustment to the amount of any fee imposed pursuant to this subsection (25) is to be made begins.

(V) "Plug-in hybrid electric motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle that is powered by both a rechargeable battery pack that can be recharged by being plugged into an external source of electricity and a secondary source of propulsion such as an internal combustion engine.

(b) The department of revenue shall create an electric vehicle decal, which an authorized agent shall give to each person that pays the fees charged under subsections (25)(a), (25)(a.5), and (25)(a.7) of this section and that is not issued an electric vehicle license plate under section 42-3-259 for the electric motor vehicle. The decal must be attached to the upper right-hand corner of the front windshield on the motor vehicle for which it was issued. If there is a change of vehicle ownership, the decal is transferable to the new owner.

(c) Repealed.

**Source: L. 2005:** (13) and (18)(d)(I) amended, p. 145, § 21, effective April 5; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1136, § 2, effective August 8; (18)(c) amended, p. 328, § 1,

effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (10)(b) amended, p. 1511, § 71, effective June 1; (1)(c) amended, p. 1011, § 5, effective July 1; (19)(a)(I), (19)(a)(II), and (19)(d) amended and (19)(a)(IV) added, p. 1030, §§ 12, 11, effective July 1; (3)(g) and (3)(h) added, p. 921, § 4, effective January 1, 2007. **L. 2009:** (1)(c) and (18)(d) amended, (SB 09-274), ch. 210, p. 955, § 8, effective May 1; (21) amended, (SB 09-002), ch. 277, p. 1242, § 1, effective May 19; (24) amended, (HB 09-1036), ch. 300, p. 1601, § 1, effective July 1; (4), (5), and (6)(a) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1268, § 29, effective October 1; (18)(d) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1268, § 30, effective July 1, 2010. **L. 2010:** (18)(d)(I) amended, (HB 10-1387), ch. 205, p. 890, § 7, effective May 5; (18)(d)(I) amended, (HB 10-1341), ch. 285, p. 1336, § 1, effective May 26; (2), IP(9), IP(10)(a), (10)(b), (10)(c), (11), (14), and (17)(a) amended and (23) repealed, (SB 10-212), ch. 412, pp. 2036, 2032, § 12, 1, effective July 1; (14) and (15) amended, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1491, § 11, effective October 1. **L. 2011:** IP(18)(d)(I) amended, (HB 11-1182), ch. 124, p. 387, § 1, effective April 22; (1)(b)(II) repealed, (HB 11-1004), ch. 136, p. 475, § 2, effective August 10; (12) amended, (HB 11-1198), ch. 127, p. 425, § 24, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** (18)(d)(I) amended, (HB 12-1216), ch. 80, p. 267, § 6, effective July 1; (19)(a)(I) amended and (19)(a)(IV) repealed, (SB 12-034), ch. 107, p. 362, § 1, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** (25) added, (HB 13-1110), ch. 225, p. 1064, § 12, effective January 1, 2014. **L. 2014:** (25)(c)(II) amended, (HB 14-1027), ch. 6, p. 88, § 1, effective February 19; (18)(d)(I) amended, (SB 14-194), ch. 346, p. 1551, § 19, effective June 5; (24) amended, (SB 14-123), ch. 246, p. 946, § 3, effective August 6. **L. 2017:** (18)(d)(I), IP(19)(a), (19)(a)(I), (19)(a)(II), (24), (25)(a), and (25)(b) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 369, § 17, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** (18)(d)(I) amended, (SB 18-253), ch. 293, p. 1799, § 3, effective May 29. **L. 2019:** (25)(c) repealed, (HB 19-1298), ch. 384, p. 3438, § 2, effective August 2. **L. 2021:** (25)(a) and (25)(b) amended and (25)(a.5), (25)(a.6), (25)(a.7), (25)(a.8), and (25)(a.9) added, (SB 21-260), ch. 250, p. 1407, § 26, effective June 17; (25)(b) amended, (HB 21-1141), ch. 339, p. 2198, § 5, effective September 7. **L. 2022:** (17)(a) amended, (SB 22-108), ch. 63, p. 318, § 1, effective August 10; IP(17)(a)(II) amended, (HB 22-1388), ch. 475, p. 3463, § 7, effective August 10; (5) and (6)(a) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2583, § 10, effective January 1, 2023. **L. 2025:** (18)(a) amended and (18)(a.5) added, (SB 25-317), ch. 385, p. 2167, § 52, effective June 3; (18)(e) added, (SB 25-321), ch. 387, p. 2178, § 8, effective June 3; IP(3) and (3)(a) amended and (3)(b) repealed, (HB 25-1076), ch. 16, p. 62, § 7, effective August 6; (22) amended, (HB 25-1189), ch. 395, p. 2227, § 3, effective July 1, 2027. **L. 2026:** (25)(a), (25)(a.5)(II), and (25)(a.5)(IV) amended, (HB 26-1430), ch. 406, p. 2538, § 12, effective (see editor's note).

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-134 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (13) was originally numbered as § 42-3-134 (21)(a), and the amendments to it in Senate Bill 05-041 were harmonized with § 42-3-304 (13) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107. Subsection (18)(c) was originally numbered as § 42-3-134 (26)(c), and the amendments to it in

House Bill 05-1268 were harmonized with and relocated to § 42-3-304 (18)(c) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107. Subsection (18)(d)(I) was originally numbered as § 42-3-134 (26)(d)(I), and the amendments to it in Senate Bill 05-041 were harmonized with and relocated to § 42-3-304 (18)(d)(I) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

(3) Amendments to subsection (18)(d) by Senate Bill 09-074 and House Bill 09-1026 were harmonized.

(4) Section 137 of Senate Bill 09-292 changed the effective date of subsections (4), (5), and (6)(a) from July 1, 2010, to October 1, 2009, and subsection (18)(d) from October 1, 2009, to July 1, 2010.

(5) Amendments to subsection (18)(d)(I) by House Bill 10-1387 and House Bill 10-1341 were harmonized.

(6) Amendments to subsection (14) by Senate Bill 10-212 and House Bill 10-1172 were harmonized.

(7) Subsection (18)(d)(I)(A) provided for the repeal of subsection (18)(d)(I)(A), effective July 1, 2019. (See L. 2018, p. 1799.)

(8) Amendments to subsection (25)(b) by HB 21-1141 and SB 21-260 were harmonized.

(9) Section 7(2) of chapter 395 (HB 25-1189), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to titles issued and fees incurred on or after July 1, 2027.

(10) Subsection (18)(a.5)(III)(B) provided for the repeal of subsection (18)(a.5)(III), effective July 1, 2026. (See L. 2025, p. 2167.)

(11) Section 24(7) of chapter 406 (HB 26-1430), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that section 12 of HB 26-1430 takes effect only if an initiative that amends the state constitution to change existing law on transportation funding and to increase the amount of state revenue dedicated to road transportation is approved by the people at the 2026 general election, in which case the amended version of this section takes effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

**Cross references:** (1) For Public Law 663, 79th Congress, as amended, and Public Law 187, 82nd Congress, as amended, see 60 Stat. 915 and 65 Stat. 574, respectively, and 38 U.S.C. §§ 3901 to 3905.

(2) For the legislative declaration contained in the 2006 act amending subsections (19)(a)(I), (19)(a)(II), and (19)(d) and enacting subsection (19)(a)(IV), see section 1 of chapter 225, Session Laws of Colorado 2006. For the legislative declaration in the 2011 act repealing subsection (1)(b)(II), see section 1 of chapter 136, Session Laws of Colorado 2011. For the legislative



declaration in the 2013 act adding subsection (25), see section 1 of chapter 225, Session Laws of Colorado 2013.

(3) For the legislative declaration in SB 21-260, see section 1 of chapter 250, Session Laws of Colorado 2021. For the legislative declaration in HB 21-1141, see section 1 of chapter 339, Session Laws of Colorado 2021. For the legislative declaration in SB 25-317, see section 1 of chapter 385, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

(4) For the short title ("Colorado Budget Protection Act") and the legislative declaration in HB 26-1430, see sections 1 and 2 of chapter 406, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-3-304 is similar to § 42-3-134 as it existed prior to the 2005 amendment to article 3 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, relevant cases construing former provisions similar to that section have been included in the annotations to this section.

**The object and purpose of the ton-mile tax statute** is to regulate the use of our public highways and provide funds for

highway maintenance and construction by taxing those who are heavy, constant and continuous users of our highways in proportion to their use thereof. *Weed v. Monfort Feed Lots, Inc.*, 156 Colo. 577, 402 P.2d 177 (1965).

**Political subdivisions as such are not exempt from the passenger-mile tax** imposed by this section. *Reg'l Transp. Dist. v. Charnes*, 660 P.2d 24 (Colo. App. 1982).

**42-3-305. Registration fees - passenger and passenger-mile taxes - fee schedule for years of TABOR surplus revenue - applicability. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2005:** (6), (7), (8)(c), (11)(a), and (11)(b) amended, p. 145, § 21, effective April 5; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1145, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2009:** (2)(a) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1269, § 31, effective October 1. **L. 2010:** Entire section repealed, (SB 10-212), ch. 412, p. 2032, § 1, effective July 1; (12)(a) amended, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1492, § 12, effective October 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section was similar to former § 42-3-134 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (12)(a) was amended in House Bill 10-1172, effective October 1, 2010. However, those amendments were superseded by the repeal of the entire section by Senate Bill 10-212, effective July 1, 2010.

**42-3-306. Registration fees - passenger and passenger-mile taxes - fee schedule - repeal.**

(1) This section shall apply in any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2010.

(2) Fees required for the annual registration of passenger-carrying motor vehicles are as follows:

(a) Motorcycles and autocycles, three dollars;

(b) (I) Passenger cars, station wagons, taxicabs, ambulances, motor homes, and hearses:

(A) Weighing two thousand pounds or less, six dollars;

(B) Weighing forty-five hundred pounds or less, six dollars plus twenty cents per one hundred pounds, or fraction thereof, of weight over two thousand pounds;

(C) Weighing more than forty-five hundred pounds, twelve dollars and fifty cents plus sixty cents per one hundred pounds, or fraction thereof, of weight over forty-five hundred pounds; except that, for motor homes weighing more than sixty-five hundred pounds, such fees shall be twenty-four dollars and fifty cents plus thirty cents per one hundred pounds, or fraction thereof, of weight over sixty-five hundred pounds.

(II) In addition to the registration fees imposed by subsection (2)(b)(I) of this section, an additional registration fee is imposed on the motor vehicles described in the introductory portion to subsection (2)(b)(I) of this section, based on the age of the motor vehicle. The department shall set the fees as follows:

(A) For motor vehicles less than seven years old, twelve dollars;

(B) For motor vehicles seven years old but less than ten years old, ten dollars;

(C) For motor vehicles ten years old or older, seven dollars.

(III) The department shall transmit one dollar out of the additional fees collected in accordance with subsection (2)(b)(II) of this section to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the licensing services cash fund created in section 42-2-114.5. The department shall use the one dollar that is credited to the licensing services cash fund to offset the cost to the department to implement sections 42-3-103 (4)(a)(II) and 42-3-112 (1)(a)(II). The department shall transmit the remaining amount to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund to be allocated pursuant to section 43-4-205 (6)(b).

(IV) If a regional transportation plan is implemented within the regional transportation district, residents of the E-470 highway authority area shall be exempt from the first ten dollars of any motor vehicle registration fee increase in such plan.

(V) to (VII) Repealed.

(VIII) ***[Editor's note: Subsection (2)(b)(VIII) is effective only if an initiative that amends the state constitution to change existing law on transportation funding and to increase the amount of state revenue dedicated to road transportation is approved by the people at the next general election. See the editor's note following this section.]***

(A) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(b)(V) of this section, the fees imposed in subsection (2)(b)(V) of this section are set at the following amounts for the following age of vehicles on and after January 1, 2027, and before July 1, 2030: For motor vehicles less than seven years old, five dollars fifty-eight cents, for motor vehicles at least seven years old but less than ten years old, four dollars thirty-four cents, and for motor vehicles ten years old or older, three dollars ten cents.

(B) This subsection (2)(b)(VIII) is repealed, effective July 1, 2030.

(c) Passenger buses:

(I) All such vehicles used for the transportation of passengers for compensation having a seating capacity of fourteen or less passengers, twenty-five dollars plus one dollar and seventy cents for each seat capacity; and all such vehicles having a seating capacity of more than fourteen passengers, twenty-five dollars plus one dollar and twenty-five cents for each seat capacity in excess of fourteen;

(II) All such vehicles owned by a private owner and used for the transportation of school pupils having a juvenile seating capacity (meaning fourteen lineal inches of seat space) of twenty-five or less, fifteen dollars; and for all such vehicles having a juvenile seating capacity of more than twenty-five, fifteen dollars plus fifty cents for each juvenile seat capacity in excess of twenty-five.

(2.5) ***[Editor's note: Subsection (2.5) is effective only if an initiative that amends the state constitution to change existing law on transportation funding and to increase the amount of state revenue dedicated to road transportation is approved by the people at the next general election. See the editor's note following this section.]***

(a) Notwithstanding subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b) of this section, the fees imposed in subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b) of this section are set as follows, on and after January 1, 2027, and before July 1, 2030:

(I) Motorcycles and autocycles, one dollar eighty-six cents;

(II) Passenger cars, station wagons, taxicabs, ambulances, motor homes, and hearses:

(A) Weighing two thousand pounds or less, three dollars seventy-two cents;

(B) Weighing at least two thousand one pounds and forty-five hundred pounds or less, three dollars seventy-two cents plus twenty cents per one hundred pounds, or fraction thereof, of weight over two thousand pounds; and

(C) Weighing more than four thousand five hundred pounds, seven dollars seventy-five cents plus sixty cents per one hundred pounds, or fraction thereof, of weight over four thousand five hundred pounds; except that, for motor homes weighing more than six thousand five hundred pounds, such fees shall be twenty-four dollars fifty cents plus thirty cents per one hundred pounds, or fraction thereof, of weight over six thousand five hundred pounds.

(b) This subsection (2.5) is repealed, effective July 1, 2030.

(3) Fees for the annual registration of the following vehicles shall be:

(a) Trailer coaches, three dollars;

(b) Trailers, utility trailers, and camper trailers having an empty weight of two thousand pounds or less, three dollars;

(c) Trailers, utility trailers, and camper trailers having an empty weight exceeding two thousand pounds, seven dollars and fifty cents;

(d) Semitrailers, seven dollars and fifty cents.

(4) (a) The annual registration fee for trucks and truck tractors owned by a farmer or rancher that are operated over the public highways and are only commercially used to transport to market or place of storage raw agricultural products actually produced or livestock actually raised by such farmer or rancher or to transport commodities and livestock purchased by such farmer or rancher for personal use and used in such person's farming or ranching operations, shall be as follows:

(I) Each such vehicle having an empty weight of five thousand pounds or less, an amount computed to the nearest pound of the empty weight of such vehicle, according to the following schedule:

| Empty Weight (Pounds) |                   | Range | Registration Fee |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------|------------------|
| 2,000                 | and               | under | \$ 6.20          |
| 2,001                 | but not more than | 2,100 | 6.40             |
| 2,101                 | but not more than | 2,200 | 6.60             |

| Empty Weight (Pounds) |                   | Range | Registration Fee |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------|------------------|
| 2,201                 | but not more than | 2,300 | 6.80             |
| 2,301                 | but not more than | 2,400 | 7.00             |
| 2,401                 | but not more than | 2,500 | 7.20             |
| 2,501                 | but not more than | 2,600 | 7.40             |
| 2,601                 | but not more than | 2,700 | 7.60             |
| 2,701                 | but not more than | 2,800 | 7.80             |
| 2,801                 | but not more than | 2,900 | 8.00             |
| 2,901                 | but not more than | 3,000 | 8.20             |
| 3,001                 | but not more than | 3,100 | 8.40             |
| 3,101                 | but not more than | 3,200 | 8.60             |
| 3,201                 | but not more than | 3,300 | 8.80             |
| 3,301                 | but not more than | 3,400 | 9.00             |
| 3,401                 | but not more than | 3,500 | 9.20             |
| 3,501                 | but not more than | 3,600 | 9.40             |
| 3,601                 | but not more than | 3,700 | 9.60             |
| 3,701                 | but not more than | 3,800 | 9.80             |
| 3,801                 | but not more than | 3,900 | 10.00            |
| 3,901                 | but not more than | 4,000 | 10.20            |
| 4,001                 | but not more than | 4,100 | 10.40            |
| 4,101                 | but not more than | 4,200 | 10.60            |
| 4,201                 | but not more than | 4,300 | 10.80            |
| 4,301                 | but not more than | 4,400 | 11.00            |
| 4,401                 | but not more than | 4,500 | 11.20            |

| Empty Weight (Pounds) |                   | Range | Registration Fee |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------|------------------|
| 4,501                 | but not more than | 4,600 | 13.10            |
| 4,601                 | but not more than | 4,700 | 13.70            |
| 4,701                 | but not more than | 4,800 | 14.30            |
| 4,801                 | but not more than | 4,900 | 14.90            |
| 4,901                 | but not more than | 5,000 | 15.50            |

(II) Each such vehicle having an empty weight of ten thousand pounds or less but more than five thousand pounds, fifteen dollars and fifty cents plus forty-five cents per one hundred pounds, or fraction thereof, of empty weight over five thousand pounds;

(III) Each such vehicle having an empty weight of more than ten thousand pounds but not more than sixteen thousand pounds, thirty-eight dollars plus one dollar and twenty cents per one hundred pounds, or fraction thereof, of empty weight exceeding ten thousand pounds;

(IV) Each such vehicle having an empty weight of more than sixteen thousand pounds, one hundred ten dollars, plus one dollar and fifty cents per one hundred pounds, or fraction thereof, of empty weight exceeding sixteen thousand pounds.

(b) Nothing in this subsection (4) shall be construed to prevent a farmer or rancher from occasionally exchanging transportation with another farmer or rancher, but only if the sole consideration involved is the exchange of personal services or the use of equipment.

(c) A person applying for registration under this subsection (4) shall certify to the licensing authority on forms furnished by the department that the vehicle will be used in conformity with paragraph (a) of this subsection (4).

(d) No vehicle carrying mounted equipment other than a camper or other purely recreational equipment shall be registered under this subsection (4), and a vehicle registered under this subsection (4) shall be reregistered under the proper classification whenever equipment designed for commercial use is mounted upon such vehicle.

(e) The department or its authorized agent shall not require a person registering a farm truck or truck tractor under this subsection (4) to demonstrate that the owner's primary business or source of income is agriculture if the farm truck or truck tractor is used primarily for agricultural production on a farm or ranch owned or leased by the owner of the truck or truck tractor, and the

land on which it is used is classified as agricultural land for the purposes of levying and collecting property tax under section 39-1-103, C.R.S.

(5) The annual registration fee for those trucks and truck tractors operated over the public highways of this state, except trucks that are registered under subsections (4) and (13) of this section and section 42-12-401 (1)(c), is as follows:

(a) For each such vehicle having an empty weight of up to and including sixteen thousand pounds, such registration fee shall be based upon the empty weight of such vehicle, computed to the nearest pound, according to the following schedule:

| Empty Weight<br>(Pounds) |                      | Range | Registration<br>Fee |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------|---------------------|
| 2,000                    | and                  | under | \$ 7.60             |
| 2,001                    | but not more<br>than | 2,100 | 7.80                |
| 2,101                    | but not more<br>than | 2,200 | 8.00                |
| 2,201                    | but not more<br>than | 2,300 | 8.20                |
| 2,301                    | but not more<br>than | 2,400 | 8.40                |
| 2,401                    | but not more<br>than | 2,500 | 8.60                |
| 2,501                    | but not more<br>than | 2,600 | 8.80                |
| 2,601                    | but not more<br>than | 2,700 | 9.00                |
| 2,701                    | but not more<br>than | 2,800 | 9.20                |
| 2,801                    | but not more<br>than | 2,900 | 9.40                |
| 2,901                    | but not more<br>than | 3,000 | 9.60                |

| <b>Empty Weight<br/>(Pounds)</b> |                      | <b>Range</b> | <b>Registration<br/>Fee</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 3,001                            | but not more<br>than | 3,100        | 10.20                       |
| 3,101                            | but not more<br>than | 3,200        | 10.40                       |
| 3,201                            | but not more<br>than | 3,300        | 10.60                       |
| 3,301                            | but not more<br>than | 3,400        | 10.80                       |
| 3,401                            | but not more<br>than | 3,500        | 11.00                       |
| 3,501                            | but not more<br>than | 3,600        | 16.10                       |
| 3,601                            | but not more<br>than | 3,700        | 16.70                       |
| 3,701                            | but not more<br>than | 3,800        | 17.30                       |
| 3,801                            | but not more<br>than | 3,900        | 17.90                       |
| 3,901                            | but not more<br>than | 4,000        | 18.50                       |
| 4,001                            | but not more<br>than | 4,100        | 19.10                       |
| 4,101                            | but not more<br>than | 4,200        | 19.70                       |
| 4,201                            | but not more<br>than | 4,300        | 20.30                       |
| 4,301                            | but not more<br>than | 4,400        | 20.90                       |



| <b>Empty Weight<br/>(Pounds)</b> |                      | <b>Range</b> | <b>Registration<br/>Fee</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 4,401                            | but not more<br>than | 4,500        | 21.50                       |
| 4,501                            | but not more<br>than | 4,600        | 35.00                       |
| 4,601                            | but not more<br>than | 4,700        | 37.00                       |
| 4,701                            | but not more<br>than | 4,800        | 39.00                       |
| 4,801                            | but not more<br>than | 4,900        | 41.00                       |
| 4,901                            | but not more<br>than | 5,000        | 43.00                       |
| 5,001                            | but not more<br>than | 5,100        | 45.00                       |
| 5,101                            | but not more<br>than | 5,200        | 47.00                       |
| 5,201                            | but not more<br>than | 5,300        | 49.00                       |
| 5,301                            | but not more<br>than | 5,400        | 51.00                       |
| 5,401                            | but not more<br>than | 5,500        | 53.00                       |
| 5,501                            | but not more<br>than | 5,600        | 55.00                       |
| 5,601                            | but not more<br>than | 5,700        | 57.00                       |
| 5,701                            | but not more<br>than | 5,800        | 59.00                       |

| <b>Empty Weight<br/>(Pounds)</b> |                      | <b>Range</b> | <b>Registration<br/>Fee</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 5,801                            | but not more<br>than | 5,900        | 61.00                       |
| 5,901                            | but not more<br>than | 6,000        | 63.00                       |
| 6,001                            | but not more<br>than | 6,100        | 65.00                       |
| 6,101                            | but not more<br>than | 6,200        | 67.00                       |
| 6,201                            | but not more<br>than | 6,300        | 69.00                       |
| 6,301                            | but not more<br>than | 6,400        | 71.00                       |
| 6,401                            | but not more<br>than | 6,500        | 73.00                       |
| 6,501                            | but not more<br>than | 6,600        | 75.00                       |
| 6,601                            | but not more<br>than | 6,700        | 77.00                       |
| 6,701                            | but not more<br>than | 6,800        | 79.00                       |
| 6,801                            | but not more<br>than | 6,900        | 81.00                       |
| 6,901                            | but not more<br>than | 7,000        | 83.00                       |
| 7,001                            | but not more<br>than | 7,100        | 85.00                       |
| 7,101                            | but not more<br>than | 7,200        | 87.00                       |

| <b>Empty Weight<br/>(Pounds)</b> |                      | <b>Range</b> | <b>Registration<br/>Fee</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 7,201                            | but not more<br>than | 7,300        | 89.00                       |
| 7,301                            | but not more<br>than | 7,400        | 91.00                       |
| 7,401                            | but not more<br>than | 7,500        | 93.00                       |
| 7,501                            | but not more<br>than | 7,600        | 95.00                       |
| 7,601                            | but not more<br>than | 7,700        | 97.00                       |
| 7,701                            | but not more<br>than | 7,800        | 99.00                       |
| 7,801                            | but not more<br>than | 7,900        | 101.00                      |
| 7,901                            | but not more<br>than | 8,000        | 103.00                      |
| 8,001                            | but not more<br>than | 8,100        | 105.00                      |
| 8,101                            | but not more<br>than | 8,200        | 107.00                      |
| 8,201                            | but not more<br>than | 8,300        | 109.00                      |
| 8,301                            | but not more<br>than | 8,400        | 111.00                      |
| 8,401                            | but not more<br>than | 8,500        | 113.00                      |
| 8,501                            | but not more<br>than | 8,600        | 115.00                      |

| <b>Empty Weight<br/>(Pounds)</b> |                      | <b>Range</b> | <b>Registration<br/>Fee</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 8,601                            | but not more<br>than | 8,700        | 117.00                      |
| 8,701                            | but not more<br>than | 8,800        | 119.00                      |
| 8,801                            | but not more<br>than | 8,900        | 121.00                      |
| 8,901                            | but not more<br>than | 9,000        | 123.00                      |
| 9,001                            | but not more<br>than | 9,100        | 125.00                      |
| 9,101                            | but not more<br>than | 9,200        | 127.00                      |
| 9,201                            | but not more<br>than | 9,300        | 129.00                      |
| 9,301                            | but not more<br>than | 9,400        | 131.00                      |
| 9,401                            | but not more<br>than | 9,500        | 133.00                      |
| 9,501                            | but not more<br>than | 9,600        | 135.00                      |
| 9,601                            | but not more<br>than | 9,700        | 137.00                      |
| 9,701                            | but not more<br>than | 9,800        | 139.00                      |
| 9,801                            | but not more<br>than | 9,900        | 141.00                      |
| 9,901                            | but not more<br>than | 10,000       | 143.00                      |

| <b>Empty Weight<br/>(Pounds)</b> |                      | <b>Range</b> | <b>Registration<br/>Fee</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 10,001                           | but not more<br>than | 10,100       | 144.50                      |
| 10,101                           | but not more<br>than | 10,200       | 146.00                      |
| 10,201                           | but not more<br>than | 10,300       | 147.50                      |
| 10,301                           | but not more<br>than | 10,400       | 149.00                      |
| 10,401                           | but not more<br>than | 10,500       | 150.50                      |
| 10,501                           | but not more<br>than | 10,600       | 152.00                      |
| 10,601                           | but not more<br>than | 10,700       | 153.50                      |
| 10,701                           | but not more<br>than | 10,800       | 155.00                      |
| 10,801                           | but not more<br>than | 10,900       | 156.50                      |
| 10,901                           | but not more<br>than | 11,000       | 158.00                      |
| 11,001                           | but not more<br>than | 11,100       | 159.50                      |
| 11,101                           | but not more<br>than | 11,200       | 161.00                      |
| 11,201                           | but not more<br>than | 11,300       | 162.50                      |
| 11,301                           | but not more<br>than | 11,400       | 164.00                      |

| <b>Empty Weight<br/>(Pounds)</b> |                      | <b>Range</b> | <b>Registration<br/>Fee</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 11,401                           | but not more<br>than | 11,500       | 165.50                      |
| 11,501                           | but not more<br>than | 11,600       | 167.00                      |
| 11,601                           | but not more<br>than | 11,700       | 168.50                      |
| 11,701                           | but not more<br>than | 11,800       | 170.00                      |
| 11,801                           | but not more<br>than | 11,900       | 171.50                      |
| 11,901                           | but not more<br>than | 12,000       | 173.00                      |
| 12,001                           | but not more<br>than | 12,100       | 174.50                      |
| 12,101                           | but not more<br>than | 12,200       | 176.00                      |
| 12,201                           | but not more<br>than | 12,300       | 177.50                      |
| 12,301                           | but not more<br>than | 12,400       | 179.00                      |
| 12,401                           | but not more<br>than | 12,500       | 180.50                      |
| 12,501                           | but not more<br>than | 12,600       | 182.00                      |
| 12,601                           | but not more<br>than | 12,700       | 183.50                      |
| 12,701                           | but not more<br>than | 12,800       | 185.00                      |

| <b>Empty Weight<br/>(Pounds)</b> |                      | <b>Range</b> | <b>Registration<br/>Fee</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 12,801                           | but not more<br>than | 12,900       | 186.50                      |
| 12,901                           | but not more<br>than | 13,000       | 188.00                      |
| 13,001                           | but not more<br>than | 13,100       | 189.50                      |
| 13,101                           | but not more<br>than | 13,200       | 191.00                      |
| 13,201                           | but not more<br>than | 13,300       | 192.50                      |
| 13,301                           | but not more<br>than | 13,400       | 194.00                      |
| 13,401                           | but not more<br>than | 13,500       | 195.50                      |
| 13,501                           | but not more<br>than | 13,600       | 197.00                      |
| 13,601                           | but not more<br>than | 13,700       | 198.50                      |
| 13,701                           | but not more<br>than | 13,800       | 200.00                      |
| 13,801                           | but not more<br>than | 13,900       | 201.50                      |
| 13,901                           | but not more<br>than | 14,000       | 203.00                      |
| 14,001                           | but not more<br>than | 14,100       | 204.50                      |
| 14,101                           | but not more<br>than | 14,200       | 206.00                      |

| <b>Empty Weight<br/>(Pounds)</b> |                      | <b>Range</b> | <b>Registration<br/>Fee</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 14,201                           | but not more<br>than | 14,300       | 207.50                      |
| 14,301                           | but not more<br>than | 14,400       | 209.00                      |
| 14,401                           | but not more<br>than | 14,500       | 210.50                      |
| 14,501                           | but not more<br>than | 14,600       | 212.00                      |
| 14,601                           | but not more<br>than | 14,700       | 213.50                      |
| 14,701                           | but not more<br>than | 14,800       | 215.00                      |
| 14,801                           | but not more<br>than | 14,900       | 216.50                      |
| 14,901                           | but not more<br>than | 15,000       | 218.00                      |
| 15,001                           | but not more<br>than | 15,100       | 219.50                      |
| 15,101                           | but not more<br>than | 15,200       | 221.00                      |
| 15,201                           | but not more<br>than | 15,300       | 222.50                      |
| 15,301                           | but not more<br>than | 15,400       | 224.00                      |
| 15,401                           | but not more<br>than | 15,500       | 225.50                      |
| 15,501                           | but not more<br>than | 15,600       | 227.00                      |



| <b>Empty Weight<br/>(Pounds)</b> |                      | <b>Range</b> | <b>Registration<br/>Fee</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 15,601                           | but not more<br>than | 15,700       | 228.50                      |
| 15,701                           | but not more<br>than | 15,800       | 230.00                      |
| 15,801                           | but not more<br>than | 15,900       | 231.50                      |
| 15,901                           | but not more<br>than | 16,000       | 233.00                      |

(b) (I) Except as provided in subparagraphs (II) and (III) of this paragraph (b), for each vehicle registered under this subsection (5) having an empty weight exceeding sixteen thousand pounds, the registration fee shall be based upon the declared gross vehicle weight of the vehicle registered, according to the following schedule:

| <b>Declared Gross Vehicle<br/>Weight (Pounds)</b> | <b>Registration Fee</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 16,001 but not more than<br>20,000                | \$ 330                  |
| 20,001 but not more than<br>24,000                | 410                     |
| 24,001 but not more than<br>30,000                | 490                     |
| 30,001 but not more than<br>36,000                | 630                     |
| 36,001 but not more than<br>42,000                | 770                     |
| 42,001 but not more than<br>48,000                | 940                     |

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| 48,001 but not more than<br>54,000 | 1,150 |
| 54,001 but not more than<br>60,000 | 1,370 |
| 60,001 but not more than<br>66,000 | 1,570 |
| 66,001 but not more than<br>74,000 | 1,850 |
| Over 74,000                        | 1,975 |

(II) For each vehicle registered under this subsection (5) that has an empty weight exceeding sixteen thousand pounds and that is used in the operations of a common or contract carrier for hire, such registration fee shall be based upon the declared gross vehicle weight of the vehicle registered, according to the following schedule:

| <b>Declared Gross Vehicle<br/>Weight (Pounds)</b> | <b>Registration Fee</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 16,001 but not more than<br>20,000                | \$ 440                  |
| 20,001 but not more than<br>24,000                | 550                     |
| 24,001 but not more than<br>30,000                | 660                     |
| 30,001 but not more than<br>36,000                | 770                     |
| 36,001 but not more than<br>42,000                | 930                     |
| 42,001 but not more than<br>48,000                | 1,130                   |
| 48,001 but not more than                          | 1,430                   |

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| 54,000                             |       |
| 54,001 but not more than<br>60,000 | 1,700 |
| 60,001 but not more than<br>66,000 | 1,980 |
| 66,001 but not more than<br>74,000 | 2,260 |
| Over 74,000                        | 2,350 |

(III) (A) For each vehicle registered under this subsection (5) that has an empty weight exceeding sixteen thousand pounds and that is operated less than ten thousand miles in all jurisdictions during each year, such registration fee shall be based upon the declared gross vehicle weight of the vehicle registered, according to the following schedule:

| <b>Declared Gross Vehicle<br/>Weight (Pounds)</b> | <b>Registration Fee</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 16,001 but not more than<br>20,000                | \$ 330                  |
| 20,001 but not more than<br>24,000                | 360                     |
| 24,001 but not more than<br>30,000                | 380                     |
| 30,001 but not more than<br>36,000                | 440                     |
| 36,001 but not more than<br>42,000                | 500                     |
| 42,001 but not more than<br>48,000                | 580                     |
| 48,001 but not more than<br>54,000                | 600                     |

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 54,001 but not more than<br>60,000 | 640 |
| 60,001 but not more than<br>66,000 | 660 |
| 66,001 but not more than<br>74,000 | 690 |
| Over 74,000                        | 710 |

(B) If a vehicle qualifies for both a registration fee provided in this subparagraph (III) and a registration fee provided in subparagraph (I) or (II) of this paragraph (b), the lesser registration fee shall apply.

(C) If a person replaces a registered vehicle with another vehicle, the mileage history of the vehicle being replaced may be used to qualify the new vehicle for the fees assessed under this subparagraph (III).

(D) If a person purchases an established business that is located in this state and the purchase of the business includes the purchase of vehicles, the mileage history of a vehicle so purchased may be used to qualify for the fees assessed under this subparagraph (III) if the business operations remain the same after the purchase and if, during the twelve-month period immediately preceding the date of purchase, the vehicle has been registered in Colorado and has been in operation in the business. A person purchasing a business shall present a copy of the current vehicle registration of the previous owner for each vehicle to be registered pursuant to this sub-subparagraph (D).

(E) If a truck or truck tractor having an empty weight exceeding sixteen thousand pounds is purchased by a person owning one or more other such vehicles and the other such vehicles owned by the purchaser all qualify for the fees assessed under this subparagraph (III), the purchased truck or truck tractor also qualifies for the fees assessed under this subparagraph (III). A person seeking to register a truck or truck tractor pursuant to this sub-subparagraph (E) shall present a copy of the current vehicle registration for each of the other trucks and truck tractors with empty weights exceeding sixteen thousand pounds that are owned by such person.

(c) For each vehicle registered under this subsection (5) that is exempt from the registration fees assessed under paragraph (b) of this subsection (5) under paragraph (d), (f), (g), or (h) of subsection (9) of this section and that weighs more than sixteen thousand pounds empty weight, the registration fee shall be one hundred seventy-five dollars plus one dollar and fifteen cents for each one hundred pounds, or fraction thereof, in excess of sixteen thousand pounds.

(d) For each vehicle registered under this subsection (5) that is exempt from the registration fees assessed under paragraph (b) of this subsection (5) pursuant to paragraph (d), (f), or (g) of subsection (9) of this section and that weighs more than sixteen thousand pounds empty weight, the registration fee shall be two hundred thirty-three dollars plus one dollar and fifty cents for each one hundred pounds, or fraction thereof, in excess of sixteen thousand pounds.

(e) Each vehicle registered under this subsection (5) having an empty weight not in excess of sixteen thousand pounds that is operated in combination with a trailer or semitrailer, which is commonly referred to as a tractor-trailer, shall be assessed according to paragraph (b) of this subsection (5).

(6) In lieu of the payment of registration fees specified in subsections (3) and (5) of this section, the owner of a truck, truck tractor, trailer, or semitrailer operating in interstate commerce may apply to the department for a special unladen weight registration. The registration shall be valid for a period of thirty days from issuance and shall authorize the operation of the vehicle only when empty. The fee for registration of a truck or truck tractor shall be five dollars. The fee for registration of a trailer or semitrailer shall be three dollars. The moneys from the fees shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(c), C.R.S.

(7) In lieu of the payment of registration fees specified in subsections (3) and (5) of this section, the owner of a truck or truck tractor operating in interstate commerce shall apply to the department for a special laden weight registration. The registration shall be valid for seventy-two hours after issuance and shall authorize the operation of the vehicle when loaded. The moneys collected by the department from the fees shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(c), C.R.S. The fee for the special registration of a truck or a truck tractor shall be based on the actual gross vehicle weight of the vehicle and its cargo, computed to the nearest pound, according to the following schedule:

| <b>Declared Gross Vehicle<br/>Weight (Pounds)</b> | <b>Registration Fee</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 10,001 but not more than<br>30,000                | \$ 60                   |
| 30,001 but not more than<br>60,000                | 70                      |
| Over 60,000                                       | 80                      |

(8) (a) The owner or operator of a motor vehicle that is exempt from the registration fees assessed under paragraph (b) or (c) of subsection (9) of this section may apply to the department for a temporary commercial registration permit for such motor vehicle. Such temporary commercial registration permit shall authorize the operation of such motor vehicle in commerce so long as the motor vehicle is operated solely in agricultural harvest operations within Colorado.

(b) A temporary commercial registration permit issued pursuant to this subsection (8) shall be valid for a period not to exceed sixty days. A maximum of two such temporary commercial registration permits may be issued for a motor vehicle in a twelve-month period. The fee for issuance of a temporary commercial registration permit for a motor vehicle shall be based upon the configuration and number of axles of such motor vehicle according to the following schedule:

| <b>Configuration</b>                      | <b>Registration Permit</b> |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Single unit (two axles)                   | \$ 80.00                   |
| Single unit (three or more axles)         | 120.00                     |
| Combination unit (any number of<br>axles) | 200.00                     |

(c) The moneys collected by the department from the fees for temporary commercial registration permits shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund.

(d) This subsection (8) shall not be interpreted to affect the authority of a dealer in motor vehicles to use a dealer plate obtained under section 42-3-116 to demonstrate a truck or truck tractor by allowing a prospective buyer to operate such truck or truck tractor when loaded.

(9) The registration fees imposed by paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of this section shall not apply:

(a) To a motor vehicle operated by a manufacturer, dealer, or transporter issued plates pursuant to section 42-3-304 (6) and (7);

(b) To a farm truck or truck tractor registered under subsection (4) of this section;

(c) To a farm tractor or to a farm tractor and trailer or wagon combination;

(d) To a vehicle specially constructed for towing, wrecking, and repairing that is not otherwise used for transporting cargo;

- (e) To a vehicle owned by the state or any political or governmental subdivision thereof;
- (f) To an operator-owned vehicle transporting racehorses to and from the stud or to and from a racing meet in Colorado;
- (g) To a veterinary mobile truck unit;
- (h) To a mobile mixing concrete truck or trash compacting truck or to trucks designated by the executive director of the department as special use trucks;
- (i) To a noncommercial or recreational vehicle registered under subsection (13) of this section.

(10) The owner or operator of a truck, truck tractor, trailer, or semitrailer operating over the public highways of this state and rendering service pursuant to a temporary certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the public utilities commission shall pay for the issuance or renewal of such temporary certificate a fee of ten dollars.

(11) (a) The owner or operator of a passenger bus operating over the public highways of this state and rendering service pursuant to a temporary certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the public utilities commission shall pay for the issuance or renewal of such temporary certificate a fee of ten dollars, which fee shall be in lieu of the tax assessed under this subsection (11), shall be credited to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S., as required by section 43-4-203 (1)(c), C.R.S., and shall be allocated and expended as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(d), C.R.S.

(b) The owner or operator of a passenger bus that is registered in another state and that is used to make an occasional trip into this state need not obtain a permit from the public utilities commission as provided in article 10.1 of title 40, C.R.S., but may instead apply to the department for the issuance of a trip permit and shall pay to the department for the issuance of such trip permit a fee of twenty-five dollars or the amount of passenger-mile tax becoming due and payable under paragraph (a) of this subsection (11) by reason of such trip, whichever amount is greater. The fee or passenger-mile tax shall be credited to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S., as required by section 43-4-203 (1)(c), C.R.S., and allocated and expended as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(d), C.R.S.

(12) (a) In lieu of registration under section 42-3-304 (14), the owner or operator of special mobile machinery that the owner or operator desires to operate over the public highways of this state may elect to pay an annual fee computed at the rate of two dollars and fifty cents per ton of vehicle weight for operation not to exceed a distance of two thousand five hundred miles in any registration period.

(b) In lieu of registration under section 42-3-304 (14), a public utility, as defined by section 40-1-103, C.R.S., owning or operating a utility truck having an empty weight in excess of ten

thousand pounds that it desires to operate over the public highways of this state may elect to pay an annual registration fee for such a vehicle computed at the rate of ten dollars per ton of vehicle weight.

(13) The annual registration fee for a noncommercial or recreational vehicle, except a motor home, operated on the public highways of this state with an empty weight of six thousand pounds or less is computed according to the schedule provided in subsection (5) of this section, and, for a noncommercial or recreational vehicle exceeding six thousand pounds, the fee is twenty-four dollars and fifty cents plus sixty cents for each one hundred pounds in excess of four thousand five hundred pounds.

(14) (a) In addition to any other fee required by this section, on and after July 1, 2011, each authorized agent shall collect a fee of:

(I) Fifty cents per paid registration of any motor vehicle that is not exempt from the motor insurance identification fee pursuant to section 42-3-304 (1)(b); or

(II) Ten cents per paid registration of any motor vehicle that is exempt from the motor insurance identification fee pursuant to section 42-3-304 (1)(b).

(b) (I) Repealed.

(II) (A) The fee required by subsection (14)(a) of this section is required for every registration of a motor vehicle that is designed primarily to be operated or drawn on any highway in the state and is required in addition to the annual registration fee for the vehicle; except that the fee does not apply to a vehicle that is exempt from payment of the registration fees imposed by this article 3. The department shall credit the fee to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account in the highway users tax fund created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(B) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** (6), (7), (11)(a), and (11)(b) amended, p. 147, § 22, effective April 5; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1155, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2009:** (2)(a) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1269, § 32, effective October 1. **L. 2010:** (1) amended, (SB 10-212), ch. 412, p. 2037, § 13, effective July 1; (12)(a) amended, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1492, § 13, effective October 1. **L. 2011:** (14) added, (HB 11-1182), ch. 124, p. 387, § 2, effective April 22; (4)(e) added, (HB 11-1004), ch. 136, p. 475, § 3, effective August 10; IP(5) amended, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 246, § 10, effective August 10; (11)(b) amended, (HB 11-1198), ch. 127, p. 425, § 25, effective August 10. **L. 2017:** (14)(b) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 371, § 18, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** (14)(b)(I)(B) and (14)(b)(II)(B) amended, (SB 18-253), ch. 293, p. 1799, § 4, effective May 29. **L. 2022:** IP(2) and (2)(a) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2583, § 11, effective January 1, 2023; IP(2), IP(2)(b)(II), and (2)(b)(III) amended and (2)(b)(V),



(2)(b)(VI), and (2)(b)(VII) added, (HB 22-1254), ch. 428, p. 3028, § 4, effective January 1, 2023; (13) amended, (HB 22-1388), ch. 475, p. 3463, § 8, effective January 1, 2023. **L. 2026:** (2)(b)(VIII) and (2.5) added, (HB 26-1430), ch. 406, p. 2540, § 13, effective (see editor's note).

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-134.5 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsections (6), (7), (11)(a), and (11)(b) were originally numbered as § 42-3-134.5 (14), (15), (21)(b), and (21)(c), respectively, and the amendments to them in Senate Bill 05-041 were harmonized with § 42-3-306 (6), (7), (11)(a), and (11)(b) as they appear in House Bill 05-1107.

(3) Subsection (14)(b)(I)(B) provided for the repeal of subsection (14)(b), effective July 1, 2019. (See L. 2018, p. 1799.) However, because subsection (14)(b)(II) takes effect July 1, 2019, only subsection (14)(b)(I) is shown as repealed.

(4) Subsection (14)(b)(II)(B) provided for the repeal of subsection (14)(b)(II)(B), effective July 1, 2020. (See L. 2018, p. 1799.)

(5) Amendments to subsection IP(2) by HB 22-1043 and HB 22-1254 were harmonized.

(6) Subsection (2)(b)(VII) provided for the repeal of subsections (2)(b)(V), (2)(b)(VI), and (2)(b)(VII), effective July 1, 2026. (See L. 2022, p. 3028.)

(7) Section 24(7) of chapter 406 (HB 26-1430), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that section 13 of HB 26-1430 takes effect only if an initiative that amends the state constitution to change existing law on transportation funding and to increase the amount of state revenue dedicated to road transportation is approved by the people at the 2026 general election, in which case the amended version of this section takes effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

**Cross references:** (1) For the legislative declaration in the 2011 act adding subsection (4)(e), see section 1 of chapter 136, Session Laws of Colorado 2011.

(2) For the short title (the "Colorado Registration Fairness Act") in HB 22-1254, see section 1 of chapter 428, Session Laws of Colorado 2022.

(3) For the short title ("Colorado Budget Protection Act") and the legislative declaration in HB 26-1430, see sections 1 and 2 of chapter 406, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

**42-3-307. Enforcement powers of department.**

(1) The department may administer and enforce sections 42-3-304 and 42-3-306, including the right to inspect and audit the books, records, and documents of an owner or operator of a vehicle operated upon the public highways who is required to pay any registration fee or tax imposed, and the executive director of the department may promulgate such reasonable rules as the director deems necessary or suitable for such administration and enforcement.

(2) The powers granted in this section shall be separate, apart, and distinct from any powers or duties conferred prior to January 1, 1955, upon the public utilities commission with respect to the issuance of certificates of public convenience and necessity, contract carrier permits, and the regulation and supervision of motor carriers.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1167, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2010:** (1) amended, (SB 10-212), ch. 412, p. 2037, § 14, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-135 as it existed prior to 2005.

**ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-3-307 is similar to § 42-3-135 as it existed prior to the 2005 amendment to article 3 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, a relevant case construing a

former provision similar to that section has been included in the annotations to this section.

**Applied** in *Zucchini v. Colorado Dept. of Rev.*, 620 P.2d 247 (Colo. App. 1980).

**42-3-308. Taxpayer statements - payment of tax - estimates - penalties - deposits - delinquency proceedings.**

(1) (a) Every owner or operator of a motor vehicle operated on a public highway of this state and required to pay the passenger-mile tax imposed by sections 42-3-304 and 42-3-306 shall, on or before the twenty-fifth day of each month, file with the department, on forms prescribed by the department and the public utilities commission, a statement, subject to the penalties for perjury in the second degree, showing the name and address of the owner of the motor vehicle, total miles traveled, and total number of passengers carried in this state during the preceding month and such other information as required by the department and the commission and shall compute and pay such tax; except that the executive director of the department may authorize the

filing of statements and the payment of tax for periods in excess of one month but not to exceed a period of twelve months.

(b) If payment of the tax so computed is not made on or before the due date, there shall be added a penalty of three percent per month until such time as the full amount has been paid; but the executive director of the department may waive all or any portion of the penalty for good cause.

(2) If the owner or operator of a motor vehicle, required to file a statement as provided in subsection (1) of this section, fails, neglects, or refuses to file the statement and to pay the tax due, the department may estimate the amount of tax due for the period for which no statement was filed, add a penalty of ten percent plus one-half of one percent per month after the date when due, not to exceed eighteen percent in the aggregate, and mail the estimate to the last-known address of such owner or operator. The amount so estimated, together with the penalty, shall become fixed, due, and payable ten days after the date of mailing, unless such owner or operator, within the ten days, files and pays a true and correct statement of the tax due for the period.

(3) (a) If an owner or operator of a vehicle knowingly makes and files with the department a false or fraudulent statement with intent to evade payment of any passenger-mile tax due, the department shall, as soon as it discovers the false or fraudulent nature of such statement, make an investigation and determine the correct amount of tax due, add a penalty of one hundred percent, and proceed to collect the total amount by distraint and sale as provided in section 39-21-114, C.R.S. If an owner or operator disputes the amount asserted to be due and payable, that owner or operator shall be entitled to a hearing before the executive director of the department, and the decision of the executive director shall be subject to judicial review.

(b) A person who willfully fails or refuses to make the report required by this section, or who makes a false or fraudulent return, or who willfully fails to pay any tax owed by such person commits a class A traffic infraction.

(4) All passenger-mile taxes and penalties determined to be due from an owner or operator of a motor vehicle and not paid on the date when the same are due and payable shall become and remain a prior and perpetual lien upon all the personal property of such owner or operator until the full amount of the tax determined to be due, together with all penalties, has been paid. Nothing in this section shall be construed to abrogate or diminish the rights of bona fide purchasers, lienors, or pledgees for value and without notice.

(5) Taxes collected pursuant to this section and any penalties or interest charges imposed pursuant to this section shall be credited to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201, C.R.S., as required by section 43-4-203 (1)(c), C.R.S., and allocated and expended as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(d), C.R.S.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** (5) added, p. 148, § 23, effective April 5; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1167, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2010:** (1)(a) amended, (SB 10-212), ch. 412, p. 2037, § 15, effective July 1. **L. 2021:** (3)(b) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3303, § 722, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-136 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (5) was originally numbered as § 42-3-136 (5), and the enactment of it in Senate Bill 05-041 was harmonized with § 42-3-308 (5) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Survey of Colorado Tax Liens", see 14 Colo. Law. 1765 (1985).

### **42-3-309. Permit to be secured - records kept - penalties.**

(1) Every owner or operator of a motor vehicle operated over any public highway of this state who is required to pay the passenger-mile tax imposed by sections 42-3-304 and 42-3-306 shall apply to the department and secure a passenger-mile tax permit and shall keep and maintain true and correct records of the operations of such motor vehicles, including the number of miles operated and the number of passengers carried, in such form as to reflect the actual activity of all such motor vehicles and as may be prescribed by the department and the public utilities commission. Such owner or operator shall preserve all such records for a period of four years. The passenger-mile tax permit shall remain effective until the owner advises the department of a change in ownership or a discontinuance of business or until such owner has failed to file tax reports and pay any applicable passenger-mile tax for four successive tax periods.

(2) For failure to apply for and secure a permit, the executive director of the department may impose a penalty in an amount equal to twenty-five percent of any tax found to be due and payable or twenty-five dollars, whichever is greater.

(3) Failure or refusal of an owner or operator to keep and maintain such records shall, upon certification by the department to the public utilities commission, be cause for suspension or revocation of a certificate of public convenience and necessity or a contract carrier permit.

(4) (a) If an examination of the financial responsibility of an owner or operator of a motor vehicle subject to the payment of the passenger-mile tax indicates that a financial guarantee in the form of cash, a certified check, a bank money order, a bond, or a negotiable certificate of

deposit issued by a commercial bank doing business in this state and acceptable to the executive director is necessary to guarantee payment of the tax, the owner or operator may be required to deposit such guarantee with the department in an amount no greater than twice the amount of tax estimated by the executive director to become due and payable each tax period. If the deposit is in cash or a negotiable certificate of deposit, it shall be subject to forfeiture upon failure of the owner or operator to comply with sections 42-3-304 to 42-3-308, this section, article 10.1 of title 40, or the rules of the department or the public utilities commission; if it is a surety bond, it shall be conditioned upon the insured's faithful compliance with all applicable statutes and rules.

(b) Failure or refusal of an owner or operator to provide or to continue in effect the guarantee when required in paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) shall, upon certification by the department to the public utilities commission, be cause for denial, suspension, or revocation of a certificate of public convenience and necessity or a contract carrier permit.

(c) All cash, certified checks, bank money orders, negotiable certificates of deposit, and surety bonds deposited in compliance with this section shall be delivered into the custody of the state treasurer and held by the state treasurer subject to further order of the department. If an owner or operator ceases operations, the deposit or any balance thereof shall be returned to the owner or operator after all taxes, penalties, fees, and charges owed by such owner or operator pursuant to this article have been paid.

(5) The following penalties shall be imposed if a person negligently or knowingly includes an error in records required by subsection (1) of this section and such error is contained in a previously filed statement under section 42-3-308:

(a) Twenty-five percent of the deficiency assessed; and

(b) Interest of one-half of one percent per month on the deficiency assessed, which shall be in addition to the interest due under section 39-21-109, C.R.S.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1168, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2010:** (1) amended, (SB 10-212), ch. 412, p. 2038, § 16, effective July 1. **L. 2018:** (4)(a) amended, (HB 18-1375), ch. 274, p. 1724, § 87, effective May 29.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-137 as it existed prior to 2005.

#### **42-3-310. Additional registration fees - apportionment of fees.**

(1) Every owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is primarily designed to be operated or drawn upon a highway, except the vehicles specifically exempted from payment of

registration fees by this article, shall, within the registration period prescribed by law or within ten days after the date of purchase of any such vehicle, pay an annual registration fee of one dollar and fifty cents, which annual fee shall be in addition to the annual registration fee prescribed by law for such vehicle.

(2) The additional registration fee provided for in this section shall not be transmitted to the department, but the aggregate amount of all such fees paid over by the authorized agent to the county treasurer shall be retained by the treasurer and allocated by the treasurer to the county and to the cities and incorporated towns located within the boundaries of the county on the basis of the record of rural and urban registrations that indicates the place of residence of each vehicle owner paying registration fees.

(3) The owner of a vehicle specified in subsection (1) of this section who is required to pay an annual registration fee for such vehicle to the department shall also pay the additional annual registration fee provided for in this section to the department, and the department shall transmit such additional fee to the proper county treasurer, as indicated by the place of residence of such owner, and such county treasurer shall allocate such fee in the manner prescribed in subsection (2) of this section.

(4) Two dollars and fifty cents of each annual vehicle registration fee imposed by sections 42-3-304 to 42-3-306, exclusive of the annual registration fees prescribed for motorcycles, autocycles, trailer coaches, special mobile machinery, and trailers having an empty weight of two thousand pounds or less and exclusive of a registration fee paid for a fractional part of a year, shall not be transmitted to the department but shall be paid over by the authorized agent, as collected, to the county treasurer, who shall credit the same to an account entitled "apportioned vehicle registration fees". On the tenth day of each month, the county treasurer shall apportion the balance in the account existing on the last day of the immediately preceding month between the county and the cities and incorporated towns located within the boundaries of the county on the basis of the record of rural and urban registrations that indicates the place of residence of each vehicle owner.

(5) All amounts allocated to the county shall be credited to the county road and bridge fund, and all amounts allocated to a city or incorporated town shall be credited to an appropriate fund and expended by such city or incorporated town only for the construction and maintenance of highways, roads, and streets located within its boundaries.

(6) Repealed.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire article amended with relocations, p. 1170, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2009:** (4) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1269, § 33, effective October 1. **L. 2010:** (4) amended, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1492, § 14, effective October 1. **L. 2022:** (4) amended, (HB

22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2584, § 12, effective January 1, 2023; (6) added, (HB 22-1254), ch. 428, p. 3029, § 5, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-139 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (6)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (6), effective July 1, 2026. (See L. 2022, p. 3029.)

**Cross references:** For the short title (the "Colorado Registration Fairness Act") in HB 22-1254, see section 1 of chapter 428, Session Laws of Colorado 2022.

#### **42-3-311. Low-power scooter registration - fee.**

(1) Every low-power scooter sold in this state shall have an identification number stamped on its frame, which number shall be recorded upon registration. A low-power scooter shall be registered with the department, which registration shall be evidenced by a number decal that is securely affixed to the low-power scooter frame in a conspicuous place. Registration shall be valid for a period of three years, and the fee for such registration shall be five dollars. Retail sellers of low-power scooters shall retain one dollar from each such fee, and four dollars of each such fee shall be forwarded monthly to the department for deposit in the state treasury to the credit of the highway users tax fund.

(2) The general assembly shall make appropriations from the fund for the expenses of the administration of this section, and any fees credited to the fund pursuant to subsection (1) of this section in excess of the amount of the appropriations shall be allocated and expended as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(f), C.R.S. The department shall promulgate rules authorizing retail sellers of low-power scooters to be agents of the department for such registration.

**Source: L. 2005:** (1) amended, p. 148, § 24, effective April 5; entire article amended with relocations, p. 1171, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1269, § 34, effective October 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-3-144 as it existed prior to 2005.

(2) Subsection (1) was originally numbered as § 42-3-144 (1), and the amendments to it in Senate Bill 05-041 were harmonized with § 42-3-311 (1) as it appears in House Bill 05-1107.

#### **42-3-312. Special license plate surcharge.**

(1) In addition to any other fee imposed by this article 3, an applicant for a special license plate created by rule in accordance with section 42-3-207, as the section existed when the plate was created, personalized plates issued under section 42-3-211, or special license plates issued under sections 42-3-212 to 42-3-214, sections 42-3-217 to 42-3-218, sections 42-3-221 to 42-3-229, sections 42-3-231 to 42-3-234, sections 42-3-237 to 42-3-258, sections 42-3-260 to 42-3-265, and sections 42-3-267 to 42-3-271 shall pay an issuance fee of twenty-five dollars; except that the fee is not imposed on special license plates exempted from additional fees for the issuance of a military special license plate by section 42-3-213 (1)(b)(II). The state treasurer shall credit the money from the fee to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(2) In addition to any other fee imposed by this article 3, an applicant for special license plates issued under section 42-3-272 shall pay the fee imposed in subsection (1) of this section on or after July 1, 2028, to be issued the special license plates.

**Source:** **L. 2007:** Entire section added, p. 1574, § 9, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** Entire section amended, p. 859, § 2, effective August 5; entire section amended, p. 996, § 2, effective August 5; entire section amended, p. 2273, § 4, effective January 1, 2009. **L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (HB 09-1347), ch. 357, p. 1861, § 2, effective August 5; entire section amended, (HB 09-1100), ch. 279, p. 1247, § 2, effective August 5; entire section amended, (SB 09-161), ch. 412, p. 2282, § 2, effective August 5. **L. 2010:** Entire section amended, (SB 10-103), ch. 304, p. 1438, § 2, effective August 11; entire section amended, (HB 10-1214), ch. 394, p. 1873, § 4, effective August 11. **L. 2011:** Entire section amended, (SB 11-197), ch. 291, p. 1356, § 2, effective August 10; entire section amended, (HB 11-1166), ch. 276, p. 1242, § 2, effective August 10; entire section amended, (HB 11-1298), ch. 251, p. 1091, § 2, effective August 10; entire section amended, (HB 11-1316), ch. 192, p. 739, § 2, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** Entire section amended, (HB 12-1295), ch. 89, p. 291, § 2, effective August 8; entire section amended, (HB 12-1023), ch. 134, p. 461, § 2, effective August 8; entire section amended, (HB 12-1131), ch. 146, p. 527, § 2, effective August 8; entire section amended, (HB 12-1302), ch. 215, p. 927, § 2, effective August 8; entire section amended, (HB 12-1275), ch. 194, p. 775, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-224), ch. 245, p. 1185, § 2, effective August 7. **L. 2014:** Entire section amended, (SB 14-036), ch. 334, p. 1487, § 2, effective August 6. **L. 2015:** Entire section amended, (SB 15-229), ch. 293, p. 1196, § 2, effective August 5; entire section amended, (HB 15-1313), ch. 243, p. 900, § 2, effective August 5. **L. 2017:** Entire section amended, (HB 17-1012), ch. 142, p. 473, § 2, effective April 18; entire section amended, (HB 17-1212), ch. 378, p. 1948, § 2, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** Entire section amended, (HB 18-



1255), ch. 226, p. 1436, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2019:** Entire section amended (SB 19-167), ch. 221, p. 2249, § 2, effective August 2; entire section amended (HB 19-1255), ch. 348, p. 3236, § 2, effective August 2. **L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (HB 21-1073), ch. 345, p. 2247, § 2, effective September 7; entire section amended, (HB 21-1128), ch. 321, p. 1973, § 2, effective September 7; entire section amended, (HB 21-1145), ch. 286, p. 1695, § 2, effective September 7; entire section amended, (HB 21-1219), ch. 262, p. 1530, § 3, effective September 7; entire section amended, (HB 21-1323), ch. 336, p. 2171, § 2, effective September 7. **L. 2022:** Entire section amended, (SB 22-107), ch. 246, p. 1828, § 2, effective May 26; entire section amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 915, § 18, effective July 1; entire section amended, (HB 22-1014), ch. 256, p. 1887, § 2, effective August 10; entire section amended, (HB 22-1103), ch. 269, p. 1947, § 3, effective August 10; entire section amended, (HB 22-1154), ch. 215, p. 1418, § 2, effective August 10; entire section amended, (HB 22-1241), ch. 319, p. 2265, § 2, effective August 10. **L. 2023:** Entire section amended, (SB 23-025), ch. 314, p. 1909, § 2, effective August 7; entire section amended, (SB 23-145), ch. 238, p. 1285, § 2, effective August 7; entire section amended, (HB 23-1265), ch. 231, p. 1217, § 4, effective August 7. **L. 2024:** Entire section amended, (HB 24-1105), ch. 380, p. 2574, § 2, effective August 7; entire section amended, (HB 24-1369), ch. 347, p. 2352, § 2, effective August 7. **L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (HB 26-1306), ch. 204, p. 1168, § 5, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section was amended in SB 08-178, SB 08-186, and HB 08-1151. The amendments to this section in SB 08-178 were superseded by the amendments to this section in SB 08-186, effective August 5, 2008. The amendments to this section in SB 08-186 were superseded by the amendments to this section in HB 08-1151, effective January 1, 2009.

(2) Amendments to this section by SB 09-161 and HB 09-1100 were superseded by HB 09-1347.

(3) Amendments to this section by SB 10-103 and HB 10-1214 were harmonized.

(4) Amendments to this section by SB 11-197, HB 11-1166, HB 11-1298, and HB 11-1316 were harmonized.

(5) Amendments to this section by HB 12-1295, HB 12-1023, HB 12-1131, HB 12-1302, and HB 12-1275 were harmonized.

(6) Amendments to this section by SB 15-229 and HB 15-1313 were harmonized.

(7) Amendments to this section by HB 17-1012 and HB 17-1212 were harmonized.

(8) Amendments to this section by SB 19-167 and HB 19-1255 were harmonized.

(9) Amendments to this section by HB 21-1073, HB 21-1128, HB 21-1145, HB 21-1219, and HB 21-1323 were harmonized.

(10) Amendments to this section by SB 22-107, HB 22-1014, HB 22-1103, HB 22-1154, HB 22-1241, and HB 22-1339 were harmonized.

(11) Amendments to this section by SB 23-025, SB 23-145, and HB 23-1265 were harmonized.

(12) Amendments to this section by HB 24-1369 and HB 24-1105 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** (1) For the short title ("Councilwoman Jennifer Allen-Thomas Colorado Nurses License Plate Act") in HB 21-1219, see section 1 of chapter 262, Session Laws of Colorado 2021.

(2) For the legislative declaration in HB 22-1103, see section 1 of chapter 269, Session Laws of Colorado 2022. For the legislative declaration in HB 23-1265, see section 1 of chapter 231, Session Laws of Colorado 2023.

**42-3-313. Fee for long-term or permanent registration - trailers and semitrailers.**

(1) In lieu of any other fee imposed for registration, the fee for registration issued under section 42-3-102 (4) is twenty-four dollars and fifty cents.

(2) (a) The department or authorized agent who registered the commercial trailer or semitrailer may retain two dollars of the registration fee.

(b) The department or authorized agent shall retain one dollar and fifty cents of the fee, which the department shall transfer to the county, if applicable, and the county shall allocate to the county road and bridge fund.

(c) The department shall transfer the remainder of the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the following amounts to the following funds:

(I) Fifty cents to the Colorado state titling and registration account created in section 42-1-211 (2) within the highway users tax fund until July 1, 2019, and thereafter to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2) within the highway users tax fund;

(II) Two dollars and fifty cents to the license plate cash fund created in section 42-3-301 (1)(b);

(III) Five dollars to the statewide bridge and tunnel enterprise special revenue fund created in section 43-4-805 (3)(a); and

(IV) The remainder of the fee to the highway users tax fund.

**Source: L. 2012:** Entire section added, (HB 12-1038), ch. 276, p. 1457, § 6, effective June 8. **L. 2017:** (2)(c)(I) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 371, § 19, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** (2)(c)(I) amended, (SB 18-253), ch. 293, p. 1800, § 5, effective May 29. **L. 2025:** (2)(c)(III) amended, (SB 25-300), ch. 428, p. 2459, § 68, effective August 6.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in the 2012 act adding this section, see section 1 of chapter 276, Session Laws of Colorado 2012.

#### **42-3-314. Military deployment.**

(1) **Motor vehicle fees exempted.** If the owner is a member of the United States armed forces and has orders to serve outside the United States, the owner may exempt the Class C personal property or Class B personal property under sixteen thousand pounds empty weight from the registration fees imposed under this part 3 during the time the owner is serving. If the owner serves less than one year outside the United States, the fees are exempt for the portion of the year that the owner served outside the United States, prorated according to the number of months the owner was in the United States.

(2) **Qualifications.** In order for a motor vehicle to qualify for the exemption from registration fees under this section, the owner must:

(a) Show the department military orders to serve outside the United States or any evidence acceptable to the department that the owner served outside the United States.

(b) Repealed.

(3) If a person has already paid the normal fees under this part 3 for a motor vehicle that is eligible for an exemption under this section, the department shall credit the person the exempted portion of the fee amount towards the person's fees for succeeding years.

(4) **Violations.** A person shall not operate the motor vehicle during the time the motor vehicle is exempt from paying fees under subsection (2) of this section. A violation of this section is a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 2014:** Entire section added, (SB 14-075), ch. 264, p. 1060, § 2, effective August 6. **L. 2026:** (2)(a) and (4) amended and (2)(b) repealed, (HB 26-1200), ch. 69, p. 277, § 3, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** Section 4(2) of chapter 69 (HB 26-1200), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to taxes and fees due on or after August 12, 2026.

**42-3-315. Fee for long-term or permanent registration - trailers.**

***[Editor's note: This section is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of this section on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]***

(1) In lieu of any other fee imposed for registration of a trailer, the fee for registration issued under section 42-3-102 (5) is fifty-five dollars and eighty-two cents.

(2) (a) The department or authorized agent that registered the trailer may retain two dollars of the registration fee.

(b) The department or authorized agent shall retain one dollar and fifty cents of the fee, which the department shall transfer to the county where the registration occurred, if applicable, and the county shall allocate the money to the county road and bridge fund for the county created pursuant to section 43-2-202 (1)(a).

(c) The state treasurer shall credit the following amounts of the remainder of the fee to the following funds:

(I) Fifty cents to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2) within the highway users tax fund;

(II) Two dollars and fifty cents to the license plate cash fund created in section 42-3-301 (1)(b);

(III) Five dollars to the statewide bridge and tunnel enterprise special revenue fund created in section 43-4-805 (3)(a);

(IV) Sixteen dollars to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201 and allocated as specified in section 43-4-205 (6)(b); and

(V) The remainder of the fee to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201.

**Source: L. 2025:** Entire section added, (HB 25-1121), ch. 392, p. 2214, § 3, effective July 1, 2027.

**Editor's note:** Section 5(2) of chapter 392 (HB 25-1121), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act adding this section applies to registrations made on or after January 1, 2028.

## **REGULATION OF VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC**

### **ARTICLE 4**

#### **Regulation of Vehicles and Traffic**

| PART 1                         |                                                                                | 42-4-110.   | Provisions uniform                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| TRAFFIC REGULATION - GENERALLY |                                                                                |             | throughout state -<br>legislative declaration.                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 42-4-101.                      | Short title.                                                                   |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 42-4-102.                      | Legislative declaration.                                                       | 42-4-110.5. | Automated vehicle<br>identification systems -<br>school buses - exceptions<br>to liability - penalty -<br>contracting - limits on use<br>of photographs and video<br>- rules - legislative<br>declaration - definitions -<br>repeal. |
| 42-4-103.                      | Scope and effect of article -<br>exceptions to provisions.                     |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 42-4-104.                      | Adoption of traffic control<br>manual.                                         |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 42-4-105.                      | Local traffic control devices.                                                 |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 42-4-106.                      | Who may restrict right to use<br>highways - definitions -<br>rules.            | 42-4-111.   | Powers of local authorities.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                |                                                                                | 42-4-112.   | Noninterference with the<br>rights of owners of realty.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 42-4-107.                      | Obedience to police officers.                                                  |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 42-4-108.                      | Public officers to obey<br>provisions - exceptions<br>for emergency vehicles.  | 42-4-113.   | Appropriations for<br>administration of article.                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                |                                                                                | 42-4-114.   | Removal of traffic hazards.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 42-4-109.                      | Low-power scooters,<br>animals, skis, skates, and<br>toy vehicles on highways. | 42-4-115.   | Information on traffic law<br>enforcement - collection -<br>profiling - annual report -<br>repeal. (Repealed)                                                                                                                        |
| 42-4-109.5.                    | Low-speed electric vehicles.                                                   |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 42-4-109.6.                    | Class B low-speed electric<br>vehicles - effective date -<br>rules.            | 42-4-116.   | Restrictions for minor drivers<br>- definitions.                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                |                                                                                | 42-4-117.   | Personal mobility devices.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 42-4-109.7.                    | Kei vehicles - penalty.                                                        |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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| 42-4-118. | Establishment of wildlife crossing zones - speed limit - definition. | 42-4-213.   | Audible and visual signals on emergency vehicles.                                                                                                                              |
| 42-4-119. | Establishment of a school street - speed limit - definition.         | 42-4-214.   | Visual signals on service vehicles - rules - definition.                                                                                                                       |
|           | PART 2<br>EQUIPMENT                                                  | 42-4-215.   | Signal lamps and devices - additional lighting equipment.                                                                                                                      |
| 42-4-201. | Obstruction of view or driving mechanism - hazardous situation.      | 42-4-215.5. | Signal lamps and devices - street rod vehicles and custom motor vehicles. (Repealed)                                                                                           |
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| 42-4-203. | Unsafe vehicles - spot inspections.                                  | 42-4-217.   | Use of multiple-beam lights.                                                                                                                                                   |
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## PART 1

### TRAFFIC REGULATION - GENERALLY

#### **42-4-101. Short title.**

Parts 1 to 3, 5 to 19, and 21 of this article, part 1 of article 2 of this title, and part 5 of article 5 of title 43, C.R.S., shall be known and may be cited as the "Uniform Safety Code of 1935".

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2227, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2002:** Entire section amended, p. 485, § 5, effective July 1.

#### ANNOTATION

**Applied** in *People v. Pinyan*, 190 Colo.  
304, 546 P.2d 488 (1976).

#### **42-4-102. Legislative declaration.**

The general assembly recognizes the many conflicts which presently exist between the state's traffic laws and many of the municipal traffic codes, which conflicts lead to uncertainty in the movement of traffic on the state's highways and streets. These conflicts are compounded by the

fact that today's Americans are extremely mobile and that while this state enjoys a large influx of traffic from many areas, there is some lack of uniformity existing between the "rules of the road" of this state and those of other states of the nation. The general assembly, therefore, declares it the purpose of this article to alleviate these conflicts and lack of uniformity by conforming, as nearly as possible, certain of the traffic laws of this state with the recommendations of the national committee of uniform traffic laws and ordinances as set forth in the committee's "Uniform Vehicle Code".

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2227, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**42-4-103. Scope and effect of article - exceptions to provisions.**

(1) This article constitutes the uniform traffic code throughout the state and in all political subdivisions and municipalities therein.

(2) The provisions of this article relating to the operation of vehicles and the movement of pedestrians refer exclusively to the use of streets and highways except:

(a) Where a different place is specifically referred to in a given section;

(b) For provisions of sections 42-2-128, 42-4-1301 to 42-4-1303, 42-4-1401, 42-4-1402, and 42-4-1413 and part 16 of this article which shall apply upon streets and highways and elsewhere throughout the state.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2228, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2007:** (1) amended, p. 31, § 6, effective August 3.

**ANNOTATION**

**Statutes and rules of the road are designed to govern traffic upon highways,** that are prepared for use as such, for public convenience and safety, and are applicable only to permanent lines of travel. They have no application to parts of a road under construction, where changing conditions would not permit orderly travel under

established rules. *Curtis v. Lawley*, 140 Colo. 476, 346 P.2d 579 (1959).

**This section does not determine scope of implied consent law;** its provisions apply only when an operator is driving on a public highway. *State, Motor Vehicle Div. v. Dayhoff*, 199 Colo. 363, 609 P.2d 119 (1980).

**Traffic regulation as function of local government.** It is generally held that the individual regulation pertaining to the establishment of one-way streets, posting of stop signs, installation of traffic signals, establishment of varying speed limits, and all regulations governing movements of vehicles, streetcars, and of pedestrians on streets and sidewalks is the primary function of local government. *Retallack v. Police Court*, 142 Colo. 214, 351 P.2d 884 (1960).

**Local authorities are given express power to supplement the state traffic statutes** where it is apparent that local control may be necessary in addition to state control. *City of Aurora v. Mitchell*, 144 Colo. 526, 357 P.2d 923 (1960).

**Applied** in *Dayhoff v. State, Motor Vehicle Div.*, 42 Colo. App. 91, 595 P.2d 1051 (1979).

#### **42-4-104. Adoption of traffic control manual.**

The department of transportation shall adopt a manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic control devices consistent with the provisions of this article for use upon highways within this state. Such uniform system shall correlate with and insofar as possible conform to the system set forth in the most recent edition of the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways" and other related standards issued or endorsed by the federal highway administrator. For compliance with this section, the said department shall either publish and distribute a state manual and specifications approved by the transportation commission or shall, by the issuance of a traffic control manual supplement approved by the transportation commission, adopt the said national manual and other related standards subject to such exceptions, additions, and adaptations as are necessary for lawful and uniform application in this state. Said state manual or supplement shall be made available to all municipal and county road authorities and to other concerned agencies in the state.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2228, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-501 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **ANNOTATION**

**The speed limit starts at the physical location of the sign and continues to be in effect until it ends at the next different speed limit sign** pursuant to the manual

adopted by the department of transportation pursuant to this section. *Shafron v. Cooke*, 190 P.3d 812 (Colo. App. 2008).

#### **42-4-105. Local traffic control devices.**

Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions shall place and maintain such traffic control devices upon highways under their jurisdiction as they may deem necessary to indicate and to carry out the provisions of this article or local traffic ordinances or to regulate, warn, or guide traffic, subject in the case of state highways to the provisions of sections 42-4-110 and 43-2-135 (1)(g), C.R.S. All such traffic control devices shall conform to the state manual and specifications for statewide uniformity as provided in section 42-4-104.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2228, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-503 (1) as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-105 was relocated to § 42-4-107.

#### **ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-105 is similar to § 42-4-503 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**The regulation of traffic at street intersections in a home-rule city is a matter of local concern.** Freeland v. Fife, 151 Colo. 339, 377 P.2d 942 (1963).

#### **42-4-106. Who may restrict right to use highways - definitions - rules.**

(1) Local authorities with respect to highways under their jurisdiction may by ordinance or resolution prohibit the operation of vehicles upon any such highway or impose restrictions as to the weight of vehicles to be operated upon any such highway, for a total period of not to exceed ninety days in any one calendar year, whenever any said highway by reason of deterioration, rain, snow, or other climatic conditions will be seriously damaged or destroyed unless the use of vehicles thereon is prohibited or the permissible weights thereof reduced.

(2) The local authority enacting any such ordinance or resolution shall erect or cause to be erected and maintained signs designating the permissible weights.

(3) Local authorities, with respect to highways under their jurisdiction, may also, by ordinance or resolution:

- (a) Prohibit the operation of trucks or commercial vehicles on designated highways;
- (b) Impose limitations as to the weight of trucks or commercial vehicles if the limitations are designated by appropriate signs placed on the highway;
- (c) Prohibit the operation of motor or off-highway vehicles upon a roughed-in road when necessary for the protection and safety of the public; or

(d) (I) When snow-packed conditions exist on a highway or for a continuous seasonal period designated by the local authority when snow-packed conditions are, as determined by the local authority, likely to exist on a highway, designate all or a portion of a highway for over-snow use only, which the local jurisdiction may further limit to travel by human-powered or animal-powered means, or both.

(II) As used in this subsection (3)(d), "over-snow use" means travel on top of snow by human-powered or animal-powered means or by an off-highway vehicle that is primarily designed or altered for use over snow and runs without tires on a continuous belt track or on one or more skis while in use over snow.

(III) Nothing in this subsection (3)(d) affects or limits the provisions of section 33-14-110 governing the operation of snowmobiles on any county road, city street, or highway.

(IV) When wheeled winter access is requested along a highway, nothing in this subsection (3)(d) prohibits a local authority from entering into private winter maintenance agreements and such requests shall be considered.

(4) The department of transportation shall likewise have authority as granted in this section to local authorities to determine by resolution and to impose restrictions as to the weight of vehicles operated upon any highway under the jurisdiction of said department, and such restrictions shall be effective when signs giving notice thereof are erected upon the highways or portion of any highway affected by such resolution.

(4.5) (a) The department of transportation has authority to close any portion of a state highway to public travel.

(b) (I) A person who operates a motor vehicle or vehicle combination over thirty-five feet in length on state highway 82 between mile markers 47 and 72 in violation of a closure under paragraph (a) of this subsection (4.5) is subject to an enhanced penalty as set forth in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(F).

(II) A person who operates a motor vehicle or vehicle combination over thirty-five feet in length on state highway 82 between mile markers 47 and 72 in violation of a closure under

paragraph (a) of this subsection (4.5), where the result of the violation is an incident that causes the closure of a travel lane in one or both directions, is subject to an enhanced penalty as set forth in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(F).

(c) Repealed.

(5) (a) (I) (A) The department of transportation may close any portion of a state highway for public use during dangerous driving conditions, during construction or maintenance operations, or when necessary for the protection and safety of the public.

(B) When icy or snow-packed conditions exist on the highway, the department of transportation may restrict travel on or use of any portion of a state highway by a motor vehicle unless the motor vehicle is equipped with the following: Tire chains or an alternate traction device or tires that have a tread depth of at least three sixteenths of an inch and that are imprinted by a manufacturer with a mountain-snowflake, "M&S", "M+S", or "M/S" symbol or that are all-weather rated by the manufacturer.

(C) A closure or restriction under this subsection (5) is effective when signs, including temporary or electronic signs, that notify the public of the closure or restriction are erected upon the highway, and the restriction in subsection (5)(a)(I)(B) of this section is effective on any portion of the following corridors located on the western slope from September 1 through May 31 of each year during any conditions that exist on the highway for any commercial vehicle with a declared gross vehicle weight rating of sixteen thousand one pounds or more: Interstate 70 west of milepost 259 (Morrison), Colorado state highway 9 from milepost 63 to milepost 97 (Frisco to Fairplay), U.S. route 40 west of milepost 256 (Empire), U.S. route 50 west of milepost 225 (Salida), U.S. route 160 west of milepost 304 (Walsenburg), U.S. route 285 west of milepost 250 (Morrison), and all of U.S. route 550 from milepost 0 to 130. It is unlawful to proceed when a state highway is closed or to proceed when a restriction is in effect without the equipment required by this subsection (5).

(C.5) A closure or restriction under this subsection (5) is effective on any motor vehicle when signs, including temporary or electronic signs, that notify the public of the closure or restriction are erected upon the highway, and the restriction in subsection (5)(a)(I)(B) of this section is effective on interstate 70 between milepost 133 (Dotsero) and milepost 259 (Morrison) from September 1 through May 31 of each year. It is unlawful to proceed when a state highway is closed or to proceed when a restriction is in effect without the equipment required by this subsection (5).

(D) The Colorado state patrol shall cooperate with the department of transportation in the enforcement of a closing or restriction under this subsection (5).

(E) The driver of a commercial vehicle, including a bus, must affix tire chains or approved alternate traction devices to the number of drive wheel tires required by and in the manner

prescribed by the department of transportation's rules governing chain law and passenger vehicle traction law requirements on the state highway system.

(F) A person who violates this subsection (5)(a)(I) commits a traffic infraction and is subject to the penalties in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(F).

(G) On August 7, 2024, the office of freight mobility and safety created in section 43-1-117 (4) shall launch an awareness campaign on any laws enacted that modify subsection (5)(a)(I)(C) of this section.

(II) Any person who operates a motor vehicle in violation of restrictions imposed by the department of transportation or the state patrol under subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a), where the result of the violation is an incident that causes the closure of a travel lane in one or both directions, shall be subject to an enhanced penalty as set forth in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(F).

(III) A person who violates subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a) while operating a commercial vehicle shall be subject to an enhanced penalty as set forth in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(F).

(IV) A person who violates subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a) while operating a commercial vehicle and the violation causes a closure in a travel lane shall be subject to an enhanced penalty as set forth in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(F).

(V) If a fine is enhanced under subparagraphs (III) and (IV) of this paragraph (a), the portion of the fine that exceeds the fine imposed under subparagraph (I) for an enhancement under subparagraph (III), or subparagraph (II) for an enhancement under subparagraph (IV), that is allocated to the state by sections 42-1-217 and 43-4-205, C.R.S., shall be transferred to the state treasurer, who shall deposit it in the highway construction workers' safety account within the highway users tax fund created by section 42-4-1701 (4)(c)(II)(B), to be continuously appropriated to the department of transportation for work zone safety equipment, signs, and law enforcement.

(VI) Subparagraphs (III) and (IV) of this paragraph (a) shall not apply to a tow operator who is towing a motor vehicle or traveling to a site from which a motor vehicle shall be towed.

(VII) The Colorado department of transportation shall identify an appropriate place for commercial vehicles to apply chains, if necessary, to comply with subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a) and provide adequate notice to commercial vehicle operators of such places.

(b) The transportation commission may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this subsection (5).

(c) As used in this subsection (5):



(I) "Alternate traction device" means a device that is approved by the Colorado department of transportation as capable of providing traction comparable to that of metal chains under similar conditions.

(II) "Equipped" means that a motor vehicle uses or carries the appropriate traction equipment for icy or snow-packed conditions.

(III) "Tire chains" means metal chains consisting of two circular metal loops, one on each side of the tire, connected by no fewer than nine evenly spaced chains across the tire tread.

(6) (a) The department of transportation and local authorities, within their respective jurisdictions, may, for the purpose of road construction and maintenance, temporarily close to through traffic or to all vehicular traffic any highway or portion thereof for a period not to exceed a specified number of workdays for project completion and shall, in conjunction with any such road closure, establish appropriate detours or provide for an alternative routing of the traffic affected when, in the opinion of said department or concerned local authorities, as evidenced by resolution or ordinance, such temporary closing of the highway or portion thereof and such rerouting of traffic is necessary for traffic safety and for the protection of work crews and road equipment. Such temporary closing of the highway or portion thereof and the routing of traffic along other roads shall not become effective until official traffic control devices are erected giving notice of the restrictions, and, when such devices are in place, no driver shall disobey the instructions or directions thereof.

(b) Local authorities, within their respective jurisdictions, may provide for the temporary closing to vehicular traffic of any portion of a highway during a specified period of the day for the purpose of celebrations, parades, and special local events or civic functions when in the opinion of said authorities such temporary closing is necessary for the safety and protection of persons who are to use that portion of the highway during the temporary closing.

(c) The department of transportation, local municipal authorities, and local county authorities shall enter into agreements with one another for the establishment, signing, and marking of appropriate detours and alternative routes which jointly affect state and local road systems and which are necessary to carry out the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection (6). Any temporary closing of a street which is a state highway and any rerouting of state highway traffic shall have the approval of the department of transportation before such closing and rerouting becomes effective.

(7) (a) The transportation commission may also by resolution and within the reasonable exercise of the police power of the state adopt rules and regulations concerning the operation of any motor vehicle in any tunnel which is a part of the state highway system.

(b) In promulgating such rules and regulations, the transportation commission shall consider the regulations of the public utilities commission and the United States department of

transportation relating to the transportation of dangerous articles and may prohibit or regulate the operation of any motor vehicle which transports any article, deemed to be dangerous, in any tunnel which is a part of the state highway system.

(8) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (8), a person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(b) A person who violates paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of this section while operating a commercial vehicle commits a class B traffic infraction and shall be punished as provided in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(F); except that this paragraph (b) shall not apply to a tow operator who is towing a motor vehicle or traveling to a site from which a motor vehicle shall be towed.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2229, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (5) amended, p. 277, § 1, effective April 11. **L. 2002:** (5)(a)(II) amended, p. 96, § 1, effective March 26. **L. 2007:** (5)(a)(III), (5)(a)(IV), (5)(a)(V), (5)(a)(VI), and (5)(a)(VII) added and (8) amended, pp. 1332, 1333, §§ 1, 2, effective August 3. **L. 2014:** (4.5) added, (HB 14-1021), ch. 188, p. 702, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2019:** (5)(a)(I) amended and (5)(c) added, (HB 19-1207), ch. 202, p. 2171, § 1, effective August 2. **L. 2021:** (3) amended, (SB 21-084), ch. 50, p. 213, § 2, effective September 7. **L. 2022:** (3)(b) and (3)(c) amended and (3)(d) added, (HB 22-1046), ch. 94, p. 451, § 1, effective April 12. **L. 2024:** (5)(a)(I)(C) amended and (5)(a)(I)(C.5) and (5)(a)(I)(G) added, (SB 24-100), ch. 207, p. 1275, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2025:** (5)(a)(I)(B) amended, (SB 25-069), ch. 196, p. 870, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2026:** (5)(a)(I)(B) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 461, § 1, effective August 12; (5)(a)(I)(E), (5)(a)(I)(G), and (5)(c)(I) amended, (HB 26-1076), ch. 265, p. 1469, § 8, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-410 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-106 was relocated to § 42-4-108.

(2) Subsection (4.5)(c)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (4.5)(c), effective July 1, 2016. (See L. 2014, p. 702.)

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-106 is similar to § 42-4-410 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by

SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**A town was empowered by the Colorado constitution to adopt an ordinance that restricted truck traffic** on two major streets in the town. Carl Ainsworth, Inc. v. Town of Morrison, 189 Colo. 223, 539 P.2d 1267 (1975).

The enforcement of a town ordinance prohibiting truck traffic on two major streets in the town did not operate as an unreasonable, arbitrary, and discriminatory exercise of police power in violation of amendment 14, U.S. Const., and § 25 of art. II, Colo. Const. Carl Ainsworth, Inc. v. Town of Morrison, 189 Colo. 223, 539 P.2d 1267 (1975).

**This section allows the board of county commissioners to adopt resolutions** prohibiting the operation of through traffic by vehicles upon certain county roads in residential areas since it is a "local authority" under section 42-1-102(38). Asphalt Paving Co. v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 162 Colo. 254, 425 P.2d 289 (1967).

**There is nothing illegal about a state general assembly delegating powers local in nature to local governmental units,** provided that the proper constitutional tests are met as to maintaining a separation of powers and nonabrogation of proper responsibility. Asphalt Paving Co. v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 162 Colo. 254, 425 P.2d 289 (1967).

**Only local authorities are in a position to determine which streets in a residential area need to be regulated** in a "reasonable" manner, or would know about these problems in any detail. It is essential that

there be some control for the public welfare in certain neighborhoods of such matters as heavy truck weights which are unsuitable on certain types of roads, excessive noise, congestion, and air pollution, as well as speed regulation. Asphalt Paving Co. v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 162 Colo. 254, 425 P.2d 289 (1967).

**Standard of reasonable exercise of police power applies.** In addition to guidelines for standards set forth in this section, by virtue of section 42-4-109, the further standard of reasonable exercise of police power applies. Asphalt Paving Co. v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 162 Colo. 254, 425 P.2d 289 (1967).

**Discretion relating to police regulation may be validly delegated without restrictions.** As a qualification of the general rule, where the discretion to be exercised relates to police regulations for the protection of public morals, health, safety, or general welfare, and it is impracticable to fix standards without destroying the flexibility necessary to enable the administrative officials to carry out the legislative will, legislation delegating such discretion without such restrictions may be valid. Asphalt Paving Co. v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 162 Colo. 254, 425 P.2d 289 (1967).

**Reasonableness of classification.** Where the regulations apply equally to all trucks in transit through designated residential areas except for those needed for local deliveries, this is a reasonable classification for the protection of the health and safety of such neighborhoods and is based upon a

justifiable distinction that is not in the least arbitrary. *Asphalt Paving Co. v. Bd. of County Comm'rs*, 162 Colo. 254, 425 P.2d 289 (1967).

**Applied** in *People v. Boyd*, 642 P.2d 1 (Colo. 1982).

#### **42-4-107. Obedience to police officers.**

No person shall willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of any police officer invested by law with authority to direct, control, or regulate traffic. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2230, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-105 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-107 was relocated to § 42-4-109.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II).

#### **ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-107 is similar to § 42-4-105 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that

provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Applied** in *Brutcher v. District Court*, 195 Colo. 579, 580 P.2d 396 (1978).

#### **42-4-108. Public officers to obey provisions - exceptions for emergency vehicles.**

(1) The provisions of this article applicable to the drivers of vehicles upon the highways shall apply to the drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by the United States, this state, or any county, city, town, district, or other political subdivision of the state, subject to such specific exceptions as are set forth in this article with reference to authorized emergency vehicles.

(2) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, or when in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, or when responding to but not upon

returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, but subject to the conditions stated in this article. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may:

- (a) Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this title;
- (b) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation;
- (c) Exceed the lawful speeds set forth in section 42-4-1101 (2) or exceed the maximum lawful speed limits set forth in section 42-4-1101 (8) so long as said driver does not endanger life or property;
- (d) Disregard regulations governing directions of movement or turning in specified directions.

(3) The exemptions and conditions provided in paragraphs (b) to (d), in their entirety, of subsection (2) of this section for an authorized emergency vehicle shall continue to apply to section 24-10-106 (1)(a), C.R.S., only when such vehicle is making use of audible or visual signals meeting the requirements of section 42-4-213, and the exemption granted in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of this section shall apply only when such vehicle is making use of visual signals meeting the requirements of section 42-4-213 unless using such visual signals would cause an obstruction to the normal flow of traffic; except that an authorized emergency vehicle being operated as a police vehicle while in actual pursuit of a suspected violator of any provision of this title need not display or make use of audible or visual signals so long as such pursuit is being made to obtain verification of or evidence of the guilt of the suspected violator. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require an emergency vehicle to make use of audible signals when such vehicle is not moving, whether or not the vehicle is occupied.

(4) The provisions of this section shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of such driver's reckless disregard for the safety of others.

(5) The state motor vehicle licensing agency shall designate any particular vehicle as an authorized emergency vehicle upon a finding that the designation of that vehicle is necessary to the preservation of life or property or to the execution of emergency governmental functions. Such designation shall be in writing, and the written designation shall be carried in the vehicle at all times, but failure to carry the written designation shall not affect the status of the vehicle as an authorized emergency vehicle.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2231, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 96:** (3) amended, p. 958, § 4, effective July 1.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-108 is similar to § 42-4-106 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included in the annotations to this section.

**Proper standard under subsection (2)** for determining whether an emergency vehicle operator was responding to an emergency call is an objective standard from the perspective of the reasonable emergency vehicle operator. Courts must decide whether the emergency vehicle operator reasonably believed that he or she was responding to an emergency based on information he or she knew or should have known. *Corsentino v. Cordova*, 4 P.3d 1082 (Colo. 2000).

**Proper standard under subsection (2)(c)** for determining whether an emergency vehicle driver endangered life or property while speeding is to ask whether the emergency vehicle operator's speed created an unreasonable risk of injury or damage to life or property. Courts should limit their inquiry to the relationship between the conduct of the emergency operator prior to the accident and the circumstances surrounding the conduct and important factors include, but are not limited to, the legal speed limit in the area, the speed at which the operator was driving, the conditions of the road, and the type of area in which the operator was driving. *Corsentino v. Cordova*, 4 P.3d 1082 (Colo. 2000).

**Firefighters and city immune from liability** when an eight-foot section of hard suction hose came loose from the truck and plaintiff drove over the hose, causing personal injury and damage to the car, because the fire truck was responding to a fire alarm and was using its emergency lights and sirens. *City of Grand Junction v. Sisneros*, 957 P.2d 1026 (Colo. 1998).

**An emergency driver waives governmental immunity in an accident when the driver does not activate emergency warning lights or sirens only if** a plaintiff's injuries could have resulted from the driver's failure to use alerts while speeding in pursuit of a suspected or actual lawbreaker. *Hice v. Giron*, 2024 CO 9, 543 P.3d 385.

**The possibility that an officer's failure to use emergency lights or a siren** until the final five to ten seconds of a pursuit could have contributed to an accident with another motorist is a waiver of governmental immunity under § 24-10-106 (1)(a) for the officer and the town that employed the officer. *Giron v. Hice*, 2025 COA 17, 568 P.3d 20.

**Police officer not immune from liability** if operating an emergency vehicle with "reckless disregard for the safety of others". *Zapp v. Kukuris*, 847 P.2d 150 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Running a red light without slowing down is not within the provisions of subsection (2)(b).** Therefore, the

government may be held liable for an accident resulting from such conduct. *Tunget v. Bd. of County Comm'rs*, 992 P.2d 650 (Colo. App. 1999).

**Under the emergency vehicle exception provided for by subsection (2)(c) of this section and § 24-10-106 (1)(a)**, a trial court must find that a police officer who exceeded the speed limit in pursuit of a fleeing crime suspect did not endanger life or property before granting immunity from a lawsuit resulting from a pursuit-related traffic accident. Case remanded where the trial court dismissed the lawsuit for lack of subject matter jurisdiction based on sovereign immunity without making such a finding. *Quintana v. City of Westminster*, 8 P.3d 527 (Colo. App. 2000).

**The general assembly chose not to apply the conditions of subsection (2) of this section to the indemnification provisions of § 24-10-110 (1)(b)(II)** because this section refers only to § 24-10-106 (1)(a). A public entity does not have immunity if an operator of an emergency vehicle speeds and endangers life or property in violation of subsection (2)(c) of this section, but the public entity is liable for any claims against the operator of the emergency vehicle. Only when the operator's acts causing the injuries are willful and wanton is the operator personally liable. *Corsentino v. Cordova*, 4 P.3d 1082 (Colo. 2000).

**Public entity and its employees immune from tort liability if employee operating police vehicle while in actual pursuit of a suspected violator of title 42**, even if the

employee is not using the vehicle's emergency lights or sirens, if the pursuit is made to obtain verification of or evidence of the guilt of the suspected violator. *Tidwell v. City & County of Denver*, 62 P.3d 1020 (Colo. App. 2002), rev'd on other grounds, 83 P.3d 75 (Colo. 2003).

**Police officer was engaged in a pursuit within the provisions of subsection (3)** when the driver of a car fled the scene in a clear attempt to avoid arrest or further investigation and the officer followed the car. *Tidwell v. City & County of Denver*, 83 P.3d 75 (Colo. 2003).

**Police officer's pursuit was not investigatory in nature** when the officer already had authority to stop and arrest the driver of a car and the officer was pursuing the driver of the car for that reason. Therefore the officer was required to activate his emergency signals in order for the city to claim the protection of governmental immunity under the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act. *Tidwell v. City & County of Denver*, 83 P.3d 75 (Colo. 2003).

**Police officer's alleged conduct could be viewed as reckless and conscience-shocking for purposes of 42 U.S.C. § 1983.** Police officer's alleged conduct, particularly his decision to speed against a red light through an intersection on a major boulevard without slowing down or activating his siren in non-emergency circumstances, all in violation of state law and police regulations, could be viewed as reckless and conscience-shocking. *Williams v. City & County of Denver*, 99 F.3d 1009 (10th Cir. 1996).

**Dismissal of claim based on simple negligence in operation of an emergency vehicle was proper**, since standard of care created in subsection (4) is "reckless disregard". Zapp v. Kukuris, 847 P.2d 150 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Applied** in Brown v. Kreuser, 38 Colo. App. 554, 560 P.2d 105 (1977); Mobell v. City & County of Denver, 671 P.2d 433 (Colo. App. 1983); Sierra v. City & County of Denver, 730 P.2d 902 (Colo. App. 1986).

#### **42-4-109. Low-power scooters, animals, skis, skates, and toy vehicles on highways.**

(1) A person riding a low-power scooter upon a roadway where low-power scooter travel is permitted shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties and penalties applicable to the driver of a vehicle as set forth in this article except those provisions of this article that, by their very nature, can have no application.

(2) A person riding a low-power scooter shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto.

(3) No low-power scooter shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

(4) No person riding upon any low-power scooter, coaster, roller skates, sled, or toy vehicle shall attach the same or himself or herself to any vehicle upon a roadway.

(5) A person operating a low-power scooter upon a roadway shall ride as close to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

(6) Persons riding low-power scooters upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast.

(6.5) A person under the age of eighteen years may not operate or carry a passenger who is under eighteen years of age on a low-power scooter unless the person and the passenger are wearing protective helmets in accordance with the provisions of section 42-4-1502 (4.5).

(7) For the sake of uniformity and bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, and low-power scooter safety throughout the state, the department in cooperation with the department of transportation shall prepare and make available to all local jurisdictions for distribution to bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, and low-power scooter riders a digest of state regulations explaining and illustrating the rules of the road, equipment requirements, and traffic control devices that are applicable to the riders and their bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, electric scooters, or low-power scooters. Local authorities may supplement this digest with a leaflet describing any additional regulations of a local nature that apply within their respective jurisdictions.



(8) Persons riding or leading animals on or along any highway shall ride or lead such animals on the left side of said highway, facing approaching traffic. This shall not apply to persons driving herds of animals along highways.

(9) No person shall use the highways for traveling on skis, toboggans, coasting sleds, skates, or similar devices. It is unlawful for any person to use any roadway of this state as a sled or ski course for the purpose of coasting on sleds, skis, or similar devices. It is also unlawful for any person upon roller skates or riding in or by means of any coaster, toy vehicle, or similar device to go upon any roadway except while crossing a highway in a crosswalk, and when so crossing such person shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to pedestrians. This subsection (9) does not apply to any public way which is set aside by proper authority as a play street and which is adequately roped off or otherwise marked for such purpose or to any highway or portion of a highway designated for over-snow use only by a local authority pursuant to section 42-4-106 (3)(d).

(10) Every person riding or leading an animal or driving any animal-drawn conveyance upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this article, except those provisions of this article which by their very nature can have no application.

(11) Where suitable bike paths, horseback trails, or other trails have been established on the right-of-way or parallel to and within one-fourth mile of the right-of-way of heavily traveled streets and highways, the department of transportation may, subject to the provisions of section 43-2-135, by resolution or order entered in its minutes, and local authorities may, where suitable bike paths, horseback trails, or other trails have been established on the right-of-way or parallel to it within four hundred fifty feet of the right-of-way of heavily traveled streets, by ordinance, determine and designate, upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, those heavily traveled streets and highways upon which shall be prohibited any bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, animal rider, animal-drawn conveyance, or other class or kind of nonmotorized traffic that is found to be incompatible with the normal and safe movement of traffic, and, upon such a determination, the department of transportation or local authority shall erect appropriate official signs giving notice of the prohibition; except that, with respect to controlled access highways, section 42-4-1010 (3) applies. When the official signs are erected, a person shall not violate any of the instructions contained on the official signs.

(12) The parent of any child or guardian of any ward shall not authorize or knowingly permit any child or ward to violate any provision of this section.

(13) (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (13), any person who violates a provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(b) Any person who violates subsection (6.5) of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2232, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2007:** (6.5) added and (13) amended, p. 1481, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (6.5), (7), and (11) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1270, § 35, effective October 1. **L. 2019:** (7) and (11) amended, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2558, § 3, effective May 23. **L. 2022:** (9) amended, (HB 22-1046), ch. 94, p. 452, § 3, effective April 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-107 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-109 was relocated to § 42-4-111.

**Cross references:** For use of snowmobiles on highways, see §§ 33-14-110 to 33-14-112; for the penalties and surcharges for violations of subsections (13)(a) and (13)(b), see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(C).

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-109 is similar to § 42-4-107 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**One killed while violating this section is guilty of contributory negligence.** Plaintiff's deceased son in sledding down the county road violated the provisions of this section and as a matter of law was guilty of contributory negligence barring recovery in an action for wrongful death. *Sullivan v. Davis*, 172 Colo. 490, 474 P.2d 218 (1970).

**A home rule municipality's ordinance banning bicycling from outside to inside and through the city limits conflicts with and is preempted by this section.** Because this is a matter of mixed state and local concern, the municipality's ordinance cannot conflict with state statute. The city's ordinance prohibits bicycling without providing a suitable alternate route while this section authorizes such a prohibition only when an alternate route is established. *Webb v. City of Black Hawk*, 2013 CO 9, 295 P.3d 480.

### **42-4-109.5. Low-speed electric vehicles.**

(1) (a) A low-speed electric vehicle may be operated only on a roadway that has a speed limit equal to or less than thirty-five miles per hour; except that it may be operated to directly cross a

roadway that has a speed limit greater than thirty-five miles per hour at an at-grade crossing to continue traveling along a roadway with a speed limit equal to or less than thirty-five miles per hour.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection (1), a low-speed electric vehicle may be operated on a state highway that has a speed limit equal to forty miles per hour or cross a roadway with a speed limit equal to forty miles per hour to cross at-grade, if:

(I) Such roadway's lane width is eleven feet or greater;

(II) Such roadway provides two or more lanes in either direction; and

(III) The department determines, in consultation with local government and law enforcement, upon the basis of a traffic investigation, survey, appropriate design standards, or projected volumes, that the operation of a low-speed electric vehicle on the roadway poses no substantial safety risk or hazard to motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, or other persons.

(c) The department may waive the necessity of a traffic investigation or survey pursuant to section 42-4-1102 or may conduct a traffic investigation or survey to determine where low-speed electric vehicles can be driven safely on state highways or portions thereof. The department shall conduct this traffic investigation or survey using existing appropriations.

(2) No person shall operate a low-speed electric vehicle on a limited-access highway.

(3) Any person who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(4) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (SB 09-075), ch. 418, p. 2321, § 5, effective August 5, 2009.)

(5) The Colorado department of transportation may regulate the operation of a low-speed electric vehicle on a state highway located outside of a municipality. The regulation shall take effect when the Colorado department of transportation places an appropriate sign that provides adequate notice of the regulation.

**Source:** **L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 394, § 7, effective August 6. **L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (SB 09-075), ch. 418, p. 2321, § 5, effective August 5. **L. 2012:** (1) amended, (SB 12-013), ch. 148, p. 532, § 1, effective May 3.

#### **42-4-109.6. Class B low-speed electric vehicles - effective date - rules.**

(1) A class B low-speed electric vehicle may be operated only on a roadway that has a speed limit equal to or less than forty-five miles per hour; except that it may be operated to directly

cross a roadway that has a speed limit greater than forty-five miles per hour at an at-grade crossing to continue traveling along a roadway with a speed limit equal to or less than forty-five miles per hour.

(2) No person shall operate a class B low-speed electric vehicle on a limited-access highway.

(3) Any person who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "class B low-speed electric vehicle" means a low-speed electric vehicle that is capable of traveling at greater than twenty-five miles per hour but less than forty-five miles per hour.

(5) (a) The department of revenue shall not register or issue a title for a class B low-speed electric vehicle until after the United States department of transportation, through the national highway traffic safety administration, has adopted a federal motor vehicle safety standard for low-speed electric vehicles that authorizes operation at greater than twenty-five miles per hour but less than forty-five miles per hour.

(b) After the United States department of transportation, through the national highway traffic safety administration, has adopted a federal motor vehicle safety standard for low-speed electric vehicles that authorizes operation at greater than twenty-five miles per hour but less than forty-five miles per hour, the department of revenue shall promulgate rules authorizing the operation of class B low-speed electric vehicles in compliance with this section and shall notify the revisor of statutes in writing. Upon the promulgation of rules authorizing the operation of such vehicles, subsections (1) to (3) of this section shall take effect.

(6) The Colorado department of transportation may regulate the operation of a class B low-speed electric vehicle on a state highway located outside of a municipality. The regulation shall take effect when the Colorado department of transportation places an appropriate sign that provides adequate notice of the regulation.

**Source: L. 2009:** Entire section added, (SB 09-075), ch. 418, p. 2322, § 6, effective August 5.  
**L. 2010:** (1) amended, (HB 10-1422), ch. 419, p. 2125, § 186, effective August 11.

**Editor's note:** As of publication date, the revisor of statutes has not received the notice referred to in subsection (5)(b).

**42-4-109.7. Kei vehicles - penalty.**

**[Editor's note: This section is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of this section on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]**

(1) (a) A person shall not drive a kei vehicle on a roadway that has a speed limit greater than fifty-five miles per hour; except that a person may drive across a roadway with a speed limit greater than fifty-five miles per hour at an at-grade intersection.

(b) A person shall not drive a kei vehicle on a limited-access highway.

(2) A violation of this section is a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 2025:** Entire section added, (HB 25-1281), ch. 176, p. 736, § 3, effective July 1, 2027.

**Editor's note:** Section 13(2) of chapter 176 (HB 25-1281), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act adding this section applies to applications submitted or offenses committed on or after January 1, 2028.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

**42-4-110. Provisions uniform throughout state - legislative declaration.**

(1) This article 4 must be applicable and uniform throughout this state and in all political subdivisions and municipalities. Cities and counties, incorporated cities and towns, and counties shall regulate and enforce all traffic and parking restrictions on streets that are state highways as provided in section 43-2-135 (1)(g), and all local authorities may enact and enforce traffic regulations on other roads and streets within their respective jurisdictions. All such regulations are subject to the following conditions and limitations:

(a) All local authorities may enact, adopt, or enforce traffic regulations which cover the same subject matter as the various sections of this article and such additional regulations as are included in section 42-4-111, except as otherwise stated in paragraphs (c) to (e) of this subsection (1).

(b) All local authorities may, in the manner prescribed in article 16 of title 31, C.R.S., or in article 15 of title 30, C.R.S., adopt by reference all or any part of a model traffic code which embodies the rules of the road and vehicle requirements set forth in this article and such

additional regulations as are provided for in section 42-4-111; except that, in the case of state highways, any such additional regulations shall have the approval of the department of transportation.

(c) No local authority shall adopt, enact, or enforce on any street which is a state highway any ordinance, rule, or resolution which alters or changes the meaning of any of the "rules of the road" or is otherwise in conflict with the provisions of this article. For the purpose of this section, the "rules of the road" shall be construed to mean any of the regulations on the operation of vehicles set forth in this article which drivers throughout the state are required to obey without the benefit or necessity of official traffic control devices as declared in section 42-4-603 (2).

(d) (I) Local authorities do not have the power to enact regulations governing:

(A) The driving of a vehicle by a person under the influence of alcohol or of a controlled substance, as defined in section 18-18-102 (5), or under the influence of any other drug to a degree that renders the person incapable of safely operating a vehicle, or by a person whose ability to operate a vehicle is impaired by the consumption of alcohol or by the use of a controlled substance, as defined in section 18-18-102 (5), or any other drug;

(B) The licensing of drivers;

(C) The duties and obligations of persons involved in traffic crashes; and

(D) Vehicle equipment requirements in conflict with the provisions of this article 4.

(II) Local authorities, within their respective jurisdictions, shall enforce the state laws pertaining to the subjects described in subsection (1)(d)(I) of this section, and in every charge of violation the complaint must specify the section of state law under which the charge is made and the state court having jurisdiction.

(e) Pursuant to section 43-2-135 (1)(g), C.R.S., no regulation of a local authority shall apply to or become effective for any streets which are state highways, including any part of the national system of interstate and defense highways, until such regulation has been presented to and approved in writing by the department of transportation; except that such regulations shall become effective on such streets sixty days after receipt for review by the department of transportation if not disapproved in writing by said department during that sixty-day period.

(2) The municipal courts have jurisdiction over violations of traffic regulations enacted or adopted by municipalities. However, the provisions of sections 42-4-1701, 42-4-1705, and 42-4-1707 shall not be applicable to municipalities.

(3) A person convicted of a violation of a municipal traffic ordinance is not subject to be charged or tried in a state court for the same or a similar offense arising from the same event.

(4) (a) Any municipality, city, county, or city and county located within the program area of the AIR program area as defined in section 42-4-304 may adopt ordinances or resolutions pertaining to the enforcement of the emissions control inspection requirements set forth in section 42-4-310.

(b) An officer coming upon an unattended vehicle in the program area which is in apparent violation of an ordinance or resolution adopted as authorized in paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) may place upon such vehicle a penalty assessment notice indicating the offense and directing the owner or operator of such vehicle to remit the penalty assessment as set forth in such ordinance to the local jurisdiction in whose name the penalty assessment notice was issued.

(c) The aggregate amount of fines, penalties, or forfeitures collected pursuant to ordinances or resolutions adopted as authorized in paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) shall be retained by the local jurisdiction in whose name such penalty notice was issued.

(5) The general assembly declares that the adjudication of class A and class B traffic infractions through the county court magistrate system was not intended to create a conflict between the provisions of this article and municipal ordinances covering the same subject matter as this article nor was it intended to require or prohibit the decriminalization of municipal ordinances covering the same subject matter as this article. Municipalities may continue to enforce violations of such ordinances through municipal court even though similar state offenses are enforced through the magistrate system established under this article.

(6) (a) The general assembly hereby finds that the use of automated driving systems will help people who may have difficulty driving, including people who are elderly and people with disabilities, gain access to goods and services essential to daily life. This access requires traveling across and in multiple jurisdictions. Therefore, the regulation of automated driving systems is a matter of statewide concern.

(b) A state agency or a political subdivision of the state shall not adopt or enforce a policy, rule, or ordinance that sets standards for an automated driving system that are different from the standards set for a human driver.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2233, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 99:** IP(1) and (1)(b) amended, p. 367, § 1, effective August 4. **L. 2002:** (2) amended, p. 1611, § 7, effective January 1, 2004. **L. 2012:** (1)(d) amended, (HB 12-1311), ch. 281, p. 1632, § 89, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** (6) added, (SB 17-213), ch. 277, p. 1517, § 3, effective August 9. **L. 2019:** (2) amended, (HB 19-1147), ch. 178, p. 2033, § 14, effective August 2. **L. 2025:** IP(1), (1)(d), and (3) amended, (HB 25-1112), ch. 348, p. 1877, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2026:** (1)(d)(I)(C) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 477, § 44, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-108 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-110 was relocated to § 42-4-112.

**Cross references:** (1) For the penalty for class A and class B traffic infractions, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

(2) For the legislative declaration in SB 17-213, see section 1 of chapter 277, Session Laws of Colorado 2017.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "One Year Review of Criminal Law and Procedure", see 39 Dicta 81 (1962). For article, "One Year Review of Criminal Law and Procedure", see 40 Den. L. Ctr. J. 89 (1963).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-110 is similar to § 42-4-108 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**The provisions of this section recognize the necessity for certain supplemental municipal traffic regulations** and are a specific grant of authority to other than home-rule cities to impose additional controls not in conflict therewith where deemed locally necessary. *City of Aurora v. Mitchell*, 144 Colo. 526, 357 P.2d 923 (1960).

**Authority for home-rule city to regulate traffic constitutional.** The authority for a home-rule city to regulate traffic speeds and penalize offenders is not found in the laws of the general assembly, but rather, is a matter of state constitutional law, under § 6

of art. XX, Colo. Const. *People v. Hizhniak*, 195 Colo. 427, 579 P.2d 1131 (1978).

**State statute superseded by local ordinance in home-rule city.** Assuming without deciding that a careless driving ordinance lacks conformity with the state statute, the latter is inoperative within the limits of the home-rule city. The ordinance has preempted the field in a "local and municipal matter" and the statutes of the state have been "superseded" by the ordinance adopted by the city. *City of Aurora v. Mitchell*, 144 Colo. 526, 357 P.2d 923 (1960); *People ex rel. City of Aurora v. Thompson*, 165 Colo. 172, 437 P.2d 537 (1968).

Under the home-rule amendment, once a matter is determined to be a matter of local and municipal concern, any local ordinance in a home-rule city addressing the matter will supersede a conflicting state statute. *People v. Hizhniak*, 195 Colo. 427, 579 P.2d 1131 (1978).

**Local authority under subsection (1)(c).** As to those streets which are not state highways, a local authority may, pursuant to



subsection (1)(c), adopt and enforce a local traffic ordinance which is in conflict with a state statutory traffic regulation covering the same subject matter. *Mobell v. City & County of Denver*, 671 P.2d 433 (Colo. App. 1983).

**Procedural protections.** Subsection (2) does no more than grant a municipality the authority to prosecute violations of its traffic ordinances through its own court system under a penalty scheme of its own choosing, but always consistent with the procedural protections accorded a defendant charged with violating a state statute proscribing the

same conduct. *City of Greenwood Vill. v. Fleming*, 643 P.2d 511 (Colo. 1982).

**"The same or similar offenses".** Careless driving in violation of a municipal ordinance and driving under the influence in violation of a state statute do not constitute "the same or similar offenses" under subsection (3). *Martinez v. People*, 174 Colo. 365, 484 P.2d 792 (1971).

**Applied** in *People v. Pinyan*, 190 Colo. 304, 546 P.2d 488 (1976); *Stortz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., Motor Vehicle Div.*, 195 Colo. 325, 578 P.2d 229 (1978); *People v. Wade*, 757 P.2d 1074 (Colo. 1988).

**42-4-110.5. Automated vehicle identification systems - school buses - exceptions to liability - penalty - contracting - limits on use of photographs and video - rules - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.**

(1) The general assembly hereby finds and declares that the enforcement of traffic laws through the use of automated vehicle identification systems under this section is a matter of statewide concern and is an area in which uniform state standards are necessary.

(1.1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) (I) "Automated vehicle identification system" means a system whereby:

(A) A machine is used to automatically detect a violation of a traffic regulation and simultaneously record a photograph of the vehicle and the license plate of the vehicle; and

(B) A notice of violation or civil penalty assessment notice may be issued to the registered owner of the motor vehicle.

(II) "Automated vehicle identification system" includes a system used to detect a violation of part 11 of this article 4 or a local speed ordinance; a system used to detect violations of traffic restrictions imposed by traffic signals or traffic signs; a system used to detect the overtaking of a stopped school bus with actuated visual signal lights in violation of section 42-4-1903 (1)(a); a system used to detect a moving traffic violation in a school zone or along a safe route to school; and a system used to detect violations of bus lane or bicycle lane restrictions.

(III) "Automated vehicle identification system" does not include automated license plate reader systems.

(a.5) (I) "Mobile automated vehicle identification system" means an automated vehicle identification system designed to detect traffic violations and that:

- (A) Is capable of being relocated between enforcement locations;
- (B) May be installed within or mounted to a motor vehicle, including a van, sport utility vehicle, or similar vehicle platform;
- (C) Does not include a device or system installed in or mounted to a trailer; and
- (D) Is generally used to provide flexibility to address temporary enforcement in high-risk traffic areas or shifting traffic patterns.

(II) A device or system installed in or mounted to a trailer is considered mobile if it is moved to a new location within seventy-two hours after being deployed or is deployed in a maintenance, repair, or construction zone designated pursuant to section 42-4-614 or a school zone as defined in section 42-4-615.

(a.6) "Safe route to school" means a roadway that is frequented by pedestrians and bicyclists on their way to or from a nearby school that a county, a city and county, or a municipality designates to increase pedestrian and bicyclist safety.

(a.7) "School bus" means a school bus that is required to bear on the front and rear of such school bus the words "SCHOOL BUS" and display visual signal lights pursuant to section 42-4-1903 (2)(a).

(b) "State", notwithstanding section 42-1-102 (95), means the state of Colorado acting through the Colorado state patrol in the department of public safety or the department of transportation.

(c) "State highway" means any highway that is owned by or maintained by the state. "State highway" does not include a public highway operated by a public highway authority in accordance with the "Public Highway Authority Law", part 5 of article 4 of title 43.

(1.4) Nothing in this section applies to the use of automated vehicle identification systems for the purpose of collecting tolls, fees, or civil penalties in accordance with part 5 of article 4 of title 43 and section 43-4-808.

(1.5) and (1.7) Repealed.

(2) A county, city and county, or municipality may adopt an ordinance authorizing the use of an automated vehicle identification system to detect violations of traffic regulations adopted by the county, city and county, or municipality, or the state, a county, a city and county, or a

municipality may utilize an automated vehicle identification system to detect traffic violations under state law, subject to the requirements for state highways set forth in and any rules adopted by the department of transportation pursuant to subsection (2.5) of this section, as applicable, and the following conditions and limitations:

(a) (I) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2002, p. 570, § 1, effective May 24, 2002.)

(II) If the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality detects any alleged violation of a county or municipal traffic regulation or a traffic violation under state law through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, then the state, county, city and county, or municipality shall issue, or cause its vendor to issue, to the registered owner of the motor vehicle involved in the alleged violation, by first-class mail, personal service, or any mail delivery service offered by an entity other than the United States postal service that is equivalent to or superior to first-class mail with respect to delivery speed, reliability, and price, a notice of violation:

(A) Within thirty days after the alleged violation occurred if the motor vehicle involved in the alleged violation is registered in the state; or

(B) Within sixty days after the alleged violation occurred if the motor vehicle involved in the alleged violation is registered outside of the state.

(III) The notice of violation must contain:

(A) The name and address of the registered owner of the motor vehicle involved in the alleged violation;

(B) The license plate number of the motor vehicle involved in the alleged violation;

(C) The date, time, and location of the alleged violation;

(D) The amount of the civil penalty prescribed for the alleged violation;

(E) The deadline for payment of the prescribed civil penalty and for disputing the alleged violation; and

(F) Information on how the registered owner may either dispute the alleged violation in a hearing or pay the prescribed civil penalty.

(IV) If the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality does not receive the prescribed civil penalty or a written notice requesting a hearing to dispute the alleged violation by the deadline stated on the notice of violation, which deadline must not be less than forty-five days after the issuance date on the notice of violation, the state, county, city and county, or municipality shall issue, or cause its vendor to issue, by first-class mail, personal service, or any mail delivery service offered by an entity other than the United States postal service that is equivalent to or superior to first-class mail with respect to delivery speed, reliability, and price, a civil penalty assessment notice for the alleged violation to the registered owner of the motor

vehicle involved in the alleged violation no later than thirty days after the deadline on the notice of violation.

(V) The civil penalty assessment notice must contain:

(A) The name and address of the registered owner of the motor vehicle involved in the alleged violation;

(B) The license plate of the motor vehicle involved in the alleged violation;

(C) The date, time, and location of the alleged violation;

(D) The amount of the civil penalty prescribed for the alleged violation;

(E) The deadline for payment of the prescribed civil penalty;

(F) Information on how to pay the prescribed civil penalty.

(VI) If the registered owner of the motor vehicle fails to request a hearing to dispute the alleged violation by the deadline stated in the notice of violation, the registered owner waives any right to contest the violation or the amount of the prescribed civil penalty.

(VII) If the registered owner of the motor vehicle fails to pay in full the prescribed civil penalty by the deadline stated in the civil penalty assessment notice, a final order of liability shall be entered against the registered owner of the vehicle.

(VIII) Final orders may be appealed as to matters of law and fact to the county court in the county where the alleged violation or the municipal court in the municipality where the alleged violation occurred. The registered owner of the motor vehicle may assert in an appeal that a notice of violation served by first-class mail or other mail delivery service was not actually delivered. The appeal shall be a de novo hearing.

(IX) The state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality shall not initiate or pursue a collection action against a registered owner of a motor vehicle for a debt resulting from an unpaid penalty assessed pursuant to this section unless the registered owner is personally served the notice of violation or the final order of liability.

(X) If the registered owner of a motor vehicle involved in a traffic violation under state law or under traffic regulations adopted by a county, city and county, or municipality is engaged in the business of leasing or renting motor vehicles, the registered owner remains liable for payment of the civil penalty even if the registered owner was not driving the motor vehicle but may obtain payment from the lessor or renter of the motor vehicle and forward the payment to the state or the county, city and county, or municipality imposing the civil penalty.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of the statutes to the contrary, the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality shall not report to the department any conviction or entry of

judgment against a defendant for violation of a county or municipal traffic regulation or a traffic violation under state law if the violation was detected through the use of an automated vehicle identification system.

(c) Repealed.

(d) (I) The state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality shall not use an automated vehicle identification system to detect a violation of part 11 of this article 4 or a local speed ordinance unless there is posted an appropriate temporary or permanent sign in a conspicuous place not fewer than three hundred feet before the area in which the automated vehicle identification system is to be used notifying the public that an automated vehicle identification system is in use immediately ahead. The requirement of this subsection (2)(d)(I) shall not be deemed satisfied by the posting of a permanent sign or signs at the borders of a county, city and county, or municipality, nor by the posting of a permanent sign in an area in which an automated vehicle identification system is to be used, but this subsection (2)(d)(I) shall not be deemed a prohibition against the posting of such permanent signs.

(II) Except as provided in subsection (2)(d)(I) of this section, an automated vehicle identification system designed to detect disobedience to a traffic control signal or another violation of this article 4 or a local traffic ordinance shall not be used unless the state, county, city and county, or municipality using such system conspicuously posts a sign notifying the public that an automated vehicle identification system is in use immediately ahead. The sign shall:

(A) Be placed in a conspicuous location not fewer than two hundred feet nor more than five hundred feet before the automated vehicle identification system; and

(B) Use lettering that is at least four inches high for upper case letters and three inches high for lower case letters.

(III) This subsection (2)(d) does not apply to an automated vehicle identification system designed to detect the overtaking of a school bus with actuated visual signal lights.

(e) (I) If the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality implements a new automated vehicle identification system that is not a replacement of an existing automated vehicle identification system:

(A) The agency responsible for the automated vehicle identification system shall publicly announce the implementation of the system through its website and social media accounts, if any, for at least thirty days prior to the use of the system;

(B) The agency responsible for the automated vehicle identification system shall post a sign announcing the upcoming use of an automated vehicle identification system at each location where an automated vehicle identification system will be installed at least thirty days before the

automated vehicle identification system is utilized, and the sign must use lettering that is at least four inches high for uppercase letters and three inches high for lowercase letters; and

(C) For the first thirty days after the system is installed or deployed, only warnings may be issued for violations of a county or municipal traffic regulation or traffic violation under state law detected by the system. Such warnings must be issued and delivered in writing.

(II) The state, county, city and county, or municipality may conduct an extended public information campaign or warning period or post additional signs for each new system installed or deployed beyond the minimum requirements in subsections (2)(e)(I)(A), (2)(e)(I)(B), and (2)(e)(I)(C) of this section.

(III) The requirements set forth in this subsection (2)(e) do not apply to a mobile automated vehicle identification system that has been moved to a new location within the same established automated vehicle identification corridor.

(f) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2023.)

(g) (I) The state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality shall not issue a notice of violation or civil penalty assessment notice for a violation detected using an automated vehicle identification system unless the violation occurred within a school zone, as defined in section 42-4-615; within a residential neighborhood; within a maintenance, construction, or repair zone designated pursuant to section 42-4-614; along a street that borders a municipal park; or along a street or portion of a street that a county, city and county, or municipality, by ordinance or by a resolution of its governing body, designates as an automated vehicle identification corridor, on which designated corridor the county, city and county, or municipality may locate an automated vehicle identification system to detect violations of a county, city and county, or municipal traffic regulation or a traffic violation under state law.

(A) to (C) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2024.)

(I.3) Before a county, a city and county, or a municipality designates an automated vehicle identification corridor on a state highway, the county, city and county, or municipality shall notify the department of transportation. If a county, city and county, or municipality designates an automated vehicle identification corridor on a state highway by ordinance or resolution before January 1, 2025, it may proceed without having provided this notification to the department of transportation.

(I.4) After a county, city and county, or municipality designates an automated vehicle identification corridor on a state highway, the county, city and county, or municipality shall coordinate with the department of transportation. Coordination must include demonstrating that the requirements set forth in subsection (2)(g)(I.7)(B) of this section have been met and, if needed, applying for a special use permit to install any devices or signage on department of transportation right-of-way if the segment of highway in question is maintained by the state. A

county, city and county, or municipality shall alert the department of transportation when the automated vehicle identification corridor begins operations or permanently ceases operations on a state highway. The department of transportation shall notify the Colorado state patrol when a county, city and county, or municipality coordinates with the department of transportation to establish an automated vehicle identification corridor on a state highway.

(I.5) Before a county, city and county, or municipality begins the operation of an automated vehicle identification system in an automated vehicle identification corridor on a county road, the county, city and county, or municipality shall notify the Colorado state patrol.

(I.6) Before the state designates an automated vehicle identification corridor on a state highway located within the boundaries of a county, a city and county, or a municipality, and before the state begins operation of an automated vehicle identification corridor on a state highway, the state shall coordinate with the respective county, city and county, or municipality.

(I.7) Before the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality begins operation of an automated vehicle identification system in an automated vehicle identification corridor, the state, county, city and county, or municipality must:

(A) Post a permanent sign in a conspicuous place not fewer than three hundred feet before the beginning of the corridor;

(B) Post a permanent sign not fewer than three hundred feet before each static camera within the corridor or a temporary sign not fewer than three hundred feet before any mobile camera; except that, if an automated vehicle identification system will be used exclusively to detect unauthorized use of a transit-only lane, the state, county, city and county, or municipality must post permanent signs at one-half mile or more frequent intervals within the automated vehicle identification corridor; and

(C) Illustrate, through quantitative data collection, incidents of crashes, speeding, or reckless driving within the past five years on a street designated as an automated vehicle identification corridor, unless the automated vehicle identification system will be used exclusively to detect unauthorized use of a transit-only lane. Community complaints may also be used to illustrate the need for an automated vehicle identification corridor if collected with quantitative data.

(II) As used in this subsection (2)(g), unless the context otherwise requires, "residential neighborhood" means any block on which a majority of the improvements along both sides of the street are residential dwellings and the speed limit is thirty-five miles per hour or less.

(III) This subsection (2)(g) does not apply to an automated vehicle identification system designed to detect disobedience to a traffic control signal, the overtaking of a school bus with actuated visual signal lights, or a moving violation along a safe route to school.

(IV) The state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality implementing an automated vehicle identification corridor pursuant to subsection (2)(g)(I) of this section shall annually publish a report on its website disclosing the number of citations and amount of revenue generated by the automated vehicle identification corridor.

(V) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2)(g)(I) of this section, the state may locate an automated vehicle identification system on a highway that is a part of the federal interstate highway system and may issue a notice of violation or a civil penalty assessment notice for a traffic violation under state law detected using the automated vehicle identification system.

(B) A county, a city and county, or a municipality shall not locate an automated vehicle identification system or create an automated vehicle identification corridor on any highway that is a part of the federal interstate highway system.

(h) (I) The registered owner of the motor vehicle detected by the automated vehicle identification system is responsible for paying the civil penalty associated with the notice of the violation unless:

(A) The registered owner establishes that the motor vehicle had been sold or leased prior to the time of the violation detected by the automated vehicle identification system by providing a bill of sale or other documentation to show that the motor vehicle was sold, leased, or transferred before the date and time of the violation;

(B) The registered owner establishes that the motor vehicle had been stolen prior to the time of the violation detected by the automated vehicle identification system by providing a copy of the police report to show that the owner's license plate or motor vehicle was stolen before the date and time of the violation;

(C) The registered owner establishes that law enforcement issued a separate traffic citation to the registered owner or driver of the motor vehicle for the violation detected by the automated vehicle identification system; or

(D) A representative of the estate or a family member of the registered owner establishes that the registered owner was deceased prior to the date of the violation detected by the automated vehicle identification system.

(II) (A) To establish that the registered owner is not responsible for paying a civil penalty associated with a notice of violation, the registered owner or a representative of the estate or a family member of the registered owner must, within thirty days after the date of issuance of the notice of violation, provide to the entity that issued the notice of violation an affidavit with information showing that one of the exceptions set forth in subsection (2)(h)(I) of this section applies. The affidavit must include the civil penalty number.



(B) The registered owner of a motor vehicle that was leased at the time of the violation is not required to submit an affidavit if the motor vehicle was registered in the name of the lessee at the time of the violation.

(III) If the registered owner to whom a notice of violation has been issued is deceased, the affidavit must include both a certified copy of the death certificate showing that the death of the registered owner occurred before the date of the violation and one of the following:

(A) A bill of sale or other document showing that the motor vehicle was sold or transferred after the date of the registered owner's death and before the date of the violation;

(B) Documented proof that the registered license plate belonging to the registered owner was returned to the department or another office or authorized agent of the department after the date of the registered owner's death and before the date of the violation; or

(C) A copy of the police report showing that the registered owner's license plate or motor vehicle was stolen after the date of the registered owner's death and before the date of the violation.

(IV) Upon receipt of the affidavit and sufficient supporting documentation pursuant to this subsection (2)(h), the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality shall dismiss the notice of violation and provide proof of the dismissal to the registered owner or other person that submitted the affidavit.

(V) A person that submits a false affidavit commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense and, upon conviction, shall be punished as provided in section 42-4-1701 (3).

(i) (I) Except as provided in subsection (2)(i)(II) of this section, if a variable speed limit is in effect or a speed limit is otherwise temporarily lowered due to hazardous weather or other traffic conditions, the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality shall only issue a notice of violation and civil penalty for a violation detected by an automated vehicle identification system if the violation is a speeding violation that exceeds the regular maximum posted speed limit for that location that is typically in effect when a variable speed limit is not in effect and the speed limit is not otherwise temporarily lowered.

(II) Subsection (2)(i)(I) of this section does not apply when a speed limit is temporarily lowered due to the need for a temporary maintenance, repair, or construction zone designated pursuant to section 42-4-614.

(2.5) (a) The state may use an automated vehicle identification system on any portion of a state highway. The department of transportation may promulgate rules to implement this section relating to the use of automated vehicle identification systems by the department of transportation on state highways and prioritization for the use of automated vehicle identification systems by other entities on state highways, including but not limited to rules that:

(I) Specify prioritization criteria that the department of transportation will use to determine which entity is authorized to use an automated vehicle identification system if multiple entities seek authorization to use an automated vehicle identification system on the same portion of a state highway. The criteria must specify that the department of transportation must give preference to an entity that has the primary responsibility for regulation and enforcement of traffic restrictions on the portion of a state highway on which an automated vehicle identification system is to be used.

(II) Specify, consistent with the requirements of subsection (2)(a) of this section, the process that the state will use to notify a county, city and county, or municipality that the state will be using an automated vehicle identification system within its jurisdiction and the administrative and enforcement process that the department of transportation will use to administer, hear, and resolve a traffic violation detected through the use by the department of transportation of an automated vehicle identification system;

(III) Establish, subject to the caps set forth in subsections (4)(b) and (4.5) of this section and any other provision of law, the amount of civil penalties imposed for traffic violations detected through the use by the department of transportation of an automated vehicle identification system;

(IV) Establish an administrative hearing process that complies with subsections (2)(a)(IV) to (2)(a)(VIII) of this section, including the ability to retain and contract with impartial hearing officers and the ability for impartial hearing officers to issue final orders required by subsection (2)(a)(VII) of this section; and

(V) Provide, consistent with this section, any additional requirements, guidance, or clarification that the department of transportation deems necessary or appropriate to implement this section.

(b) It is the intent of the general assembly that the department of transportation consult with the Colorado state patrol when promulgating rules relating to the use of automated vehicle identification systems and before authorizing the use of an automated vehicle identification system by the state or a county, a city and county, or a municipality on any portion of a state highway. It is also the intent of the general assembly that the department of transportation consult with counties, cities and counties, and municipalities when promulgating rules relating to the use of automated vehicle identification systems.

(c) This subsection (2.5) does not apply to an automated vehicle identification system on a state highway that a county, city and county, or municipality has implemented or designated by ordinance or resolution before January 1, 2025, or before the department of transportation adopts rules pursuant to subsection (2.5)(a) of this section, whichever occurs later. This subsection (2.5) does not require a county, city and county, or municipality to remove or stop the implementation of an automated vehicle identification system that was placed on any portion of a state highway

or designated by ordinance or resolution before January 1, 2025, or before the department of transportation adopts rules pursuant to subsection (2.5)(a) of this section, whichever occurs later.

(3) The department has no authority to assess any points against a license under section 42-2-127 upon entry of a conviction or judgment for a violation of a county or municipal traffic regulation or a traffic violation under state law if the violation was detected through the use of an automated vehicle identification system. The department shall not keep any record of such violation in the official records maintained by the department under section 42-2-121.

(4) (a) (I) If, through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality detects a speeding violation of less than six miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed under a county or municipal traffic regulation or under state law, then the state, county, city and county, or municipality may mail the registered owner a warning regarding the violation. The state, county, city and county, or municipality shall not impose a penalty or surcharge for such a violation unless the violation occurs within a school zone, as defined in section 42-4-615, or within a maintenance, repair, or construction zone designated pursuant to section 42-4-614, in which case the maximum penalty that the state, county, city and county, or municipality may impose for such violation, including any surcharge, is forty dollars.

(II) If, through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality detects a speeding violation of at least six and less than ten miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed under a county or municipal traffic regulation or under state law, and the violation is the first violation by the registered owner that the state, county, city and county, or municipality has detected using an automated vehicle identification system, then the state, county, city and county, or municipality shall mail the registered owner a warning regarding the violation. The state, county, city and county, or municipality shall not impose a penalty or surcharge for such first violation.

(III) (A) Notwithstanding subsection (4)(a)(II) of this section, if, before January 1, 2035, through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality detects a speeding violation of at least six and less than ten miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed in a school zone as defined in section 42-4-615, or within a maintenance, repair, or construction zone designated pursuant to section 42-4-614, and the violation is the first violation by the registered owner, the maximum penalty that the state, county, city and county, or municipality may impose for such violation, including any surcharge, is forty dollars.

(B) This subsection (4)(a)(III) is repealed, effective January 1, 2036.

(IV) Notwithstanding subsection (4)(a)(II) of this section, beginning January 1, 2035, if, through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality detects a speeding violation of at least six and less than ten miles per

hour over the reasonable and prudent speed in a school zone as defined in section 42-4-615, or within a maintenance, repair, or construction zone designated pursuant to section 42-4-614, and the violation is the first violation by the registered owner, the maximum penalty that the state, county, city and county, or municipality may impose for such violation, including any surcharge, is fifty dollars.

(b) (I) (A) If, before January 1, 2035, through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality detects a second or subsequent speeding violation by a registered owner of at least six and less than ten miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed under a county or municipal traffic regulation or under state law, or a speeding violation by the registered owner of at least ten and less than twenty-five miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed, then, except as may be permitted in subsection (4)(b)(II) of this section, the maximum penalty that the state, county, city and county, or municipality may impose for such violation, including any surcharge, is forty dollars.

(B) This subsection (4)(b)(I) is repealed, effective January 1, 2036.

(I.5) Beginning January 1, 2035, if, through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality detects a second or subsequent speeding violation by a registered owner of at least six and less than ten miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed under a county or municipal traffic regulation or under state law, or a speeding violation by the registered owner of at least ten and less than twenty-five miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed, then, except as may be permitted in subsection (4)(b)(II) of this section, the maximum penalty that the state, county, city and county, or municipality may impose for such violation, including any surcharge, is fifty dollars.

(II) If a violation described in subsection (4)(b)(I) or (4)(b)(I.5) of this section occurs within a school zone as defined in section 42-4-615, or within a maintenance, repair, or construction zone designated pursuant to section 42-4-614, the maximum penalty that may be imposed is doubled.

(III) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2026.)

(c) (I) (A) If, before January 1, 2035, through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality detects a speeding violation by a registered owner of twenty-five miles per hour or more over the reasonable and prudent speed under a county or municipal traffic regulation or under state law, the maximum penalty that the state, county, city and county, or municipality may impose for such violation, including any surcharge, is one hundred twenty dollars.

(B) This subsection (4)(c)(I) is repealed, effective January 1, 2036.

(II) Beginning January 1, 2035, if, through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality detects a speeding violation by a

registered owner of twenty-five miles per hour or more over the reasonable and prudent speed under a county or municipal traffic regulation or under state law, the maximum penalty that the state, county, city and county, or municipality may impose for such violation, including any surcharge, is one hundred fifty dollars.

(4.5) (a) (I) (A) If, before January 1, 2035, the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality detects a violation of a county, city and county, or municipal traffic regulation or traffic violation under state law for disobedience to a traffic control signal through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, the maximum civil penalty that the state, county, city and county, or municipality may impose for such violation, including any surcharge, is seventy-five dollars.

(B) This subsection (4.5)(a)(I) is repealed, effective January 1, 2036.

(II) Beginning January 1, 2035, if the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality detects a violation of a county, city and county, or municipal traffic regulation or traffic violation under state law for disobedience to a traffic control signal through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, the maximum civil penalty that the state, county, city and county, or municipality may impose for such violation, including any surcharge, is ninety-five dollars.

(b) Subsection (4.5)(a) of this section does not apply within a maintenance, construction, or repair zone designated pursuant to section 42-4-614 or a school zone, as defined in section 42-4-615 (2).

(4.6) (a) If approved by a school district's board of education, the state, a county, a city and county, the school district, or a municipality may install and utilize an automated vehicle identification system on the school district's school buses to detect a motor vehicle overtaking a stopped school bus with actuated visual signal lights in violation of section 42-4-1903 (1)(a).

(b) (I) (A) If, before January 1, 2035, through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality detects a motor vehicle overtaking a stopped school bus with actuated visual signal lights in violation of section 42-4-1903 (1)(a), the maximum civil penalty the state, county, city and county, or municipality may impose for the violation is three hundred dollars, including surcharges or fees.

(B) This subsection (4.6)(b)(I) is repealed, effective January 1, 2036.

(II) Beginning January 1, 2035, if, through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality detects a motor vehicle overtaking a stopped school bus with actuated visual signal lights in violation of section 42-4-1903 (1)(a), the maximum civil penalty the state, county, city and county, or municipality may impose for the violation is three hundred seventy-five dollars, including surcharges or fees.

(c) (I) A photograph produced by an automated vehicle identification system pursuant to this subsection (4.6) must capture an image of the motor vehicle and the motor vehicle's license plate to form the basis of a notice of violation or civil penalty issued pursuant to this subsection (4.6).

(II) A notice of violation or civil penalty issued pursuant to this subsection (4.6) must be sent to the registered owner of the vehicle.

(III) When a photograph produced by an automated vehicle identification system includes an electronic indicator signifying actuation of a school bus's visual signal lights, there is a rebuttable presumption that the school bus's visual signal lights were actuated and operational and that the school bus was stopped to receive or discharge school children.

(d) (I) Notwithstanding any other provision in this section, the state, a county, a city and county, a school district, or a municipality that has installed an automated vehicle identification system on a school bus to detect a motor vehicle overtaking a stopped school bus shall not use any portion of a fine collected through the use of such system as the basis for payment to the manufacturer or vendor of the automated vehicle identification system equipment. The compensation paid by the state, county, city and county, school district, or municipality for such equipment must be based upon the value of any equipment or services provided and must not be based exclusively upon the number of traffic citations issued or the revenue generated by the automated vehicle identification system equipment.

(II) A contract for automated vehicle identification system equipment and for services provided for the use of an automated vehicle identification system on a school bus must not contain a quota regarding the number of violations captured or notices of violation issued or regarding the revenue generated for the automated vehicle identification system to be continuously utilized.

(e) A school district that, independent of the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality, installs and utilizes an automated vehicle identification system on the school district's school buses pursuant to this subsection (4.6) shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with one or more law enforcement agencies, and such memorandum may include:

(I) Provisions for cost sharing;

(II) Payment responsibilities to the manufacturer or vendor of the automated vehicle identification system equipment; and

(III) Enforcement responsibilities and reimbursement considerations.

(4.7) If a registered owner fails to pay a penalty imposed for a violation of a county or municipal traffic regulation or a traffic violation under state law detected using an automated vehicle identification system, the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality shall not attempt to enforce such a penalty by immobilizing the registered owner's vehicle.

(5) If the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality has established an automated vehicle identification system for the enforcement of county or municipal traffic regulations or state traffic laws, then no portion of any fine collected through the use of such system may be paid to the manufacturer or vendor of the automated vehicle identification system equipment. The compensation paid by the state, county, city and county, or municipality for such equipment shall:

(a) Be based upon the value of such equipment and the value of any services provided to the state, county, city and county, or municipality;

(b) (I) Not be based upon the number of traffic citations issued or the amount of revenue generated by such equipment or services; or

(II) Be structured as a flat monthly fee or a flat hourly rate that is not contingent upon, and does not vary based on, the number of traffic citations issued or the amount of revenue generated; and

(c) Not include any incentives, bonuses, escalators, or other provisions that are directly tied to the number of citations issued or the amount of revenue generated.

(6) Repealed.

(7) The state, county, city and county, or municipality and any vendor operating an automated vehicle identification system shall, unless otherwise provided in this section:

(a) Program the automated vehicle identification system to retain data only when a violation of a county or municipal traffic regulation or traffic violation under state law occurs;

(b) Treat all photographs and video collected by the automated motor vehicle identification system as confidential and exempt from disclosure and inspection pursuant to the "Colorado Open Records Act", part 2 of article 72 of title 24;

(c) Not use, disclose, sell, or permit access to photographs, video, or personal identifiable data collected by the automated motor vehicle identification system except to the extent necessary to operate the program, including for purposes of processing violations, for other law enforcement purposes, for transferring data to a new vendor or operating system, or, pursuant to a court order, for use in unrelated legal proceedings; and

(d) Destroy any photographs and video of a violation collected by the automated vehicle identification system within three years after the final disposition of the violation unless the photographs or video are maintained in a separate system for other purposes allowed by law.

(8) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the aggregate amount of revenue, exclusive of court and operations costs, collected by the state as civil penalties for violations detected by automated vehicle identification systems must be credited to the state highway fund and used by

the department only to fund road safety projects, as defined in section 43-4-803 (21), of the type described in section 43-4-803 (21)(b). The department shall prioritize funding to those road safety projects with the highest potential to reduce vulnerable road user injuries and fatalities while taking into account the planning capacity of each region.

**Source:** **L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 1667, § 1, effective June 5. **L. 99:** (1.5) and (4.5) added and (2), (4), and (5) amended, p. 612, § 1, effective May 17. **L. 2002:** (2)(a), (2)(d), and (4.5) amended and (2)(f), (2)(g), and (4.7) added, pp. 570, 572, §§ 1, 2, effective May 24. **L. 2004:** (2)(d) amended, p. 351, § 1, effective August 4. **L. 2008:** (1.5) and (2)(g)(I) amended and (1.7) and (4)(b)(III) added, pp. 2080, 2081, §§ 4, 5, effective June 3. **L. 2009:** (2)(d) amended, (SB 09-222), ch. 150, p. 629, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2021:** (2)(c) repealed, (HB 21-1314), ch. 460, p. 3101, § 16, effective January 1, 2022. **L. 2023:** Entire section amended, (SB 23-200), ch. 354, p. 2123, § 1, effective June 5 (see editor's note). **L. 2024:** (1.1), (2)(a)(X), (2)(g)(I.3), (2)(g)(I.4), (2)(g)(I.5), (2)(g)(I.6), (2)(g)(I.7), (2.5), and (8) added, (1.7) and (6) repealed, and IP(2), (2)(g)(I), (2)(g)(IV), (4)(b)(III), and (4.5) amended, (SB 24-195), ch. 432, p. 3025, § 1, effective June 5. **L. 2025:** (1.1)(a)(II) and (2)(g)(III) amended and (1.1)(a.7), (2)(d)(III), and (4.6) added, (HB 25-1230), ch. 249, p. 1247, § 1, effective May 24; (1.5) amended, (SB 25-300), ch. 428, p. 2459, § 69, effective August 6. **L. 2026:** (1.1)(a)(II) and (2)(g)(III) amended and (1.1)(a.5) added, (HB 26-1318), ch. 234, p. 1351, § 3, effective August 12; (1.1)(a)(III), (1.1)(a.5), and (2)(i) added, (1.5) repealed, and IP(2), (2)(d)(II)(B), (2)(e), (2)(g)(I.7), (2)(g)(IV), (2)(h), (4), (4.5)(a), (4.6)(b), (4.6)(d)(I), and (5) amended, (SB 26-152), ch. 309, p. 1777, § 2, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) Section 2 of chapter 354 (SB 23-200), provides that subsection (3) is effective June 1, 2024.

(2) Amendments to this section by HB 26-1318 and SB 26-152 were harmonized, and subsection (1.1)(a.5) as added by HB 26-1318 was renumbered as subsection (1.1)(a.6).

(3) Section 3(2) of chapter 309 (SB 26-152), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to conduct occurring or contracts entered into or renewed on or after August 12, 2026.

**Cross references:** (1) Section 1 of chapter 412, Session Laws of Colorado 2008, provides that the act amending subsections (1.5) and (2)(g)(I) and enacting subsections (1.7) and (4)(b)(III) shall be known and may be cited as the "Charles Mather Highway Safety Act".



(2) For the legislative declaration in SB 26-152, see section 1 of chapter 309, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

(3) For the short title ("Liam Stewart School Zone Act") in HB 26-1318, see section 1 of chapter 234, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

#### ANNOTATION

**This section supersedes conflicting provisions of municipal ordinances.**

Regulation of automated vehicle identification systems to enforce traffic laws

is a matter of mixed local and state concern.

In the event of conflict, state law prevails.

City of Commerce City v. State, 40 P.3d 1273 (Colo. 2002).

#### **42-4-111. Powers of local authorities.**

(1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, this article 4 does not prevent local authorities, with respect to streets and highways under their jurisdiction and within the reasonable exercise of the police power, from:

(a) Regulating or prohibiting the stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles, consistent with the provisions of this article;

(b) Establishing parking meter zones where it is determined upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that the installation and operation of parking meters is necessary to aid in the regulation and control of the parking of vehicles during the hours and on the days specified on parking meter signs;

(c) Regulating traffic by means of police officers or official traffic control devices, consistent with the provisions of this article;

(d) Regulating or prohibiting processions or assemblages on the highways, consistent with the provisions of this article;

(e) Designating particular highways or roadways for use by traffic moving in one direction, consistent with the provisions of this article;

(f) Designating any highway as a through highway or designating any intersection as a stop or yield intersection, consistent with the provisions of this article;

(g) Designating truck routes and restricting the use of highways, consistent with the provisions of this article;

- (h) Regulating the operation of bicycles or electrical assisted bicycles and requiring the registration and licensing of same, including the requirement of a registration fee, consistent with the provisions of this article;
- (i) Altering or establishing speed limits, consistent with the provisions of this article;
- (j) Establishing speed limits for vehicles in public parks, consistent with the provisions of this article;
- (k) Determining and designating streets, parts of streets, or specific lanes thereon upon which vehicular traffic shall proceed in one direction during one period and the opposite direction during another period of the day, consistent with the provisions of this article;
- (l) Regulating or prohibiting the turning of vehicles, consistent with the provisions of this article;
- (m) Designating no-passing zones, consistent with the provisions of this article;
- (n) Prohibiting or regulating the use of controlled-access roadways by nonmotorized traffic or other kinds of traffic, consistent with the provisions of this article;
- (o) Establishing minimum speed limits, consistent with the provisions of this article;
- (p) Designating hazardous railroad crossings, consistent with the provisions of this article;
- (q) Designating and regulating traffic on play streets, consistent with the provisions of this article;
- (r) Prohibiting or restricting pedestrian crossing, consistent with the provisions of this article;
- (s) Regulating the movement of traffic at school crossings by official traffic control devices or by duly authorized school crossing guards, consistent with the provisions of this article;
- (t) Regulating persons propelling push carts;
- (u) Regulating persons upon skates, coasters, sleds, or similar devices, consistent with the provisions of this article;
- (v) Adopting such temporary or experimental regulations as may be necessary to cover emergencies or special conditions;
- (w) Adopting such other traffic regulations as are provided for by this article;
- (x) Closing a street or portion thereof temporarily and establishing appropriate detours or an alternative routing for the traffic affected, consistent with the provisions of this article;
- (y) Regulating the local movement of traffic or the use of local streets where such is not provided for in this article;

(z) Regulating the operation of low-power scooters, consistent with the provisions of this article; except that local authorities shall be prohibited from establishing any requirements for the registration and licensing of low-power scooters;

(aa) Regulating the operation of low-speed electric vehicles, including, without limitation, establishing a safety inspection program, on streets and highways under their jurisdiction by resolution or ordinance of the governing body, if such regulation is consistent with the provisions of this title;

(bb) Authorizing and regulating the operation of golf cars on roadways by resolution or ordinance of the governing body, if the authorization or regulation is consistent with this title and does not authorize:

(I) An unlicensed driver of a golf car to carry a passenger who is under twenty-one years of age;

(II) Operation of a golf car by a person under sixteen years of age; or

(III) Operation of a golf car on a state highway; except that the ordinance or resolution may authorize a person to drive a golf car directly across a state highway at an at-grade crossing to continue traveling along a roadway that is not a state highway;

(cc) Authorizing, prohibiting, or regulating the use of an EPAMD on a roadway, sidewalk, bike path, or pedestrian path consistent with section 42-4-117 (1) and (3);

(dd) Authorizing or prohibiting the use of an electrical assisted bicycle or electric scooter on a bike or pedestrian path in accordance with section 42-4-1412;

(ee) Enacting the idling standards in conformity with section 42-14-103;

(ff) Regulating the operation of an electric scooter, consistent with this title 42;

(gg) Enforcing the requirement that a vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or motor vehicle be registered as required in article 3 of this title 42. This subsection (1)(gg) does not authorize a local authority to enact an ordinance or resolution that requires the owner of a vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or motor vehicle to register the vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or motor vehicle with the local authority.

(2) (a) An ordinance or regulation enacted under paragraph (a), (b), (e), (f), (g), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p), (q), (r), (v), (x), (y), (aa), or (cc) of subsection (1) of this section may not take effect until official signs or other traffic control devices conforming to standards as required by section 42-4-602 and giving notice of the local traffic regulations are placed upon or at the entrances to the highway or part thereof affected as may be most appropriate.

(b) Subsection (1) of this section does not authorize a local authority to regulate or authorize the use of vehicles and motor vehicles on the state highway system that is subject to section 43-

2-135, C.R.S., except in at-grade crossings where the roadway subject to the local authority's jurisdiction crosses the state highway. The local authority may regulate vehicles within such crossings only to the extent necessary to effect the local authority's power to regulate the roadway under the local authority's jurisdiction and only if the regulation or authorization does not interfere with the normal operation of the state highway.

(3) (a) A board of county commissioners may by resolution authorize the use of designated portions of unimproved county roads within the unincorporated portion of the county for motor vehicles participating in timed endurance events and for such purposes shall make such regulations relating to the use of such roads and the operation of vehicles as are consistent with public safety in the conduct of such event and with the cooperation of county law enforcement officials.

(b) Such resolution by a board of county commissioners and regulations based thereon shall designate the specific route which may be used in such event, the time limitations imposed upon such use, any necessary restrictions in the use of such route by persons not participating in such event, special regulations concerning the operation of vehicles while participating in such event in which case any provisions of this article to the contrary shall not apply to such event, and such requirements concerning the sponsorship of any such event as may be reasonably necessary to assure adequate responsibility therefor.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2235, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (1)(aa) added and (2) amended, p. 394, §§ 8, 9, effective August 6. **L. 2009:** IP(1) and (1)(aa) amended and (1)(bb) added, (SB 09-075), ch. 418, p. 2323, § 7, effective August 5; IP(1), (1)(h), (1)(z), and (2) amended and (1)(cc) and (1)(dd) added, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1271, § 36, effective October 1. **L. 2011:** (1)(ee) added, (HB 11-1275), ch. 215, p. 942, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** (1)(bb)(II) amended, (SB 12-013), ch. 148, p. 533, § 2, effective May 3. **L. 2016:** IP(1), (1)(bb)(III), and (2) amended, (SB 16-173), ch. 273, p. 1131, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2017:** IP(1) and (1)(dd) amended, (HB 17-1151), ch. 98, p. 296, § 3, effective August 9. **L. 2019:** (1)(dd) amended and (1)(ff) added, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2559, § 4, effective May 23. **L. 2025:** (1)(gg) added, (HB 25-1112), ch. 348, p. 1878, § 2, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-109 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-111 was relocated to § 42-4-113.

(2) Amendments to the introductory portion to subsection (1) by Senate Bill 09-075 and House Bill 09-1026 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** For powers and duties of the Colorado state patrol, see part 2 of article 33.5 of title 24.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "One Year Review of Criminal Law and Procedure", see 39 Dicta 81 (1962). For article, "One Year Review of Criminal Law and Procedure", see 40 Den. L. Ctr. J. 89 (1963).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-111 is similar to § 42-4-109 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**State may delegate powers local in nature to local governmental units.** In the absence of any constitutional prohibition, there is nothing illegal about a general assembly delegating powers local in nature to local governmental units, provided that the proper constitutional tests are met as to maintaining a separation of powers and nonabrogation of proper responsibility. *Asphalt Paving Co. v. Bd. of County Comm'rs*, 162 Colo. 254, 425 P.2d 289 (1967).

**Municipal ordinance of local concern supersedes conflicting state statute.** Under the home-rule amendment, once a matter is determined to be a matter of local and municipal concern, any local ordinance in a home-rule city addressing the matter will supersede a conflicting state statute. *People v. Hizhniak*, 195 Colo. 427, 579 P.2d 1131 (1978).

**Authority for home-rule city to regulate traffic speeds and penalize offenders** is not found in the laws of the general assembly, but rather, is a matter of state constitutional law, under § 6 of art. XX, Colo. Const. *People v. Hizhniak*, 195 Colo. 427, 579 P.2d 1131 (1978).

**Regulation of speed is not solely a matter of statewide concern.** *Wiggins v. McAuliffe*, 144 Colo. 363, 356 P.2d 487 (1960).

**This section specifically allows municipalities to regulate bicycles on local streets, but this authority is subject to the mandate in § 42-4-109** that any bicycle prohibition on city streets must be accompanied by suitable alternate bikeways. *Webb v. City of Black Hawk*, 2013 CO 9, 295 P.3d 480.

**Regulation of bicycling on city streets is a matter of mixed state and local concern.** The state's interests include consistent application of statewide laws to avoid patchwork bicycle regulations that may frustrate residents statewide as well as potentially affecting tourism, and the interests in improving the state's bicycle transportation infrastructure. On the other hand, municipalities have a valid interest in controlling traffic on their local streets. *Webb v. City of Black Hawk*, 2013 CO 9, 295 P.3d 480.

**This section permits all local authorities to regulate the speed of vehicles** even though the state has its own statutes thereon except those highways designated as connecting links in the state highway system. *Wiggins v. McAuliffe*, 144 Colo. 363, 356 P.2d 487 (1960).

**This section does not give municipality the right to punish.** This section recognizes the power of municipalities to regulate in particular areas of traffic and acknowledges the right of a municipality to regulate on subjects such as parking of vehicles, flow of traffic through control signs, creation of one-way streets, regulating speed and traffic at intersections, but it does not specifically approve the right of a municipality to punish the operator of a vehicle who drives without a license. Consequently, we must conclude that this authority has been preempted by the state and has been withheld from a municipality. *Davis v. City & County of Denver*, 140 Colo. 30, 342 P.2d 674 (1959).

**Validity of legislation giving unrestricted discretion to local police.** As a qualification of the general rule, where the discretion to be exercised relates to police regulations for the protection of public morals, health, safety, or general welfare, and it is impracticable to fix standards without destroying the flexibility necessary to enable the administrative officials to carry out the legislative will, legislation delegating such discretion without such restrictions may be valid. *Asphalt Paving Co. v. Bd. of County Comm'rs*, 162 Colo. 254, 425 P.2d 289 (1967).

**The general assembly has specifically excluded implements of husbandry** from the scope of powers of local authorities to regulate vehicles on county roads. *Bd. of County Comm'rs of Logan County v. Vandemoer*, 205 P.3d 423 (Colo. App. 2008).

#### **42-4-112. Noninterference with the rights of owners of realty.**

Subject to the exception provided in section 42-4-103 (2), nothing in this article shall be construed to prevent the owner of real property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel by permission of the owner and not as matter of right from prohibiting such use, or from requiring other or different or additional conditions than those specified in this article, or from otherwise regulating such use as may seem best to such owner.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2237, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-110 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-112 was relocated to § 42-4-1211.

#### **42-4-113. Appropriations for administration of article.**

The general assembly shall make appropriations from the highway users tax fund for the expenses of the administration of this article.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2238, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-111 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-113 was relocated to § 42-4-1405.

#### **42-4-114. Removal of traffic hazards.**

(1) The department of transportation and local authorities, within their respective jurisdictions, may by written notice sent by certified mail require the owner of real property abutting on the right-of-way of any highway, sidewalk, or other public way to trim or remove, at the expense of said property owner, any tree limb or any shrub, vine, hedge, or other plant which projects beyond the property line of such owner onto or over the public right-of-way and thereby obstructs the view of traffic, obscures any traffic control device, or otherwise constitutes a hazard to drivers or pedestrians.

(2) It is the duty of the property owner to remove any dead, overhanging boughs of trees located on the premises of such property owner that endanger life or property on the public right-of-way.

(3) In the event that any property owner fails or neglects to trim or remove any such tree limb or any such shrub, vine, hedge, or other plant within ten days after receipt of written notice from said department or concerned local authority to do so, said department or local authority may do or cause to be done the necessary work incident thereto, and said property owner shall reimburse the state or local authority for the cost of the work performed.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2238, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**42-4-115. Information on traffic law enforcement - collection - profiling - annual report - repeal. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2001:** Entire section added, p. 933, § 1, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (4) provided for the repeal of this section, effective January 1, 2004. (See L. 2001, p. 933.)

**42-4-116. Restrictions for minor drivers - definitions.**

(1) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection (1), a minor driver shall not operate a motor vehicle containing a passenger who is under twenty-one years of age and who is not a member of the driver's immediate family until such driver has held a valid driver's license for at least six months.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection (1), a minor driver shall not operate a motor vehicle containing more than one passenger who is under twenty-one years of age and who is not a member of the driver's immediate family until such driver has held a valid driver's license for at least one year.

(c) Paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection (1) shall not apply if:

(I) The motor vehicle contains the minor's parent or legal guardian or other responsible adult described in section 42-2-108;

(II) The motor vehicle contains an adult twenty-one years of age or older who currently holds a valid driver's license and has held such license for at least one year;

(III) The passenger who is under twenty-one years of age is in the vehicle on account of a medical emergency;

(IV) All passengers who are under twenty-one years of age are members of the driver's immediate family and all such passengers are wearing a seatbelt.

(2) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (2), a minor driver shall not operate a motor vehicle between 12 midnight and 5 a.m. until such driver has held a driver's license for at least one year.

(b) This subsection (2) shall not apply if:

(I) The motor vehicle contains the minor's parent or legal guardian or other responsible adult described in section 42-2-108;



(II) The motor vehicle contains an adult twenty-one years of age or older who currently holds a valid driver's license and has held such license for at least one year;

(III) The minor is driving to school or a school-authorized activity when the school does not provide adequate transportation, so long as the driver possesses a signed statement from the school official containing the date the activity will occur;

(IV) The minor is driving on account of employment when necessary, so long as the driver possesses a signed statement from the employer verifying employment;

(V) The minor is driving on account of a medical emergency; or

(VI) The minor is an emancipated minor.

(3) A violation of this section is a traffic infraction, and, upon conviction, the violator may be punished as follows:

(a) By the imposition of not less than eight hours nor more than twenty-four hours of community service for a first offense and not less than sixteen hours nor more than forty hours of community service for a subsequent offense;

(b) By the levying of a fine of not more than fifty dollars for a first offense, a fine of not more than one hundred dollars for a second offense, and a fine of one hundred fifty dollars for a subsequent offense;

(c) By an assessment of two license suspension points pursuant to section 42-2-127 (5)(kk).

(4) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Emancipated minor" means an individual under eighteen years of age whose parents or guardian has surrendered parental responsibilities, custody, and the right to the care and earnings of such person, and are no longer under a duty to support such person.

(b) "Minor driver" means a person who is operating a motor vehicle and who is under eighteen years of age.

(5) No driver in a motor vehicle shall be cited for a violation of this section unless such driver was stopped by a law enforcement officer for an alleged violation of articles 1 to 4 of this title other than a violation of this section.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire section added, p. 332, § 1, effective July 1.

**42-4-117. Personal mobility devices.**

(1) A rider of an EPAMD shall have all the same rights and duties as an operator of any other vehicle under this article, except as to those provisions that by their nature have no application.

(2) Unless prohibited under section 42-4-111 (1)(cc), an EPAMD may be operated on a roadway in conformity with vehicle use.

(3) An EPAMD shall not be operated:

(a) On a limited-access highway;

(b) On a bike or pedestrian path; or

(c) At a speed of greater than twelve and one-half miles per hour.

(4) A person who violates this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 2009:** Entire section added, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1272, § 37, effective October 1.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for class B traffic infractions, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

**42-4-118. Establishment of wildlife crossing zones - speed limit - definition.**

(1) The department of transportation created in section 43-1-103, C.R.S., in consultation with both the Colorado state patrol created pursuant to section 24-33.5-201, C.R.S., and the division of parks and wildlife created pursuant to section 33-9-104, C.R.S., in the department of natural resources, may establish areas within the public highways of the state as wildlife crossing zones.

(2) (a) If the department of transportation establishes an area within a public highway of the state as a wildlife crossing zone, the department of transportation may erect signs:

(I) Identifying the zone in accordance with the provisions of section 42-4-616; and

(II) Establishing a lower speed limit for the portion of the highway that lies within the zone.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) to the contrary, the department of transportation shall not establish a lower speed limit for more than one hundred miles of the public highways of the state that have been established as wildlife crossing zones.

(3) (a) The department of transportation may establish an area within the federal highways of the state as a wildlife crossing zone if the department of transportation receives authorization from the federal government.

(b) If the department of transportation establishes an area within the federal highways of the state as a wildlife crossing zone pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (3), the department of transportation may erect signs:

- (I) Identifying the zone in accordance with the provisions of section 42-4-616; and
- (II) Establishing a lower speed limit for the portion of the highway that lies within the zone.

(4) If the department of transportation erects a new wildlife crossing zone sign pursuant to subsection (2) or (3) of this section, it shall ensure that the sign indicates, in conformity with the state traffic control manual, that increased traffic penalties are in effect within the wildlife crossing zone. For the purposes of this section, it shall be sufficient that the sign states "increased penalties in effect".

(5) In establishing a lower speed limit within a wildlife crossing zone, the department of transportation shall give due consideration to factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) The percentage of traffic crashes that occur within the area that involve the presence of wildlife on the public highway;
- (b) The relative levels of traffic congestion and mobility in the area; and
- (c) The relative numbers of traffic crashes that occur within the area during the daytime and evening hours and involve the presence of wildlife on the public highway.

(6) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "wildlife" shall have the same meaning as "big game" as set forth in section 33-1-102 (2), C.R.S.

(7) Repealed.

(8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the department of transportation shall not establish any area of any interstate highway as a wildlife crossing zone.

**Source:** L. 2010: Entire section added, (HB 10-1238), ch. 393, p. 1866, § 1, effective September 1. L. 2026: (5)(a) and (5)(c) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 478, § 45, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (7)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (7), effective March 2, 2012. (See L. 2010, p. 1866.)

**42-4-119. Establishment of a school street - speed limit - definition.**

(1) As used in this section, "school street" means a portion of a roadway immediately adjacent to a school property boundary that is designated as a school street.

(2) A county, city and county, or municipality may designate a roadway as a school street; except that a state highway, as defined in section 42-4-110.5, must not be designated as a school street, unless designated in accordance with section 42-4-615 (2).

(3) A county, city and county, or municipality shall not designate a roadway that directly connects to a state highway as a school street without the written approval of the Colorado department of transportation.

(4) A county, city and county, or municipality that designates a roadway as a school street may close the school street to vehicles.

(5) All vehicles traveling along a school street shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian, bicyclist, or micromobility user. A bicyclist or operator of a micromobility device shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian on a school street.

(6) A state or local government having jurisdiction over the placement of traffic signs and traffic control devices on a school street shall post conspicuous traffic signs indicating an area designated as a school street as a school street.

(7) The maximum speed limit on a school street is ten miles per hour. A state or local government having jurisdiction over the placement of traffic signs shall post speed limit signs on a school street.

(8) Sections 42-4-801, 42-4-803, and 42-4-805 (1) and (2) do not apply to school streets.

(9) A county, city and county, or municipality that designates a roadway as a school street may suspend additional traffic provisions on the school street that endanger pedestrians, bicyclists, or micromobility users and frustrate ease of pedestrian and bicycle movement.

**Source: L. 2026:** Entire section added, (HB 26-1318), ch. 234, p. 1352, § 4, effective August 12.

**Cross references:** For the short title ("Liam Stewart School Zone Act") in HB 26-1318, see section 1 of chapter 234, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

## PART 2

### EQUIPMENT

**Cross references:** For the penalty for class A and class B traffic infractions, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

#### **42-4-201. Obstruction of view or driving mechanism - hazardous situation.**

(1) No person shall drive a vehicle when it is so loaded or when there are in the front seat such number of persons, exceeding three, as to obstruct the view of the driver to the front or sides of the vehicle or as to interfere with the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle.

(2) No person shall knowingly drive a vehicle while any passenger therein is riding in any manner which endangers the safety of such passenger or others.

(3) A person shall not drive a motor vehicle equipped with a video display visible to the driver while the motor vehicle is in motion. This subsection (3) does not prohibit the usage of a computer, data terminal, or safety equipment in a motor vehicle so long as the computer, data terminal, or safety equipment is not used to display visual entertainment, including internet browsing, social media, and e-mail, to the driver while the motor vehicle is in motion.

(4) No vehicle shall be operated upon any highway unless the driver's vision through any required glass equipment is normal and unobstructed.

(5) No passenger in a vehicle shall ride in such position as to create a hazard for such passenger or others, or to interfere with the driver's view ahead or to the sides, or to interfere with the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle; nor shall the driver of a vehicle permit any passenger therein to ride in such manner.

(6) No person shall hang on or otherwise attach himself or herself to the outside, top, hood, or fenders of any vehicle, or to any other portion thereof, other than the specific enclosed portion of such vehicle intended for passengers or while in a sitting position in the cargo area of a vehicle if such area is fully or partially enclosed on all four sides, while the same is in motion; nor shall the operator knowingly permit any person to hang on or otherwise attach himself or herself to the outside, top, hood, or fenders of any vehicle, or any other portion thereof, other than the specific enclosed portion of such vehicle intended for passengers or while in a sitting position in the cargo area of a vehicle if such area is fully or partially enclosed on all four sides, while the same is in motion. This subsection (6) shall not apply to parades, caravans, or exhibitions which are officially authorized or otherwise permitted by law.

(7) The provisions of subsection (6) of this section shall not apply to a vehicle owned by the United States government or any agency or instrumentality thereof, or to a vehicle owned by the state of Colorado or any of its political subdivisions, or to a privately owned vehicle when operating in a governmental capacity under contract with or permit from any governmental subdivision or under permit issued by the public utilities commission of the state of Colorado, when in the performance of their duties persons are required to stand or sit on the exterior of the vehicle and said vehicle is equipped with adequate handrails and safeguards.

(8) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2238, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2012:** (3) amended, (SB 12-092), ch. 111, p. 387, § 1, effective July 1.

#### ANNOTATION

**Subsection (6) of this section not exception to § 42-4-103(2).** The words "while moving", used in subsection (6), do not connote any particular place and do not give rise to an exception to the application of this article to streets and highways under § 42-4-103(2). *Bravo v. Wareham*, 43 Colo. App. 1, 605 P.2d 58 (1979).

**Submission of question of obstructed vision to jury.** In an automobile accident case there would be no error in submitting to the jury a question of obstructed vision

caused by the substitution of cardboard for a broken window-glass in the care of plaintiff, if proper instructions on the subject were given. *Potts v. Bird*, 93 Colo. 547, 27 P.2d 745 (1933).

**An air freshener hanging from rearview mirror not an automatic violation of subsection (4).** The air freshener must actually obstruct the driver's vision to be a violation. *People v. Arias*, 159 P.3d 134 (Colo. 2007).

#### **42-4-202. Unsafe vehicles - penalty - identification plates.**

(1) It is unlawful for any person to drive or move or for the owner to cause or knowingly permit to be driven or moved on any highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles which is in such unsafe condition as to endanger any person, or which does not contain those parts or is not at all times equipped with such lamps and other equipment in proper condition and adjustment as required in this section and sections 42-4-204 to 42-4-231 and part 3 of this article, or which is equipped in any manner in violation of said sections and part 3 or for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required under said sections and part 3.

(2) The provisions of this section and sections 42-4-204 to 42-4-231 and part 3 of this article with respect to equipment on vehicles shall not apply to implements of husbandry or farm tractors, except as made applicable in said sections and part 3.

(3) Nothing in this article shall be construed to prohibit the use of additional parts and accessories on any vehicle, consistent with the provisions of this article.

(4) (a) Upon its approval, the department shall issue an identification plate for each vehicle, motor vehicle, trailer, or item of special mobile machinery, or similar implement of equipment, used in any type of construction business which shall, when said plate is affixed, exempt any such item of equipment, machinery, trailer, or vehicle from all or part of this section and sections 42-4-204 to 42-4-231 and part 3 of this article.

(b) The department is authorized to promulgate written rules and regulations governing the application for, issuance of, and supervision, administration, and revocation of such identification plates and exemption authority and to prescribe the terms and conditions under which said plates may be issued for each item as set forth in paragraph (a) of this subsection (4), and the department, in so doing, shall consider the safety of users of the public streets and highways and the type, nature, and use of such items set forth in paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) for which exemption is sought.

(c) Each exempt item may be moved on the roads, streets, and highways during daylight hours and at such time as vision is not less than five hundred feet. No cargo or supplies shall be hauled upon such exempt item except cargo and supplies used in normal operation of any such item.

(d) The identification plate shall be of a size and type designated and approved by the department. A fee of one dollar shall be charged and collected by the department for the issuance of each such identification plate. All such fees so collected shall be paid to the state treasurer who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(b), C.R.S.

(e) Each such identification plate shall be issued for a calendar year. Application for such identification plates shall be made by the owner, and such plates shall be issued to the owner of each such item described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (4). Whenever the owner transfers, sells, or assigns the owner's interest therein, the exemption of such item shall expire and the owner shall remove the identification plate therefrom and forward the same to the department.

(f) An owner shall report a lost or damaged identification plate to the department, and, upon application to and approval by the department, the department shall issue a replacement plate upon payment to it of a fee of fifty cents.

(g) Notwithstanding the amount specified for any fee in this subsection (4), the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may reduce the amount of one

or more of the fees if necessary pursuant to section 24-75-402 (3), C.R.S., to reduce the uncommitted reserves of the fund to which all or any portion of one or more of the fees is credited. After the uncommitted reserves of the fund are sufficiently reduced, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may increase the amount of one or more of the fees as provided in section 24-75-402 (4), C.R.S.

(5) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2239, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** (4)(g) added, p. 1357, § 111, effective June 1. **L. 2005:** (4)(d) amended, p. 149, § 25, effective April 5. **L. 2010:** (4)(a) amended, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1492, § 15, effective October 1.

#### ANNOTATION

**In the ascertainment of the legislative intent, this section must be harmonized with other sections** of the act from which codified, so as to give effect to its purpose, if possible. *People v. Rapini*, 107 Colo. 363, 112 P.2d 551 (1941).

**This section does not excuse the use of equipment on a binder** in violation of subsection (3) of § 42-4-225. *People v. Rapini*, 107 Colo. 363, 112 P.2d 551 (1941).

#### **42-4-203. Unsafe vehicles - spot inspections.**

(1) Uniformed police officers, at any time upon reasonable cause, may require the driver of a vehicle to stop and submit such vehicle and its equipment to an inspection and such test with reference thereto as may be appropriate. The fact that a vehicle is an older model vehicle shall not alone constitute reasonable cause. In the event such vehicle is found to be in an unsafe condition or the required equipment is not present or is not in proper repair and adjustment, the officer may give a written notice and issue a summons to the driver. Said notice shall require that such vehicle be placed in safe condition and properly equipped or that its equipment be placed in proper repair and adjustment, the particulars of which shall be specified on said notice.

(2) In the event any such vehicle is, in the reasonable judgment of such police officer, in such condition that further operation would be hazardous, the officer may require, in addition to the instructions set forth in subsection (1) of this section, that the vehicle be moved at the operator's expense and not operated under its own power or that it be driven to the nearest garage or other place of safety.



(3) Every owner or driver upon receiving the notice and summons issued pursuant to subsection (1) of this section or mailed pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of this section shall comply therewith and shall secure a certification upon such notice by a law enforcement officer that such vehicle is in safe condition and its equipment has been placed in proper repair and adjustment and otherwise made to conform to the requirements of this article. Said certification shall be returned to the owner or driver for presentation in court as provided for in subsection (4) of this section.

(4) (a) (I) Except as provided for in subparagraph (II) or subparagraph (III) of this paragraph (a), any owner receiving written notice and a summons pursuant to this section is guilty of a misdemeanor traffic offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars, payable within thirty days after conviction.

(II) If the owner repairs the unsafe condition or installs or adjusts the required equipment within thirty days after issuance of the notice and summons and presents the certification required in subsection (3) of this section to the court of competent jurisdiction, the owner shall be punished by a fine of five dollars.

(III) If the owner submits to the court of competent jurisdiction within thirty days after the issuance of the summons proof that the owner has disposed of the vehicle for junk parts or immobilized the vehicle and also submits to the court the registration and license plates for the vehicle, the owner shall be punished by a fine of five dollars. If the owner wishes to relicense the vehicle in the future, the owner must obtain the certification required in subsection (3) of this section.

(b) (I) Except as provided for in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (b), any nonowner driver receiving written notice and a summons pursuant to this section is guilty of a misdemeanor traffic offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars, payable within thirty days after conviction.

(II) If the driver submits to the court of competent jurisdiction within thirty days after the issuance of the summons proof that the driver was not the owner of the car at the time the summons was issued and that the driver mailed, within five days of issuance thereof, a copy of the notice and summons by certified mail to the owner of the vehicle at the address on the registration, the driver shall be punished by a fine of five dollars.

(c) Upon a showing of good cause that the required repairs or adjustments cannot be made within thirty days after issuance of the notice and summons, the court of competent jurisdiction may extend the period of time for installation or adjustment of required equipment as may appear justified.

(d) The owner may, in lieu of appearance, submit to the court of competent jurisdiction, within thirty days after the issuance of the notice and summons, the certification specified in subsection (3) of this section and the fine of five dollars.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2240, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-306.1 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-203 was relocated to § 42-4-204.

#### **42-4-204. When lighted lamps are required.**

(1) Every vehicle upon a highway within this state, between sunset and sunrise and at any other time when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of one thousand feet ahead, shall display lighted lamps and illuminating devices as required by this article for different classes of vehicles, subject to exceptions with respect to parked vehicles.

(2) Whenever requirement is declared by this article as to distance from which certain lamps and devices shall render objects visible or within which such lamps or devices shall be visible, said provisions shall apply during the times stated in subsection (1) of this section in respect to a vehicle without load when upon a straight, level, unlighted highway under normal atmospheric conditions, unless a different time or condition is expressly stated.

(3) Whenever requirement is declared by this article as to the mounted height of lamps or devices, it shall mean from the center of such lamp or device to the level ground upon which the vehicle stands when such vehicle is without a load.

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2242, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-203 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-204 was relocated to § 42-4-205.

**42-4-205. Head lamps on motor vehicles - penalty.**

(1) Every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle or autocycle, shall be equipped with at least two head lamps, with at least one on each side of the front of the motor vehicle. The head lamps shall comply with the requirements and limitations set forth in sections 42-4-202 and 42-4-204 to 42-4-231 and part 3 of this article 4 where applicable.

(2) Every motorcycle or autocycle shall be equipped with at least one and not more than two head lamps that comply with the requirements and limitations of sections 42-4-202 and 42-4-204 to 42-4-231 and part 3 of this article 4 where applicable.

(3) Every head lamp upon every motor vehicle, including every motorcycle, shall be located at a height measured from the center of the head lamp of not more than fifty-four inches nor less than twenty-four inches, to be measured as set forth in section 42-4-204 (3).

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2242, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2009:** (1) to (3) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1272, § 38, effective October 1. **L. 2022:** (1) and (2) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2584, § 13, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-204 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-205 was relocated to § 42-4-206.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for equipment violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(D).

**42-4-206. Tail lamps and reflectors - penalty.**

(1) To be operated on a road, every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer and any other vehicle that is being drawn at the end of a train of vehicles must be equipped with at least one tail lamp mounted on the rear, which, when lighted as required in section 42-4-204, emits a red light plainly visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear; except that, in the case of a train of vehicles, only the tail lamp on the rear-most vehicle need actually be seen from the distance specified, except as provided in section 42-12-204. Furthermore, every vehicle registered in this state and manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1958, must be equipped

with at least two tail lamps mounted on the rear, on the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, which, when lighted as required in section 42-4-204, comply with this section.

(2) Every tail lamp upon every vehicle shall be located at a height of not more than seventy-two inches nor less than twenty inches, to be measured as set forth in section 42-4-204 (3).

(3) Either a tail lamp or a separate lamp shall be so constructed and placed as to illuminate with a white light the rear registration plate and render it clearly legible from a distance of fifty feet to the rear. Any tail lamp, together with any separate lamp for illuminating the rear registration plate, shall be so wired as to be lighted whenever the head lamps or auxiliary driving lamps are lighted.

(4) To be operated on a road, every motor vehicle must carry on the rear, either as part of a tail lamp or separately, one red reflector meeting the requirements of this section; except that vehicles of the type mentioned in section 42-4-207 must be equipped with reflectors as required by law unless otherwise provided in section 42-12-204.

(5) Every new motor vehicle sold on and after January 1, 1958, and operated upon a highway shall carry on the rear, whether as a part of the tail lamps or separately, two red reflectors; except that every motorcycle or autocycle shall carry at least one reflector meeting the requirements of this section, and vehicles of the type mentioned in section 42-4-207 shall be equipped with reflectors as required in this part 2.

(6) Every reflector shall be mounted on the vehicle at a height of not less than twenty inches nor more than sixty inches, measured as set forth in section 42-4-204 (3) and shall be of such size and characteristics and so mounted as to be visible at night from all distances within three hundred fifty feet to one hundred feet from such vehicle when directly in front of lawful upper beams and head lamps; except that visibility from a greater distance is required by law of reflectors on certain types of vehicles.

(7) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2243, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (1) and (4) amended, p. 440, § 3, effective April 22. **L. 97:** (3) amended, p. 393, § 3, effective August 6. **L. 2009:** (3) amended, (SB 09-075), ch. 418, p. 2323, § 8, effective August 5; (5) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1272, § 39, effective October 1. **L. 2011:** (1) and (4) amended, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 243, § 5, effective August 10. **L. 2022:** (5) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2584, § 14, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-205 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-206 was relocated to § 42-4-207.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for equipment violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(D).

## ANNOTATION

**Nothing in this section mandates that a vehicle's tail lamps must emit only red light.** The language of subsection (1) is plain and unambiguous and only imposes liability when a motor vehicle's tail lamps do not emit a red light plainly visible from five hundred feet. *McBride v. People*, 2022 CO 30, 511 P.3d 613.

**Question of fact as to whether failure to clean reflectors is negligent.** In an action for damages resulting from a collision between a stopped truck and an oncoming automobile, the question of whether, after passing beyond the rain area and before reaching the point of the accident, the driver of the truck had an opportunity to park off of the paved portion of the highway and again

clean his reflectors and whether in failing so to do, he was guilty of negligence, at most presented a question of fact for the determination of the jury. *Anderson v. Hudspeth Pine, Inc.*, 299 F.2d 874 (10th Cir. 1962).

**Instructions as to collision with unlighted truck sufficient.** In an action for damages for personal injuries resulting from an automobile colliding with an unlighted truck on the highway, instructions as to the lighting of trucks, permissible assumptions and duties of auto drivers reviewed and considered, and while not commended, are sufficient and not misleading. *Gallagher Transp. Co. v. Giggey*, 101 Colo. 116, 71 P.2d 1039 (1937).

### **42-4-207. Clearance and identification.**

(1) Every vehicle designed or used for the transportation of property or for the transportation of persons shall display lighted lamps at the times mentioned in section 42-4-204 when and as required in this section.

#### **(2) Clearance lamps.**

(a) Every motor vehicle or motor-drawn vehicle having a width at any part in excess of eighty inches shall be equipped with four clearance lamps located as follows:

(I) Two on the front and one at each side, displaying an amber light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the front of the vehicle;

(II) Two on the rear and one at each side, displaying a red light visible only to the rear and visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear of the vehicle, which said rear clearance lamps shall be in addition to the rear red lamp required in section 42-4-206.

(b) All clearance lamps required shall be placed on the extreme sides and located on the highest stationary support; except that, when three or more identification lamps are mounted on the rear of a vehicle on the vertical center line and at the extreme height of the vehicle, rear clearance lamps may be mounted at optional height.

(c) Any trailer, when operated in conjunction with a vehicle which is properly equipped with front clearance lamps as provided in this section, may be, but is not required to be, equipped with front clearance lamps if the towing vehicle is of equal or greater width than the towed vehicle.

(d) All clearance lamps required in this section shall be of a type approved by the department.

**(3) Side marker lamps.**

(a) Every motor vehicle or motor-drawn vehicle or combination of such vehicles which exceeds thirty feet in overall length shall be equipped with four side marker lamps located as follows:

(I) One on each side near the front displaying an amber light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the side of the vehicle on which it is located;

(II) One on each side near the rear displaying a red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the side of the vehicle on which it is located; but the rear marker light shall not be so placed as to be visible from the front of the vehicle.

(b) Each side marker lamp required shall be located not less than fifteen inches above the level on which the vehicle stands.

(c) If the clearance lamps required by this section are of such a design as to display lights visible from a distance of five hundred feet at right angles to the sides of the vehicles, they shall be deemed to meet the requirements as to marker lamps in this subsection (3).

(d) All marker lamps required in this section shall be of a type approved by the department.

**(4) Clearance reflectors.**

(a) Every motor vehicle having a width at any part in excess of eighty inches shall be equipped with clearance reflectors located as follows:

(I) Two red reflectors on the rear and one at each side, located not more than one inch from the extreme outside edges of the vehicle;

(II) All such reflectors shall be located not more than sixty inches nor less than fifteen inches above the level on which the vehicle stands.

(b) One or both of the required rear red reflectors may be incorporated within the tail lamp or tail lamps if any such tail lamps meet the location limits specified for reflectors.

(c) All such clearance reflectors shall be of a type approved by the department.

**(5) Side marker reflectors.**

(a) Every motor vehicle or motor-drawn vehicle or combination of vehicles which exceeds thirty feet in overall length shall be equipped with four side marker reflectors located as follows:

(I) One amber reflector on each side near the front;

(II) One red reflector on each side near the rear.

(b) Each side marker reflector shall be located not more than sixty inches nor less than fifteen inches above the level on which the vehicle stands.

(c) All such side marker reflectors shall be of a type approved by the department.

(6) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(7) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede any federal motor vehicle safety standard established pursuant to the "National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966", Public Law 89-563, as amended.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2292, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-206 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-207 was relocated to § 42-4-208.

**Cross references:** For current provisions relating to the "National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966", see 49 U.S.C. sec. 30101 et seq.

**ANNOTATION**

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**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-207 is similar to § 42-4-206 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Situation in which noncompliance not proximate cause of collision.** In an action for damages resulting from a collision between a stopped truck and an oncoming automobile, where the clearance lights of a truck went out completely with the headlights, even if their number and location did not comply with this section, such noncompliance could not have been the proximate cause of the collision. *Anderson v. Hudspeth Pine, Inc.*, 299 F.2d 874 (10th Cir. 1962).

**Where a driver of a truck was negligent in proceeding on the highway after his clearance lights had begun to flicker was an issue of fact for the jury.** *Anderson v. Hudspeth Pine, Inc.*, 299 F.2d 874 (10th Cir. 1962).

**Headlights and clearance lights need not operate on separate circuits.** This state does not, either by statute or regulation, require, as do some states, that headlights and clearance lights operate on separate circuits, and when delivered from the manufacturers of trucks, the headlights and clearance lights are usually on a single circuit. *Anderson v. Hudspeth Pine, Inc.*, 299 F.2d 874 (10th Cir. 1962).

#### **42-4-208. Stop lamps and turn signals - penalty.**

(1) Every motor vehicle or motor-drawn vehicle shall be equipped with a stop light in good working order at all times and shall meet the requirements of section 42-4-215 (1).

(2) A person shall not sell or offer for sale or operate on the highways any motor vehicle registered in this state and manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1958, unless it is equipped with at least two stop lamps meeting the requirements of section 42-4-215 (1); except that a motorcycle or autocycle manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1958, must be equipped with at least one stop lamp meeting the requirements of section 42-4-215 (1).

(3) A person shall not sell or offer for sale or operate on the highways any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer registered in this state and manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1958, and a person shall not operate any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer on the highways when the distance from the center of the top of the steering post to the left outside limit of the body, cab, or load of the motor vehicle exceeds twenty-four inches, unless it is equipped with electrical turn signals meeting the requirements of section 42-4-215 (2). This subsection (3) does not apply to any motorcycle, autocycle, or low-power scooter.

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.



**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2246, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2009:** (2) and (3) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1273, § 40, effective October 1. **L. 2022:** (2) and (3) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2584, § 15, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-207 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-208 was relocated to § 42-4-209.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for equipment violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(D).

#### **42-4-209. Lamp or flag on projecting load.**

Whenever the load upon any vehicle extends to the rear four feet or more beyond the bed or body of such vehicle, there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load, at the time specified in section 42-4-204, a red light or lantern plainly visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the sides and rear. The red light or lantern required under this section shall be in addition to the red rear light required upon every vehicle. At any other time, there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of such load a red flag or cloth not less than twelve inches square and so hung that the entire area is visible to the driver of a vehicle approaching from the rear. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2246, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-208 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-209 was relocated to § 42-4-210.

#### **42-4-210. Lamps on parked vehicles.**

(1) Whenever a vehicle is lawfully parked upon a highway during the hours between sunset and sunrise and in the event there is sufficient light to reveal any person or object within a distance of one thousand feet upon such highway, no lights need be displayed upon such parked vehicle.

(2) Whenever a vehicle is parked or stopped upon a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto, whether attended or unattended, during the hours between sunset and sunrise and there is not sufficient light to reveal any person or object within a distance of one thousand feet upon such highway, such vehicle so parked or stopped shall be equipped with one or more operating lamps meeting the following requirements: At least one lamp shall display a white or amber light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the front of the vehicle, and the same lamp or at least one other lamp shall display a red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear of the vehicle, and the location of said lamp or lamps shall always be such that at least one lamp or combination of lamps meeting the requirements of this section is installed as near as practicable to the side of the vehicle that is closer to passing traffic. This subsection (2) shall not apply to a low-power scooter.

(3) Any lighted head lamps upon a parked vehicle shall be depressed or dimmed.

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(5) This section shall not apply to low-speed electric vehicles.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2246, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2009: (5) added, (SB 09-075), ch. 418, p. 2323, § 9, effective August 5; (2) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1273, § 41, effective October 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-209 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-210 was relocated to § 42-4-211.

#### **42-4-211. Lamps on farm equipment and other vehicles and equipment.**

(1) Every farm tractor and every self-propelled farm equipment unit or implement of husbandry not equipped with an electric lighting system shall, at all times mentioned in section 42-4-204, be equipped with at least one lamp displaying a white light visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet to the front of such vehicle and shall also be equipped with at least one lamp displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet to the rear of such vehicle.

(2) Every self-propelled unit of farm equipment not equipped with an electric lighting system shall, at all times mentioned in section 42-4-204, in addition to the lamps required in subsection (1) of this section, be equipped with two red reflectors visible from all distances

within six hundred feet to one hundred feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of head lamps.

(3) Every combination of farm tractor and towed unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry not equipped with an electric lighting system shall, at all times mentioned in section 42-4-204, be equipped with the following lamps:

(a) At least one lamp mounted to indicate as nearly as practicable to the extreme left projection of said combination and displaying a white light visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet to the front of said combination;

(b) Two lamps each displaying a red light visible when lighted from a distance of not less than five hundred feet to the rear of said combination or, as an alternative, at least one lamp displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet to the rear thereof and two red reflectors visible from all distances within six hundred feet to one hundred feet to the rear thereof when illuminated by the upper beams of head lamps.

(4) Every farm tractor and every self-propelled unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry equipped with an electric lighting system shall, at all times mentioned in section 42-4-204, be equipped with two single-beam head lamps meeting the requirements of section 42-4-216 or 42-4-218, respectively, and at least one red lamp visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet to the rear; but every such self-propelled unit of farm equipment other than a farm tractor shall have two such red lamps or, as an alternative, one such red lamp and two red reflectors visible from all distances within six hundred feet to one hundred feet when directly in front of lawful upper beams of head lamps.

(5) (a) Every combination of farm tractor and towed farm equipment or towed implement of husbandry equipped with an electric lighting system shall, at all times mentioned in section 42-4-204, be equipped with lamps as follows:

(I) The farm tractor element of every such combination shall be equipped as required in subsection (4) of this section.

(II) The towed unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry element of such combination shall be equipped with two red lamps visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet to the rear or, as an alternative, two red reflectors visible from all distances within six hundred feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of head lamps.

(b) Said combinations shall also be equipped with a lamp displaying a white or amber light, or any shade of color between white and amber, visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet to the front and a lamp displaying a red light visible when lighted from a distance of not less than five hundred feet to the rear.

(6) The lamps and reflectors required in this section shall be so positioned as to show from front and rear as nearly as practicable the extreme projection of the vehicle carrying them on the side of the roadway used in passing such vehicle. If a farm tractor or a unit of farm equipment, whether self-propelled or towed, is equipped with two or more lamps or reflectors visible from the front or two or more lamps or reflectors visible from the rear, such lamps or reflectors shall be so positioned that the extreme projections, both to the right and to the left of said vehicle, shall be indicated as nearly as practicable.

(7) Every vehicle, including animal-drawn vehicles and vehicles referred to in section 42-4-202 (2), not specifically required by the provisions of this article to be equipped with lamps or other lighting devices shall at all times specified in section 42-4-204 be equipped with at least one lamp displaying a white light visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet to the front of said vehicle and shall also be equipped with two lamps displaying red lights visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet to the rear of said vehicle or, as an alternative, one lamp displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet to the rear and two red reflectors visible for distances of one hundred feet to six hundred feet to the rear when illuminated by the upper beams of head lamps.

(8) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2247, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2009:** (4) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1273, § 42, effective October 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-210 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-211 was relocated to § 42-4-212.

#### **42-4-212. Spot lamps and auxiliary lamps.**

(1) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two spot lamps, and every lighted spot lamp shall be so aimed and used upon approaching another vehicle that no part of the high-intensity portion of the beam will be directed to the left of the prolongation of the extreme left side of the vehicle nor more than one hundred feet ahead of the vehicle.

(2) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two fog lamps mounted on the front at a height of not less than twelve inches nor more than thirty inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands and so aimed that, when the vehicle is not loaded, none of the high-intensity portion of the light to the left of the center of the vehicle shall at a distance of twenty-five feet ahead project higher than a level of four inches below the level of the center of

the lamp from which it comes. Lighted fog lamps meeting the requirements of this subsection (2) may be used with lower head-lamp beams as specified in section 42-4-216 (1)(b).

(3) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two auxiliary passing lamps mounted on the front at a height of not less than twenty inches nor more than forty-two inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands. The provisions of section 42-4-216 shall apply to any combination of head lamps and auxiliary passing lamps.

(4) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two auxiliary driving lamps mounted on the front at a height of not less than sixteen inches nor more than forty-two inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands. The provisions of section 42-4-216 shall apply to any combination of head lamps and auxiliary driving lamps.

(5) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2249, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-211 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-212 was relocated to § 42-4-213.

#### **42-4-213. Audible and visual signals on emergency vehicles.**

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section or in section 42-4-222 in the case of volunteer fire vehicles and volunteer ambulances, every authorized emergency vehicle shall, in addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings required by this article, be equipped as a minimum with a siren and a horn. Such devices shall be capable of emitting a sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than five hundred feet.

(2) Every authorized emergency vehicle, except those used as undercover vehicles by governmental agencies, shall, in addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings required by this article, be equipped with at least one signal lamp mounted as high as practicable, which shall be capable of displaying a flashing, oscillating, or rotating red light to the front and to the rear having sufficient intensity to be visible at five hundred feet in normal sunlight. In addition to the required red light, flashing, oscillating, or rotating signal lights may be used which emit blue, white, or blue in combination with white.

(3) A police vehicle, when used as an authorized emergency vehicle, may but need not be equipped with the red lights specified in this section.

(4) Any authorized emergency vehicle, including those authorized by section 42-4-222, may be equipped with green flashing lights, mounted at sufficient height and having sufficient intensity to be visible at five hundred feet in all directions in normal daylight. Such lights may only be used at the single designated command post at any emergency location or incident and only when such command post is stationary. The single command post shall be designated by the on-scene incident commander in accordance with local or state government emergency plans. Any other use of a green light by a vehicle shall constitute a violation of this section.

(5) The use of either the audible or the visual signal equipment described in this section shall impose upon drivers of other vehicles the obligation to yield right-of-way and stop as prescribed in section 42-4-705.

(6) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2249, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-212 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-213 was relocated to § 42-4-215.

#### **42-4-214. Visual signals on service vehicles - rules - definition.**

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, every authorized service vehicle must, in addition to any other equipment required by this article 4, be equipped with one or more warning lamps mounted as high as practicable, which must be capable of displaying in all directions one or more flashing, oscillating, or rotating yellow lights. Only yellow and no other color or combination of colors may be used as a warning lamp on an authorized service vehicle; except that an authorized service vehicle snowplow operated by a state, county, or local government may also be equipped with and use no more than two flashing, oscillating, or rotating blue lights as warning lamps. Lighted directional signs used by police and highway departments to direct traffic need not be visible except to the front and rear. Such lights must have sufficient intensity to be visible at five hundred feet in normal sunlight.

(2) The warning lamps authorized in subsection (1) of this section shall be activated by the operator of an authorized service vehicle only when the vehicle is operating upon the roadway so as to create a hazard to other traffic. The use of such lamps shall not relieve the operator from the duty of using due care for the safety of others or from the obligation of using any other safety equipment or protective devices that are required by this article. Service vehicles authorized to

operate also as emergency vehicles shall also be equipped to comply with signal requirements for emergency vehicles.

(3) Whenever an authorized service vehicle is performing its service function and is displaying lights as authorized in subsection (1) of this section, drivers of all other vehicles shall exercise more than ordinary care and caution in approaching, overtaking, or passing such service vehicle and, in the case of highway and traffic maintenance equipment engaged in work upon the highway, shall comply with the instructions of section 42-4-712.

(4) On or after January 1, 1978, only authorized service vehicles shall be equipped with the warning lights authorized in subsection (1) of this section.

(5) The department of transportation shall determine by rule which types of vehicles render an essential public service when operating on or along a roadway and warrant designation as authorized service vehicles under specified conditions, including, without limitation, vehicles that sell or apply chains or other equipment to motor vehicles necessary to enable compliance with section 42-4-106.

(6) (a) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction; except that a person commits a class A traffic infraction if the person passes an authorized service vehicle snowplow that is operated by a state, county, or local government, displaying lights as authorized in subsection (1) of this section, and performing its service function in echelon formation with one or more other such snowplows.

(b) As used in this subsection (6), unless the context otherwise requires, "echelon formation" means a formation in which snowplows are arranged diagonally, with each unit stationed behind and to the right, or behind and to the left, of the unit ahead.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2250, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (1) amended, p. 957, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2007:** (5) amended, p. 1334, § 4, effective August 3. **L. 2019:** (1) and (6) amended, (HB 19-1265), ch. 203, p. 2174, § 1, effective August 2.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-212.5 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-214 was relocated to § 42-4-216.

#### **42-4-215. Signal lamps and devices - additional lighting equipment.**

(1) To be operated on a road, any motor vehicle may be equipped, and when required under this article must be equipped, with a stop lamp or lamps on the rear of the vehicle that, except as provided in section 42-12-204, display a red or amber light, or any shade of color between red

and amber, visible from a distance of not less than one hundred feet to the rear in normal sunlight, that are actuated upon application of the service (foot) brake, and that may but need not be incorporated with one or more other rear lamps. Such stop lamp or lamps may also be automatically actuated by a mechanical device when the vehicle is reducing speed or stopping. If two or more stop lamps are installed on any motor vehicle, any device actuating such lamps must be so designed and installed that all stop lamps are actuated by such device.

(2) Any motor vehicle may be equipped, and when required under this article must be equipped, with lamps showing to the front and rear for the purpose of indicating an intention to turn either to the right or to the left. The lamps showing to the front must be located on the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and when in use display a white or amber light, or any shade of color between white and amber, visible from a distance of not less than one hundred feet to the front in normal sunlight, and the lamps showing to the rear must be located at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and, except as provided in section 42-12-204, when in use must display a red or amber light, or any shade of color between red and amber, visible from a distance of not less than one hundred feet to the rear in normal sunlight. When actuated, the lamps must indicate the intended direction of turning by flashing the light showing to the front and rear on the side toward which the turn is made.

(3) No stop lamp or signal lamp shall project a glaring or dazzling light.

(4) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two side cowl or fender lamps which shall emit an amber or white light without glare.

(5) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than one runningboard courtesy lamp on each side thereof, which shall emit a white or amber light without glare.

(6) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two back-up lamps either separately or in combination with other lamps, but no such back-up lamp shall be lighted when the motor vehicle is in forward motion.

(7) Any vehicle may be equipped with lamps that may be used for the purpose of warning the operators of other vehicles of the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring the exercise of unusual care in approaching, overtaking, or passing and, when so equipped and when the vehicle is not in motion or is being operated at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour or less and at no other time, may display such warning in addition to any other warning signals required by this article. The lamps used to display such warning to the front must be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and display simultaneously flashing white or amber lights, or any shade of color between white and amber. The lamps used to display the warning to the rear must be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and, except as provided in section 42-12-204, show simultaneously flashing amber or red lights, or any shade of color between amber and red. These warning lights must be visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet under normal atmospheric conditions at night.



(8) Any vehicle eighty inches or more in overall width may be equipped with not more than three identification lamps showing to the front which shall emit an amber light without glare and not more than three identification lamps showing to the rear which shall emit a red light without glare. Such lamps shall be mounted horizontally.

(9) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2251, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (1), (2), and (7) amended, p. 440, § 4, effective April 22. **L. 2011:** (1), (2), and (7) amended, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 244, § 6, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-213 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-215 was relocated to § 42-4-217.

**42-4-215.5. Signal lamps and devices - street rod vehicles and custom motor vehicles.  
(Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 96:** Entire section added, p. 441, § 5, effective April 22. **L. 2005:** (1)(b) repealed, p. 1173, § 9, effective August 8. **L. 2011:** Entire section repealed, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 249, § 22, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section was relocated to § 42-12-204 in 2011.

**42-4-216. Multiple-beam road lights - penalty.**

(1) Except as provided in this article 4, the head lamps or the auxiliary driving lamp or the auxiliary passing lamp or combination of lamps on motor vehicles, other than motorcycles, autocycles, or low-power scooters, shall be arranged so that the driver may select at will between distributions of light projected to different elevations, and the lamps may, in addition, be arranged so that the selection can be made automatically, subject to the following limitations:

(a) There shall be an uppermost distribution of light or composite beam so aimed and of such intensity as to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least three hundred fifty feet ahead for all conditions of loading.

(b) There shall be a lowermost distribution of light or composite beam so aimed and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least one hundred feet ahead; and on a straight level road under any condition of loading, none of the high-intensity portion of the beam shall be directed to strike the eyes of an approaching driver.

(1.5) Head lamps arranged to provide a single distribution of light not supplemented by auxiliary driving lamps shall be permitted for low-speed electric vehicles in lieu of multiple-beam, road-lighting equipment specified in this section if the single distribution of light complies with paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of this section.

(2) A new motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, autocycle, or low-power scooter, that has multiple-beam road-lighting equipment shall be equipped with a beam indicator, which shall be lighted whenever the uppermost distribution of light from the head lamps is in use and shall not otherwise be lighted. The indicator shall be designed and located so that when lighted it will be readily visible without glare to the driver of the vehicle so equipped.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2252, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (1.5) added, p. 393, § 4, effective August 6. **L. 2009:** (1.5) amended, (SB 09-075), ch. 418, p. 2323, § 10, effective August 5; IP(1) and (2) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1274, § 43, effective October 1. **L. 2022:** IP(1) and (2) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2585, § 16, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-214 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-216 was relocated to § 42-4-218.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for equipment violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(D).

#### ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "One Year Review of Torts", see 35 Dicta 53 (1958).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-216 is similar to § 42-2-412 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that

provision has been included in the annotations to this section.

**Low beam intensity requirement.** This section provides that all road lighting beams shall be so aimed and of such intensity as to reveal a person or vehicle at least 100 feet ahead. *Union P. R. R. v. Cogburn*, 136 Colo. 184, 315 P.2d 209 (1957).

**High beam intensity requirement.** This section provides that all motor vehicles shall be equipped with head lamps that on high beam shall furnish light of such intensity as to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 350 feet ahead. *Union P. R. R. v. Cogburn*, 136 Colo. 184, 315 P.2d 209 (1957).

#### **42-4-217. Use of multiple-beam lights.**

(1) Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto during the times specified in section 42-4-204, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle, subject to the following requirements and limitations:

(a) Whenever a driver of a vehicle approaches an oncoming vehicle within five hundred feet, such driver shall use a distribution of light or composite beam so aimed that the glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming driver. The lowermost distribution of light or composite beam specified in section 42-4-216 (1)(b) shall be deemed to avoid glare at all times, regardless of road contour and loading.

(b) Whenever the driver of a vehicle follows another vehicle within two hundred feet to the rear, except when engaged in the act of overtaking and passing, such driver shall use a distribution of light permissible under this title other than the uppermost distribution of light specified in section 42-4-216 (1)(a).

(c) A low-speed electric vehicle may use the distribution of light authorized in section 42-4-216 (1.5).

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2253, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2009:** (1)(c) added, (SB 09-075), ch. 418, p. 2324, § 11, effective August 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-215 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-217 was relocated to § 42-4-219.

**42-4-218. Single-beam road-lighting equipment.**

(1) Head lamps arranged to provide a single distribution of light not supplemented by auxiliary driving lamps shall be permitted on motor vehicles manufactured and sold prior to July 15, 1936, in lieu of multiple-beam road-lighting equipment specified in section 42-4-216 if the single distribution of light complies with the following requirements and limitations:

(a) The head lamps shall be so aimed that when the vehicle is not loaded none of the high-intensity portion of the light shall, at a distance of twenty-five feet ahead, project higher than a level of five inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes and in no case higher than forty-two inches above the level on which the vehicle stands at a distance of seventy-five feet ahead.

(b) The intensity shall be sufficient to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least two hundred feet.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2253, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-216 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-218 was relocated to § 42-4-220.

**42-4-219. Number of lamps permitted.**

Whenever a motor vehicle equipped with head lamps as required in this article is also equipped with any auxiliary lamps or a spot lamp or any other lamp on the front thereof projecting a beam of an intensity greater than three hundred candlepower, not more than a total of four of any such lamps on the front of a vehicle shall be lighted at any one time when upon a highway. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2253, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-217 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-219 was relocated to § 42-4-222.

**42-4-220. Low-power scooters - lighting equipment - department control - use and operation.**

(1) (a) A low-power scooter when in use at the times specified in section 42-4-204 shall be equipped with a lamp on the front that shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear, of a type approved by the department, that shall be visible from all distances from fifty feet to three hundred feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector.

(b) No person shall operate a low-power scooter unless it is equipped with a bell or other device capable of giving a signal audible for a distance of at least one hundred feet; except that a low-power scooter shall not be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a low-power scooter a siren or whistle.

(c) A low-power scooter shall be equipped with a brake that will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

(2) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1274, § 44, effective October 1, 2009.)

(3) (a) Any lighted lamp or illuminating device upon a motor vehicle, other than head lamps, spot lamps, auxiliary lamps, flashing turn signals, emergency vehicle warning lamps, and school bus warning lamps, which projects a beam of light of an intensity greater than three hundred candlepower shall be so directed that no part of the high-intensity portion of the beam will strike the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of more than seventy-five feet from the vehicle.

(b) Repealed.

(c) This subsection (3) shall not be construed to prohibit the use on any vehicle of simultaneously flashing hazard warning lights as provided by section 42-4-215 (7).

(4) No person shall have for sale, sell, or offer for sale, for use upon or as a part of the equipment of a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer or for use upon any such vehicle, any head lamp, auxiliary or fog lamp, rear lamp, signal lamp, or reflector, which reflector is required under this article, or parts of any of the foregoing which tend to change the original design or performance thereof, unless of a type which has been approved by the department.

(5) No person shall have for sale, sell, or offer for sale, for use upon or as a part of the equipment of a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, any lamp or device mentioned in this section which has been approved by the department unless such lamp or device bears thereon the trademark or name under which it is approved so as to be legible when installed.

(6) No person shall use upon any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer any lamps mentioned in this section unless said lamps are mounted, adjusted, and aimed in accordance with instructions of the department.

(7) The department is authorized to approve or disapprove lighting standards and specifications for the approval of such lighting devices and their installation, adjustment, and aiming and their adjustment when in use on motor vehicles.

(8) The department is required to approve or disapprove any lighting device, of a type on which approval is specifically required in this article, within a reasonable time after such device has been submitted.

(9) The department is authorized to provide the procedure which shall be followed when any device is submitted for approval.

(10) The department upon approving any such lamp or device shall issue to the applicant a certificate of approval, together with any instructions determined by the department to be reasonably necessary.

(11) The department shall provide lists of all lamps and devices by name and type which have been approved by it.

(12) When the department has reason to believe that an approved device as being sold commercially does not comply with the requirements of this article, the executive director of the department or the director's designated representatives may, after giving thirty days' previous notice to the person holding the certificate of approval for such device in the state, conduct a hearing upon the question of compliance of said approved device. After said hearing, said executive director shall determine whether said approved device meets the requirements of this article. If said device does not meet the requirements of this article, the director shall give notice to the person holding the certificate of approval for such device in this state.

(13) If, at the expiration of ninety days after such notice, the person holding the certificate of approval for such device has failed to establish to the satisfaction of the executive director of the department that said approved device as thereafter to be sold meets the requirements of this article, said executive director shall suspend or revoke the approval issued therefor and may require that all said devices sold since the notification following the hearing be replaced with devices that do comply with the requirements of this article, until or unless such device, at the sole expense of the applicant, shall be resubmitted to and retested by an authorized testing agency and is found to meet the requirements of this article. The department may, at the time of

the retest, purchase in the open market and submit to the testing agency one or more sets of such approved devices, and, if such device upon such retest fails to meet the requirements of this article, the department may refuse to renew the certificate of approval of such device.

(14) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2254, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2004:** (3)(b) repealed, p. 1081, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (1) and (2) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1274, § 44, effective October 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-218 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-220 was relocated to § 42-4-223.

**Cross references:** For specifications for lighting of snow-removal equipment, see § 42-4-224 (4); for authorization for red lights on brand inspectors' cars, see § 35-53-128 (3).

**42-4-221. Bicycle, electric scooter, and personal mobility device equipment - penalty - sale of electrical assisted bicycle equipment requirements - unfair or deceptive trade practice.**

(1) No other provision of this part 2 and no provision of part 3 of this article 4 applies to a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or EPAMD or to equipment for use on a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or EPAMD except those provisions in this article 4 made specifically applicable to such a vehicle.

(2) Every bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or EPAMD in use at the times described in section 42-4-204 shall be equipped with a lamp on the front emitting a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the front.

(3) Every bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or EPAMD shall be equipped with a red reflector of a type approved by the department, which shall be visible for six hundred feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle.

(4) Every bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or EPAMD when in use at the times described in section 42-4-204 shall be equipped with reflective material of sufficient size and reflectivity to be visible from both sides for six hundred feet when directly in front of lawful

lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle or, in lieu of such reflective material, with a lighted lamp visible from both sides from a distance of at least five hundred feet.

(5) A bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or EPAMD or its rider may be equipped with lights or reflectors in addition to those required by subsections (2) to (4) of this section.

(6) A bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter shall not be equipped with, nor shall any person use upon a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter, any siren or whistle.

(7) Every bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter shall be equipped with a brake or brakes that will enable its rider to stop the bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter within twenty-five feet from a speed of ten miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement.

(8) A person engaged in the business of selling bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, or electric scooters at retail shall not sell any bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter unless the bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter has an identifying number permanently stamped or cast on its frame.

(8.5) A local government may regulate the operation of an electric scooter in a manner that is no more restrictive than the manner in which the local government may regulate the operation of a class 1 electrical assisted bicycle.

(9) (a) On or after January 1, 2018, every manufacturer or distributor of new electrical assisted bicycles intended for sale or distribution in this state shall permanently affix to each electrical assisted bicycle, in a prominent location, a label that contains the classification number, top assisted speed, and motor wattage of the electrical assisted bicycle. The label must be printed in the arial font in at least nine-point type.

(b) A person shall not knowingly modify an electrical assisted bicycle so as to change the speed capability or motor engagement of the electrical assisted bicycle without also appropriately replacing, or causing to be replaced, the label indicating the classification required by subsection (9)(a) of this section.

(c) On or after January 1, 2027, the label required by subsection (9)(a) of this section must, for a multiple mode electrical assisted bicycle, also identify the highest class or each of the classes in which the electrical assisted bicycle is capable of operation.

(10) (a) An electrical assisted bicycle must comply with the equipment and manufacturing requirements for bicycles adopted by the United States consumer product safety commission and codified at 16 CFR 1512 or its successor regulation.

(b) A class 2 electrical assisted bicycle must operate in a manner so that the electric motor is disengaged or ceases to function when the brakes are applied. Class 1 and class 3 electrical



assisted bicycles must be equipped with a mechanism or circuit that cannot be bypassed and that causes the electric motor to disengage or cease to function when the rider stops pedaling.

(c) A class 3 electrical assisted bicycle must be equipped with a speedometer that displays, in miles per hour, the speed the electrical assisted bicycle is traveling.

(d) A multiple mode electrical assisted bicycle must meet all the requirements in this article 4 applicable to each respective class of electrical assisted bicycle for which the multiple mode electrical assisted bicycle provides for operation.

(11) A person that violates subsections (1) to (10) of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(12) (a) A person shall not sell or offer to sell, in a store or online, a vehicle that is not an electrical assisted bicycle if the vehicle is falsely labeled as a class 1, class 2, class 3, or multiple mode electrical assisted bicycle.

(b) A person shall not advertise, offer for sale, or sell, in a store or online, a vehicle that is not an electrical assisted bicycle:

(I) By representing the vehicle as an electrical assisted bicycle; or

(II) (A) Using the words "electrical assisted bicycle", "electric bike", or "e-bike" or other similar terms without providing the following disclosure in clearly legible, written form: "This vehicle is not an electrical assisted bicycle as defined in state law pursuant to section 42-1-102, Colorado Revised Statutes. It is instead a type of motor vehicle and subject to applicable motor vehicle laws if used on public roads or public lands. Your insurance policies may not provide coverage for crashes involving the use of this vehicle. To determine coverage, you should contact your insurance company or agent."

(B) The disclosure required pursuant to subsection (12)(b)(II)(A) of this section must be provided at the store where the vehicle is advertised or sold and, for a vehicle advertised or sold online, on the website for the vehicle and in any social media marketing for the vehicle.

(c) A person that violates this subsection (12) commits an unfair or deceptive trade practice in violation of article 1 of title 6.

(13) A seller of an electrical assisted bicycle shall disclose to the purchaser:

(a) The motor power in watts of the electrical assisted bicycle;

(b) The maximum speed of the electrical assisted bicycle;

(c) Whether the electrical assisted bicycle is a class 1, class 2, class 3, or multiple mode electrical assisted bicycle; and

(d) For a class 3 electrical assisted bicycle or multiple mode electrical assisted bicycle that is capable of operating as a class 3 electrical assisted bicycle, a statement that it is unlawful for an individual who is under sixteen years of age to operate a class 3 electrical assisted bicycle in Colorado.

(14) (a) A person shall not manufacture, distribute, assemble, recondition, sell, offer to sell, lease, or rent a lithium-ion battery or a second-use lithium-ion battery as part of or intended for use in an electrical assisted bicycle unless the lithium-ion battery or second-use lithium-ion battery has been certified by an accredited testing laboratory for compliance with a battery standard referenced in UL 2849 or EN 15194 or another safety standard approved by the director of the division of fire prevention and control.

(b) (I) If certification has been obtained pursuant to subsection (14)(a) of this section, the certification or the logo, wordmark, or name of the accredited testing laboratory that provided the certification must be displayed:

(A) On the packaging or documentation for an electrical assisted bicycle or a lithium-ion battery or second-use lithium-ion battery intended for use in an electrical assisted bicycle at the time of sale; or

(B) Directly on the electrical assisted bicycle or the lithium-ion battery or second-use lithium-ion battery intended for use in an electrical assisted bicycle at the time of sale.

(II) The certification or the logo, wordmark, or name of the accredited testing laboratory that provided the certification need not be displayed for an electrical assisted bicycle that is being sold secondhand or rented.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2256, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2009:** (1) to (8) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1275, § 45, effective October 1. **L. 2017:** (9) amended and (10) and (11) added, (HB 17-1151), ch. 98, p. 296, § 4, effective August 9. **L. 2019:** (1) to (8) amended and (8.5) added, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2559, § 5, effective May 23. **L. 2025:** (9)(c), (10)(d), (12), (13), and (14) added and (11) amended, (HB 25-1197), ch. 279, p. 1448, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2026:** (12)(b)(II)(A) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 478, § 46, effective August 12; (12)(c) amended, (HB 26-1426), ch. 334, p. 2029, § 104, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-218.5 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-221 was relocated to § 42-4-224.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for equipment violations of subsections (1) to (10), see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(D).

**42-4-222. Volunteer firefighters - volunteer ambulance attendants - special lights and alarm systems.**

(1) (a) All members of volunteer fire departments regularly attached to the fire departments organized within incorporated towns, counties, cities, and fire protection districts and all members of a volunteer ambulance service regularly attached to a volunteer ambulance service within an area that the ambulance service would be reasonably expected to serve may have their private automobiles equipped with a signal lamp or a combination of signal lamps capable of displaying flashing, oscillating, or rotating red lights visible to the front and rear at five hundred feet in normal sunlight. In addition to the red light, flashing, oscillating, or rotating signal lights may be used that emit white or white in combination with red lights. At least one of such signal lamps or combination of signal lamps shall be mounted on the top of the automobile. Said automobiles may be equipped with audible signal systems such as sirens, whistles, or bells. Said lights, together with any signal systems authorized by this subsection (1), may be used only as authorized by subsection (3) of this section or when a member of a fire department is responding to or attending a fire alarm or other emergency or when a member of an ambulance service is responding to an emergency requiring the member's services. Except as authorized in subsection (3) of this section, neither such lights nor such signals shall be used for any other purpose than those set forth in this subsection (1). If used for any other purpose, such use shall constitute a violation of this subsection (1), and the violator commits a class B traffic infraction.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1), a member of a volunteer fire department or a volunteer ambulance service may equip his or her private automobile with the equipment described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) only after receiving a permit for the equipment from the fire chief of the fire department or chief executive officer of the ambulance service through which the volunteer serves.

(2) (Deleted by amendment, L. 96, p. 957, § 3, effective July 1, 1996.)

(3) A fire engine collector or member of a fire department may use the signal system authorized by subsection (1) of this section in a funeral, parade, or for other special purposes if the circumstances would not lead a reasonable person to believe that such vehicle is responding to an actual emergency.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2257, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (1) and (2) amended, p. 957, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (1) amended, p. 1081, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (1)(a) amended and (3) added, p. 195, § 2, effective July 1.

#### **42-4-223. Brakes - penalty.**

(1) Brake equipment required:

(a) Every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle or autocycle, when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold the vehicle, including two separate means of applying the brakes, each of which means shall be effective to apply the brakes to at least two wheels. If these two separate means of applying the brakes are connected in any way, they shall be constructed so that failure of any one part of the operating mechanism does not leave the motor vehicle without brakes on at least two wheels.

(b) Every motorcycle, autocycle, and low-power scooter, when operated upon a highway, shall be equipped with at least one brake, which may be operated by hand or foot.

(c) Every trailer or semitrailer of a gross weight of three thousand pounds or more, when operated upon a highway, shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and to hold such vehicle and so designed as to be applied by the driver of the towing motor vehicle from the cab, and said brakes shall be so designed and connected that in case of an accidental breakaway of the towed vehicle the brakes shall be automatically applied. The provisions of this paragraph (c) shall not be applicable to any trailer which does not meet the definition of "commercial vehicle" as that term is defined in section 42-4-235 (1)(a) and which is owned by a farmer when transporting agricultural products produced on the owner's farm or supplies back to the farm of the owner of the trailer, tank trailers not exceeding ten thousand pounds gross weight used solely for transporting liquid fertilizer or gaseous fertilizer under pressure, or distributor trailers not exceeding ten thousand pounds gross weight used solely for transporting and distributing dry fertilizer when hauled by a truck capable of stopping within the distance specified in subsection (2) of this section.

(d) Every motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer constructed or sold in this state or operated upon the highways shall be equipped with service brakes upon all wheels of every such vehicle; except that:

(I) Any trailer or semitrailer of less than three thousand pounds gross weight, or any horse trailer of a capacity of two horses or less, or any trailer which does not meet the definition of "commercial vehicle" as that term is defined in section 42-4-235 (1)(a) and which is owned by a farmer when transporting agricultural products produced on the owner's farm or supplies back to the farm of the owner of the trailer, or tank trailers not exceeding ten thousand pounds gross weight used solely for transporting liquid fertilizer or gaseous fertilizer under pressure, or

distributor trailers not exceeding ten thousand pounds gross weight used solely for transporting and distributing dry fertilizer when hauled by a truck capable of stopping with loaded trailer attached in the distance specified by subsection (2) of this section need not be equipped with brakes, and any two-wheel motor vehicle need have brakes on only one wheel.

(II) Any truck or truck tractor, manufactured before July 25, 1980, and having three or more axles, need not have brakes on the wheels of the front or tandem steering axles if the brakes on the other wheels meet the performance requirements of subsection (2) of this section.

(III) Every trailer or semitrailer of three thousand pounds or more gross weight must have brakes on all wheels.

(e) Provisions of this subsection (1) shall not apply to manufactured homes.

(2) Performance ability of brakes:

(a) The service brakes upon any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles shall be adequate to stop such vehicle when traveling twenty miles per hour within a distance of forty feet when upon dry asphalt or concrete pavement surface free from loose material where the grade does not exceed one percent.

(b) Under the conditions stated in paragraph (a) of this subsection (2), the hand brakes shall be adequate to stop such vehicle within a distance of fifty-five feet, and said hand brake shall be adequate to hold such vehicle stationary on any grade upon which operated.

(c) Under the conditions stated in paragraph (a) of this subsection (2), the service brakes upon a motor vehicle equipped with two-wheel brakes only, when permitted under this section, shall be adequate to stop the vehicle within a distance of fifty-five feet.

(d) All braking distances specified in this section shall apply to all vehicles mentioned, whether such vehicles are not loaded or are loaded to the maximum capacity permitted under this title.

(e) All brakes shall be maintained in good working order and shall be so adjusted as to operate as equally as possible with respect to the wheels on opposite sides of the vehicle.

(2.5) The department of public safety is specifically authorized to adopt rules relating to the use of surge brakes.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2258, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (2.5) added, p. 629, § 2, effective January 1, 1997. **L. 2009:** (1)(b) amended, (HB 09-

1026), ch. 281, p. 1276, § 46, effective October 1. **L. 2022:** (1)(a) and (1)(b) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2585, § 17, effective January 1, 2023.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class A traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for equipment violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(D).

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-223 is similar to § 42-4-220 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included in the annotations to this section.

**Before an instruction concerning the adequacy of brakes may be given,**

although such instruction is a correct abstract statement of law, there must be evidence of defective brakes prior to or at the time of the collision, and also some evidence that this condition was the proximate cause of the accident. *Prentiss v. Johnston*, 119 Colo. 370, 203 P.2d 733 (1949).

### **42-4-224. Horns or warning devices - definition.**

(1) Every motor vehicle, when operated upon a highway, shall be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than two hundred feet, but no horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound, except as provided in section 42-4-213 (1) in the case of authorized emergency vehicles or as provided in section 42-4-222. The driver of a motor vehicle, when reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation, shall give audible warning with the horn but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a highway.

(2) No vehicle shall be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a vehicle any audible device except as otherwise permitted in this section. It is permissible but not required that any vehicle be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as a warning signal unless the alarm device is a required part of the vehicle. Nothing in this section is meant to preclude the use of audible warning devices that are activated when the vehicle is backing. Any authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with an audible signal device under section 42-4-213 (1), but such device shall not be used except when such vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or in the actual pursuit of a suspected violator of the law or for other special purposes, including, but not limited to, funerals, parades, and the escorting of dignitaries. Such device shall not be used for such special purposes unless

the circumstances would not lead a reasonable person to believe that such vehicle is responding to an actual emergency.

(3) A bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or low-power scooter shall not be equipped with, nor shall any person use upon a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or low-power scooter, a siren or whistle.

(4) Snowplows and other snow-removal equipment shall display flashing yellow lights meeting the requirements of section 42-4-214 as a warning to drivers when such equipment is in service on the highway.

(5) (a) When any snowplow or other snow-removal equipment displaying flashing yellow lights is engaged in snow and ice removal or control, drivers of all other vehicles shall exercise more than ordinary care and caution in approaching, overtaking, or passing such snowplow.

(b) The driver of a snowplow, while engaged in the removal or control of snow and ice on any highway open to traffic and while displaying the required flashing yellow warning lights as provided by section 42-4-214, shall not be charged with any violation of the provisions of this article relating to parking or standing, turning, backing, or yielding the right-of-way. These exemptions shall not relieve the driver of a snowplow from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall these exemptions protect the driver of a snowplow from the consequences of a reckless or careless disregard for the safety of others.

(6) (a) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction; except that a person commits a class A traffic infraction if the person passes an authorized service vehicle snowplow that is operated by a state, county, or local government, displaying lights as authorized in section 42-4-214, and performing its service function in echelon formation with one or more other such snowplows.

(b) As used in this subsection (6), unless the context otherwise requires, "echelon formation" means a formation in which snowplows are arranged diagonally, with each unit stationed behind and to the right, or behind and to the left, of the unit ahead.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2259, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2005:** (1) and (2) amended, p. 196, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (3) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1276, § 47, effective October 1. **L. 2019:** (3) amended, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2560, § 6, effective May 23; (6) amended, (HB 19-1265), ch. 203, p. 2175, § 2, effective August 2.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-221 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-224 was relocated to § 42-4-227.

**42-4-225. Mufflers - prevention of noise - applicability - exceptions - penalty - definition.**

(1) Every motor vehicle subject to registration and operated on a highway shall at all times be equipped with an adequate muffler in constant operation and properly maintained to prevent any excessive or unusual noise, and no such muffler or exhaust system shall be equipped with a cut-off, bypass, or similar device. No person shall modify the exhaust system of a motor vehicle in a manner which will amplify or increase the noise emitted by the motor of such vehicle above that emitted by the muffler originally installed on the vehicle, and such original muffler shall comply with all of the requirements of this section.

(1.5) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (1.5) is effective until July 1, 2027.]* Any commercial vehicle, as defined in section 42-4-235 (1)(a), subject to registration and operated on a highway, that is equipped with an engine compression brake device is required to have a muffler.

(1.5) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (1.5) is effective July 1, 2027.]*

(a) As used in this subsection (1.5), "commercial vehicle" has the meaning set forth in section 42-4-235 (1)(a).

(b) A person shall not operate a commercial vehicle subject to registration without a muffler. The muffler must be located on the commercial vehicle in a manner that allows the muffler to be visually inspected to ensure it is present, intact, and functioning properly unless subsection (1.5)(c) of this section applies.

(c) The commercial vehicle need not have a muffler that is visible for inspection as required in subsection (1.5)(b) of this section if the following documentation is within the vehicle and available for inspection by a peace officer:

(I) Evidence that the commercial vehicle has had a muffler installed that, when installed, complied with the manufacturing noise standards for the model year of that vehicle as adopted by the federal environmental protection agency;

(II) The vehicle identification number of the commercial vehicle on which the muffler was installed; and

(III) Documentation that contains the following for the muffler described in subsection (1.5)(c)(I) of this section:

(A) The date of purchase;

(B) The make and model; and



- (C) The name of the business that sold and installed the muffler.
- (d) This subsection (1.5):
  - (I) Applies only to a commercial vehicle that is powered by an internal combustion engine; and
  - (II) Does not apply to a farm vehicle.
- (2) A muffler is a device consisting of a series of chamber or baffle plates or other mechanical design for the purpose of receiving exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine and effective in reducing noise.
- (3) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (3) is effective until July 1, 2027.]* Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a class B traffic infraction. Any person who violates subsection (1.5) of this section shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of five hundred dollars. Fifty percent of any fine for a violation of subsection (1.5) of this section occurring within the corporate limits of a city or town, or within the unincorporated area of a county, shall be transmitted to the treasurer or chief financial officer of said city, town, or county, and the remaining fifty percent shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, credited to the highway users tax fund, and allocated and expended as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(a), C.R.S.
- (3) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (3) is effective July 1, 2027.]*
  - (a) A person that violates subsection (1) of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.
  - (b) A person that violates subsection (1.5) of this section shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of one thousand dollars. Fifty percent of any fine for a violation of subsection (1.5) of this section occurring within the corporate limits of a city or town, or within the unincorporated area of a county, shall be transmitted to the treasurer or chief financial officer of the city, town, or county, and the remaining fifty percent shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, credited to the highway users tax fund, and allocated and expended as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(a). A court shall not impose the fine if the owner or operator provides the documentation described in subsection (1.5)(c) of this section demonstrating that a muffler was in place prior to the citation. A court shall reduce the fine by fifty percent if the owner or operator of the commercial vehicle provides proof that an appropriate muffler was installed within thirty days after the citation was issued.
- (4) This section shall not apply to electric motor vehicles.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2260, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 97: (4) added, p. 393, § 2, effective August 6. L. 2000: (1.5) added and (3) amended, p. 1100,

§ 1, effective August 2. **L. 2005:** (3) amended, p. 149, § 26, effective April 5. **L. 2025:** (1.5) and (3) amended, (HB 25-1039), ch. 197, p. 873, § 1, effective July 1, 2027.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-222 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-225 was relocated to § 42-4-228.

(2) Section 3(2) of chapter 197 (HB 25-1039), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to offenses committed on or after July 1, 2027.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for equipment violations of subsection (1), see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(D).

#### **42-4-226. Mirrors - exterior placements.**

(1) Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a mirror or mirrors so located and so constructed as to reflect to the driver a free and unobstructed view of the highway for a distance of at least two hundred feet to the rear of such vehicle.

(2) Whenever any motor vehicle is not equipped with a rear window and rear side windows or has a rear window and rear side windows composed of, covered by, or treated with any material or component that, when viewed from the position of the driver, obstructs the rear view of the driver or makes such window or windows nontransparent, or whenever any motor vehicle is towing another vehicle or trailer or carrying any load or cargo or object that obstructs the rear view of the driver, such vehicle shall be equipped with an exterior mirror on each side so located with respect to the position of the driver as to comply with the visual requirement of subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2261, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (2) amended, p. 393, § 5, effective August 6. **L. 2009:** (2) amended, (SB 09-075), ch. 418, p. 2324, § 12, effective August 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-223 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-226 was relocated to § 42-4-229.

**42-4-227. Windows unobstructed - certain materials prohibited - windshield wiper requirements.**

(1) (a) (I) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (a), no person shall operate a motor vehicle registered in Colorado on which any window, except the windshield, is composed of, covered by, or treated with any material or component that presents an opaque, nontransparent, or metallic or mirrored appearance in such a way that it allows less than twenty-seven percent light transmittance. The windshield shall allow at least seventy percent light transmittance.

(II) Notwithstanding subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a), the windows to the rear of the driver, including the rear window, may allow less than twenty-seven percent light transmittance if the front side windows and the windshield on such vehicles allow at least seventy percent light transmittance.

(III) A law enforcement vehicle may have its windows, except the windshield, treated in such a manner so as to allow less than twenty-seven percent light transmittance only for the purpose of providing a valid law enforcement service. A law enforcement vehicle with such window treatment shall not be used for any traffic law enforcement operations, including operations concerning any offense in this article. For purposes of this subparagraph (III), "law enforcement vehicle" means a vehicle owned or leased by a state or local law enforcement agency. The treatment of the windshield of a law enforcement vehicle is subject to the limits described in paragraph (b) of this subsection (1).

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1), nontransparent material may be applied, installed, or affixed to the topmost portion of the windshield subject to the following:

(I) The bottom edge of the material extends no more than four inches measured from the top of the windshield down;

(II) The material is not red or amber in color, nor does it affect perception of primary colors or otherwise distort vision or contain lettering that distorts or obstructs vision;

(III) The material does not reflect sunlight or headlight glare into the eyes of occupants of oncoming or preceding vehicles to any greater extent than the windshield without the material.

(c) Nothing in this subsection (1) shall be construed to prevent the use of any window which is composed of, covered by, or treated with any material or component in a manner approved by federal statute or regulation if such window was included as a component part of a vehicle at the

time of the vehicle manufacture, or the replacement of any such window by such covering which meets such guidelines.

(d) No material shall be used on any window in the motor vehicle that presents a metallic or mirrored appearance.

(e) Nothing in this subsection (1) shall be construed to deny or prevent the use of certificates or other papers which do not obstruct the view of the driver and which may be required by law to be displayed.

(2) The windshield on every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a device for cleaning rain, snow, or other moisture from the windshield, which device shall be so constructed as to be controlled or operated by the driver of the vehicle.

(3) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (3), any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(b) Any person who installs, covers, or treats a windshield or window so that the windshield or window does not meet the requirements of subsection (1)(a) of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

(4) This section shall apply to all motor vehicles; except that subsection (2) of this section shall not apply to low-speed electric vehicles.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2261, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (3) amended, p. 952, § 6, effective May 25. **L. 2009:** (4) amended, (SB 09-075), ch. 418, p. 2324, § 13, effective August 5. **L. 2011:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 11-1251), ch. 143, p. 499, § 1, effective May 4. **L. 2021:** (3)(b) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3304, § 723, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-224 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-227 was relocated to § 42-4-230.

#### **42-4-228. Restrictions on tire equipment.**

(1) Every solid rubber tire on a vehicle shall have rubber on its entire traction surface at least one inch thick above the edge of the flange of the entire periphery.

(2) No person shall operate or move on any highway any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer having any metal tire in contact with the roadway, and it is unlawful to operate upon the highways of this state any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer equipped with solid rubber tires.

(3) No tire on a vehicle moved on a highway shall have on its periphery any block, stud, flange, cleat, or spike or any other protuberances of any material other than rubber which projects beyond the tread on the traction surface of the tire; except that, on single-tired passenger vehicles and on other single-tired vehicles with rated capacities up to and including three-fourths ton, it shall be permissible to use tires containing studs or other protuberances which do not project more than one-sixteenth of an inch beyond the tread of the traction surface of the tire; and except that it shall be permissible to use farm machinery with tires having protuberances which will not injure the highway; and except also that it shall be permissible to use tire chains of reasonable proportions upon any vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid.

(4) The department of transportation and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions, in their discretion, may issue special permits authorizing the operation upon a highway of traction engines or tractors having movable tracks with transverse corrugations upon the periphery of such movable tracks or farm tractors or other farm machinery, the operation of which upon a highway would otherwise be prohibited under this article.

(5) (a) No person shall drive or move a motor vehicle on any highway unless such vehicle is equipped with tires in safe operating condition in accordance with this subsection (5) and any supplemental rules and regulations promulgated by the executive director of the department.

(b) The executive director of the department shall promulgate such rules as the executive director deems necessary setting forth requirements of safe operating conditions for tires. These rules shall be utilized by law enforcement officers for visual inspection of tires and shall include methods for simple gauge measurement of tire tread depth.

(c) A tire shall be considered unsafe if it has:

(I) Any bump, bulge, or knot affecting the tire structure;

(II) A break which exposes a tire body cord or is repaired with a boot or patch;

(III) A tread depth of less than two thirty-seconds of an inch measured in any two tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire, or, on those tires with tread wear indicators, a tire shall be considered unsafe if it is worn to the point that the tread wear indicators contact the road in any two-tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire; except that this subparagraph (III) shall not apply to tires on a commercial vehicle as such term is defined in section 42-4-235 (1)(a); or

(IV) Such other conditions as may be reasonably demonstrated to render it unsafe.

(6) No passenger car tire shall be used on any motor vehicle which is driven or moved on any highway if such tire was designed or manufactured for nonhighway use.

(7) No person shall sell any motor vehicle for highway use unless the vehicle is equipped with tires that are in compliance with subsections (5) and (6) of this section and any rules of safe operating condition promulgated by the department.

(8) (a) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (1), (2), (3), (5), or (6) of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

(b) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (7) of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2262, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-225 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the penalties for class A traffic infractions and class 2 misdemeanor traffic offenses generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I) and (3)(a)(II); for the penalty and surcharge for equipment violations of subsections (1), (2), (3), (5), and (6), see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(D).

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-228 is similar to § 42-4-225 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included in the annotations to this section.

**In the ascertainment of the legislative intent, this section must be harmonized with other sections** of the act from which codified, so as to give effect to its purpose, if possible. *People v. Rapini*, 107 Colo. 363, 112 P.2d 551 (1941).

**The protection of the highway being one of the objects of the act**, the legislative intent must have been to achieve this object by prohibiting vehicles that would be injurious to highways. *People v. Rapini*, 107 Colo. 363, 112 P.2d 551 (1941).

**A binder is a "vehicle" within the meaning of subsection (3)** of this section, and its use in violation thereof is not excused by § 42-4-202. *People v. Rapini*, 107 Colo. 363, 112 P.2d 551 (1941).

**42-4-229. Safety glazing material in motor vehicles.**

(1) No person shall sell any new motor vehicle, nor shall any new motor vehicle be registered, unless such vehicle is equipped with safety glazing material of a type approved by the department for any required front windshield and wherever glazing material is used in doors and windows of said motor vehicle. This section shall apply to all passenger-type motor vehicles, including passenger buses and school vehicles, but, in respect to camper coaches and trucks, including truck tractors, the requirements as to safety glazing material shall apply only to all glazing material used in required front windshields and that used in doors and windows in the drivers' compartments and such other compartments as are lawfully occupied by passengers in said vehicles.

(2) The term "safety glazing materials" means such glazing materials as will reduce substantially, in comparison with ordinary sheet glass or plate glass, the likelihood of injury to persons by objects from exterior sources or by these safety glazing materials when they may be cracked or broken.

(3) The department shall compile and publish a list of types of glazing material by name approved by it as meeting the requirements of this section, and the department shall not, after January 1, 1958, register any motor vehicle which is subject to the provisions of this section unless it is equipped with an approved type of safety glazing material, and the department shall suspend the registration of any motor vehicle subject to this section which is found to be not so equipped until it is made to conform to the requirements of this section.

(4) A person shall not operate a motor vehicle on a highway unless the vehicle is equipped with a front windshield as provided in this section, except as provided in section 42-4-232 (1) and except for motor vehicles registered as collector's items under section 42-12-301 or 42-12-302.

(5) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2264, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2005: (4) amended, p. 1173, § 10, effective August 8. L. 2010: (1) amended, (HB 10-1232), ch. 163, p. 573, § 12, effective April 28. L. 2011: (4) amended, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 245, § 7, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-226 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-229 was relocated to § 42-4-231.

**42-4-230. Emergency lighting equipment - who must carry.**

(1) No motor vehicle carrying a truck license and weighing six thousand pounds or more and no passenger bus shall be operated over the highways of this state at any time without carrying in an accessible place inside or on the outside of the vehicle three bidirectional emergency reflective triangles of a type approved by the department, but the use of such equipment is not required in municipalities where there are street lights within not more than one hundred feet.

(2) Whenever a motor vehicle referred to in subsection (1) of this section is stopped upon the traveled portion of a highway or the shoulder of a highway for any cause other than necessary traffic stops, the driver of the stopped motor vehicle shall immediately activate the vehicular hazard warning signal flashers and continue the flashing until the driver places the bidirectional emergency reflective triangles as directed in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, whenever a motor vehicle referred to in subsection (1) of this section is stopped upon the traveled portion of a highway or the shoulder of a highway for any cause other than necessary traffic stops, the driver shall, as soon as possible, but in any event within ten minutes, place the bidirectional emergency reflective triangles in the following manner:

(a) One at the traffic side of the stopped vehicle, within ten feet of the front or rear of the vehicle;

(b) One at a distance of approximately one hundred feet from the stopped vehicle in the center of the traffic lane or shoulder occupied by the vehicle and in the direction toward traffic approaching in that lane; and

(c) One at a distance of approximately one hundred feet from the stopped vehicle in the opposite direction from those placed in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection (3) in the center of the traffic lane or shoulder occupied by the vehicle; or

(d) If the vehicle is stopped within five hundred feet of a curve, crest of a hill, or other obstruction to view, the driver shall place the emergency equipment required by this subsection (3) in the direction of the obstruction to view at a distance of one hundred feet to five hundred feet from the stopped vehicle so as to afford ample warning to other users of the highway; or

(e) If the vehicle is stopped upon the traveled portion or the shoulder of a divided or one-way highway, the driver shall place the emergency equipment required by this subsection (3), one at a distance of two hundred feet and one at a distance of one hundred feet in a direction toward approaching traffic in the center of the lane or shoulder occupied by the vehicle, and one at the traffic side of the vehicle within ten feet of the rear of the vehicle.



(4) A motor vehicle operating as a tow truck, as defined in section 40-10.1-101 (21), at the scene of a crash shall not move or attempt to move any wrecked vehicle without first complying with those sections of the law concerning emergency lighting.

(5) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2265, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2013:** (4) amended, (HB 13-1300), ch. 316, p. 1709, § 137, effective August 7. **L. 2026:** (4) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 478, § 47, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-227 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-230 is similar to § 42-4-227 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included in the annotations to this section.

**Such statutes construed as giving reasonable time to comply with its requirements.** Statutes requiring the operator of a vehicle which breaks down or stops on the paved portion of a highway to forthwith, or immediately, place or display torches or flares to warn oncoming traffic on the highway should be and generally are construed as giving the driver a reasonable time within which to comply with the statutory requirements. *Anderson v. Hudspeth Pine, Inc.*, 299 F.2d 874 (10th Cir. 1962).

**Negligence in failing to first place flare at side.** *Calnon v. Sorel*, 108 Colo. 467, 119 P.2d 615 (1941).

**Lack of equipment not proximate cause of accident.** The fact that the tractor and trailer were not equipped with all of the emergency equipment required by this section was not the proximate cause of the collision between a stopped truck and an automobile, if the driver of the truck had insufficient time to put out warning flares. *Anderson v. Hudspeth Pine, Inc.*, 299 F.2d 874 (10th Cir. 1962).

**Applied** in *Ackley v. Watson Bros. Transp. Co.*, 123 F. Supp. 649 (D. Colo. 1954).

#### **42-4-231. Parking lights.**

When lighted lamps are required by section 42-4-204, no vehicle shall be driven upon a highway with the parking lights lighted except when the lights are being used as signal lamps and except when the head lamps are lighted at the same time. Parking lights are those lights permitted by section 42-4-215 and any other lights mounted on the front of the vehicle, designed to be displayed primarily when the vehicle is parked. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2266, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-229 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-231 was relocated to § 42-4-232.

#### **42-4-232. Minimum safety standards for motorcycles, autocycles, and low-power scooters.**

(1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b) of this section, a person shall not drive a motorcycle, autocycle, or low-power scooter on a public highway unless the person and any passenger in or on the motorcycle, autocycle, or low-power scooter is wearing goggles or eyeglasses with lenses made of safety glass or plastic; except that this subsection (1) does not apply to a person wearing a helmet containing eye protection made of safety glass or plastic.

(b) A person driving or riding an autocycle need not wear eye protection if the autocycle has:

(I) Three wheels;

(II) A maximum design speed of twenty-five miles per hour or less;

(III) A windshield; and

(IV) Seat belts.

(2) The department shall adopt standards and specifications for the design of goggles and eyeglasses.

(3) Any motorcycle carrying a passenger, other than in a sidecar or enclosed cab, shall be equipped with footrests for such passengers.

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2266, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2009:** (1) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1276, § 48, effective October 1. **L. 2015:** (1) amended, (HB 15-1345), ch. 330, p. 1347, § 2, effective August 5. **L. 2022:** (1)(a) and IP(1)(b) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2581, § 3, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-231 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-232 was relocated to § 42-4-233.

**Cross references:** For regulation of motorcycles generally, see part 15 of this article.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-232 is similar to § 42-4-231 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included in the annotations to this section.

**Although a motorcycle is a motor vehicle, the general assembly has occasionally treated it as a class apart** from other motor vehicles. This was done in § 42-2-114, which requires a special licensing for the operators of motorcycles. *Love v. Bell*, 171 Colo. 27, 465 P.2d 118 (1970).

**This section is reasonably related to the public health, safety, and welfare.** *Love v. Bell*, 171 Colo. 27, 465 P.2d 118 (1970).

**Purpose of section is within police power.** The purpose of the requirement of this section that cyclists wear protective helmets is to prevent them from sustaining head injuries, and such purpose is within the

police power of the state. *Love v. Bell*, 171 Colo. 27, 465 P.2d 118 (1970).

**Because movement and travel are subject to regulation** under the police power of the state, and the effect of this section is to regulate, not prohibit, movement. *Love v. Bell*, 171 Colo. 27, 465 P.2d 118 (1970).

**This section does not create an unconstitutional burden on interstate commerce;** it is not discriminatory and does not constitute special legislation prohibited by the Colorado constitution; it is not an unconstitutional burden on the freedom of movement and right to travel; and that portion of this section dealing with goggles and protective glasses is a valid exercise of the police power of the state. *Love v. Bell*, 171 Colo. 27, 465 P.2d 118 (1970).

**The supreme court will invalidate a safety measure enacted by a state only when** the total effect of the law as a safety

measure in reducing accidents and casualties is so slight or problematical as not to outweigh the national interest in keeping

interstate commerce free from interferences which seriously impede it. *Love v. Bell*, 171 Colo. 27, 465 P.2d 118 (1970).

#### **42-4-233. Alteration of suspension system.**

(1) No person shall operate a motor vehicle of a type required to be registered under the laws of this state upon a public highway with either the rear or front suspension system altered or changed from the manufacturer's original design except in accordance with specifications permitting such alteration established by the department. Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the installation of manufactured heavy-duty equipment to include shock absorbers and overload springs, nor shall anything contained in this section prevent a person from operating a motor vehicle on a public highway with normal wear of the suspension system if normal wear shall not affect the control of the vehicle.

(2) This section shall not apply to motor vehicles designed or modified primarily for off-highway racing purposes, and such motor vehicles may be lawfully towed on the highways of this state.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2267, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-232 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-233 was relocated to § 42-4-234.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for class 2 misdemeanor traffic offenses, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II); for the penalty and surcharge for equipment violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(D).

#### **ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-233 is similar to § 42-4-232 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1 a relevant case construing that

provision has been included in the annotations to this section.

**Section unconstitutional.** This section's flat prohibition against any motor vehicle suspension system alteration, except the installation of heavy duty shock absorbers or

springs, is unconstitutionally overbroad. *People v. Von Tersch*, 180 Colo. 295, 505 P.2d 5 (1973) (decided prior to 1975 amendment).

#### **42-4-234. Slow-moving vehicles - display of emblem - penalty.**

(1) (a) All machinery, equipment, and vehicles, except bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, electric scooters, and other human-powered vehicles, designed to operate or normally operated at a speed of less than twenty-five miles per hour on a public highway must display a triangular slow-moving vehicle emblem on the rear.

(b) The department shall set standards for a triangular slow-moving emblem for use on low-speed electric vehicles.

(c) Bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, electric scooters, and other human-powered vehicles may, but need not, display the emblem specified in this subsection (1).

(2) The executive director of the department shall adopt standards and specifications for such emblem, position of the mounting thereof, and requirements for certification of conformance with the standards and specifications adopted by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, or its successor organization, concerning such emblems. The requirements of such emblem shall be in addition to any lighting device required by law.

(3) The use of the emblem required under this section shall be restricted to the use specified in subsection (1) of this section, and its use on any other type of vehicle or stationary object shall be prohibited.

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2267, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (1) amended, p. 393, § 6, effective August 6. **L. 2009:** (1) amended, (SB 09-075), ch. 418, p. 2324, § 14, effective August 5; (1) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1276, § 49, effective October 1. **L. 2019:** (1)(a) and (1)(c) amended, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2560, § 7, effective May 23. **L. 2026:** (2) amended, (SB 26-169), ch. 311, p. 1817, § 70, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-233 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-234 was relocated to § 42-4-235.

(2) Amendments to subsection (1) by Senate Bill 09-075 and House Bill 09-1026 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for equipment violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(D).

**42-4-235. Minimum standards for commercial vehicles - motor carrier safety fund - created - definitions - rules - penalties - repeal.**

(1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Commercial vehicle" means:

(I) A self-propelled or towed vehicle:

(A) Bearing an apportioned plate;

(B) Having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination rating of at least sixteen thousand one pounds and used in commerce on public highways; or

(C) Having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination rating of at least sixteen thousand one pounds and used to transport sixteen or more passengers, including the driver, unless the vehicle is a school bus regulated in accordance with section 42-4-1904 or a vehicle that does not have a gross vehicle weight rating of twenty-six thousand one or more pounds and that is owned or operated by a school district so long as the school district does not receive remuneration, other than reimbursement of the school district's costs, for the use of the vehicle;

(II) Any motor vehicle designed or equipped to transport other motor vehicles from place to place by means of winches, cables, pulleys, or other equipment for towing, pulling, or lifting, when such motor vehicle is used in commerce on the public highways of this state; and

(III) A motor vehicle that is used on the public highways and transports materials determined by the secretary of transportation to be hazardous under 49 U.S.C. sec. 5103 in such quantities as to require placarding under 49 CFR parts 172 and 173.

(b) Repealed.

(c) "Motor carrier" means every person, lessee, receiver, or trustee appointed by any court whatsoever owning, controlling, operating, or managing any commercial vehicle as defined in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1).

(2) (a) A person shall not operate a commercial vehicle as defined in subsection (1) of this section on any public highway of this state unless the vehicle is in compliance with the rules adopted by the chief of the Colorado state patrol pursuant to subsection (4) of this section. A person that violates the rules, including any intrastate motor carrier, is subject to the civil penalties authorized pursuant to 49 CFR 386, subpart G. A person that uses an independent contractor is not liable for penalties imposed on the independent contractor for equipment, acts, and omissions within the independent contractor's control or supervision. A state agency or court collecting civil penalties pursuant to this article 4 shall transmit the civil penalties to the state treasurer, who shall credit them to the highway users tax fund created in section 43-4-201 for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(a).

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection (2):

(I) Intrastate motor carriers shall not be subject to any provisions in 49 CFR, part 386, subpart G that relate the amount of a penalty to a violator's ability to pay, and such penalties shall be based upon the nature and gravity of the violation, the degree of culpability, and such other matters as justice and public safety may require;

(II) When determining the assessment of a civil penalty for safety violations, the period of a motor carrier's safety compliance history that a compliance review officer may consider shall not exceed three years;

(III) The intrastate operation of implements of husbandry shall not be subject to the civil penalties provided in 49 CFR, part 386, subpart G. Nothing in this subsection (2) shall be construed to repeal, preempt, or negate any existing regulatory exemption for agricultural operations, intrastate farm vehicle drivers, intrastate vehicles or combinations of vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of not more than twenty-six thousand pounds that do not require a commercial driver's license to operate, or any successor or analogous agricultural exemptions, whether based on federal or state law.

(IV) This section does not apply to a motor vehicle or motor vehicle and trailer combination:

(A) With a gross vehicle weight, gross vehicle weight rating, or gross combination rating of less than twenty-six thousand one pounds;

(B) Not operated in interstate commerce;

(C) Not transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding;

(D) Not transporting either sixteen or more passengers including the driver or eight or more passengers for compensation; and

(E) If the motor vehicle or combination is being used solely for agricultural purposes.

(c) The Colorado state patrol has exclusive enforcement authority to conduct compliance reviews, as defined in 49 CFR 385.3, and to impose civil penalties pursuant to the reviews. This subsection (2)(c) does not expand or limit the ability of local governments to conduct roadside safety inspections.

(d) (I) Pursuant to section 42-3-120, upon notice from the Colorado state patrol, for a carrier that fails to pay in full a civil penalty imposed pursuant to this subsection (2) within thirty days after notification of the penalty or fails to cooperate with the completion of a compliance review within thirty days after notification of the failure to cooperate, the department shall:

(A) Cancel the motor carrier's registration; and

(B) Enter both the motor carrier and its vehicles as out-of-service in the federal motor carrier safety administration system of record.

(II) Repealed.

(3) Any motor carrier operating a commercial vehicle within Colorado must declare knowledge of the rules adopted by the chief of the Colorado state patrol pursuant to subsection (4) of this section. The declaration of knowledge shall be in writing on a form provided by the Colorado state patrol. The form must be signed and returned by a motor carrier according to rules adopted by the chief.

(4) (a) (I) Except as described in subsection (4)(a)(III) of this section, the chief of the Colorado state patrol shall adopt rules for the operation of all commercial vehicles and, as specified in subsection (4)(a)(II) of this section, vehicles that would be commercial vehicles but for the fact that they have a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination rating of ten thousand one pounds or more but not more than sixteen thousand pounds. In adopting the rules, the chief shall use as general guidelines the standards contained in the current rules and regulations of the United States department of transportation relating to safety regulations, qualifications of drivers, driving of motor vehicles, parts and accessories, notification and reporting of crashes, hours of service of drivers, inspection, repair and maintenance of motor vehicles, financial responsibility, insurance, and employee safety and health standards; except that rules regarding financial responsibility and insurance do not apply to a commercial vehicle as defined in subsection (1) of this section that is also subject to regulation by the public utilities commission under article 10.1 of title 40. On and after September 1, 2003, all commercial vehicle safety inspections conducted to determine compliance with rules promulgated by the chief pursuant to this subsection (4)(a) must be performed by an enforcement official, as defined in section 42-20-103 (2), who has been certified by the commercial vehicle safety alliance, or any successor organization thereto, to perform level I inspections.



(II) With respect to the operation of all vehicles that would be commercial vehicles but for the fact that they have a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination rating of ten thousand one pounds or more but not more than sixteen thousand pounds, the chief of the Colorado state patrol may adopt rules that authorize the Colorado state patrol to:

- (A) Annually inspect these vehicles;
- (B) Enforce with respect to these vehicles all requirements for the securing of loads that apply to commercial vehicles; and
- (C) Enforce with respect to these vehicles all requirements relating to the use of coupling devices for commercial vehicles.

(III) Rules establishing insurance requirements for vehicles used by licensed river outfitters are established by the parks and wildlife commission pursuant to section 33-32-103 (1)(e).

(b) The Colorado public utilities commission may enforce safety rules of the chief of the Colorado state patrol governing commercial vehicles described in subparagraphs (I) and (II) of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section pursuant to his or her authority to regulate motor carriers as defined in section 40-10.1-101, C.R.S., including the issuance of civil penalties for violations of the rules as provided in section 40-7-113, C.R.S.

(5) Any person who violates a rule promulgated by the chief of the Colorado state patrol pursuant to this section or fails to comply with subsection (3) of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(6) The motor carrier safety fund is created in the state treasury. The fund consists of moneys transferred from the public utilities commission motor carrier fund pursuant to section 40-2-110.5 (9)(a), C.R.S. Moneys in the fund are subject to appropriation by the general assembly for the direct and indirect costs of the advancement of highway safety relating to commercial carrier operations pursuant to this section. All interest derived from the deposit and investment of moneys in the fund are credited to the fund, and any moneys not appropriated remain in the fund and do not transfer or revert to the general fund or any other fund.

(7) (a) On July 1, 2026, the state treasurer shall transfer five hundred eighty-seven thousand three hundred eighteen dollars from the motor carrier safety fund to the information technology capital account created in section 24-75-302 (3.7), to be used for a records utilization upgrade for the Colorado state patrol.

(b) This subsection (7) is repealed, effective July 1, 2027.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2267, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (1)(a) and (4) amended, p. 1548, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2001:** (1)(a)(I) amended, p. 292,

§ 1, effective August 8. **L. 2002:** (2) amended, p. 284, § 1, effective April 18. **L. 2003:** (4)(a) amended, p. 664, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2005:** (2)(a) amended, p. 149, § 27, effective April 5. **L. 2006:** (1)(a) amended, p. 1063, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2007:** (2)(d) added, p. 857, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (4)(a) amended, (HB 09-1244), ch. 430, p. 2392, § 2, effective August 5. **L. 2011:** (4) amended, (HB 11-1198), ch. 127, p. 425, § 26, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** (1)(b) repealed and (2)(a), (2)(d)(I), (3), (4), and (5) amended, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 466, § 9, effective July 1; (2)(b)(IV) added, (SB 12-059), ch. 116, p. 397, § 1, effective August 8. **L. 2014:** (6) added, (HB 14-1081), ch. 8, p. 90, § 2, effective February 27. **L. 2017:** (1)(a)(I) and (4)(a) amended, (HB 17-1061), ch. 55, p. 174, § 1, effective March 20. **L. 2019:** (4)(a)(I) amended and (4)(a)(III) added, (SB 19-160), ch. 416, p. 3662, § 5, effective August 2. **L. 2023:** (2)(a), (2)(c), and (2)(d)(I) amended, (SB 23-012), ch. 179, p. 875, § 1, effective August 7 (see editor's note). **L. 2026:** (7) added, (HB 26-1402), ch. 254, p. 1417, § 3, effective May 29; (4)(a)(I) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 478, § 48, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-234 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-235 was relocated to § 42-4-236.

(2) Subsection (2)(d)(II)(B) provided for the repeal of subsection (2)(d)(II), effective July 1, 2009. (See L. 2007, p. 857.)

(3) Section 4 of chapter 179 (SB 23-012), provides that subsection (2)(d)(I)(B) is effective April 30, 2024.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for class 2 misdemeanor traffic offenses generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II); for the penalty and surcharge for equipment violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(D).

#### **42-4-236. Child restraint systems required - definitions - exemptions - penalty.**

(1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Child care center" means a facility required to be licensed under the "Foster Care, Kinship Foster Care, Residential, Day Treatment, and Child Placement Agency and Applied Behavior Analysis Clinic Licensing and Certification Act", part 9 of article 6 of title 26, or the "Child Care Licensing Act", part 3 of article 5 of title 26.5.

(a.3) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2010, (SB 10-110), ch. 294, p. 1365, § 3, effective August 1, 2010.)

(a.5) "Child restraint system" means a specially designed seating system that is designed to protect, hold, or restrain a child in a motor vehicle in such a way as to prevent or minimize injury to the child in the event of a motor vehicle crash that is either permanently affixed to a motor vehicle or is affixed to such vehicle by a safety belt or a universal attachment system, and that meets the federal motor vehicle safety standards set forth in section 49 CFR 571.213, as amended.

(a.7) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2010, (SB 10-110), ch. 294, p. 1365, § 3, effective August 1, 2010.)

(a.8) "Motor vehicle" means a passenger car; a pickup truck; or a van, minivan, or sport utility vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than sixteen thousand pounds. "Motor vehicle" does not include motorcycles, low-power scooters, and farm tractors and implements of husbandry designed primarily or exclusively for use in agricultural operations.

(b) "Safety belt" means a lap belt, a shoulder belt, or any other belt or combination of belts installed in a motor vehicle to restrain drivers and passengers, except any such belt that is physically a part of a child restraint system. "Safety belt" includes the anchorages, the buckles, and all other equipment directly related to the operation of safety belts. Proper use of a safety belt means the shoulder belt, if present, crosses the shoulder and chest and the lap belt crosses the hips, touching the thighs.

(c) "Seating position" means any motor vehicle interior space intended by the motor vehicle manufacturer to provide seating accommodation while the motor vehicle is in motion.

(2) (a) (I) Unless exempted pursuant to subsection (3) of this section and except as otherwise provided in subsections (2)(a)(II), (2)(a)(III), and (2)(a)(IV) of this section, every child who is under nine years of age and who is being transported in this state in a motor vehicle or in a vehicle operated by a child care center shall be properly restrained in a child restraint system according to the manufacturer's instructions.

(II) If the child is less than two years of age, the child shall be properly restrained in a rear seat of the vehicle, if a rear seat is available, and:

(A) In a rear-facing child restraint system if the child weighs under forty pounds; or

(B) In a rear-facing or forward-facing child restraint system if the child weighs forty pounds or more.

(III) If the child is two years of age or older, but less than four years of age, and weighs at least twenty pounds, the child shall be properly restrained:

(A) In a rear-facing or forward-facing child restraint system; and

(B) In the rear seat of a vehicle, if a rear seat is available.

(IV) If the child is four years of age or older, but less than nine years of age, and weighs at least forty pounds, the child shall be properly restrained:

(A) In a child restraint system or booster seat; and

(B) In the rear seat of a vehicle, if a rear seat is available.

(b) Unless excepted pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, every child who is at least nine years of age but less than eighteen years of age who is being transported in this state in a motor vehicle or in a vehicle operated by a child care center shall be properly restrained in a safety belt or child restraint system according to the manufacturer's instructions.

(c) If a parent is in the motor vehicle, it is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that his or her child or children are provided with and that they properly use a child restraint system or safety belt system. If a parent is not in the motor vehicle, it is the responsibility of the driver transporting a child or children, subject to the requirements of this section, to ensure that such children are provided with and that they properly use a child restraint system or safety belt system.

(3) Except as provided in section 42-2-105.5 (4), subsection (2) of this section does not apply to a child who:

(a) Repealed.

(b) Is less than nine years of age and is being transported in a motor vehicle as a result of a medical or other life-threatening emergency and a child restraint system is not available;

(c) Is being transported in a commercial motor vehicle, as defined in section 42-2-402 (4)(a), that is operated by a child care center;

(d) Is the driver of a motor vehicle and is subject to the safety belt requirements provided in section 42-4-237;

(e) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2011, (SB 11-227), ch. 295, p. 1399, § 1, effective June 7, 2011.)

(f) Is being transported in a motor vehicle that is operated in the business of transporting persons for compensation or hire by or on behalf of a common carrier or a contract carrier as those terms are defined in section 40-10.1-101, C.R.S., or an operator of a luxury limousine service as defined in section 40-10.1-301, C.R.S.

(4) The division of highway safety shall use existing national highway traffic safety administration occupant protection grant funds to implement a program for public information and education concerning updates to child restraint system requirements, the use of child restraint systems, and the provisions of this section.

(5) No person shall use a safety belt or child restraint system, whichever is applicable under the provisions of this section, for children under sixteen years of age in a motor vehicle unless it conforms to all applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards.

(6) Any violation of this section shall not constitute negligence per se or contributory negligence per se.

(7) (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (7), any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(b) A minor driver under eighteen years of age who violates this section shall be punished in accordance with section 42-2-105.5 (5)(b).

(8) The fine may be waived if the defendant presents the court with satisfactory evidence of proof of the acquisition, purchase, or rental of a child restraint system by the time of the court appearance.

(9) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2010, (SB 10-110), ch. 294, p. 1365, § 3, effective August 1, 2010.)

(10) and (11) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2268, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1)(a), (2), (3), (5), and (8) amended and (1)(a.5) added, p. 327, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 96:** (1)(a) amended, p. 267, § 23, effective July 1. **L. 99:** IP(3) amended, p. 1382, § 7, effective July 1; (3)(a) repealed, p. 1349, § 1, effective August 4. **L. 2002:** (1) and (2) amended and (9) and (10) added, pp. 1215, 1217, §§ 2, 3, effective August 1, 2003. **L. 2003:** (2)(b) amended, p. 2358, § 1, effective June 3; (2)(b)(I) amended and (2)(b)(I.5) added, p. 560, § 1, effective August 1. **L. 2006:** (10) repealed, p. 1512, § 72, effective June 1; (7) amended, p. 439, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2010:** (1)(a.3), (1)(a.7), (1)(b), (2), (3), (8), and (9) amended and (1)(a.8) and (11) added, (SB 10-110), ch. 294, pp. 1365, 1364, §§ 3, 2, effective August 1. **L. 2011:** IP(3) and (3)(e) amended, (SB 11-227), ch. 295, p. 1399, § 1, effective June 7; IP(3) and (3)(f) amended, (HB 11-1198), ch. 127, p. 426, § 27, effective August 10. **L. 2017:** (1)(a.8) amended, (HB 17-1044), ch. 72, p. 230, § 6, effective March 23. **L. 2022:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 22-1295), ch. 123, p. 869, § 133, effective July 1; (1)(a.8) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2585, § 18, effective January 1, 2023. **L. 2024:** (2)(a), (2)(b), (3)(b), and (4) amended, (HB 24-1055), ch. 376, p. 2549, § 2, effective January 1, 2025. **L. 2025:** (1)(a) amended, (SB 25-300), ch. 428, p. 2460, § 71, effective August 6. **L. 2026:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 26-1425), ch. 299, p. 1688, § 21, effective June 2; (1)(a.5) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 479, § 49, effective August 12; (1)(a.8) amended, (SB 26-026), ch. 58, p. 244, § 1, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-235 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-236 was relocated to § 42-4-237.

(2) Amendments to subsection (2)(b) by House Bill 03-1144 and House Bill 03-1381 were harmonized.

(3) The introductory portion to subsection (3) was amended in Senate Bill 11-227. Those amendments were superseded by the amendment of this section in House Bill 11-1198.

(4) Subsection (11)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (11), effective August 1, 2011. (See L. 2010, p. 1365.)

(5) Section 2(2) of chapter 58 (SB 26-026), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to infractions committed on or after August 12, 2026.

**Cross references:** (1) For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for equipment violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(D).

(2) For the legislative declaration contained in the 1999 act amending the introductory portion to subsection (3), see section 1 of chapter 334, Session Laws of Colorado 1999. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsections (1) and (2) and enacting subsections (9) and (10), see section 1 of chapter 301, Session Laws of Colorado 2002. For the legislative declaration in HB 24-1055, see section 1 of chapter 376, Session Laws of Colorado 2024. For the legislative declaration in HB 26-1425, see section 1 of chapter 299, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

## ANNOTATION

**Parents, as fellow passengers in a vehicle, do not have a duty** to assure that their children use seat belts nor to request that a driver drive more carefully because of

their children's presence in the vehicle. *Wark v. McClellan*, 68 P. 3d 574 (Colo. App. 2003).

### **42-4-237. Safety belt systems - mandatory use - exemptions - penalty - definitions.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle intended primarily for use and operation on the public highways, including passenger cars, station wagons, vans, taxicabs, ambulances, motor homes, and pickups. The term does not include motorcycles, low-power scooters,

passenger buses, school buses, and farm tractors and implements of husbandry designed primarily or exclusively for use in agricultural operations.

(b) "Safety belt system" means a system utilizing a lap belt, a shoulder belt, or any other belt or combination of belts installed in a motor vehicle to restrain drivers and passengers, which system conforms to federal motor vehicle safety standards.

(2) Unless exempted pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, every driver of and every front seat passenger in a motor vehicle and every driver of and every passenger in an autocycle equipped with a safety belt system shall wear a fastened safety belt while the motor vehicle is being operated on a street or highway in this state.

(3) Except as provided in section 42-2-105.5, the requirement of subsection (2) of this section shall not apply to:

- (a) A child required by section 42-4-236 to be restrained by a child restraint system;
- (b) A member of an ambulance team, other than the driver, while involved in patient care;
- (c) A peace officer as described in section 16-2.5-101, C.R.S., while performing official duties so long as the performance of said duties is in accordance with rules and regulations applicable to said officer which are at least as restrictive as subsection (2) of this section and which only provide exceptions necessary to protect the officer;
- (d) A person with a physically or psychologically disabling condition whose physical or psychological disability prevents appropriate restraint by a safety belt system if such person possesses a written statement by a physician certifying the condition, as well as stating the reason why such restraint is inappropriate;
- (e) A person driving or riding in a motor vehicle not equipped with a safety belt system due to the fact that federal law does not require such vehicle to be equipped with a safety belt system;
- (f) A rural letter carrier of the United States postal service while performing duties as a rural letter carrier; and
- (g) A person operating a motor vehicle which does not meet the definition of "commercial vehicle" as that term is defined in section 42-4-235 (1)(a) for commercial or residential delivery or pickup service; except that such person shall be required to wear a fastened safety belt during the time period prior to the first delivery or pickup of the day and during the time period following the last delivery or pickup of the day.

(4) (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (4), any person who operates a motor vehicle while such person or any passenger is in violation of the requirement of subsection (2) of this section commits a class B traffic infraction. Penalties collected pursuant to

this subsection (4) shall be transmitted to the appropriate authority pursuant to the provisions of section 42-1-217 (1)(e) and (2).

(b) A minor driver under eighteen years of age who violates this section shall be punished in accordance with section 42-2-105.5 (5)(b).

(5) No driver in a motor vehicle shall be cited for a violation of subsection (2) of this section unless such driver was stopped by a law enforcement officer for an alleged violation of articles 1 to 4 of this title other than a violation of this section.

(6) Testimony at a trial for a violation charged pursuant to subsection (4) of this section may include:

(a) Testimony by a law enforcement officer that the officer observed the person charged operating a motor vehicle while said operator or any passenger was in violation of the requirement of subsection (2) of this section; or

(b) Evidence that the driver removed the safety belts or knowingly drove a vehicle from which the safety belts had been removed.

(7) Evidence of failure to comply with the requirement of subsection (2) of this section is admissible to mitigate damages with respect to any person who was involved in a motor vehicle accident or crash and who seeks in any subsequent litigation to recover damages for injuries resulting from the crash. Such mitigation is limited to awards for pain and suffering and must not be used for limiting recovery of economic loss and medical payments.

(8) The office of transportation safety in the department of transportation shall continue its program for public information and education concerning the benefits of wearing safety belts and shall include within such program the requirements and penalty of this section.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2269, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 95: (4) amended, p. 953, § 7, effective May 25. L. 99: IP(3) amended, p. 1382, § 8, effective July 1. L. 2002: IP(3) amended, p. 1034, § 75, effective June 1. L. 2003: (3)(c) amended, p. 1623, § 40, effective August 6. L. 2006: (4) amended, p. 439, § 3, effective July 1. L. 2009: (1)(a) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1276, § 50, effective October 1. L. 2017: (1)(b) and (2) amended, (HB 17-1044), ch. 72, p. 230, § 7, effective March 23. L. 2022: (1)(b) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2586, § 19, effective January 1, 2023. L. 2026: (7) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 479, § 50, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-236 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-237 was relocated to § 42-4-1411.



**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 1999 act amending the introductory portion to subsection (3), see section 1 of chapter 334, Session Laws of Colorado 1999.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Colorado Mandatory Seatbelt Act Revives the Seatbelt Defense", see 16 Colo. Law. 1210 (1987). For article, "1988 Update on Colorado Tort Reform Legislation — Part II", see 17 Colo. Law. 1949 (1988).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-237 is similar to § 42-4-236 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included in the annotations to this section.

**The plain language of this section indicates that "safety belt system" refers to all of the safety belts that have been installed in a motor vehicle** to restrain drivers and front seat passengers. The language of this section reflects that a motor vehicle may contain any number, type, or combination of belts within its "safety belt system". The term "safety belt system" does not mean the belts at a particular seat. Rather, a "safety belt system" is comprised of the many belts contained within a motor vehicle to restrain drivers and front seat passengers. *Carlson v. Ferris*, 85 P.3d 504 (Colo. 2003).

**Because the language of subsection (2) does not include the term "system", the general assembly intended "safety belt"**

**to refer to the belts that have been installed in a particular seat** pursuant to federal motor vehicle safety standards. *Carlson v. Ferris*, 85 P.3d 504 (Colo. 2003).

**Drivers and front seat passengers of automobiles that have been equipped with a lap and a shoulder belt** pursuant to federal motor vehicle safety standards must wear both the lap and the shoulder belt to comply with subsection (2). *Carlson v. Ferris*, 85 P.3d 504 (Colo. 2003).

**Driver is required to fasten all safety belts included in a motor vehicle's safety belt system** to comply with subsection (2) in order to defeat a claim for failure to mitigate under subsection (7). *Carlson v. Ferris*, 58 P.3d 1055 (Colo. App. 2002), *aff'd*, 85 P.3d 504 (Colo. 2003).

**A jury instruction regarding the affirmative defense of failure to wear a seatbelt** should be given when it can be inferred with reasonable probability that pain and suffering will occur because of the plaintiff's failure to wear a seatbelt. *Anderson v. Watson*, 929 P.2d 6 (Colo. App. 1996) (supreme court in *Anderson v. Watson*, 953 P.2d 1284 (Colo. 1998), annotated below, disagreed with the reasoning of the court of appeals).

**The court of appeals' "inference standard" imposes an additional requirement on the defendant that is not required** under this section. *Anderson v. Watson*, 953 P.2d 1284 (Colo. 1998) (disagreeing with the reasoning of the court of appeals in *Anderson v. Watson* annotated above).

**Statements regarding how the failure to use a seat belt caused certain injuries may be admitted.** *Wark v. McClellan*, 68 P.3d 574 (Colo. App. 2003).

**Evidence sufficient to allow seat belt defense under subsection (7)** where husband testified that he was wearing a seat belt and investigating officer testified that the husband had reported that he was not wearing a seat belt at time of accident. *Askew v. Gerace*, 851 P.2d 199 (Colo. App. 1992) (supreme court in *Anderson v. Watson*, 953 P.2d 1284 (Colo. 1998), annotated below, disagreed with the reasoning of the court of appeals).

**Lack of seat belt use is admissible evidence at trial** but only to reduce an award of damages for pain and suffering. *Wark v. McClellan*, 68 P.3d 574 (Colo. App. 2003).

**No medical testimony required to show plaintiff's failure to wear a seat belt contributed to plaintiff's pain and suffering.** *Askew v. Gerace*, 851 P.2d 199 (Colo. App. 1992); *Anderson v. Watson*, 929 P.2d 6 (Colo. App. 1996) (supreme court in *Anderson v. Watson*, 953 P.2d 1284 (Colo.

1998), annotated below, disagreed with the reasoning of the court of appeals).

**Defendant must prove a prima facie case of seat belt nonuse before** the appropriate instruction on that defense can go to the jury if the defendant chooses to raise that defense. *Anderson v. Watson*, 953 P.2d 1284 (Colo. 1998) (disagreeing with the reasoning of the court of appeals in *Anderson v. Watson* and *Askew v. Gerace* annotated above).

**Failure to wear a seat belt automatically satisfies any obligation on the defendant's part** to show a causal relationship to pain and suffering. *Anderson v. Watson*, 953 P.2d 1284 (Colo. 1998) (disagreeing with the reasoning of the court of appeals in *Anderson v. Watson* and *Askew v. Gerace* annotated above).

**"Pain and suffering" includes all noneconomic damages.** Such noneconomic damages include inconvenience, emotional stress, and impairment of the quality of life but not physical impairment and disfigurement. *Pringle v. Valdez*, 171 P.3d 624 (Colo. 2007).

**Failure of victim to employ a seatbelt not an intervening cause** that would shield or partially shield the defendant from liability for a collision that resulted in a charge of vehicular homicide. *People v. Lopez*, 97 P.3d 277 (Colo. App. 2004), *aff'd* on other grounds, 113 P.3d 713 (Colo. 2005).

**42-4-238. Blue and red lights - illegal use or possession.**

(1) A person shall not be in actual physical control of a vehicle, except an authorized emergency vehicle as defined in section 42-1-102 (6), that the person knows contains a lamp or device that is designed to display, or that is capable of displaying if affixed or attached to the vehicle, a red or blue light visible directly in front of the center of the vehicle.

(2) It shall be an affirmative defense that the defendant was:

(a) A peace officer as described in section 16-2.5-101, C.R.S.; or

(b) In actual physical control of a vehicle expressly authorized by a chief of police or sheriff to contain a lamp or device that is designed to display, or that is capable of displaying if affixed or attached to the vehicle, a red or blue light visible from directly in front of the center of the vehicle; or

(c) A member of a volunteer fire department or a volunteer ambulance service who possesses a permit from the fire chief of the fire department or chief executive officer of the ambulance service through which the volunteer serves to operate a vehicle pursuant to section 42-4-222 (1)(b); or

(d) A vendor who exhibits, sells, or offers for sale a lamp or device designed to display, or that is capable of displaying, if affixed or attached to the vehicle, a red or blue light; or

(e) A collector of fire engines, fire suppression vehicles, or ambulances and the vehicle to which the red or blue lamps were affixed is valued for the vehicle's historical interest or as a collector's item.

(3) A violation of this section is a class 2 misdemeanor.

**Source:** **L. 2004:** Entire section added, p. 1080, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (2)(e) added, p. 195, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2021:** (3) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3304, § 724, effective March 1, 2022.

**Cross references:** For penalties for class 2 misdemeanors, see § 18-3-501.

**42-4-239. Use of a mobile electronic device - definitions - penalty.**

(1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Emergency" means a circumstance in which an individual:

(I) Has reason to fear for the individual's life or safety or believes that a criminal act may be perpetrated against the individual or another individual, requiring the use of a mobile electronic device when the individual is driving a motor vehicle; or

(II) Reports a fire, a traffic crash in which one or more injuries are apparent, a serious road hazard, a medical or hazardous materials emergency, or an individual who is driving in a reckless, careless, or unsafe manner.

(b) "First responder" means:

(I) A peace officer, as described in section 16-2.5-101;

(II) A firefighter, as defined in section 29-5-203 (10);

(III) A volunteer firefighter, as defined in section 31-30-1102 (9)(a);

(IV) An emergency medical service provider, as defined in section 25-3.5-103 (8); or

(V) Any other individual who responds in a professional capacity to a public safety emergency.

(c) "Hands-free accessory" means an accessory with a feature or function that enables an individual to use a mobile electronic device without using either hand, except to activate, deactivate, or initiate the feature or function with a single touch or single swipe.

(d) (I) "Mobile electronic device" means a handheld or portable electronic device capable of providing voice communication between two or more persons, amusement, or the wireless transfer of data.

(II) "Mobile electronic device" does not include:

(A) A radio, citizens band radio, or citizens band radio hybrid;

(B) A commercial two-way radio communication device or its functional equivalent;

(C) A subscription-based emergency communication device;

(D) A prescribed medical device;

(E) An amateur or ham radio device; or

(F) Systems that are designed for and installed within the vehicle's electronics, such as an in-vehicle security, navigation, communications, or remote diagnostics system.

(e) "Operating a motor vehicle" means driving a motor vehicle on a public highway. "Operating a motor vehicle" does not include maintaining the instruments of control of a motor vehicle while the motor vehicle is at rest in a shoulder lane or lawfully parked.

(f) "Use" or "using" means:

(I) Physically holding a mobile electronic device in the driver's hand or pinning a mobile electronic device to a driver's ear to conduct voice-based communication; except that an individual may use a speaker or other listening device that is built into protective headgear or a device or portion of a device that only covers all or a portion of one ear and that is connected to a wireless, handheld telephone as provided in section 42-4-1411;

(II) Watching a video or movie on a mobile electronic device, other than watching data related to the navigation of the motor vehicle; or

(III) Writing, sending, or reading text-based communication, including a text message, instant message, email, or internet data, on a mobile electronic device; except that text-based communication does not include:

(A) A voice-based communication that is automatically converted by the mobile electronic device to be sent as a message in written form; or

(B) Communication concerning the navigation of a motor vehicle.

(2) Except as specified in subsection (3) of this section, an individual shall not use a mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle.

(3) It is not a violation of subsection (2) of this section to use a mobile electronic device:

(a) To contact a public safety entity;

(b) During an emergency;

(c) When an employee or contractor of a utility is acting within the scope of the employee's or contractor's duties when responding to a utility emergency;

(d) When an employee or contractor of a city or county is acting within the scope of the employee's or contractor's duties as a code enforcement officer or animal protection officer; or

(e) During the performance of a first responder's official duties.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b) of this section, an individual who violates this section commits a class A traffic infraction, and the court shall assess a penalty as follows:

(I) A fine of seventy-five dollars and a surcharge of ten dollars for the first offense within the immediately preceding twenty-four months;

(II) A fine of one hundred fifty dollars and a surcharge of ten dollars for the second offense within the immediately preceding twenty-four months; or

(III) A fine of two hundred fifty dollars and a surcharge of ten dollars for the third or subsequent offense within the immediately preceding twenty-four months.

(b) (I) An individual charged with violating subsection (2) of this section shall not be convicted if the individual:

(A) Produces a hands-free accessory or proof of purchase of a hands-free accessory; and

(B) Affirms under penalty of perjury that the individual has not previously had a charge dismissed under this subsection (4)(b).

(II) The court clerk may dismiss the charge if the clerk verifies that the individual has complied with both subsections (4)(b)(I)(A) and (4)(b)(I)(B) of this section.

(c) If the individual's actions are the proximate cause of bodily injury to another, the individual commits a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense and shall be punished as provided in section 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II).

(d) Repealed.

(5) This section does not apply to an individual with a commercial driver's license who is operating a commercial vehicle.

(6) An individual operating a motor vehicle shall not be cited for a violation of subsection (2) of this section unless a law enforcement officer saw the individual use a mobile electronic device in a manner that caused the individual to drive in a careless and imprudent manner, without due regard for the width, grade, curves, corners, traffic, and use of the streets and highways and all other attendant circumstances, as prohibited by section 42-4-1402.

(7) This section does not authorize the seizure and forfeiture of a mobile electronic device, unless otherwise provided by law.

**Source:** **L. 2005:** Entire section added, p. 267, § 1, effective August 8. **L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (HB 09-1094), ch. 375, p. 2043, § 1, effective December 1. **L. 2017:** (2), (3), (5), and (6)(b) amended and (5.5) added, (SB 17-027), ch. 279, p. 1523, § 1, effective June 1. **L. 2024:** Entire section R&RE, (SB 24-065), ch. 431, p. 3018, § 1, effective January 1, 2025. **L. 2026:** (1)(a)(II) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 480, § 51, effective August 12; (4)(d) repealed, (SB 26-072), ch. 200, p. 1143, § 2, effective September 1.

**Editor's note:** Section 8(2) of chapter 200 (SB 26-072), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to offenses committed on or after September 1, 2026.

#### **42-4-240. Low-speed electric vehicle equipment requirements.**

A low-speed electric vehicle shall conform with applicable federal manufacturing equipment standards. Any person who operates a low-speed electric vehicle in violation of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 2009:** Entire section added, (SB 09-075), ch. 418, p. 2325, § 15, effective August 5.

#### **42-4-241. Unlawful removal of tow-truck signage - unlawful usage of tow-truck signage - definition.**

(1) (a) A person, other than a towing carrier or peace officer as described in section 16-2.5-101, C.R.S., commits the crime of unlawful removal of tow-truck signage if:

(I) A towing carrier has placed a tow-truck warning sign on the driver-side window of a vehicle to be towed or, if window placement is impracticable, in another location on the driver-side of the vehicle; and

(II) The vehicle to be towed is within fifty feet of the towing carrier vehicle; and

(III) The person removes the tow-truck warning sign from the vehicle before the tow is completed.

(b) A person commits the crime of unlawful usage of tow-truck signage if the person places a tow-truck warning sign on a vehicle when the vehicle is not in the process of being towed or when the vehicle is occupied.

(c) A towing carrier may permit an owner of the vehicle to be towed to retrieve any personal items from the vehicle before the vehicle is towed.

(2) A person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

(3) For purposes of this section, "tow-truck warning sign" means a sign that is at least eight inches by eight inches, is either yellow or orange, and states the following:

**WARNING:** This vehicle is in tow. Attempting to operate or operating this vehicle may result in criminal prosecution and may lead to injury or death to you or another person.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire section added, (SB 11-260), ch. 298, p. 1433, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2021:** (2) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3304, § 725, effective March 1, 2022.

**Cross references:** In 2011, this section was added by the "Allen Rose Tow-truck Safety Act". For the short title, see section 1 of chapter 298, Session Laws of Colorado 2011.

#### **42-4-242. Automated driving systems - safe harbor.**

(1) A person may use an automated driving system to drive a motor vehicle or to control a function of a motor vehicle if the system is capable of complying with every state and federal law that applies to the function that the system is operating.

(2) Any provision in articles 1 to 3 of this title 42 and this article 4 that by its nature regulates a human driver, including section 42-2-101, does not apply to an automated driving system, except for laws regulating the physical driving of a vehicle.

(3) (a) If an automated driving system is not capable of complying with every state and federal law that applies to the function the system is operating, a person shall not test the system unless approved by the Colorado state patrol and the Colorado department of transportation, in accordance with a process overseen by the Colorado state patrol and the Colorado department of transportation.

(b) A person who violates this subsection (3) commits a class B traffic infraction. Upon determining that there is probable cause to believe that a motor vehicle was used to violate this subsection (3), a peace officer of the state patrol may impound or immobilize the motor vehicle until the person who violated this section has obtained the required approval in accordance with subsection (3)(a) of this section or signed an affidavit, under penalty of perjury, stating the person's intention to cease using the automated driving system in Colorado without the required approval.

(4) The Colorado department of transportation shall report to the transportation legislation review committee by September 1 of each year, concerning the testing of automated driving systems in Colorado. The first report is due by September 1, 2018. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 24-1-136, the reporting requirement contained in this subsection (4) continues indefinitely.

(5) Liability for a crash involving an automated driving system driving a motor vehicle that is not under human control is determined in accordance with applicable state law, federal law, or common law.



**Source: L. 2017:** Entire section added, (SB 17-213), ch. 277, p. 1518, § 4, effective August 9.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 17-213, see section 1 of chapter 277, Session Laws of Colorado 2017.

## PART 3

### EMISSIONS INSPECTION

**42-4-301. Legislative declarations - enactment of enhanced emissions program not waiver of state right to challenge authority to require specific loaded mode transient dynamometer technology in automobile emissions testing.**

(1) The general assembly hereby finds and declares that sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316 are enacted pursuant to, and that the program created by said sections is designed to meet, the requirements of the federal "Clean Air Act", as amended by the federal "Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990", 42 U.S.C. sec. 7401 et seq., as the same is in effect on November 15, 1990.

(2) (a) The general assembly further finds and declares that:

(I) The provisions of sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316 related to the enhanced emissions program are enacted to comply with administrative requirements of rules and regulations of the federal environmental protection agency;

(II) Insofar as such rules and regulations require the use of loaded mode transient dynamometer technology utilizing a system commonly known as the IM 240 in motor vehicle emissions testing, the general assembly finds that reliable scientific data questions the effectiveness of such technology to measure motor vehicle emissions at the high altitude of the Denver metropolitan area;

(III) Less costly automobile emission testing systems may be available which are as effective or more effective at a lower cost to consumers than the loaded mode transient dynamometer test required by the federal environmental protection agency.

(b) (I) The general assembly, therefore, declares that the enactment of sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316 in no way forecloses or limits the rights of the general assembly or any other appropriate entity of the state of Colorado to retain legal counsel as provided by law to request the federal environmental protection agency to consider alternative automobile emission inspection technology which may relieve Colorado of the requirements of the federal rules and regulations or change such rules and regulations to require a different technology in automobile

emissions testing at a substantial savings in cost to consumers and jobs for Coloradans employed in the testing of motor vehicles for emissions compliance.

(II) If the federal agency refuses to alter its policies related to this issue, the general assembly hereby declares that it or any other appropriate entity of the state of Colorado does not waive the right to bring appropriate legal action in a court of competent jurisdiction to determine the validity of the federal environmental protection agency's authority to require the use of the loaded mode transient dynamometer test for automobile emissions inspection commonly known as the IM 240 when such requirement may be in excess of the federal agency's authority under the federal "Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990".

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2272, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-306.5 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the "Colorado Air Pollution Prevention and Control Act", see article 7 of title 25.

#### **42-4-302. Commencement of basic emissions program - authority of commission.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316, if the commission is unable to implement the basic emissions program by January 1, 1994, the commission by rule and regulation shall establish the date for the commencement of said program as soon as practicable after January 1, 1994, and the provisions of sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316 applicable to the basic emissions program shall be effective on and after the date determined by the commission by rule and regulation. Until such date, emission inspection activity in El Paso, Larimer, and Weld counties shall comply with the requirements applicable to inspection and readjustment stations in sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316, and El Paso, Larimer, and Weld counties shall be deemed to continue to be included in the inspection and readjustment program until implementation of the basic emissions program by the commission pursuant to this section.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2273, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-306.6 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-4-303. Sunrise review of registration of repair facilities. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2273, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (3) provided for the repeal of this section, effective July 1, 1996. (See L. 94, p. 2273.)

**42-4-304. Definitions relating to motor vehicle inspection and readjustment program - rules.**

As used in sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316.5, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "AIR program" or "program" means the automobile inspection and readjustment program until replaced as provided in sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316, the basic emissions program, and the enhanced emissions program established pursuant to sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316.

(2) "Basic emissions program" means the inspection and readjustment program, established pursuant to the federal act, in the counties set forth in paragraph (b) of subsection (20) of this section.

(3) (a) "Certification of emissions control" means one of the following certifications, to be issued to the owner of a motor vehicle which is subject to the automobile inspection and readjustment program to indicate the status of inspection requirement compliance of said vehicle:

(I) "Certification of emissions waiver", indicating that the emissions of other than chlorofluorocarbons from the vehicle do not comply with the applicable emissions standards and criteria after inspection, adjustment, and emissions-related repairs in accordance with section 42-4-310.

(II) "Certification of emissions compliance", indicating that the emissions from said vehicle comply with applicable emissions and opacity standards and criteria at the time of inspection or after required adjustments or repairs.

(b) (I) The certification of emissions control will be issued to the vehicle owner at the time of sale or transfer except as provided in section 42-4-310 (1)(a)(I). The certification of emissions control will be in effect for twenty-four months for 1982 and newer model vehicles. 1981 and older model vehicles and all vehicles inspected by the fleet-only air inspection stations shall be issued certifications of emissions control valid for twelve months.

(II) Except as provided in section 42-4-309, the executive director shall establish a biennial inspection schedule for 1982 and newer model vehicles, an annual inspection schedule for 1981 and older model vehicles, and a five-year inspection schedule for a 1976 or newer motor vehicle registered as a collector's item.

(c) Repealed.

(d) Subject to section 42-4-310 (4), the certification of emissions control shall be obtained by the seller and transferred to the new owner at the time of vehicle sale or transfer.

(e) For purposes of this subsection (3), "sale or transfer" shall not include a change only in the legal ownership as shown on the vehicle's documents of title, whether for purposes of refinancing or otherwise, that does not entail a change in the physical possession or use of the vehicle.

(3.5) "Clean screen program" means the remote sensing system or other emission profiling system established and operated pursuant to sections 42-4-305 (12), 42-4-306 (23), 42-4-307 (10.5), and 42-4-310 (5).

(4) "Commission" means the air quality control commission, created in section 25-7-104, C.R.S.

(5) "Contractor" means a person, partnership, entity, or corporation that is awarded a contract by the division, in consultation with the executive director and in accordance with the "Procurement Code", articles 101 to 112 of title 24, and section 42-4-306, to provide inspection services for vehicles required to be inspected in accordance with section 42-4-310 within the enhanced emissions program area, as set forth in subsection (9) of this section; to operate enhanced inspection centers necessary to perform inspections; and to operate the clean screen program within the program area.

(6) "Division" means the division of administration in the department of public health and environment.

(7) "Emissions inspector" means:

(a) An individual trained and licensed in accordance with section 42-4-308 to inspect motor vehicles at an inspection-only facility, fleet inspection station, or motor vehicle dealer test facility subject to the enhanced emissions program set forth in this part 3; or

(b) An individual employed by an enhanced inspection center who is authorized by the contractor to inspect motor vehicles subject to the enhanced emissions program set forth in this part 3 and subject to the direction of said contractor.

(8) "Emissions mechanic" means an individual licensed in accordance with section 42-4-308 to inspect and adjust motor vehicles subject to the automobile inspection and readjustment

program until such program is replaced as provided in sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316 and to the basic emissions program after such replacement.

(8.5) "Enhanced emissions inspection" means a motor vehicle emissions inspection conducted pursuant to the enhanced emissions program, including a detection of high emissions by remote sensing, an identification of high emitters, a clean screen inspection, or an inspection conducted at an enhanced inspection center.

(9) (a) "Enhanced emissions program" means the emissions inspection program established pursuant to the federal requirements set forth in the federal performance standards, 40 CFR 51, subpart S, in the locations set forth in paragraph (c) of subsection (20) of this section.

(b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (SB 09-003), ch. 322, p. 1714, § 1, effective June 1, 2009.)

(10) "Enhanced inspection center" means a strategically located, single- or multi-lane, high-volume, inspection-only facility operated in the enhanced emissions program area by a contractor not affiliated with any other automotive-related service, which meets the requirements of sections 42-4-305 and 42-4-306, which is equipped to enable vehicle exhaust gas and evaporative and chlorofluorocarbon emissions inspections, and which the owner or operator is authorized to operate by the executive director as an inspection-only facility.

(11) "Environmental protection agency" means the federal environmental protection agency.

(12) "Executive director" means the executive director of the department of revenue or the designee of such executive director.

(13) "Federal act" means the federal "Clean Air Act", 42 U.S.C. sec. 7401 et seq., as in effect on November 15, 1990, and any federal regulation promulgated pursuant to said act.

(14) "Federal requirements" means regulations of the environmental protection agency pursuant to the federal act.

(15) "Fleet inspection station" means a facility which meets the requirements of section 42-4-308, which is equipped to enable appropriate emissions inspections as prescribed by the commission and which the owner or operator is licensed to operate by the executive director as an inspection station for purposes of emissions testing on vehicles pursuant to section 42-4-309.

(15.5) Repealed.

(16) "Inspection and readjustment station" means:

(a) Repealed.

(b) (I) A facility within the basic emissions program area as defined in subsection (20) of this section which meets the requirements of section 42-4-308, which is equipped to enable vehicle

exhaust, evaporative, and chlorofluorocarbon emissions inspections and any necessary adjustments and repairs to be performed, and which facility the owner or operator is licensed by the executive director to operate as an inspection and readjustment station.

(II) This paragraph (b) is effective January 1, 1994.

(17) (a) "Inspection-only facility" means a facility operated by an independent owner-operator within the enhanced program area as defined in subsection (20) of this section which meets the requirements of section 42-4-308 and which is equipped to enable vehicle exhaust, evaporative, and chlorofluorocarbon emissions inspections and which facility the operator is licensed to operate by the executive director as an inspection-only facility. Such inspection-only facility shall be authorized to conduct inspections on model year 1981 and older vehicles.

(b) This subsection (17) is effective January 1, 1995.

(18) "Motor vehicle", as applicable to the AIR program, includes only a motor vehicle that is operated with four wheels or more on the ground, self-propelled by a spark-ignited engine burning gasoline, gasoline blends, gaseous fuel, blends of liquid gasoline and gaseous fuels, alcohol, alcohol blends, or other similar fuels, having a personal property classification of A, B, or C pursuant to section 42-3-106, and for which registration in this state is required for operation on the public roads and highways or which motor vehicle is owned or operated or both by a nonresident who meets the requirements set forth in section 42-4-310 (1)(c). "Motor vehicle" does not include kit vehicles; vehicles registered pursuant to section 42-12-301 or 42-3-306 (4); vehicles registered pursuant to section 42-12-401 that are of model year 1975 or earlier or that have two-stroke cycle engines manufactured prior to 1980; or vehicles registered as street-rods pursuant to section 42-3-201.

(19) (a) "Motor vehicle dealer test facility" means a stationary or mobile facility which is operated by a state trade association for motor vehicle dealers which is licensed to operate by the executive director as a motor vehicle dealer test facility to conduct emissions inspections.

(b) (I) Inspections conducted pursuant to section 42-4-309 (3) by a motor vehicle dealer test facility shall only be conducted on used motor vehicles inventoried or consigned in this state for retail sale by a motor vehicle dealer that is licensed pursuant to part 1 of article 20 of title 44 and that is a member of the state trade association operating the motor vehicle dealer test facility.

(II) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (19)(b)(II) is effective until July 1, 2027.]*** Inspection procedures used by a motor vehicle dealer test facility pursuant to this paragraph (b) shall include a loaded mode transient dynamometer test cycle in combination with appropriate idle short tests pursuant to rules and regulations of the commission.

(II) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (19)(b)(II) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of this subsection (19)(b)(II) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]*** Except as provided in section 42-4-310 (2)(a)(II), inspection procedures

used by a motor vehicle dealer test facility pursuant to this subsection (19)(b) must include a loaded mode transient dynamometer test cycle in combination with appropriate idle short tests pursuant to rules of the commission.

(20) (a) "Program area" means the counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, and Weld, and the cities and counties of Broomfield and Denver, excluding the following areas and subject to paragraph (d) of this subsection (20):

(I) That portion of Adams county that is east of Kiowa creek (Range sixty-two west, townships one, two, and three south) between the Adams-Arapahoe county line and the Adams-Weld county line;

(II) That portion of Arapahoe county that is east of Kiowa creek (Range sixty-two west, townships four and five south) between the Arapahoe-Elbert county line and the Arapahoe-Adams county line;

(III) That portion of El Paso county that is east of the following boundary, defined on a south-to-north axis: From the El Paso-Pueblo county line north (upstream) along Chico creek (Ranges 63 and 64 West, Township 17 South) to Hanover road, then east along Hanover road (El Paso county route 422) to Peyton highway, then north along Peyton highway (El Paso county route 463) to Falcon highway, then west on Falcon highway (El Paso county route 405) to Peyton highway, then north on Peyton highway (El Paso county route 405) to Judge Orr road, then west on Judge Orr road (El Paso county route 108) to Elbert road, then north on Elbert road (El Paso county route 91) to the El Paso-Elbert county line;

(IV) That portion of Larimer county that is west of the boundary defined on a north-to-south axis by Range seventy-one west and north of the boundary defined on an east-to-west axis by township five north, that portion that is west of the boundary defined on a north-to-south axis by range seventy-three west, and that portion that is north of the boundary latitudinal line 40 degrees, 42 minutes, 47.1 seconds north;

(V) That portion of Weld county that is north of the boundary defined on an east-to-west axis by Weld county road 78; that portion that is east of the boundary defined on a north-to-south axis by Weld county road 43 and north of the boundary defined on an east-to-west axis by Weld county road 62; that portion that is east of the boundary defined on a north-to-south axis by Weld county road 49, south of the boundary defined on an east-to-west axis by Weld county road 62 and north of the boundary defined on an east-to-west axis by Weld county road 46; that portion that is east of the boundary defined on a north-to-south axis by Weld county road 27, south of the boundary defined on an east-to-west axis by Weld county road 46 and north of the boundary defined on an east-to-west axis by Weld county road 36; that portion that is east of the boundary defined on a north-to-south axis by Weld county road 19, south of the boundary defined on an east-to-west axis by Weld county road 36 and north of the boundary defined on an east-to-west axis by Weld county road 20; and that portion that is east of the boundary defined on a north-to-

south axis by Weld county road 39 and south of the boundary defined on an east-to-west axis by Weld county road 20.

(b) Effective January 1, 2010, the basic emissions program area shall consist of the county of El Paso, as described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (20).

(c) (I) Effective January 1, 2010, the enhanced emissions program area shall consist of the counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Douglas, Jefferson, Larimer, and Weld, and the cities and counties of Broomfield and Denver as described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (20) and subject to paragraph (d) of this subsection (20). Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, vehicles registered in the counties of Larimer and Weld shall not be required to obtain a certificate of emissions control prior to July 1, 2010, in order to be registered or reregistered.

(II) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2003, p. 1357, § 1, effective August 6, 2003.)

(III) Only those counties included in the basic emissions program area pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (20) that violate national ambient air quality standards for carbon monoxide or ozone as established by the environmental protection agency may, on a case-by-case basis, be incorporated into the enhanced emissions program by final order of the commission.

(d) The commission shall review the boundaries of the program area and may, by rule promulgated on or before December 31, 2011, adjust such boundaries to exclude particularly identified regions from either the basic program area, the enhanced area, or both, based on an analysis of the applicable air quality science and the effects of the program on the population living in such regions.

(21) "Registered repair facility or technician" means an automotive repair business which has registered with the division, agrees to have its emissions-related cost effectiveness monitored based on inspection data, and is periodically provided performance statistics for the purpose of improving emissions-related repairs. Specific repair effectiveness information shall subsequently be provided to motorists at the time of inspection failure.

(22) "State implementation plan" or "SIP" means the plan required by and described in section 110 (a) of the federal act.

(23) "Technical center" means any facility operated by the division or its designee to support AIR program activities including but not limited to licensed emissions inspectors or emissions mechanics, motorists, repair technicians, or small business technical assistance.

(23.5) "Vehicle" means a motor vehicle as defined in subsection (18) of this section.

(24) "Verification of emissions test" means a certificate to be attached to a motor vehicle's windshield verifying that the vehicle has been issued a valid certification of emissions control.



**Source:** **L. 94:** (17) amended, p. 1647, § 84, effective May 31; (6) amended, p. 2809, § 582, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2274, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (5) and (9) amended, p. 953, § 8, effective May 25. **L. 96:** (18) amended, p. 441, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (3)(d) amended, p. 230, § 1, effective April 10; (3.5) added, p. 891, § 1, effective May 26. **L. 2001:** (5) amended and (8.5) added, p. 1013, § 2, effective June 5. **L. 2003:** (3)(e) added, p. 1589, § 6, effective May 2; (3)(b)(I) amended, p. 1602, § 1, effective August 6; (3)(d) amended, p. 2186, § 1, effective August 6; IP(20)(a), (20)(c)(I), and (20)(c)(II) amended and (20)(d) added, p. 1357, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2005:** (3)(b)(I) and (18) amended, p. 1173, § 11, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (15.5) and (23.5) added, p. 1025, § 2, effective July 1; (18) amended, p. 1411, § 2, effective July 1, 2007. **L. 2009:** (2), (3)(c), (9), (18), and (20) amended, (SB 09-003), ch. 322, p. 1714, § 1, effective June 1. **L. 2010:** (18) amended, (SB 10-212), ch. 412, p. 2038, § 17, effective July 1. **L. 2011:** (3)(c) repealed and (18) amended, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 245, §§ 8, 9, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** (15.5) repealed, (SB 12-034), ch. 107, p. 363, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** (3)(b) amended, (HB 13-1300), ch. 316, p. 1709, § 138, effective August 7; (3)(b)(II) amended, (HB 13-1071), ch. 370, p. 2161, § 3, effective August 7. **L. 2017:** (19)(b)(I) amended, (SB 17-240), ch. 395, p. 2065, § 51, effective July 1. **L. 2018:** (19)(b)(I) amended, (SB 18-030), ch. 7, p. 141, § 17, effective October 1. **L. 2025:** IP and (5) amended, (SB 25-321), ch. 387, p. 2172, § 1, effective August 6; (19)(b)(II) amended, (HB 25-1281), ch. 176, p. 736, § 4, effective July 1, 2027.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-307 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Subsection (17) was originally numbered as § 42-4-307 (16.5), and the amendments to it in Senate Bill 94-206 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001; amendments to subsection (6) in House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

(3) Subsection (16)(a)(II)(C) provided for the repeal of subsection (16)(a), effective July 1, 1995. (See L. 94, p. 2274.)

(4) Amendments to subsection (3)(b)(II) by House Bill 13-1071 and House Bill 13-1300 were harmonized.

(5) Section 13(2) of chapter 176 (HB 25-1281), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to applications submitted or offenses committed on or after January 1, 2028.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2001 act amending subsection (5) and enacting subsection (8.5), see section 1 of chapter 278, Session Laws of Colorado 2001. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2006 act enacting subsections (15.5) and (23.5), see section 1 of chapter 225, Session Laws of Colorado 2006.

**42-4-305. Powers and duties of executive director - automobile inspection and readjustment program - basic emissions program - enhanced emissions program - clean screen program - rules.**

(1) (a) The executive director is authorized to issue, deny, cancel, suspend, or revoke licenses for, and shall furnish instructions to, inspection and readjustment stations, inspection-only facilities, fleet inspection stations, motor vehicle dealer test facilities, and enhanced inspection centers. The executive director shall provide all necessary forms for inspection and readjustment stations, inspection-only facilities, and fleet inspection stations. Motor vehicle dealer test facilities and enhanced inspection centers shall purchase necessary inspection forms from the vendor or vendors identified by the executive director. Said inspection and readjustment stations, inspection-only facilities, fleet inspection stations, motor vehicle dealer test facilities, and enhanced inspection centers shall be responsible for the issuance of certifications of emissions control. The executive director is authorized to furnish forms and instructions and issue or deny licenses to, or cancel, suspend, or revoke licenses of, emissions inspectors and emissions mechanics. The initial biennial fee for an inspection and readjustment station license, an inspection-only facility license, a fleet inspection station license, a motor vehicle dealer test facility license, and an enhanced inspection center authorization shall be thirty-five dollars, and the biennial renewal fee shall be twenty dollars. The initial biennial fee for issuance of an emissions inspector license or an emissions mechanic license shall be fifteen dollars, and the biennial renewal fee shall be ten dollars. The fee for each transfer of an emissions inspector license or an emissions mechanic license shall be ten dollars. The moneys received from such fees shall be deposited to the credit of the AIR account in the highway users tax fund, and such moneys shall be expended by the department of revenue only for the administration of the inspection and readjustment program upon appropriation by the general assembly.

(b) Notwithstanding the amount specified for any fee in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1), the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may reduce the amount of one or more of the fees if necessary pursuant to section 24-75-402 (3), C.R.S., to reduce the uncommitted reserves of the fund to which all or any portion of one or more of the fees is credited. After the uncommitted reserves of the fund are sufficiently reduced, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may increase the amount of one or more of the fees as provided in section 24-75-402 (4), C.R.S.

(2) The executive director shall supervise the activities of licensed inspection and readjustment stations, inspection-only facilities, fleet inspection stations, motor vehicle dealer test facilities, authorized enhanced inspection centers, licensed emissions inspectors, and licensed emissions mechanics and shall cause inspections to be made of such stations, facilities, centers, inspectors, and mechanics and appropriate records for compliance with licensing requirements.

(3) The executive director shall require the surrender of any license issued under section 42-4-308 upon cancellation, suspension, or revocation action taken for a violation of any of the provisions of sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316 or of any of the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. In any such actions affecting licenses, the executive director may conduct hearings as a result of which such action is to be taken. Any such hearing may be conducted by a hearing officer appointed at the request of the executive director in accordance with the "State Administrative Procedure Act", article 4 of title 24, C.R.S., which shall govern the conduct of such hearings and action on said licenses, except as provided in section 42-4-312 (4).

(4) The executive director shall promulgate rules and regulations consistent with those of the commission for the administration and operation of inspection and readjustment stations, inspection-only facilities, fleet inspection stations, motor vehicle dealer test facilities, and enhanced inspection centers and for the issuance, identification, and use of certifications of emissions control and shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to the effectiveness of the automobile inspection and readjustment program.

(5) The executive director shall promulgate rules and regulations which require that each licensed inspection and readjustment station, inspection-only facility, or enhanced inspection center post in a clearly legible fashion in a conspicuous place in such station, facility, or center the fee charged by such station, facility, or center for performing an emissions inspection and, within the basic program area, the fee charged by any such inspection and readjustment station for performing the adjustments and any repairs required for the issuance of a certification of emissions waiver.

(6) (a) The executive director shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement an ongoing quality assurance program to discover, correct, and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse and to determine whether proper procedures are being followed, whether the emissions test equipment is calibrated as specified, and whether other problems exist which would impede the success of the program.

(b) (I) The department shall conduct overt performance audits as follows:

(A) At least twice per year at each inspection and readjustment station, inspection-only facility, and motor vehicle dealer test facility;

(B) At least twice per year at each fleet inspection station;

(C) At least twice per year for each test lane at each enhanced inspection center.

(II) In addition to regularly scheduled overt performance audits, the department may perform additional risk-based overt performance audits for stations and facilities employing inspectors or mechanics suspected of violating rules as a result of an audit, data analysis, or consumer complaint.

(c) (I) The department shall conduct covert audits using unmarked motor vehicles at least once per year per number of inspectors at each inspection-only facility and enhanced inspection center;

(II) In addition to regularly scheduled covert audits, the department may perform additional risk-based covert audits for stations and facilities employing inspectors or mechanics suspected of violating rules as a result of an audit, data analysis, or consumer complaint.

(d) Record audits to review the performance of inspection-only facilities, motor vehicle dealer test facilities, and enhanced inspection centers, including compliance with record-keeping and reporting requirements, shall be performed on a monthly basis.

(e) (I) The department shall perform equipment audits to verify quality control and calibration of the required test equipment as follows:

(A) At least twice per year at each inspection and readjustment station;

(B) At least twice per year on each test lane at each inspection-only facility, motor vehicle dealer test facility, and enhanced inspection center, to be performed contemporaneously with the overt performance audit;

(C) At least twice per year at each fleet inspection station.

(II) In addition to regularly scheduled equipment audits, the department may perform additional risk-based equipment audits for stations and facilities employing inspectors or mechanics suspected of violating rules as a result of an audit, data analysis, or consumer complaint.

(f) The executive director shall transfer quality assurance activity results to the department of public health and environment at least quarterly.

(7) The executive director shall implement and enforce the emissions test requirements as prescribed in section 42-4-310 by utilizing a registration denial-based enforcement program as required in the federal act including an electronic data transfer of inspection data through the use of a computer modem or similar technology for vehicle registration and program enforcement purposes. All inspection data generated at licensed inspection and readjustment stations, inspection-only facilities, fleet inspection stations, motor vehicle dealer test facilities, and enhanced inspection centers shall be provided to the department of public health and environment on a timely basis.

(8) The executive director shall, by regulation, establish a method for the owners of motor vehicles which are exempt pursuant to section 42-4-304 (20) from the AIR program to establish their entitlement to such exemption. No additional fee or charge for establishing entitlement to such exemption shall be collected by the department.

(9) The executive director shall be responsible for the issuance of certifications of emissions waiver as prescribed by section 42-4-310 and shall be responsible for the resolution of all formal public complaints concerning test results or test requirements in the most convenient and cost-effective manner possible.

(10) (a) The executive director and the department of public health and environment are authorized to enter into a contract or service agreement with a contractor to provide inspection services at enhanced inspection centers for vehicles within the enhanced program area required to be inspected pursuant to section 42-4-310. Any such contract or service agreement shall include such terms and conditions as are necessary to ensure that the contractor shall operate enhanced inspection centers in accordance with the requirements of this article and the federal act, shall include provisions establishing liquidated damages and penalties for failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract, and shall be in accordance with regulations adopted by the commission and the department of revenue. Any such contract or service agreement shall include provisions specifying that inspection and readjustment stations, inspection-only facilities, fleet inspection stations, and motor vehicle dealer test facilities shall have complete access to electronic data transfer of inspection data through computer services of the contractor at a cost equal to that of enhanced inspection centers.

(b) Upon the approval of the executive director and the department of public health and environment, the contractor shall provide inspection services for vehicles within the enhanced program area required to be inspected pursuant to section 42-4-310.

(11) Repealed.

(12) The executive director shall promulgate rules, consistent with those of the commission, as necessary for implementation, enforcement, and quality assurance and for procedures and policies that allow data collected from the clean screen program to be matched with vehicle ownership information and for the information to be transferred to authorized agents. The rules must set forth the procedures for the executive director to inform authorized agents of the emission inspection status of vehicles up for registration renewal.

**Source:** **L. 94:** (6)(f), (7), and (10) amended, p. 2809, § 583, effective July 1, 1994; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2280, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** (12) added, p. 891, § 2, effective May 26; (1) amended, p. 1358, § 112, effective June 1. **L. 2002:** (11) amended, p. 870, § 4, effective August 7. **L. 2012:** (6)(b), (6)(c), and (6)(e) amended, (SB 12-012), ch. 164, p. 574, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** (11) repealed, (HB 17-1137), ch. 45, p. 136, § 9, effective August 9; (12) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 371, § 20, effective August 9.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-308 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Amendments to subsections (6)(f), (7), and (10) by House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

**42-4-306. Powers and duties of commission - automobile inspection and readjustment program - basic emissions program - enhanced emissions program - clean screen program - rules - repeal.**

(1) The commission shall develop and evaluate motor vehicle inspection and readjustment programs for the enhanced program area and basic program area and may promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to implement and maintain the necessary performance of said programs consistent with the federal act.

(2) The commission shall develop and formulate training and qualification programs for state-employed motor vehicle emissions compliance officers to include annual auditor proficiency evaluations.

(3) (a) (I) (A) The commission shall promulgate rules and regulations for the training, testing, and licensing of emissions inspectors and emissions mechanics and the licensing of inspection and readjustment stations, inspection-only facilities, fleet inspection stations, motor vehicle dealer test facilities, and the authorization of enhanced inspection centers; the standards and specifications for the approval, operation, calibration, and certification of exhaust gas and evaporative emissions measuring instrumentation or test analyzer systems; and the procedures and practices to ensure the proper performance of inspections, adjustments, and required repairs.

(B) Specifications adopted by the commission for exhaust gas measuring instrumentation in the program areas shall conform to the federal act and federal requirements, including electronic data transfer, and may include bar code capabilities.

(C) Upon the adoption of specifications for measuring instruments and test analyzer systems, the division, in consultation with the executive director, may invite bids for the procurement of instruments that meet federal requirements or guidelines and the standards of the federal act. The invitation for bids for test analyzer systems for the basic emissions program and the inspection-only facilities in the enhanced emissions program must include the requirements for data collection and electronic transfer of data as established by the commission, service and maintenance requirements for such instruments for the period of the contract, requirements for replacement or loan instruments in the event that the purchased or leased instruments do not function, and the initial purchase or lease price.

(II) Points of no greater than five percent shall be assigned to those respondents that make the greatest use of Colorado goods, services, and the participation of small business. Licensed inspection and readjustment stations, inspection-only facilities, fleet inspection stations, and motor vehicle dealer test facilities, if applicable, which are required to purchase commission-

approved test analyzer systems shall purchase them pursuant to the bid procedure of the department of personnel.

(III) Mobile test analyzer systems for motor vehicle dealer test facilities shall comply with commission specifications developed pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a).

(b) (I) For the enhanced emissions program, the commission shall develop system design standards, performance standards, and contractor requirements. Upon the adoption of such criteria, the division in consultation with the executive director may, according to procedures and protocol established in the "Procurement Code", articles 101 to 112 of title 24, C.R.S., enter into a contract for the design, construction, equipment, maintenance, and operation of enhanced inspection centers to serve affected motorists. The criteria for the award of such contract shall include, but shall not be limited to, such criteria as the contractor's qualifications and experience in providing emissions inspection services, financial and personnel resources available for start-up, technical or management expertise, and capacity to satisfy such requirements for the life of the contract.

(II) Inspection procedures, equipment calibration and maintenance, and data storage and transfer shall comply with federal requirements and may include bar code capability. The system shall provide reasonable convenience to the public.

(III) Points of no greater than five percent shall be assigned to those respondents who make the greatest use of Colorado goods, services, and participation of small businesses.

(IV) A contract for inspection services must have a term determined by the division and is subject to rebidding under this subsection (3)(b).

(V) (A) Notwithstanding any contrary provision in the "Procurement Code", articles 101 to 112 of title 24, or this article 4, a contract for inspection services may be renewed for a term as determined by the division; except that inspection fees are determined under section 42-4-311 (6).

(B) The commission shall have rule-making authority to implement any environmental protection agency-approved alternative emissions inspection services or technologies, including on-board diagnostics, so long as such inspection technologies provide SIP credits equal to or greater than those currently in the SIP.

(VI) Upon the division making a recommendation or during the renewal of a contract, the commission may adopt a rule to set or adjust the inspection fees as described in section 42-4-311 (4)(a)(I) or (6)(a). The commission shall request supporting documentation or financial analyses from the contractor to inform the commission's decision. If the commission raises the fee, the division shall make a report to the transportation legislation review committee created in section 43-2-145 during the scheduled interim meetings that follow the fee change, but not less than sixty days following adoption of the rule. The report must:

(A) List the fees being changed and the amounts of the changes;

(B) Provide an explanation for the changes and an analysis of why the changes are needed.

(4) (a) The commission shall develop a program to train and examine all applicants for an emissions inspector or emissions mechanic license. Training of emissions inspectors who are employed at enhanced inspection centers within the enhanced emissions program area shall be administered by the contractor subject to the commission's oversight. Emissions mechanic training shall be performed by instructors certified in accordance with commission requirements. Training classes shall be funded by tuition charged to the participants unless private or federal funds are available for such training. The qualifications and licensing examination for emissions inspectors, excluding such inspectors at enhanced inspection centers, who shall be authorized by and under the direction of the contractor, shall include a test of the applicant's knowledge of the technical and legal requirements for emissions testing, knowledge of data and emissions testing systems, and an actual demonstration of the applicant's ability to perform emissions inspection procedures.

(b) Emissions inspector and emissions mechanic licenses shall expire two years after issuance. The commission shall establish technical standards for renewing emissions inspector and emissions mechanic licenses to include requirements for retraining on a biennial schedule.

(c) The commission shall establish minimum performance criteria for licensed emissions inspectors and emissions mechanics.

(5) The commission shall perform its duties, as provided in sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316, with the cooperation and aid of the division.

(6) (a) The commission shall develop and adopt, and may from time to time revise, regulations providing inspection procedures for detection of tampering with emissions-related equipment and on-board diagnostic systems and emissions standards for vehicle exhaust and evaporative gases, the detection of chlorofluorocarbons, and smoke opacity, as prescribed in section 42-4-412, with which emissions standards vehicles inspected in accordance with section 42-4-310 would be required to comply prior to issuance of certification of emissions compliance. Such inspection procedures and emissions standards shall be proven cost-effective and air pollution control-effective on the basis of detailed research conducted by the department of public health and environment in accordance with section 25-7-130, C.R.S., and shall be designed to assure compliance with the federal act, federal requirements, and the state implementation plan. Emissions standards shall be established for carbon monoxide, exhaust and evaporative hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, and chlorofluorocarbons.

(b) (I) The commission shall adopt regulations which provide standards for motor vehicles and shall adopt by December 1 of each subsequent year standards for motor vehicles of one additional model year.



(II) Standards for carbon monoxide, exhaust and evaporative hydrocarbons, and oxides of nitrogen shall be no more stringent than those established pursuant to the federal act and federal requirements. The cut-points established for such standards prior to December 1, 1998, shall not be increased until on or after January 1, 2000.

(c) Repealed.

(d) Test procedures may authorize emissions inspectors or emissions mechanics to refuse testing of a vehicle that would be unsafe to test or that cannot physically be inspected, as specified by the commission; except that refusal to test a vehicle for such reasons shall not excuse or exempt such vehicle from compliance with all applicable requirements of this part 3.

(7) (a) The commission shall by regulation require the owner of a motor vehicle for which a certification of emissions control is required to obtain such certification. Such regulation shall provide:

(I) That a certification of emissions compliance be issued for the vehicle if, at the time of inspection or, after completion of required adjustments or repairs, the exhaust and evaporative gases and visible emissions from said vehicle comply with the applicable emissions standards adopted pursuant to subsection (6) of this section, and that applicable emissions control equipment and diagnostic systems are intact and operable, and, for model year 1995 and later vehicles, compliance with each applicable emissions-related recall campaign, or remedial action, as defined by the federal act, has been demonstrated.

(II) (A) That a certification of emissions waiver be issued for the motor vehicle if, at the time of inspection, the exhaust gas or evaporative emissions from said vehicle do not comply with the applicable emissions standards but said vehicle is adjusted or repaired by a registered repair technician or at a registered repair facility within the enhanced program area, or at a licensed inspection and repair station within the basic program area, whichever is appropriate, to motor vehicle manufacturer specifications and repair procedures as provided by regulation of the commission.

(B) Such specifications shall require that such motor vehicles be retested for exhaust gas emissions and evaporative emissions, if applicable, after such adjustments or repairs are performed, but, except as provided in section 42-4-310 (1)(d), no motor vehicle shall be required to receive additional repairs, maintenance, or adjustments beyond such specifications or repairs following such retest as a condition for issuance of a certification of emissions waiver.

(C) A time extension not to exceed the period of one inspection cycle may be granted in accordance with commission regulation to obtain needed repairs on a vehicle in the case of economic hardship when waiver requirements pursuant to commission regulation have not been met, but such extension may be granted only once per vehicle.

(D) Notwithstanding any provisions of this section, a temporary certificate of emissions control may be issued by state AIR program personnel for vehicles required to be repaired, if such repairs are delayed due to unavailability of needed parts.

(E) The results of the initial test, retests, and final test shall be given to the owner of the motor vehicle.

(F) The issuance of temporary certificates shall be entered into the main computer database for the AIR program through the use of electronic records.

(G) The commission is authorized to reduce the emissions-related repair expenditure limit established in section 42-4-310 (1)(d)(III) for hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen if applicable federal requirements are met, and the environmental protection agency has approved a maintenance plan submitted by the state to ensure continued compliance with such federal requirements.

(b) (I) The commission shall by regulation provide that no vehicle shall be issued a certificate of emissions compliance or waiver if emissions control equipment and diagnostic or malfunction indicator systems, including microprocessor control systems, are not present, intact, and operational, if repairs were not appropriate and did not address the reason for the emissions failure, or if the vehicle emits visible smoke.

(II) The commission shall provide by regulation that no model year 1995 or later vehicle shall be issued a certificate of emissions control unless compliance with each applicable emissions-related recall campaign or remedial action, as defined in the federal act, has been demonstrated.

(8) (a) The commission may exempt motor vehicles of any make, model, or model year from the periodic inspection requirements of section 42-4-310.

(b) Pursuant to section 42-4-310 (1), the commission may increase the effective duration of certifications of emissions compliance issued for new motor vehicles without inspection.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection (8), the commission shall adopt rules requiring inspections of motor vehicles that are:

(I) Registered in Colorado and outside the program area;

(II) Regularly operated inside the program area;

(III) Identified as producing excess emissions under the clean screen program; and

(IV) (A) Within the two-year vehicle inspection cycle; or

(B) Exempt from periodic inspection in accordance with rules adopted under subsection (8)(a) of this section.

(9) (a) (I) The commission shall continuously evaluate the entire AIR program to ensure compliance with the state implementation plan and federal law. Such evaluation shall be based on continuing research conducted by the department of public health and environment in accordance with section 25-7-130, C.R.S. Such evaluation shall include assessments of the cost-effectiveness and air pollution control-effectiveness of the program.

(II) The commission shall establish on a case-by-case basis and pursuant to final order any area of a county included in the basic emissions program area pursuant to section 42-4-304 (2) which shall be incorporated into the enhanced emissions program because it violates national ambient air quality standards on or after January 1, 1996, as established by the environmental protection agency.

(b) Such evaluation shall include a determination of the number of motor vehicles that fail to meet the applicable emissions standards after the adjustments and repairs required by subsection (7) of this section are made. If the commission finds that a significant number of motor vehicles do not meet the applicable emissions standards after such adjustments or repairs are made, the commission shall develop recommendations designed to improve the air pollution control-effectiveness of the program in a cost-effective manner.

(c) The evaluation shall also include an assessment of the methods of controlling or reducing exhaust gas emissions from motor vehicles of the model year 1981 or a later model year that are equipped with microprocessor-based emissions control systems and on-board diagnostic systems. Such evaluation shall include, if necessary for such motor vehicles, the development of more accurate alternative procedures to include the adjustments and repairs specified in subparagraph (II) of paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of this section, and such alternative procedures may require the replacement of inoperative or malfunctioning emissions control components. Such alternative procedures shall be designed to achieve control of emissions from such motor vehicles which is equivalent to or greater than the control performance level provided by performance standards established pursuant to the federal act.

(d) Such evaluation shall also include an annual assessment of in-use vehicle emissions performance levels by random testing of a representative sample of at least one-tenth of one percent of the vehicles subject to the enhanced emissions program requirements.

(10) The commission shall develop and implement, and shall revise as necessary, inspection procedures to detect tampering, poor maintenance, mis-fueling, and contamination of emissions control systems to include proper operation of on-board diagnostic systems.

(11) (a) The commission, with the cooperation of the department of public health and environment, the department of revenue, the contractor, and the owners or operators of the inspection and readjustment stations, inspection-only facilities, and motor vehicle dealer test facilities, shall implement an ongoing project designed to inform the public concerning the operation of the program and the benefits to be derived from such program.

(b) (I) The commission shall, as part of such project and with the cooperation of the department of public health and environment, the department of revenue, the contractor, and the owners or operators of the inspection and readjustment stations and inspection-only facilities prepare and cause the distribution of consumer protection information for the benefit of the owners of vehicles required to be inspected pursuant to section 42-4-310.

(II) This information shall include an explanation of the program, the owner's responsibilities under the program, the procedures to be followed in performing the inspection, the adjustments and repairs required for vehicles to pass inspection, cost expenditure limits pursuant to section 42-4-310 (1)(d) for such adjustments or repairs, the availability of diagnostic information to aid repairs, and a listing of registered repair facilities and technicians, and the package may include information on other aspects of the program as the commission determines to be appropriate.

(c) In addition to distribution of such information, the commission shall actively seek the assistance of the electronic and print media in communicating such information to the public and shall utilize such other means and manners of disseminating the information as are likely to effectuate the purpose of the program.

(12) (a) The commission, with the cooperation of the executive director of the department of public health and environment, shall conduct or cause to be conducted research concerning the presence of pollutants in the ambient air, which research shall include continuous monitoring of ambient air quality and modeling of sources concerning their impacts on air quality. Such research shall identify pollutants in the ambient air which originate from motor vehicle exhaust gas emissions and shall identify, quantify, and evaluate the ambient air quality benefit derived from the automobile inspection and readjustment program, from the federal new motor vehicle exhaust emissions standards, and from changes in vehicle miles traveled due to economic or other factors. Each such evaluation shall be reported separately to assess the air pollution control-effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the pollution control strategy.

(b) Repealed.

(13) (a) The commission shall identify motor vehicle populations contributing significantly to ambient pollution inventories by utilizing mobile source computer models approved by the environmental protection agency. The commission shall develop and implement more stringent or frequent, or both, inspection criteria for those vehicles with significant pollution contributions.

(b) ***[Editor's note: Subsection (13)(b) is effective April 1, 2027. (see editor's note following this section)]***

(I) The commission may adopt rules to identify motor vehicles with excess emissions that regularly operate within the program area. The rules must require that motor vehicles identified as having excess emissions comply with the emissions and maintenance requirements of this part 3 and are subject to enforcement under rules adopted by the commission.

(II) Motor vehicles operating in the program area that failed an enhanced emissions inspection and are subsequently registered outside the program area must comply with the emissions and maintenance requirements of this part 3 and are subject to enforcement under rules adopted by the commission.

(III) (A) This subsection (13)(b) is effective April 1, 2027.

(B) This subsection (13)(b)(III) is repealed, effective July 1, 2027.

(14) (a) Consistent with section 42-4-305, the commission shall promulgate technical rules and regulations governing quality control and audit procedures to be performed by the department of revenue as provided in section 42-4-305. Such regulations shall address all technical aspects of program oversight and quality assurance to include covert and overt performance audits and state implementation plan compliance.

(b) To ensure compliance with the state implementation plan and federal requirements the commission shall promulgate technical rules and regulations to address motor vehicle fleet and motor vehicle dealer inspection protocol and quality control and audit procedures.

(15) The commission shall provide for additional enforcement of the inspection programs by encouraging the adoption of local ordinances and active participation by local law enforcement personnel, parking control, and code enforcement officers against vehicles suspected to be out of compliance with inspection requirements.

(16) (a) (I) The commission shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the issuance of emissions-related repair waivers consistent with section 42-4-310.

(II) Within the enhanced program area waivers shall only be issued by authorized state personnel and enhanced inspection center personnel specifically authorized by the executive director.

(b) The issuance of all waivers shall be controlled and accountable to the main computer database for the AIR program by electronic record to ensure that maximum allowable waiver rate limits for both program types, as defined by the federal act, are not exceeded.

(17) For the enhanced emissions program, the commission shall promulgate rules and regulations establishing a network of enhanced inspection centers and inspection-only facilities within the enhanced emissions program area consistent with the following:

(a) (I) Owners, operators, and employees of enhanced inspection centers and independent inspection-only facilities within the enhanced program area are prohibited from engaging in any motor vehicle repair, service, parts sales, or the sale or leasing of motor vehicles and are prohibited from referring vehicle owners to particular providers of motor vehicle repair services; except that minor repair of components damaged by center or facility personnel during inspection at the center or facility, such as the reconnection of hoses, vacuum lines, or other

measures pursuant to commission regulation that require no more than five minutes to complete, may be undertaken at no charge to the vehicle owner or operator if authorized.

(II) The operation of a motor vehicle dealer test facility shall not be considered to be engaging in any motor vehicle repair service, parts sales, or the sale or leasing of motor vehicles by a member of the state trade association operating such motor vehicle dealer test facility.

(b) Owners, operators, and employees of enhanced inspection centers shall ensure motorists and other affected parties reasonable convenience. Inspection services shall be available prior to, during, and after normal business hours on weekdays, and at least five hours on a weekend day.

(c) Owners, operators, and employees of enhanced inspection centers shall take appropriate actions, such as opening additional lanes, to avoid exceeding average motorist wait times of greater than fifteen minutes by designing optimized single- or multi-lane high-volume throughput systems.

(d) Owners or operators of enhanced inspection centers may develop, and are encouraged to develop, and implement alternate strategies including but not limited to off-peak pricing to reduce end-of-the-month wait times.

(e) The network of enhanced inspection centers shall be located to provide adequate coverage and convenience. At a minimum, the number of enhanced inspection centers shall be equivalent to the network that existed on January 1, 2000, and the hours of operation shall be determined by the contract.

(f) Within the enhanced emissions program area the commission shall provide for the operation of licensed inspection-only facilities. Applicable facility and inspector licensing, inspection procedures, and criteria shall be pursuant to rule and regulation of the commission and compliance with federal requirements. Inspection-only facilities shall be authorized to provide inspection services for all classes of motor vehicles as defined in section 42-4-304 (18) of the model year 1981 and older. Inspection-only owners or operators, or both, shall comply with paragraph (a) of this subsection (17).

(18) For the basic emissions program, inspection stations within the basic emissions program area which are licensed in accordance with section 42-4-308 may conduct inspections or provide motor vehicle repairs as well as offer emissions inspection services.

(19) The commission shall give at least sixty days' notice to the executive director prior to conducting any rule-making hearing pursuant to this article, except where the commission finds that an emergency exists under section 24-4-103 (6), C.R.S. The executive director shall participate as a party in any such hearing. Prior to promulgating any rule under this article, the commission shall consider the potential budgetary and personnel impacts any such rule may have on the department of revenue.

(20) (a) The commission shall develop and maintain a small business technical assistance program through the automobile inspection and repair program to provide information and to aid automotive businesses and technicians. As an element of this program, the commission shall develop a voluntary program for the training of registered repair technicians, to be funded by tuition charged to the participants, unless federal or private funds are made available for such training.

(b) For the enhanced emissions program, the commission shall provide for the voluntary registration of repair facilities and repair technicians within the enhanced emissions program area. Emissions-related repair effectiveness shall be monitored and periodically reported to participating facilities and technicians. Technical assistance shall be provided to those repair technicians and repair facilities needing improvement in repair effectiveness. The commission shall require that emissions-related repair effectiveness information regarding registered repair facilities be made available to the public.

(21) (a) The commission shall investigate and develop other supplemental or alternative motor vehicle related emissions reduction strategies, including but not limited to "cash for clunkers", which may complement or enhance the performance of the AIR program. Such strategies must be creditable under the state implementation plan and be proven cost-effective.

(b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2002, p. 870, § 5, effective August 7, 2002.)

(22) The commission shall develop rules and regulations with respect to emissions inspection procedures and standards of motor vehicles which operate on alternative motor fuels including but not limited to compressed natural gas, liquid petroleum gas, methanol, and ethanol. Such rules and regulations shall be developed for both the basic emissions program and the enhanced emissions program. The commission shall evaluate whether dual fuel motor vehicles should be inspected on both fuels and whether such vehicles shall be charged for one or two inspections.

(23) (a) The commission shall promulgate rules governing the operation of the clean screen program. Such rules shall authorize the division to commence the clean screen program in the basic emissions program area commencing as expeditiously as possible. Such rules shall authorize the division to extend, if feasible, the clean screen program to other parts of the state upon request of the lead air quality planning agencies for each respective area. Such rules shall govern operation of the clean screen program pursuant to the contract or service agreement entered into under section 42-4-307 (10.5). Such rules shall determine the percentage of the vehicle fleet targeted for the clean screen program, which percentage shall develop a target of the eligible vehicle fleet that meets air quality needs. Such rules shall specify emission levels for vehicles in the same manner as for other vehicles in the emissions program. The commission may, upon written request of the Pikes Peak area council of governments, exclude the El Paso county portion of the basic emissions program area from the clean screen program if the

department of public health and environment receives written notification from the Pikes Peak area council of governments to such effect by June 1, 2001.

(b) The rules promulgated pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (23) may also authorize the division to commence the clean screen program in the enhanced emissions program area commencing January 1, 2002, or as soon thereafter as is practical. The clean screen program may be implemented in the enhanced emissions program area only if the commission makes such a determination on or after July 1, 2001.

**Source:** **L. 94:** (17)(f) amended, p. 1647, § 85, effective May 31; (6), (9)(a)(I), (11)(a), (11)(b)(I), and (12) amended, p. 2810, § 584, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2283, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (11)(b)(II) amended, p. 954, § 9, effective May 25; (3)(a)(II) amended, p. 667, § 108, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (3)(a)(I)(C), (3)(b)(IV), and (6)(b)(II) amended and (23) added, p. 892, § 3, effective May 26. **L. 2001:** (3)(a)(I)(C), (3)(b)(I), (17)(e), and (23) amended and (3)(b)(V) added, p. 1013, § 3, effective June 5. **L. 2002:** (9)(a)(I), (9)(b), (9)(c), and (21)(b) amended, p. 870, § 5, effective August 7. **L. 2003:** (8) amended, p. 1602, § 2, effective August 6. **L. 2016:** (6)(c) and (12)(b) repealed, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 797, § 119, effective June 6. **L. 2025:** (3)(a)(I)(C), (3)(b)(IV), (3)(b)(V)(A), and (13) amended and (3)(b)(VI) and (8)(c) added, (SB 25-321), ch. 387, p. 2172, § 2, effective June 3 (see editor's note).

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-309 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Amendments to subsections (6), (9)(a)(I), (11)(a), (11)(b)(I), and (12) by House Bill 94-1029 and amendments to subsection (17)(f) by Senate Bill 94-206 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

(3) Section 11 of chapter 387 (SB 25-321), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section takes effect June 3, 2025. Subsection (13)(b)(III)(A) provides that subsection (13)(b) takes effect April 1, 2027.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2001 act amending subsections (3)(a)(I)(C), (3)(b)(I), (17)(e), and (23) and enacting subsection (3)(b)(V), see section 1 of chapter 278, Session Laws of Colorado 2001.

**42-4-307. Powers and duties of the department of public health and environment - division of administration - automobile inspection and readjustment program - basic**



**emissions program - enhanced emissions program - clean screen program - legislative declaration - high-emitter motor vehicle regulation - definition - rules - repeal.**

(1) The division shall establish and provide for the operation of a system, which may include a telephone answering service, to answer questions concerning the automobile inspection and readjustment programs from emissions inspectors, emissions mechanics, repair technicians, and the public.

(2) The division shall administer the licensing test for emissions inspectors, except for such inspectors at enhanced inspection centers, and emissions mechanics and shall oversee training.

(3) The division shall establish and operate such technical or administrative centers as may be necessary for the proper administration and ongoing support of the automobile inspection and readjustment program, for enhanced inspection centers, for the small business technical assistance program, and for the state smoking vehicle programs provided for in sections 42-4-412 to 42-4-414, and for affected motorists. The division is authorized to enter into a contract or service agreement in accordance with paragraph (a) of subsection (10) of this section for this purpose.

(4) The division shall develop and recommend to the commission, as necessary, vehicle emissions inspection procedure requirements to ensure compliance with the state implementation plan and the federal act.

(5) The division shall identify and recommend to the commission, as necessary, revisions to vehicle eligibility and the schedule of inspection frequency.

(6) (a) (I) The division shall administer, in accordance with federal requirements, the on-road remote sensing program.

(II) Pursuant to commission rule and based on confirmatory tests at an emissions technical center or emissions inspection facility that identify such vehicles as exceeding applicable emissions standards, off-cycle repairs may be required for noncomplying vehicles.

(b) Additional studies of the feasibility and appropriateness of on-road remote sensing technology as a potential emissions control strategy shall be pursued as available funding permits.

(c) The division is authorized to enter into a contract or service agreement in accordance with paragraph (a) of subsection (10) of this section for the purpose of this subsection (6).

(7) The division shall monitor and periodically report to the commission on the performance of the mobile sources state implementation plan provisions as they pertain to the basic emissions program area and the enhanced emissions program area.

(8) (a) The division shall administer the emissions inspector, emissions mechanic, and repair technician qualification and periodic requalification procedures, if applicable, and remedial training provisions in a manner consistent with department of revenue enforcement activities.

(b) The division, in consultation with the executive director, is authorized to bring enforcement actions in accordance with article 7 of title 25, C.R.S., for violations of regulations promulgated pursuant to section 42-4-306 which would cause violations of the state implementation plan.

(9) The division shall maintain inspection data from the AIR program pursuant to the federal act. Data analysis and reporting shall be submitted to the commission by the departments of public health and environment and revenue by July 1 of each year for the period of January through December of the previous year. Data analysis, state implementation plan compliance, and program performance reporting shall be submitted to the environmental protection agency by the department of public health and environment by July 1 of each year for the period of January through December of the previous year. The division shall develop and maintain the data processing system necessary for the AIR program in compliance with federal reporting requirements.

(10) (a) For the enhanced emissions program, the department of public health and environment and the executive director are authorized to enter into a contract or service agreement with a contractor to provide inspection services at enhanced inspection centers for vehicles required to be inspected pursuant to section 42-4-310 within the enhanced program area. Any such contract or service agreement shall include such terms and conditions as are necessary to ensure that such contractor will operate any such enhanced inspection center in compliance with this article and the federal act. Any such contract or service agreement shall also include provisions establishing liquidated damages and penalties for failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract and shall be in accordance with regulations adopted by the commission.

(b) Upon approval by the department of public health and environment and the executive director, the contractor shall provide inspection services for vehicles within the enhanced emissions program area required to be inspected pursuant to section 42-4-310. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in the "Procurement Code", articles 101 to 112 of title 24, or this article 4, a contract for inspection services may be renewed for a term that is determined by the division.

(10.5) (a) For the clean screen program and the Denver clean screening pilot study, the department of public health and environment and the department of revenue may, pursuant to the "Procurement Code", articles 101 to 112 of title 24, C.R.S., enter into a contract with a contractor for the purchase of equipment, the collection of remote sensing and other data and operation of remote sensing and support equipment, data processing and vehicle ownership matching in cooperation with the executive director, and collection of remote sensing and other data for the

Denver clean screening pilot study, including analysis of the results of such study and report preparation. Under any such contract the department of public health and environment and the department of revenue may purchase approved remote sensing and support equipment or authorize the use of a qualified contractor or contractors to purchase approved remote sensing and support equipment for use in the clean screen program. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in the "Procurement Code", articles 101 to 112 of title 24, C.R.S., the clean screen contract may be incorporated into any contract or renewed contract pursuant to subsection (10) of this section. The contractor retained pursuant to this subsection (10.5) shall be the same as the contractor retained pursuant to subsection (10) of this section. The contractor shall make one-time transfers into the clean screen fund created in section 42-3-304 (19) in a total amount necessary to cover computer programming costs associated with implementation of House Bill 01-1402, enacted at the first regular session of the sixty-third general assembly, in the following order:

- (I) Up to thirty thousand dollars from the contractor's revenues;
- (II) Up to thirty thousand dollars from the public relations account provided for in the contract; and
- (III) Up to forty thousand dollars from the technical center account provided for in the contract.

(b) Repealed.

(11) The department of public health and environment shall conduct studies on the development, effectiveness, and cost of evolving technologies in mobile source emission inspection for consideration by March of each even-numbered year. In the event that alternative technologies become available, cost and air quality effectiveness shall be considered prior to adoption by the commission as inspection technology.

(12) to (15) Repealed.

(16) Prior to July 1, 2022, the department of public health and environment shall seek approval from the environmental protection agency to modify the state implementation plan to expand the testing exemption for new vehicles to ten model years. If the environmental protection agency approves the request, the commission shall adopt a rule expanding the testing exemption for new vehicles to ten model years within twelve months following the approval. In addition, the department of public health and environment shall seek approval from the environmental protection agency to expand the testing exemption for plug-in hybrid electric motor vehicles to twelve model years.

(17) (a) (I) The general assembly declares that:

(A) Gasoline-powered motor vehicles are a major source of ozone precursors, including nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons, and carbon monoxide;

(B) Gasoline-powered motor vehicles with emissions control systems that have been tampered with or emissions control systems that are not operating properly create excess ozone precursors, including nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons, and carbon monoxide, and are high-emitting motor vehicles;

(C) High-emitting motor vehicles contribute a disproportionate amount of total emissions and are a major source of air pollution, especially in the ozone nonattainment area;

(D) The clean screen program currently operates to identify clean motor vehicles operating on the road and will identify high-emitting motor vehicles on the road; and

(E) High-emitting motor vehicles that are operating in the ozone nonattainment area are difficult to identify through mandatory testing, and these include motor vehicles with tampered emissions control systems within a testing exemption period, motor vehicles requiring repairs between emissions tests, and motor vehicles that have failed an emissions test and were subsequently registered outside the program area.

(II) The general assembly determines that the best interest of the state is to identify high-emitting motor vehicles and require vehicles with malfunctioning or tampered-with motor vehicle emissions control systems to be repaired in order to reduce excess emissions of ozone precursors, including nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons, and carbon monoxide.

(b) ***[Editor's note: Subsection (17)(b) is effective April 1, 2027. (see editor's note following this section)]***

(I) The commission may adopt rules to identify and regulate high-emitting motor vehicles that are within the model year exemption period for their vehicle emissions inspection cycle or that are registered in Colorado and outside the program area after failing an emissions test.

(II) If a motor vehicle is identified as a high-emitting motor vehicle through an enhanced emissions inspection, the division may notify the executive director that the motor vehicle fails to comply with the emissions and maintenance requirements of this part 3 or rules adopted by the commission under this part 3.

(III) (A) This subsection (17)(b) is effective April 1, 2027.

(B) This subsection (17)(b)(III) is repealed, effective July 1, 2027.

(c) As used in this subsection (17), unless the context otherwise requires, "high-emitting motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle that produces significantly more air pollutants than the motor vehicle average, exceeding established emissions limits.

**Source:** **L. 94:** (10), (11), and (12) amended, p. 2811, § 585, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2292, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** (10.5) added, p. 893, § 4, effective May 26. **L. 2001:** (6)(a), (10)(b), and (10.5)(a) amended, p. 1015, § 4, effective June 5. **L. 2002:** (11) amended, p. 871, § 6, effective August 7. **L. 2005:** IP(10.5)(a) amended, p. 1174, § 12, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (12), (13), (14), and (15) added, p. 1025, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2010:** (13) amended, (SB 10-213), ch. 375, p. 1764, § 13, effective June 7. **L. 2012:** (12) to (15) repealed, (SB 12-034), ch. 107, p. 363, § 3, effective August 8. **L. 2021:** (16) added, (SB 21-260), ch. 250, p. 1411, § 27, effective June 17. **L. 2025:** (10)(b) amended and (17) added, (SB 25-321), ch. 387, p. 2174, § 3, effective June 3 (see editor's note).

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-309.5 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-307 was relocated to § 42-4-304.

(2) Amendments to subsections (10), (11), and (12) by House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

(3) Subsection (10.5)(b)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (10.5)(b), effective July 1, 2001. (See L. 98, p. 893.)

(4) Section 11 of chapter 387 (SB 25-321), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section takes effect June 3, 2025. Subsection (17)(b)(III)(A) provides that subsection (17)(b) takes effect April 1, 2027.

**Cross references:** (1) For the legislative declaration contained in the 2001 act amending subsections (6)(a), (10)(b), and (10.5)(a), see section 1 of chapter 278, Session Laws of Colorado 2001. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2006 act enacting subsections (12), (13), (14), and (15), see section 1 of chapter 225, Session Laws of Colorado 2006.

(2) For the legislative declaration in SB 21-260, see section 1 of chapter 250, Session Laws of Colorado 2021.

#### **42-4-307.5. Clean screen authority - enterprise - revenue bonds.**

(1) If the commission determines pursuant to section 42-4-306 (23)(b) to implement an expanded clean screen program in the enhanced emissions program area, there shall be created a clean screen authority consisting of the executive director of the department of public health and environment and executive director of the department of revenue or their designees and any necessary support staff. The authority shall constitute an enterprise for the purposes of section 20 of article X of the state constitution so long as it retains the authority to issue revenue bonds and

receives less than ten percent of its total annual revenues in grants, as defined in section 24-77-102 (7), C.R.S., from all Colorado state and local governments combined. So long as it constitutes an enterprise pursuant to the provisions of this section, the authority shall not be a district for purposes of section 20 of article X of the state constitution.

(2) (a) The authority may, by resolution that meets the requirements of subsection (3) of this section, authorize and issue revenue bonds in an amount not to exceed five million dollars in the aggregate for expenses of the authority. Such bonds may be issued only after approval by both houses of the general assembly acting either by bill or joint resolution and after approval by the governor in accordance with section 39 of article V of the state constitution. Such bonds shall be payable only from moneys allocated to the authority for expenses of the division and the commission pursuant to sections 42-4-306 and 42-4-307.

(b) All bonds issued by the authority shall provide that:

(I) No holder of any such bond may compel the state or any subdivision thereof to exercise its appropriation or taxing power; and

(II) The bond does not constitute a debt of the state and is payable only from the net revenues allocated to the authority for expenses as designated in such bond.

(3) (a) Any resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds under the terms of this section shall state:

(I) The date of issuance of the bonds;

(II) A maturity date or dates during a period not to exceed thirty years from the date of issuance of the bonds;

(III) The interest rate or rates on, and the denomination or denominations of, the bonds; and

(IV) The medium of payment of the bonds and the place where the bonds will be paid.

(b) Any resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds under the terms of this section may:

(I) State that the bonds are to be issued in one or more series;

(II) State a rank or priority of the bonds; and

(III) Provide for redemption of the bonds prior to maturity, with or without premium.

(4) Any bonds issued pursuant to the terms of this section may be sold at public or private sale. If bonds are to be sold at a public sale, the authority shall advertise the sale in such manner as the authority deems appropriate. All bonds issued pursuant to the terms of this section shall be sold at a price not less than the par value thereof, together with all accrued interest to the date of delivery.

(5) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, all bonds issued pursuant to this section are negotiable.

(6) (a) A resolution pertaining to issuance of bonds under this section may contain covenants as to:

(I) The purpose to which the proceeds of sale of the bonds may be applied and to the use and disposition thereof;

(II) Such matters as are customary in the issuance of revenue bonds including, without limitation, the issuance and lien position of other or additional bonds; and

(III) Books of account and the inspection and audit thereof.

(b) Any resolution made pursuant to the terms of this section shall be deemed a contract with the holders of the bonds, and the duties of the authority under such resolution shall be enforceable by any appropriate action in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(7) Bonds issued under this section and bearing the signatures of the authority in office on the date of the signing shall be deemed valid and binding obligations regardless of whether, prior to delivery and payment, any or all of the persons whose signatures appear thereon have ceased to be members of the authority.

(8) (a) Except as otherwise provided in the resolution authorizing the bonds, all bonds of the same issue under this section shall have a prior and paramount lien on the net revenues pledged therefor. The authority may provide for preferential security for any bonds, both principal and interest, to be issued under this section to the extent deemed feasible and desirable by such authority over any bonds that may be issued thereafter.

(b) Bonds of the same issue or series issued under this section shall be equally and ratably secured, without priority by reason of number, date, sale, execution, or delivery, by a lien on the net revenue pledged in accordance with the terms of the resolution authorizing the bonds.

(9) The clean screen authority shall be a government-owned business that provides financial services to all entities providing inspection services, the department, and the department of public health and environment with regard to the revenues subject to section 42-3-304 (19).

(10) The clean screen authority may accept grants from any source and shall deposit such moneys in the clean screen fund created in section 42-3-304 (19).

(11) The clean screen authority may contract with the department and expend moneys from the clean screen fund for computer programming costs associated with implementation of House Bill 01-1402, enacted at the first regular session of the sixty-third general assembly. The department is authorized to expend moneys pursuant to such contract, subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly, effective the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2000.

(12) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 2001:** Entire section added, p. 1016, § 5, effective June 5. **L. 2005:** (9) and (10) amended, p. 1174, § 13, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (12) added, p. 1026, § 4, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (12)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (12), effective July 1, 2008. (See L. 2006, p. 1026.)

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2001 act enacting this section, see section 1 of chapter 278, Session Laws of Colorado 2001. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2006 act enacting subsection (12), see section 1 of chapter 225, Session Laws of Colorado 2006.

#### **42-4-307.7. Vehicle emissions testing - remote sensing.**

(1) and (2) Repealed.

(3) The Colorado department of transportation shall work with the department of public health and environment to identify locations that may accommodate unmanned remote sensing devices without causing a safety hazard.

(4) The commission shall evaluate options for increasing the number of vehicles passing a test under the clean screen program, including, but not limited to:

- (a) The reduction of the number of remote sensing measurements per vehicle;
- (b) Additional remote sensing devices and sites;
- (c) Expanded hours of operation; and
- (d) Additional staffing.

(5) The department of public health and environment shall work with the contractor to minimize false test results and shall track and report to the commission its progress in minimizing false test results on or before March 31 of each year.

(6) The commission shall determine the criteria used for the measurement of vehicle emissions needed to comply with the clean screen program, which criteria shall include, but are not limited to, the pollutants measured, acceptable levels of the measured pollutants, and failure



rates. Criteria adopted by the commission for the clean screen program shall meet environmental protection agency requirements.

(7) to (11) Repealed.

(12) Photographs of a vehicle taken by a remote sensing device in order to capture an image of a vehicle's license plate shall be limited to the rear of the vehicle. No attempts shall be made by a remote sensing device to photograph a vehicle's driver.

(13) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 2006:** Entire section added, p. 1026, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (13) added, (SB 09-003), ch. 322, p. 1717, § 2, effective June 1. **L. 2012:** (1), (2), and (7) to (11) repealed and (6) amended, (SB 12-034), ch. 107, p. 364, § 4, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (13)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (13), effective December 31, 2009. (See L. 2009, p. 1717.)

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2006 act enacting this section, see section 1 of chapter 225, Session Laws of Colorado 2006.

**42-4-308. Inspection and readjustment stations - inspection-only facilities - fleet inspection stations - motor vehicle dealer test facilities - contractor - emissions inspectors - emissions mechanics - requirements.**

(1) (a) Applications for an inspection and readjustment station license, an inspection-only facility license, a fleet inspection station license, a motor vehicle dealer test facility license, an emissions inspector license, an enhanced inspection center license, or an emissions mechanic's license shall be made on forms prescribed by the executive director.

(b) No inspection and readjustment station license, inspection-only facility license, fleet inspection station license, motor vehicle dealer test facility license, or enhanced inspection center license shall be issued unless the executive director finds that the facilities of the applicant are of adequate size and properly equipped as provided in subsection (3) of this section, that a licensed inspector or emissions mechanic, whichever is applicable, is or will be available to make such inspection, and that the inspection and readjustment procedures will be properly followed based upon established performance criteria pursuant to section 42-4-306 (4)(c).

(2) No inspection or adjustments shall be made pursuant to the automobile inspection and readjustment program nor certification of emissions control issued unless the owner or operator of the inspection and readjustment station, inspection-only facility, fleet inspection station, motor vehicle dealer test facility, or enhanced inspection center at which such inspection is made or such adjustments or repairs are performed as required has been issued, and is then operating under, a valid inspection and readjustment station license, inspection-only facility license, fleet inspection station license, motor vehicle dealer test facility license, or a contract for an authorized enhanced inspection center and has one or more licensed emissions inspectors or emissions mechanics employed as required, one of whom shall have made the inspection for which said certification has been issued.

(3) No inspection and readjustment station license, inspection-only facility license, fleet inspection station license, motor vehicle dealer test facility license, or contractor's contract shall be issued or executed unless the station or contractor has proper equipment to meet licensing, facility, or contractor approval requirements. Such equipment shall include all test equipment approved by the commission to perform emissions inspections corresponding to the type of licensed or approved facility together with such auxiliary tools, equipment, and testing devices as are required by the commission by rule.

(4) (a) No emissions inspector license or emissions mechanic license shall be issued to any applicant unless said applicant has completed the required training, has demonstrated necessary skills and competence in the inspection of motor vehicles by passing the written certification test developed by the commission and administered by the department of public health and environment, and has demonstrated such skill and competence as a prerequisite to initial licensing by the department of revenue.

(b) The department of revenue shall monitor emissions inspector and emissions mechanic activities at inspection and readjustment stations, inspection-only facilities, fleet inspection stations, motor vehicle dealer test facilities, and enhanced inspection centers during periodic performance audits conducted as prescribed by section 42-4-305.

(c) An emissions inspector or emissions mechanic license may be revoked in accordance with section 42-4-305 if the licensee is not in compliance with the minimum performance criteria set forth by the commission or the department of revenue.

(d) Licenses shall be valid for two years.

(e) Emissions inspector and emissions mechanic license renewal shall be subject to the requirements set forth by the commission through rule and regulation.

**Source: L. 94:** (4)(a) amended, p. 2812, § 586, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2294, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-310 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-308 was relocated to § 42-4-305.

(2) Amendments to subsection (4)(a) by House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

**42-4-309. Vehicle fleet owners - motor vehicle dealers - authority to conduct inspections - fleet inspection stations - motor vehicle dealer test facilities - contracts with licensed inspection-only entities - rules.**

(1) (a) Any person in whose name twenty or more motor vehicles, required to be inspected, are registered in this state or to whom said number of vehicles are leased for a period of not less than six continuous months and who operates a motor vehicle repair garage or shop adequately equipped and manned, as required by section 42-4-308 and the rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto, may be licensed to perform said inspections as a fleet inspection station. Said inspections shall be made by licensed emissions inspectors or emissions mechanics. Such stations shall be subject to all licensing regulations and supervision applicable to inspection and readjustment stations. Fleet inspection stations shall inspect fleet vehicles in accordance with applicable requirements pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the commission. No person licensed pursuant to this section may conduct emissions inspections on motor vehicles owned by employees of such person or the general public, but only on those vehicles owned or operated by the person subject to the fleet inspection requirements. Any such motor vehicles are not eligible for a certificate of emissions waiver and shall be inspected annually. The commission shall promulgate such rules as may be necessary to establish non-loaded mode static idle inspection procedures, standards, and criteria under this section.

(b) Each fleet operator licensed or operating within the enhanced program area who is also licensed to operate a fleet inspection station shall assure that a representative sample of one-half of one percent or one vehicle, whichever is greater, of such operator's vehicle fleet is inspected annually at an inspection-only facility or enhanced inspection center. An analysis of the data gathered from any such inspection shall be performed by the department of public health and environment and provided to the department of revenue to determine compliance by such fleet with the self-inspection requirements of this section. An inspection is not required prior to the sale of a motor vehicle with at least twelve months remaining before the vehicle's certification of emissions compliance expires if such certification was issued when the vehicle was new.

(2) (a) As an alternative to subsection (1) of this section, any person having twenty or more vehicles registered in this state that are required to be inspected pursuant to section 42-4-310 may contract for periodic inspection services with a contractor or an inspection-only facility.

Such inspections shall be in compliance with non-fleet vehicle requirements as specified in this part 3 and shall be performed by an authorized or licensed emissions inspector who shall be subject to all requirements and oversight as applicable.

(b) Upon retail sale of any vehicle subject to fleet inspection to a party other than a fleet operator, such vehicle shall be inspected at an authorized enhanced inspection center, licensed inspection-only facility, or licensed inspection and readjustment station, as applicable. A certificate of emissions compliance shall be required as a condition of the retail sale of any such vehicle.

(3) (a) Any person licensed as a motor vehicle dealer pursuant to part 1 of article 20 of title 44 in whose name twenty or more motor vehicles are registered or inventoried or consigned for retail sale in this state that are required to be inspected shall comply with the requirements of section 42-4-310 for the issuance of a certificate of emissions compliance at the time of the retail sale of the vehicle.

(b) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (3)(b) is effective until July 1, 2027.]*** Within the enhanced emissions program, motor vehicle dealers licensed pursuant to part 1 of article 20 of title 44 may contract for used motor vehicle inspection services by a licensed motor vehicle dealer test facility. Pursuant to rules of the commission, inspection procedures shall include a loaded mode transient dynamometer test cycle in combination with appropriate idle short tests.

(b) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (3)(b) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of this subsection (3)(b) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]*** Within the enhanced emissions program, motor vehicle dealers licensed pursuant to part 1 of article 20 of title 44 may contract for used motor vehicle inspection services by a licensed motor vehicle dealer test facility. Except as provided in section 42-4-310 (2)(a)(II) and pursuant to rules of the commission, inspection procedures must include a loaded mode transient dynamometer test cycle in combination with appropriate idle short tests.

(c) 1981 and older model vehicles held in inventory and offered for retail sale by a used vehicle dealer may be inspected by a licensed inspection-only facility.

(d) Within the basic emissions program, any person licensed as a motor vehicle dealer pursuant to part 1 of article 20 of title 44 may be licensed to conduct inspections pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

(4) Nothing in this section shall preclude a fleet or motor vehicle dealer test facility from participating in the basic or enhanced emissions program pursuant to this part 3 with the requirements of such program being determined by the county of residence or operation.

(5) (a) Motor vehicle dealers selling any vehicle to be registered in the enhanced program area shall comply with the enhanced program requirements.

(b) Motor vehicle dealers selling any vehicle to be registered in the basic program area shall comply with the basic program requirements.

(c) If used motor vehicles for sale have been inspected by a motor vehicle dealer test facility, the motor vehicle dealer shall comply with the standards and requirements established for motor vehicle dealer test facilities.

(6) (a) On and after June 1, 1996, a motor vehicle dealer or a used motor vehicle dealer licensed pursuant to part 1 of article 20 of title 44 that sells any vehicle subject to the enhanced emissions program may comply with sections 42-4-304 (3)(d) and 42-4-310 by providing the consumer of the vehicle a voucher purchased by the dealer from the contractor for the centralized enhanced emissions program, with or without charge to the consumer, up to the maximum amount charged for an emissions inspection at an enhanced inspection center. The voucher shall cover the cost of an emissions inspection of the vehicle at an enhanced inspection center and shall entitle the consumer to such an emissions inspection.

(b) If a vehicle inspected with a voucher as authorized in this subsection (6)(b) fails a test at an enhanced inspection center and is returned to the dealer within five business days after its purchase, the dealer, at its option, shall repair the motor vehicle to pass the emissions test, pay the consumer to obtain from a third party any repairs needed to pass the emissions test, or repurchase the vehicle at the vehicle's purchase price. After such payment, repair, or repurchase, a dealer is no longer liable to the consumer for compliance with the requirements of the enhanced emissions program.

(c) The voucher to be delivered at time of sale shall set forth the conditions described in paragraph (b) of this subsection (6) on a form prescribed by the department of revenue.

(7) A motor vehicle dealer shall have a motor vehicle inspected annually pursuant to section 42-4-310, but shall not be required to have such vehicle inspected more than once a year.

**Source: L. 94:** (1)(b) amended, p. 2812, § 587, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2296, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (6) added, p. 1352, § 1, effective June 1. **L. 2003:** (1)(b) amended and (7) added, p. 1603, § 3, effective August 6. **L. 2017:** (3)(a), (3)(b), (3)(d), and (6)(a) amended, (SB 17-240), ch. 395, p. 2066, § 52, effective July 1. **L. 2018:** (3)(b) amended, (HB 18-1375), ch. 274, p. 1724, § 88, effective May 29; (3)(a), (3)(b), (3)(d), and (6)(a) amended, (SB 18-030), ch. 7, p. 141, § 18, effective October 1. **L. 2022:** (6)(b) amended, (SB 22-179), ch. 485, p. 3527, § 7, effective August 10. **L. 2025:** (3)(b) amended, (HB 25-1281), ch. 176, p. 736, § 5, effective July 1, 2027.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-311 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-309 was relocated to § 42-4-306.

(2) Amendments to subsection (1)(b) by House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

(3) Amendments to subsection (3)(b) by HB 18-1375 and SB 18-030 were harmonized.

(4) Section 13(2) of chapter 176 (HB 25-1281), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to applications submitted or offenses committed on or after January 1, 2028.

**42-4-310. Periodic emissions control inspection required - certificate of emissions compliance - rules - definitions.**

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

(II) (A) If title to a roadworthy motor vehicle, as defined in section 42-6-102 (15), for which a certification of emissions compliance or emissions waiver must be obtained pursuant to this paragraph (a) is being transferred to a new owner, the new owner may require at the time of sale that the prior owner provide said certification as required for the county of residence of the new owner.

(B) The new owner shall submit such certification to the department of revenue or an authorized agent thereof with application for registration of the motor vehicle.

(C) If such vehicle is being registered in the program area for the first time, the owner shall obtain any certification required for the county where registration is sought and shall submit such certification to the department of revenue or an authorized agent thereof with such owner's application for the registration of the motor vehicle. A motor vehicle being registered in the program area for the first time may be registered without an inspection or certification if the vehicle has not yet reached its fourth model year or a later model year established by the commission pursuant to section 42-4-306 (8)(b).

(D) Except for a motor vehicle that was registered as a collector's item before September 1, 2009, and meets the requirements of sections 42-12-101 (2)(b) and 42-12-404 (2), to be sold or transferred or to renew the registration, a 1976 or newer model motor vehicle registered as a collector's item under article 12 of this title must be inspected and have a certification of emissions control. The certification of emissions control is valid for sixty months.

(b) (I) (A) Repealed.

(B) New motor vehicles owned by the United States government or an agency thereof or by the state of Colorado or any agency or political subdivision thereof that would be registered in the program area shall be issued a certification of emissions compliance without inspection that shall expire on the anniversary of the day of the issuance of such certification when such vehicle has reached its fourth model year or a later model year established by the commission pursuant to section 42-4-306 (8)(b). Prior to the expiration of such certification such vehicle shall be inspected and a certification of emissions control shall be obtained therefor.

(C) Effective May 28, 1999, 1982 and newer model motor vehicles that are owned by the United States government or an agency thereof or by the state of Colorado or any agency or political subdivision thereof that would be registered in the program area shall be inspected every two years, and shall be issued a certification of emissions compliance that shall be valid for twenty-four months; except that vehicles owned or operated by any agency or political subdivision that is authorized and licensed pursuant to section 42-4-309 to inspect fleet vehicles shall be inspected annually.

(D) Effective May 28, 1999, 1981 and older model motor vehicles that are owned by the United States government or an agency thereof or by the state of Colorado or any agency or political subdivision thereof that would be registered in the program area shall be inspected once each year, and shall be issued a certification of emissions compliance that shall be valid for twelve months.

(E) Any vehicle subject to this subparagraph (I) that is suspected of having an emissions problem may undergo a voluntary inspection as provided in subparagraph (IV) of paragraph (c) of this subsection (1).

(II) (A) Motor vehicle dealers shall purchase verification of emissions test forms for the sum of twenty-five cents per form from the department or persons authorized by the department to make such sales to be used only on new motor vehicles. No refund or credit shall be allowed for any unused verification of emissions test forms. New motor vehicles required under this section to have a verification of emissions test form shall be issued a certification of emissions compliance without inspection, which shall expire on the anniversary of the day of the issuance of such certification when such vehicle has reached its fourth model year or a later model year established by the commission pursuant to section 42-4-306 (8)(b). Prior to the expiration of

such certification such vehicle shall pass a clean screen test or be inspected and a certification of emissions control shall be obtained therefor.

(B) 1982 and newer model motor vehicles required pursuant to this section to have a certification of emissions control shall be inspected at the time of the sale or transfer of any such vehicle and, prior to registration renewal, shall be issued a certification of emissions control that shall be valid for twenty-four months except as provided under section 42-4-309. An inspection is not required prior to the sale of a motor vehicle with at least twelve months remaining before the vehicle's certification of emissions compliance expires if such certification was issued when the vehicle was new. This sub-subparagraph (B) does not apply to the sale of a motor vehicle that is inoperable or otherwise cannot be tested in accordance with regulations promulgated by the department of revenue if the seller of the motor vehicle provides a written notice to the purchaser pursuant to the requirements of subsection (4) of this section.

(C) 1981 and older model motor vehicles required pursuant to this section to have a certification of emissions control shall be inspected at the time of the sale or transfer of any such vehicle and, prior to registration renewal, shall be issued a certification of emissions control that shall be valid for twelve months. This sub-subparagraph (C) does not apply to the sale of a motor vehicle which is inoperable or otherwise cannot be tested in accordance with regulations promulgated by the department of revenue if the seller of the motor vehicle provides a written notice to the purchaser pursuant to the requirements of subsection (4) of this section.

(III) Upon registration or renewal of registration of a motor vehicle required to have a certification of emissions control, the department shall issue a tab identifying the vehicle as requiring certification of emissions control. The tab shall be displayed from the time of registration. The verification of emissions test shall also be displayed on the motor vehicle in a location prescribed by the department of revenue consistent with federal regulations.

(c) (I) Effective October 1, 1989, those motor vehicles owned by nonresidents who reside in either the basic or enhanced emissions program areas or by residents who reside outside the program area who are employed for at least ninety days in any twelve-month period in a program area or who are attending school in a program area, and are operated in either the basic or enhanced emissions program areas for at least ninety days, shall be inspected as required by this section and a valid certification of emissions compliance or emissions waiver shall be obtained as required for the county where said person is employed or attends school. Such nonresidents include, but are not limited to, all military personnel, temporarily assigned employees of business enterprises, and persons engaged in activities at the Olympic training center.

(II) Any person owning or operating a business and any postsecondary educational institution located in a program area shall inform all persons employed by such business or attending classes at such institution that they are employed or attending classes in a program area and are required to comply with the provisions of subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (c).



(III) Vehicles that are registered in a program area and are being operated outside such area but within another program area shall comply with all program requirements of the area where such vehicles are being operated. Vehicles registered in a program area that are being temporarily operated outside the state at the time of registration or registration renewal may apply to the department of revenue for a temporary exemption from program requirements. Upon return to the program area, such vehicles must be in compliance with all requirements within fifteen days. A temporary exemption shall not be granted if the vehicle will be operated in an emissions testing area in another state unless proof of emissions from that area is submitted.

(IV) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent or shall be interpreted so as to hinder the voluntary inspection of any motor vehicle in the enhanced emissions program. A certificate of emissions control issued under the provisions of the enhanced emissions program shall be acceptable as a demonstration of compliance within the basic program for vehicle registration purposes. In order to provide motorist protection, those vehicles voluntarily inspected and that fail said inspection but that are warrantable under manufacturers' emissions control warranties pursuant to section 207 (A) and (B) of the federal act shall comply with the emissions-related repair requirements of this part 3.

(V) Motor vehicles operated in the enhanced emissions program area, and required to be inspected pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (c), shall comply with the inspection requirements of the enhanced emissions program area and are not required to comply with the inspection requirements of the basic emissions program area.

(d) (I) Repealed.

(II) (A) For the basic emissions program, effective January 1, 1994, for businesses which operate nineteen or fewer motor vehicles and for 1981 or older private motor vehicles required to be registered in the basic emissions program area, after any adjustments or repairs required pursuant to section 42-4-306, if total expenditures of at least seventy-five dollars have been made to bring the vehicle into compliance with applicable emissions standards and the vehicle still does not meet such standards, a certification of emissions waiver shall be issued for such vehicle.

(B) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2011, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 246, § 11, effective August 10, 2011.)

(III) Repealed.

(IV) For the basic emissions program, effective January 1, 1994, for businesses that operate nineteen or fewer vehicles and for private motor vehicles only of a model year 1982 or later required to be registered in the basic emissions program area, after any adjustments or repairs required pursuant to section 42-4-306, if total expenditures of at least two hundred dollars have been made to bring the vehicle into compliance with the applicable emissions standards and the vehicle still does not meet such standards, a certification of emissions waiver shall be issued for

such vehicle. For vehicles not older than two years or that have not more than twenty-four thousand miles, or such period of time and mileage as established for warranty protection by amendments to federal regulations, no emissions-related repair waivers shall be issued due to the provisions and enforcement of section 207 (A) and (B) of the federal act relating to emissions control systems components and performance warranties. Vehicles that are owned by the state of Colorado or any agency or political subdivision thereof are not eligible for emissions-related repair waivers under this subparagraph (IV).

(V) Repealed.

(VI) For the enhanced emissions program, effective January 1, 1995, for businesses that operate nineteen or fewer vehicles and for private motor vehicles only of a model year 1968 and later required to be registered in the enhanced emissions program area, after any adjustments or repairs required pursuant to section 42-4-306, if total expenditures of at least four hundred fifty dollars have been made to bring the vehicle into compliance with applicable emissions standards and the vehicle does not meet such standards, a certification of emissions waiver shall be issued for such vehicle except as prescribed in subparagraph (XII) of this paragraph (d) pertaining to vehicle warranty. The four-hundred-fifty-dollar minimum expenditure may be adjusted annually by an amount not to exceed the percentage, if any, by which the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPIU) for the Denver-Boulder metropolitan statistical area for the preceding year differs from such index for 1989. Vehicles that are owned by the state of Colorado or any agency or political subdivision thereof are not eligible for emissions-related repair waivers under this subparagraph (VI).

(VII) Repealed.

(VIII) (A) For the enhanced emissions program except as provided in sub-subparagraph (B) of this subparagraph (VIII), for businesses that operate nineteen or fewer vehicles and for private motor vehicles only of a model year 1967 or earlier required to be registered in the enhanced emissions program area, after any adjustments or repairs required under section 42-4-306, if total expenditures of at least seventy-five dollars have been made to bring the vehicle into compliance with applicable emissions standards and the vehicle still does not meet the standards, a certification of emissions waiver shall be issued for the vehicle.

(B) This subparagraph (VIII) shall apply in Boulder county, effective July 1, 1995.

(IX) (A) For the enhanced emissions program except as provided in sub-subparagraph (B) of this subparagraph (IX) effective January 1, 1995, for vehicles subject to a transient, loaded mode dynamometer inspection procedure under the enhanced program as determined by the commission, a certificate of waiver may be issued by an authorized state representative, if after failing a retest, at which point the minimum repair cost limit of four hundred fifty dollars has not been met, a complete and documented physical and functional diagnosis of the vehicle

performed at an emissions technical center indicates that no additional emissions-related repairs would be effective or needed.

(B) This subparagraph (IX) shall apply in Boulder county, effective July 1, 1995.

(X) Subject to the provisions of subparagraph (V) of this paragraph (d), a certificate of emissions control shall not be issued for vehicles in the program area exhibiting smoke or indications of tampering with or poor maintenance of emissions control systems including on-board diagnostic systems.

(XI) As used in this paragraph (d), "total expenditures" means those expenditures directly related to adjustment or repair of a motor vehicle to reduce exhaust or evaporative emissions to a level which complies with applicable emissions standards. The term does not include an inspection fee, or any costs of adjustment, repair, or replacement necessitated by the disconnection of, tampering with, or abuse of air pollution control equipment, improper fuel use, or visible smoke.

(XII) No certification of emissions waiver shall be issued for vehicles not older than two years or which have not more than twenty-four thousand miles, or are of such other age and mileage as established for warranty protection under the federal act in accordance with the provisions and enforcement of section 207 (A) and (B) of the federal act relating to emissions control component and systems performance warranties.

(2) (a) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (2)(a) is effective until July 1, 2027.]*** The emissions inspection required under this section shall include an analysis of tail pipe and evaporative emissions. After January 1, 1994, such inspection shall include an analysis of emissions control equipment including on-board diagnostic systems, chlorofluorocarbons, and visible smoke emissions for the basic emissions program area and the enhanced emissions program area and emissions testing that meets the performance standards set by federal requirements for the enhanced emissions program area by means of procedures specified by regulation of the commission to determine whether the motor vehicle qualifies for issuance of a certification of emissions compliance. For motor vehicles of the model year 1975 or later, not tested under a transient load on a dynamometer, said inspection shall also include a visual inspection of emissions control equipment pursuant to rules of the commission.

(2) (a) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (2)(a) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of this subsection (2)(a) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]***

(I) To determine whether a motor vehicle qualifies for issuance of a certification of emissions compliance, the emissions inspection required under this section must include:

(A) An analysis of tailpipe and evaporative emissions;

(B) An analysis of emissions control equipment, including on-board diagnostic systems, chlorofluorocarbons, and visible smoke emissions for the basic emissions program area and the enhanced emissions program area;

(C) Emissions testing that meets the performance standards set by federal requirements for the enhanced emissions program area by means of procedures specified by rule of the commission; and

(D) For motor vehicles of the model year 1975 or later, not tested under a transient load on a dynamometer, a visual inspection of emissions control equipment pursuant to rules of the commission.

(II) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(a)(I) of this section, a kei vehicle is not tested using a dynamometer. A kei vehicle must be tested using a two-speed idle test. To be issued a certificate of emissions compliance, a kei vehicle must pass the emissions standards for the model year it was manufactured.

(b) and (c) Repealed.

(d) (I) In the basic emissions program area, effective January 1, 1994, in order to be issued a certificate of emissions waiver, appropriate adjustments and repairs must have been performed at a licensed inspection and readjustment station by a licensed emissions mechanic.

(II) In the enhanced emissions program area, effective January 1, 1995, in order to be issued a certificate of emissions waiver, appropriate adjustments and repairs must have been performed by a technician at a registered repair facility within the enhanced emissions program area.

(III) Adjustments and repairs performed by a registered repair facility and technician within the enhanced emissions program area shall be sufficient for compliance with the provisions of this paragraph (d) in the basic program area.

(3) (a) Effective July 1, 1993, any home rule city, city, town, or county shall, after holding a public hearing and receiving public comment and upon request by the governing body of such local government to the department of public health and environment and the department of revenue and after approval by the general assembly acting by bill pursuant to paragraph (e) of this subsection (3), be included in the program area established pursuant to sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316. When such a request is made, said departments and governing body shall agree to a start-up date for the program in such area, and, on or after such date, all motor vehicles, as defined in section 42-4-304 (18), which are registered in the area shall be inspected and required to comply with the provisions of sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316 and rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto as if such area was included in the program area. Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection (3), the department of public health and environment and the department of revenue, the executive director, and the commission shall perform all functions

and exercise all powers related to the program in areas included in the program pursuant to this subsection (3) that they are otherwise required to perform under sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316.

(b) Effective July 1, 1993, notwithstanding the provisions of section 42-4-304 (20), a local government with jurisdiction over an area excluded from the program area pursuant to section 42-4-304 (20) may request inclusion in the program area, and the exclusion under section 42-4-304 (20) shall not apply to vehicles registered within such area.

(c) Effective July 1, 1993, the inclusion pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection (3) of any home rule city, city, town, or county in the program area shall not be submitted to the United States environmental protection agency as a revision to the state implementation plan or otherwise included in such plan. Any governing body which requests inclusion of an area pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection (3) in the program area may, after a minimum period of five years, request termination of the program in such area, and the program in such area shall be terminated thirty days after the receipt by the department of revenue of such a request.

(d) Effective January 1, 1994, except for those entities included within the program area pursuant to section 42-4-304 (20), for inclusion in the program area, any home rule city, city, town, or county shall have the basic emissions program test requirements and standards implemented as its emissions inspection program.

(e) Unless a home rule city, city, town, or county violates national ambient air quality standards as established by the environmental protection agency, the inclusion pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection (3) of any home rule city, city, town, or county in the program area shall be contingent upon approval by the general assembly acting by bill to include any such home rule city, city, town, or county in the program area.

(4) (a) The seller of a motor vehicle that is inoperable or otherwise cannot be tested in accordance with rules promulgated by the department of revenue or that is being sold pursuant to part 18 or part 21 of this article is not required to obtain a certification of emissions control prior to the sale of the vehicle if the seller provides a written notice to the purchaser prior to completion of the sale that clearly indicates the following:

(I) The vehicle does not currently comply with the emissions requirements for the program area;

(II) The seller does not warrant that the vehicle will comply with emissions requirements; and

(III) The purchaser is responsible for complying with emissions requirements prior to registering the vehicle in the emissions program area.

(b) The department shall prepare a form to comply with the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) and shall make such form available to dealers and other persons who are selling motor vehicles which are inoperable or otherwise cannot be tested in accordance with regulations promulgated by the department of revenue.

(c) If a motor vehicle is exempted from the requirement for obtaining a certification of emissions control prior to sale pursuant to this subsection (4), the new owner of the motor vehicle is required to obtain a certification of emissions control for such motor vehicle before registering it in the program area.

(5) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any eligible motor vehicle registered in a clean screen program county that complies with the requirements of the clean screen program under the provisions of sections 42-4-305 (12), 42-4-306 (23), and 42-4-307 (10.5)(a), by passing the requirements of such program and applicable rules shall be deemed to have complied with the inspection requirements of this section for the applicable emissions inspection cycle. For purposes of this subsection (5), "eligible motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle, including trucks, for model years 1978 and earlier having a gross vehicle weight rating of six thousand pounds or less and for model years 1979 and newer having a gross vehicle weight rating of eight thousand five hundred pounds or less.

(b) (I) If the commission does not specify a date for authorized agents in the basic emissions program area to begin collecting emissions inspection fees at the time of registration pursuant to section 42-3-304 (19)(a), or if the contractor determines that a motor vehicle required to be registered in the basic program area has complied with the inspection requirements pursuant to this subsection (5), a notice shall be sent to the owner of the vehicle identifying the owner of the vehicle, the license plate number, and other pertinent registration information, and stating that the vehicle has successfully complied with the applicable emission requirements. The notice must also include a notification that the registered owner of the vehicle may return the notice to the authorized agent with the payment as set forth on the notice to pay for the clean screen program. The receipt of the payment from the motor vehicle owner is notice that the motor vehicle has complied with the inspection requirements pursuant to this subsection (5).

(II) For vehicles with registration renewals coming due on or after the dates specified by the commission for authorized agents to collect emissions inspection fees at the time of registration, if the contractor determines that a motor vehicle required to be registered in the program area has complied with the inspection requirements pursuant to this subsection (5), the contractor shall send a notice to the department of revenue identifying the owner of the vehicle, the license plate number, and any other pertinent registration information, stating that the vehicle has successfully complied with the applicable emission requirements.

(c) The department shall, by contract with a private vendor or by rule, establish a procedure for a vehicle owner to obtain the necessary emissions-related documents for the registration and

operation of a vehicle that has complied with the inspection requirements pursuant to this subsection (5).

**Source:** **L. 94:** (3)(a) amended, p. 2812, § 588, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2297, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1)(d)(VI), (1)(d)(X), and (3)(b) amended, p. 954, § 10, effective May 25. **L. 96:** (1)(c) amended, p. 1010, § 1, effective May 23. **L. 98:** (1)(a)(I), (1)(b)(II)(B), and (1)(b)(II)(C) amended and (4) added, p. 230, § 2, effective April 10; (5) added, p. 893, § 5, effective May 26. **L. 99:** (1)(b)(I), (1)(d)(IV), and (1)(d)(VI) amended, p. 951, § 1, effective May 28. **L. 2001:** (1)(a)(I), (1)(b)(II)(A), (1)(d)(VI), (5)(b), and (5)(c) amended, p. 1019, § 6, effective June 5. **L. 2002:** (5)(a) and (5)(b) amended, pp. 969, 966, §§ 6, 2, effective June 1. **L. 2003:** (1)(a)(I), (1)(b)(I)(B), (1)(b)(II)(A), and (1)(b)(II)(B) amended, p. 1603, § 4, effective August 6; (1)(a)(I), IP(4)(a), and (4)(c) amended, p. 2186, § 2, effective August 6. **L. 2005:** (5)(b)(I) amended, p. 1175, § 14, effective August 8; (1)(a)(II)(C) and (1)(c)(III) amended, p. 715, § 1, effective September 1. **L. 2006:** (1)(b)(II)(A) amended, p. 1028, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (1)(d)(II)(B) and (1)(d)(VIII)(A) amended, (SB 09-003), ch. 322, p. 1718, § 3, effective June 1. **L. 2011:** (1)(d)(II)(B) and (1)(d)(VIII)(A) amended, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 246, § 11, effective August 10. **L. 2013:** (1)(a)(II)(D) added, (HB 13-1071), ch. 370, p. 2161, § 4, effective August 7. **L. 2014:** (1)(a)(II)(D) amended, (HB 14-1056), ch. 23, p. 154, § 1, effective March 7. **L. 2016:** (1)(b)(I)(A) repealed, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 797, § 120, effective June 6. **L. 2017:** (1)(a)(I) amended, (SB 17-240), ch. 395, p. 2066, § 53, effective July 1; (5)(b) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 372, § 21, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** (1)(a)(I) amended, (SB 18-030), ch. 7, p. 142, § 19, effective October 1. **L. 2025:** (2)(a) amended, (HB 25-1281), ch. 176, p. 737, § 6, effective July 1, 2027.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-312 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-310 was relocated to § 42-4-308.

(2) Amendments to subsection (3)(a) by House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

(3) Subsections (1)(d)(I)(D), (1)(d)(III)(D), (1)(d)(V)(D), (1)(d)(VII)(B), (2)(b)(IV), and (2)(c)(IV) provided for the repeal of subsections (1)(d)(I), (1)(d)(III), (1)(d)(V), (1)(d)(VII), (2)(b), and (2)(c), respectively, effective July 1, 1995. (See L. 94, p. 2297.)

(4) Amendments to subsection (1)(a)(I) by House Bill 03-1016 and House Bill 03-1357 were harmonized.

(5) Section 13(2) of chapter 176 (HB 25-1281), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to applications submitted or offenses committed on or after January 1, 2028.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2001 act amending subsections (1)(a)(I), (1)(b)(II)(A), (1)(d)(VI), (5)(b), and (5)(c), see section 1 of chapter 278, Session Laws of Colorado 2001. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2006 act amending subsection (1)(b)(II)(A), see section 1 of chapter 225, Session Laws of Colorado 2006.

**42-4-311. Operation of inspection and readjustment stations - inspection-only facilities - fleet inspection stations - motor vehicle dealer test facilities - enhanced inspection centers - fees.**

(1) (a) No inspection and readjustment station license, inspection-only facility license, fleet inspection station license, motor vehicle dealer test facility license, or enhanced inspection center contract may be assigned or transferred or used at any other than the station, facility, or center therein designated, and every such license or authorization for an enhanced inspection center shall be posted in a conspicuous place at the facility designated.

(b) Beginning January 1, 1995, no emissions inspector license or authorization shall be assigned or transferred except to a licensed inspection-only facility, fleet inspection station, or enhanced inspection center.

(c) No emissions inspector or emissions mechanic license or authorization may be assigned or transferred, nor shall the inspection and adjustment be made by such emissions inspector or emissions mechanic except at a licensed inspection and readjustment station, inspection-only facility, fleet inspection station, or motor vehicle dealer test facility or authorized enhanced inspection center.

(2) A licensed inspection and readjustment station, inspection-only facility, fleet inspection station, motor vehicle dealer test facility, or authorized enhanced inspection center shall not issue a certification of emissions control to a motor vehicle except upon forms prescribed by the executive director. Such station, facility, or center shall not issue a certification of emissions compliance or emission waiver unless the licensed or authorized emissions inspector or emissions mechanic performing the inspection determines that:

(a) The exhaust gas and, if applicable, evaporative emissions from the motor vehicle comply with the applicable emissions standards and there is no evidence of emissions system tampering nor visible smoke, in which case a certification of emissions compliance shall be issued;

(b) The exhaust gas and, if applicable, evaporative emissions from the motor vehicle do not comply with the applicable emissions standards after the adjustments and repairs required by section 42-4-306 have been performed and there is no evidence of emissions system tampering or visible smoke, in which case a certification of emissions waiver shall be issued. A fleet



emission inspector shall not issue a certification of emissions waiver within the enhanced program area.

(3) (a) (I) A verification of emissions test shall be issued to a motor vehicle by a licensed inspection and readjustment station, inspection-only facility, fleet inspection station, or motor vehicle dealer test facility or authorized enhanced inspection center at the time such vehicle is issued a certification of emissions control.

(II) Except as required by section 42-12-404, no verification of emissions test is required to be issued to or required for any motor vehicle that is registered as a collector's item under section 42-12-401.

(III) (A) Repealed.

(B) Commencing July 1, 2001, every inspection and readjustment station, fleet inspection station, and inspection-only facility shall monthly transmit to the department the sum of twenty-five cents per motor vehicle inspection performed by such entity pursuant to this part 3 if the motor vehicle passes such inspection or is granted a waiver. No refund or credit shall be allowed for any unused verification of emissions test forms.

(C) The contractor shall monthly transmit to the department the sum of twenty-five cents per motor vehicle inspection performed by the contractor pursuant to this part 3 if the motor vehicle passes such inspection or is granted a waiver. No refund or credit shall be allowed for any unused verification of emissions test forms.

(b) The moneys collected by the department from the sale of verification forms shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit such moneys to the AIR account, which account is created within the highway users tax fund. Moneys from the AIR account, upon appropriation by the general assembly, shall be expended only to pay the costs of administration and enforcement of the automobile inspection and readjustment program by the department and the department of public health and environment.

(4) (a) (I) A licensed inspection and readjustment station, inspection-only facility, or motor vehicle dealer test facility shall charge a fee for the inspection of motor vehicles at facilities licensed or authorized within either the basic or enhanced emissions program. The commission may set or adjust the amount of the fee under section 42-4-306 (3)(b)(VI); except that the commission shall not set or adjust the fee for model year 1981 and older motor vehicles to exceed thirty dollars or for 1982 model year and newer motor vehicles to exceed fifty dollars.

(II) In no case shall any such fee exceed the maximum fee established by and posted by the station or facility pursuant to section 42-4-305 (5) for the inspection of any motor vehicle required to be inspected under section 42-4-310.

(b) A licensed emissions inspection and readjustment station shall charge a fee for performing the adjustments or repairs required for issuance of a certification of emissions waiver not to exceed the maximum charge established in section 42-4-310 and posted by the station pursuant to section 42-4-305.

(5) The fee charged in paragraph (a) of subsection (4) or subsection (6) of this section will be charged to all nonresident vehicle owners subject to the inspection requirement of section 42-4-310 and depending on the county of operation.

(6) (a) The amount of the fee charged for enhanced emissions inspections performed within the enhanced emissions program area on 1982 model year and newer motor vehicles shall not be any greater than that determined by the contract. The amount of the fee charged for clean screen inspections performed on vehicles registered in the basic emissions program area shall not be any greater than that determined by the contract and in no case greater than fifteen dollars. The amount of the fee must not exceed the amount of the maximum fee required to be posted by the enhanced inspection center pursuant to section 42-4-305 for the inspection of any motor vehicle required to be inspected under section 42-4-310. The commission may set or adjust the amount of the fees under section 42-4-306 (3)(b)(VI); except that the commission shall not set or adjust the fee amount to exceed fifty dollars.

(b) During the renewal of a contract entered into pursuant to section 42-4-307 (10), the commission may hold a hearing to determine the maximum fee that may be charged pursuant to the contract for inspections during any subsequent renewal term. The maximum fee amount must be based on estimated actual operating costs during the life of the contract, determined pursuant to the proceeding. The commission may adjust the amount of the fee under section 42-4-306 (3)(b)(VI).

(c) Repealed.

(7) At least one free reinspection shall be provided for those vehicles initially failed at the inspection and readjustment station, inspection-only facility, or enhanced inspection center which conducted the initial inspection, within ten calendar days of such initial inspection.

**Source: L. 94:** (3)(b) amended, p. 2813, § 589, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2304, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2001:** (3)(a)(III), (4)(a), and (6) amended, p. 1020, § 7, effective June 5. **L. 2002:** (4)(a) and (6)(a) amended, p. 967, § 3, effective June 1; (4)(a) amended, p. 1285, § 1, effective September 1; (4)(a) amended, p. 968, § 4, effective September 1. **L. 2006:** (6)(c) added, p. 1029, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2011:** IP(2), (2)(b), and (3)(a)(II) amended, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 246, § 12, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** (6)(c) repealed, (SB 12-034), ch. 107, p. 365, § 5, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** (3)(a)(II) amended, (HB 13-1071), ch. 370, p. 2161, § 5, effective August 7. **L. 2017:** (6)(b) amended, (HB 17-1005), ch.

8, p. 24, § 4, effective August 9. **L. 2025:** (4)(a)(I), (6)(a), and (6)(b) amended, (SB 25-321), ch. 387, p. 2176, § 4, effective June 3.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-313 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-311 was relocated to § 42-4-309.

(2) Amendments to subsection (3)(b) by House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

(3) Subsection (3)(a)(III)(A) provided for the repeal of subsection (3)(a)(III)(A) effective July 1, 2001. (See L. 2001, p. 1020.)

(4) Amendments to subsection (4)(a) by sections 3 and 4 of House Bill 02-1455 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2001 act amending subsections (3)(a)(III), (4)(a), and (6), see section 1 of chapter 278, Session Laws of Colorado 2001. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2006 act enacting subsection (6)(c), see section 1 of chapter 225, Session Laws of Colorado 2006.

**42-4-312. Improper representation as emissions inspection and readjustment station - inspection-only facility - fleet inspection station - motor vehicle dealer test facility - enhanced inspection center.**

(1) No person shall in any manner represent any place as an inspection and readjustment station, inspection-only facility, fleet inspection station, motor vehicle dealer test facility, or enhanced inspection center or shall claim to be a licensed emissions inspector or licensed emissions mechanic unless such station, facility, center, or person has been issued and operates under a valid license issued by the department or contract with the state. If the license or contract is canceled, suspended, or revoked, all evidence designating the station, facility, or center as a licensed inspection and readjustment station, inspection-only facility, fleet inspection station, or motor vehicle dealer test facility or authorized enhanced inspection center and indicative of licensed status of the station, facility, or center or emissions inspector or emissions mechanic shall be removed within five days after receipt of notice of such action.

(2) (a) The department shall have authority to suspend or revoke the inspection and readjustment station license, inspection-only facility license, fleet inspection license, or motor vehicle dealer test facility license or to seek termination of the contractor's contract and require surrender of said license and unused certification of emissions control forms and verification of

emissions test forms held by such licensee or contractor when such station, facility, or center is not equipped as required, when such station, facility, or center is not operating from a location for which the license or contract was issued, when the approved location has been altered so that it will no longer qualify as a licensed station or facility or authorized center, or when inspections, repairs, or adjustments are not being made in accordance with applicable laws and the rules and regulations of the department or commission.

(b) The department shall also have authority to suspend or revoke the license of an emissions inspector or emissions mechanic and require surrender of said license when it determines that said inspector or mechanic is not qualified to perform the inspections, repairs, or adjustments or when inspections, repairs, or adjustments are not being made in accordance with applicable laws and the rules and regulations of the department or the commission.

(3) In addition to any other grounds for revocation or suspension, authority to suspend and revoke inspection and readjustment station licenses, inspection-only facility licenses, fleet inspection station licenses, motor vehicle dealer test facility licenses, or enhanced inspection center contracts, or to seek termination of a contractor's contract or an emissions inspector's or emissions mechanic's license and to require surrender of said licenses and unused certification of inspection forms and records of said station shall also exist upon a showing that:

(a) A vehicle which had been inspected and issued a certification of emissions compliance by said station, facility, or center or by said inspector or mechanic was in such condition that it did not, at the time of such inspection, comply with the law or the rules and regulations for issuance of such a certification; or

(b) An inspection and readjustment station, or emissions mechanic has demonstrated a pattern of issuing certifications of emissions waivers to vehicles which, at the time of issuance of such certifications, did not comply with the law or the rules and regulations for issuance of such certifications.

(4) Upon suspending the license of an inspection and readjustment station, inspection-only facility, fleet inspection station, or motor vehicle dealer test facility or an enhanced inspection center contract or of an emissions inspector or emissions mechanic as authorized in this section, the executive director shall immediately notify the licensee or contractor in writing and, upon request therefor, shall grant the licensee or contractor a hearing within thirty days after receipt of such request, such hearing to be held in the county wherein the licensee or contractor resides, unless the executive director and the licensee or contractor agree that such hearing may be held in some other county. The executive director may request a hearing officer to act in the executive director's behalf. Upon such hearing, the executive director or the hearing officer may administer oaths and may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant books, records, and papers. Upon such hearing, the order of suspension or revocation may be rescinded, or, for good cause shown, the suspension may be extended for such period of time as

the hearing person or body may determine, not exceeding one year, or the revocation order may be affirmed or reversed. The licensee shall not perform under the license pending the hearing and decision.

(5) Upon the final cancellation or termination of a contractor's contract, the executive director shall invoke the provisions of such contract to continue service until a new contract can be secured with qualified persons as supervised by the department of revenue.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2307, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-314 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-312 was relocated to § 42-4-310.

#### **42-4-313. Penalties.**

(1) (a) No person shall make, issue, or knowingly use any imitation or deceptively similar or counterfeit certification of emissions control form.

(b) No person shall possess a certification of emissions control if such person knows the same is fictitious, or was issued for another motor vehicle, or was issued without an emissions inspection having been made when required.

(c) Any person who violates any provision of this subsection (1) is guilty of a class A traffic infraction.

(2) (a) No emissions inspector or emissions mechanic shall issue a certification of emissions control for a motor vehicle which does not qualify for the certification or verification issued.

(b) Any emissions inspector or emissions mechanic who issues a certification of emissions control in violation of subsection (2)(a) of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501.

(3) (a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle registered or required to be registered in this state, nor shall any person allow such a motor vehicle to be parked on public property or on private property available for public use, without such vehicle having passed any necessary emissions test. The owner of any motor vehicle that is in violation of this paragraph (a) shall be responsible for payment of any penalty imposed under this section unless such owner proves that the motor vehicle was in the possession of another person without the owner's permission at the time of the violation.

(b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2001, p. 1025, § 11, effective June 5, 2001.)

(c) Any vehicle owner who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor traffic offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars payable within thirty days after conviction.

(d) Any nonowner driver who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor traffic offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of fifteen dollars, payable within thirty days after conviction.

(e) The owner or driver may, in lieu of appearance, submit to the court of competent jurisdiction, within thirty days after the issuance of the notice and summons, the certification or proof of mailing specified in this subsection (3).

(f) Any fine collected pursuant to the provisions of this subsection (3) shall be retained by the jurisdiction in whose name such penalty was assessed.

(g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of any municipality, city, county, or city and county to adopt and enforce an ordinance or resolution pertaining to the enforcement of emissions control inspection requirements.

(h) to (j) Repealed.

(4) (a) For the emissions program, a contractor who is awarded a contract to perform emissions inspections within the emissions program area shall be held accountable to the department of public health and environment and the department of revenue. Any such contractor shall be subject to civil penalties in accordance with this section or article 7 of title 25, C.R.S., as appropriate, for any violation of applicable laws or rules and regulations of the department of revenue or the commission.

(b) (I) Pursuant to the provisions of article 4 of title 24, C.R.S., the executive director may suspend for a period not less than six months the license of any operator or employee operating an inspection-only facility, fleet inspection station, or motor vehicle dealer test facility or may impose an administrative fine pursuant to subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (b), or may both suspend a license and impose a fine, if any such operator or employee, inspection-only facility, fleet inspection station, or motor vehicle dealer test facility engages in any of the following:

- (A) Intentionally passing a failing vehicle;
- (B) Performing any test by an unlicensed inspector;
- (C) Performing a test on falsified test equipment;
- (D) Failing a passing vehicle;
- (E) Flagrantly misusing control documents; or

(F) Engaging in a pattern of noncompliance with any regulations of the department of revenue or the commission.

(II) The contract for operation of enhanced inspection centers shall specify administrative fines to be imposed for the violations enumerated in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b).

(c) Pursuant to the provisions of article 4 of title 24, C.R.S., the executive director shall impose administrative fines in amounts set by the executive director of not less than twenty-five dollars and not more than one thousand dollars against any operator or employee operating an inspection and readjustment station, an inspection-only facility, or a motor vehicle dealer test facility, or any contractor operating an enhanced inspection center or clean screen contractor that engages in two or more incidents per person, station, facility, or center, of any of the following:

- (I) Test data entry violations;
- (II) Test sequence violations;
- (III) Emission retest procedural violations;
- (IV) Vehicle emissions tag replacement test procedural violations;
- (V) Performing any emissions test on noncertified equipment;
- (VI) Wait-time and lane availability violations;
- (VII) Physical emissions test examination violations;
- (VIII) Knowingly passing failing vehicles; or
- (IX) Knowingly failing passing vehicles.

(5) A person that violates this section violates section 18-5-121 and, in addition to any other penalty, is subject to the penalties of section 18-5-121 (6).

**Source:** **L. 94:** (4)(a) amended, p. 2813, § 590, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2308, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2001:** (1)(a), (1)(b), (2), (3)(a), (3)(b), (4)(a), and (4)(c) amended, p. 1025, § 11, effective June 5. **L. 2006:** (3)(h), (3)(i), and (3)(j) added, p. 1029, § 8, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** (3)(h), (3)(i), and (3)(j) repealed, (SB 12-034), ch. 107, p. 365, § 6, effective August 8. **L. 2021:** (1)(c) and (2)(b) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3304, § 726, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2025:** (5) added, (HB 25-1076), ch. 16, p. 61, § 3, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-315 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-313 was relocated to § 42-4-311.

(2) Amendments to subsection (4)(a) by House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

**Cross references:** (1) For the penalty for a class A traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for emissions inspections violations of subsections (3)(c) and (3)(d), see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(E).

(2) For the legislative declaration contained in the 2001 act amending subsections (1)(a), (1)(b), (2), (3)(a), (3)(b), (4)(a), and (4)(c), see section 1 of chapter 278, Session Laws of Colorado 2001. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2006 act enacting subsections (3)(h), (3)(i), (3)(j), see section 1 of chapter 225, Session Laws of Colorado 2006.

**42-4-314. Automobile emissions control systems - tampering - operation of vehicle - penalty - rules.**

(1) A person shall not knowingly disconnect, deactivate, or otherwise render inoperable a motor vehicle's emissions control system that has been installed by the manufacturer of any automobile of a model year of 1968 or later, except to repair or replace a part or all of the system.

(2) A person shall not operate on a highway an automobile described in subsection (1) of this section knowing that the emissions control system installed on the automobile has been disconnected, deactivated, or rendered inoperable.

(3) (a) A person who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section commits a class A traffic infraction and shall be fined thirty-five dollars pursuant to section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(N). The department shall not assess any points under section 42-2-127 for a conviction pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) of this section.

(b) A person who violates subsection (6) of this section commits a class A traffic infraction and shall be fined one hundred dollars pursuant to section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(N). The department shall not assess any points under section 42-2-127 for a conviction pursuant to subsection (6) of this section.

(4) The air quality control commission may adopt rules and regulations pursuant to sections 25-7-109 and 25-7-110, C.R.S., which permit or allow for the alteration, modification, or disconnection of manufacturer-installed air pollution control systems or manufacturer tuning specifications on motor vehicles for the purpose of controlling vehicle emissions. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the alteration or the conversion of a motor vehicle to operate on a gaseous fuel if the resultant emissions are at levels complying with state and federal standards for that model year of motor vehicle.



(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the adjustment or modification of motor vehicles to reduce vehicle emissions pursuant to section 215 of the federal "Clean Air Act", as amended, 42 U.S.C. sec. 7549.

(6) (a) **Nuisance exhibition of motor vehicle exhaust - prohibition.** A person shall not engage in a nuisance exhibition of motor vehicle exhaust, which is the knowing release of soot, smoke, or other particulate emissions from a motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of fourteen thousand pounds or less into the air and onto roadways, other motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians, in a manner that obstructs or obscures another person's view of the roadway, other users of the roadway, or a traffic control device or otherwise creates a hazard to a driver, bicyclist, or pedestrian.

(b) The prohibition set forth in subsection (6)(a) of this section does not apply to:

(I) A commercial vehicle, as defined in section 42-1-102 (17.5);

(II) A common carrier, as defined in section 40-1-102 (3)(a)(I);

(III) A motor carrier, as defined in section 40-10.1-101 (10);

(IV) A motor carrier of passengers, permitted pursuant to section 40-10.1-302;

(V) A motor carrier of towed motor vehicles, permitted pursuant to section 40-10.1-401;

(VI) A motor carrier of household goods, permitted pursuant to section 40-10.1-502;

(VII) A motor vehicle used for agricultural purposes; or

(VIII) Any other vehicle used for commercial activities.

(7) If a motor vehicle's emissions control system has been disconnected, deactivated, or rendered inoperable, the division may notify the executive director that the owner of the motor vehicle has violated subsection (1) or (2) of this section.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2311, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2017:** (3) amended and (6) added, (SB 17-278), ch. 323, p. 1742, § 1, effective June 5. **L. 2025:** (1) and (2) amended and (7) added, (SB 25-321), ch. 387, p. 2176, § 5, effective June 3.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1210 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-314 was relocated to § 42-4-312.

#### **42-4-315. Warranties.**

No provision of sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316 shall be deemed to prevent, or interpreted so as to hinder, the enforcement of any applicable motor vehicle part or emissions control systems performance warranty.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2311, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-315.5 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-315 was relocated to § 42-4-313.

#### **42-4-316. AIR program - demonstration of compliance with ambient air quality standards and transportation conformity.**

(1) If the commission and the lead air quality planning agency of any portion of the program area agree that it has been demonstrated that any portion of the program meets ambient air quality standards and transportation conformity requirements, in compliance with federal acts, the commission may specify that the AIR program will no longer apply in that portion of the program area.

(2) Repealed.

(3) (a) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2001, p. 1022, § 9, effective June 5, 2001.)

(b) Repealed.

**Source: L. 94:** (3)(a) amended, p. 2813, § 591, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2311, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** (1), (2), and (3)(a) amended, p. 894, § 6, effective May 26. **L. 2001:** (2), (3)(a), and IP(3)(b) amended, p. 1022, § 9, effective June 5. **L. 2002:** (2) amended, p. 871, § 7, effective August 7. **L. 2006:** (1) amended, p. 1029, § 9, effective July 1. **L. 2014:** (2) amended, (HB 14-1176), ch. 135, p. 466, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2025:** (2) and (3)(b) repealed, (HB 25-1054), ch. 7, p. 15, § 1, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** Amendments to subsection (3)(a) by House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2001 act amending subsections (2) and (3)(a) and the introductory portion to subsection (3)(b), see section 1 of chapter 278, Session Laws of Colorado 2001. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2006 act amending subsection (1), see section 1 of chapter 225, Session Laws of Colorado 2006.

**42-4-316.5. Termination of vehicle emissions testing program.**

The commission shall have the authority to eliminate all requirements for regularly scheduled basic or enhanced emissions inspections of motor vehicles if the commission finds that this action does not violate federal air quality standards.

**Source: L. 2006:** Entire section added, p. 1029, § 10, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** Entire section amended, (SB 12-034), ch. 107, p. 365, § 7, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** As of publication date, the air quality control commission has made no determination as to whether the elimination of all requirements for regularly scheduled basic or enhanced emissions inspections of motor vehicles violates federal air quality standards.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2006 act enacting this section, see section 1 of chapter 225, Session Laws of Colorado 2006.

**42-4-317. Purchase or lease of new motor vehicles by state agencies - clean-burning alternative fuels - definitions. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2312, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (9) provided for the repeal of this section, effective July 1, 1995. (See L. 94, p. 2312.)

## PART 4

### DIESEL INSPECTION PROGRAM

#### **42-4-401. Definitions.**

As used in this part 4, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Certification of emissions control" means one of the following certifications, issued to the owner of a diesel vehicle which is subject to the diesel inspection program in order to indicate the status of inspection requirement compliance of such vehicle:

(a) "Certification of diesel smoke opacity compliance" is a document which indicates that the smoke emissions from the vehicle comply with applicable smoke opacity limits at the time of inspection or after required adjustments or repairs;

(b) "Certification of diesel smoke opacity waiver" is a document which indicates that the smoke emissions from the vehicle does not comply with the applicable smoke opacity limits after inspection, adjustment, and emissions related repairs.

(2) "Commission" means the air quality control commission.

(3) "Diesel emissions inspection station" means a facility which meets the requirements established by the commission, is licensed by the executive director, and is so equipped as to enable a diesel vehicle emissions-opacity inspection to be performed.

(4) "Diesel emissions inspector" means a person possessing a valid license to perform diesel emissions-opacity inspections in compliance with the requirements of the commission.

(5) "Diesel powered motor vehicle" or "diesel vehicle" as applicable to opacity inspections, includes only a motor vehicle with four wheels or more on the ground, powered by an internal combustion, compression ignition, diesel fueled engine, and also includes any motor vehicle having a personal property classification of A, B, or C, pursuant to section 42-3-106, as specified on its vehicle registration, and for which registration in this state is required for operation on the public roads and highways. "Diesel vehicle" does not include: Vehicles registered under section 42-12-301; vehicles taxed under section 42-3-306 (4); or off-the-road diesel powered vehicles or heavy construction equipment.

(6) "Executive director" means the executive director of the department of revenue or the executive director's designee.

(6.3) "Heavy-duty diesel vehicle" means a vehicle that is greater than fourteen thousand pounds gross vehicle weight rating.

(6.7) "Light-duty diesel vehicle" means a vehicle that is less than or equal to fourteen thousand pounds gross vehicle weight rating.

(7) "Opacity meter" means an optical instrument that is designed to measure the opacity of diesel exhaust gases.

(8) "Program area" means the counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, and Weld, and the cities and counties of Broomfield and Denver, excluding the following areas:

(a) That portion of Adams county which is east of Kiowa creek (Range 62 West, Townships 1, 2, and 3 South) between the Adams-Arapahoe county line and the Adams-Weld county line;

(b) That portion of Arapahoe county which is east of Kiowa creek (Range 62 West, Townships 4 and 5 South) between the Arapahoe-Elbert county line and the Arapahoe-Adams county line;

(c) That portion of El Paso county which is east of the following boundary, defined on a south-to-north axis: From the El Paso-Pueblo county line north (upstream) along Chico creek (Ranges 63 and 64 West, Township 17 South) to Hanover road, then east along Hanover road (El Paso county route 422) to Peyton highway, then north along Peyton highway (El Paso county route 463) to Falcon highway, then west on Falcon highway (El Paso county route 405) to Peyton highway, then north on Peyton highway (El Paso county route 405) to Judge Orr road, then west on Judge Orr road (El Paso county route 108) to Elbert road, then north on Elbert road (El Paso county route 91) to the El Paso-Elbert county line;

(d) That portion of Larimer county which is west of the boundary defined on a north-to-south axis by Range 71 West and that portion which is north of the boundary defined on an east-to-west axis by Township 10 North;

(e) That portion of Weld county which is outside the corporate boundaries of Greeley, Evans, La Salle, and Garden City and, in addition, is outside the following boundary: Beginning at the point of intersection of the west boundary line of section 21, township six north, range sixty-six west and state highway 392, east along state highway 392 to the point of intersection with Weld county road 37; then south along Weld county road 37 to the point of intersection with Weld county road 64; then east along Weld county road 64 to the point of intersection with Weld county road 43; then south along Weld county road 43 to the point of intersection with Weld county road 62; then east along Weld county road 62 to the point of intersection with Weld county road 49; then south along Weld county road 49 to the point of intersection with the south boundary line of section 13, township five north, range sixty-five west; then west along the south boundary line of section 13, township five north, range sixty-five west, section 14, township five north, range sixty-five west, and section 15, township five north, range sixty-five west; then, from the southwest corner of section 15, township five west, range sixty-five west, south along the east boundary line of section 21, township five north, range sixty-five west, and section 28, township five north, range sixty-five west; then west along the south boundary line of section 28, township five north, range sixty-five west; then south along the east boundary line of section 32,

township five north, range sixty-five west, and section 5, township four north, range sixty-five west; then west along the south boundary line of section 5, township four north, range sixty-five west, section 6, township four north, range sixty-five west, and section 1, township four north, range sixty-six west; then north along the west boundary line of section 1, township four north, range sixty-six west, and section 36, township five north, range sixty-six west; then, from the point of intersection of the west boundary line of section 36, township five north, range sixty-six west and Weld county road 52, west along Weld county road 52 to the point of intersection with Weld county road 27; then north along Weld county road 27 to the point of intersection with the south boundary line of section 18, township five north, range sixty-six west; then west along the south boundary line of section 18, township five north, range sixty-six west, section 13, township five north, range sixty-seven west, and section 14, township five north, range sixty-seven west; then north along the west boundary line of section 14, township five north, range sixty-seven west, section 11, township five north, range sixty-seven west, and section 2, township five north, range sixty-seven west; then east along the north boundary line of section 2, township five north, range sixty-seven west, section 1, township five north, range sixty-seven west, section 6, township five north, range sixty-six west, and section 5, township five north, range sixty-six west; then, from the northeast corner of section 5, township five north, range sixty-six west, north along the west boundary line of section 33, township six north, range sixty-six west, section 28, township six north, range sixty-six west, and section 21, township six north, range sixty-six west, to the point of beginning.

(9) "Smoke limit" means the maximum amount of allowable smoke opacity level as established by the commission.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2315, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2003: (6.3) and (6.7) added and (7) amended, p. 1024, § 2, effective August 6. L. 2005: (5) amended, p. 1175, § 15, effective August 8. L. 2009: (8) amended, (SB 09-003), ch. 322, p. 1718, § 4, effective June 1. L. 2010: (5) amended, (SB 10-212), ch. 412, p. 2038, § 18, effective July 1. L. 2011: (5) amended, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 247, § 13, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 25-7-601 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-401 was relocated to § 42-4-501.

#### **42-4-402. Administration of inspection program.**

The department shall have responsibility for administering the diesel inspection program in accordance with the authority exercised by the executive director under the provisions of this part 4.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2316, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1643, § 28, effective June 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 25-7-601.5 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-402 was relocated to § 42-4-502.

**42-4-403. Powers and duties of the commission.**

(1) The commission shall be responsible for the adoption of rules and regulations which are necessary to implement the diesel inspection program including:

(a) Regulations governing procedures for:

(I) Testing and licensing of diesel emissions inspectors;

(II) Licensure of diesel emission inspection stations;

(III) Standards and specifications for the approval, operation, calibration, and certification of exhaust smoke opacity meters;

(IV) Proper performance of diesel opacity inspections and emissions system control inspections;

(b) Issuance of the following types of certifications of emissions control by licensed diesel emission inspectors:

(I) A certification of diesel smoke opacity compliance if, at the time of inspection, the smoke opacity from a diesel vehicle is in compliance with the applicable smoke opacity limits;

(II) A certification of diesel smoke opacity waiver if, at the time of inspection, the smoke opacity from a diesel vehicle does not comply with the applicable smoke opacity limits but such vehicle is adjusted or repaired to specifications as provided by regulation of the commission;

(III) A temporary certification of diesel smoke opacity compliance for diesel vehicles required to be repaired, if such repairs are delayed due to the unavailability of needed parts. The results of the initial smoke opacity test and final test shall be given to the owner of the diesel vehicle and reported to the department of public health and environment.

(2) (a) The commission shall promulgate and from time to time revise regulations on inspection procedures and smoke opacity limits when such procedures and limits have been proven cost-effective and air pollution control-effective on the basis of best available scientific research.

(b) Smoke limits shall not require unreasonable levels of emissions performance for a properly operated and maintained diesel vehicle of a given model year and technology, and such smoke limits shall be no less than twenty percent for five seconds minimum.

(c) The commission may also develop peak smoke opacity limits, but such limits shall not be less than forty percent for less than one second.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subsection (2), for inspections conducted between January 1, 1990, and December 31, 1990, the smoke opacity limits shall be forty percent for five seconds minimum, and no diesel vehicle shall fail the smoke opacity inspection for peak limits.

(3) (a) The commission shall annually evaluate the diesel inspection program to determine but not limit the number of diesel vehicles which fail to meet the applicable smoke opacity limits after adjustments and repairs.

(b) If the commission finds that a significant number of diesel vehicles do not meet the applicable smoke opacity limits after adjustments or repairs are made, the commission shall develop recommendations designed to improve the air pollution control-effectiveness of the diesel inspection program in a cost-effective manner and shall submit such recommendations to the general assembly.

(4) In addition to any other authority granted under this section, the commission shall adopt regulations requiring each licensed diesel emissions inspection station to post, at the station, in a clearly legible manner and in a conspicuous place, the fee which shall be charged for performing a diesel emission-opacity inspection.

(5) The commission may exempt diesel vehicles of any make, model, or model year from the provisions of the diesel inspection program when inspection would be inappropriate for such vehicles. The exemption may include diesel vehicles which are required to be registered and inspected January, 1990.

(6) (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions to the contrary, the commission shall not have authority to adopt emission standards or implement an inspection and maintenance program that would result in emission requirements or an in-use testing or compliance demonstration that would be more stringent than the emission standards and test procedures adopted by the United States environmental protection agency for the corresponding model year and class of vehicle or engine.

(b) The commission shall determine by accepted scientific analysis that any emission standards and in-use test procedures it may adopt shall be designed so that any engine or vehicle which would pass the appropriate federal certification test shall also pass the inspection and maintenance test adopted by the commission for that engine or vehicle.



**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2316, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2003:** (2)(c) amended, p. 1025, § 4, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 25-7-602 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-403 was relocated to § 42-4-503.

**42-4-404. Powers and duties of the executive director of the department of public health and environment.**

(1) (a) The executive director of the department of public health and environment, referred to in this section as the "executive director", shall develop a program for the training, testing, and retesting of diesel emissions inspectors, which program may be funded by tuition charged to the participants.

(b) Those persons who successfully complete the testing set forth in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) shall be recommended to the department of revenue for licensure.

(2) The executive director shall instruct the department of revenue to issue a license as a diesel inspection station to one or more parties with either new or existing diesel emissions inspection facilities. Such instruction shall be based on, among other factors:

(a) Any requirements for licensure set by the commission by rule and regulation pursuant to section 42-4-403;

(b) The requirements set forth in section 42-4-407;

(c) The geographical coverage which would result for licensing the station.

(d) Repealed.

(3) (a) The executive director shall continuously evaluate the diesel emissions inspection program. Such evaluation shall be based on continuing research conducted by the department of public health and environment and other engineering data and shall include assessments of the cost-effectiveness and air pollution control effectiveness of the program.

(b) The executive director shall submit such evaluation and any recommendations for program changes to the general assembly by December 1 of each year, in order that the general assembly may annually review the diesel emissions inspection program.

(4) The executive director shall implement an ongoing project designed to inform the public concerning the operation of the diesel emissions inspection program and the benefits to be

derived from such program. The executive director shall also prepare a handbook which shall explain the diesel emissions inspection program, the owner's or operator's responsibilities under the program, the licensure of stations and inspectors, and any other aspects of the program which the executive director determines would be beneficial to the public. In addition to the distribution of such handbook, the executive director shall actively seek the assistance of the electronic and print media in communicating information to the public on the operation of the inspection program and shall utilize any other means of disseminating such information which may be likely to effectuate the purpose of such program.

(5) The executive director may establish and operate technical or administrative centers, if necessary, for the proper administration of the diesel inspection program or may utilize existing centers established for the AIR program pursuant to section 42-4-307.

(6) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2317, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** (6) added, p. 1015, § 2, effective August 5. **L. 2000:** (2)(d)(II) added by revision, pp. 1764, 1765, §§ 2, 3. **L. 2003:** (6) repealed, p. 1026, § 6, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 25-7-602.5 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-404 was relocated to § 42-4-504.

(2) Subsection (2)(d)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (2)(d), effective July 1, 2001. (See L. 2000, pp. 1764, 1765.)

#### **42-4-405. Powers and duties of executive director.**

(1) The executive director is authorized to issue, deny, cancel, suspend, or revoke licensure for, and shall furnish instructions and all necessary forms to, diesel emissions inspection stations and inspectors. Fees for such licenses shall be established by regulations promulgated by the executive director.

(2) The executive director shall supervise the activities of licensed diesel emissions inspection stations and inspectors and shall cause inspections to be made of such stations and records and such inspectors for compliance with licensure requirements. The accuracy of a licensed station's smoke opacity meters shall be inspected not less than once every sixty days.

(3) The executive director shall require the surrender of any license which has been issued upon the cancellation, suspension, or revocation of the license for a violation of any of the

provisions or of any of the regulations of the diesel emissions inspection program established pursuant to this part 4.

(4) The executive director shall adopt regulations for the administration and operation of diesel emissions inspection stations and for the issuance, identification, and use of certifications of emissions control and shall adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to improve the effectiveness of the diesel emissions inspection program.

(5) (a) On and after January 1, 1991, the executive director shall hold hearings annually concerning the maximum inspection fee in order to ascertain whether such fee provides fair compensation for performing diesel emission-opacity inspections and represents an equitable charge to the consumer for such inspection.

(b) Repealed.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2319, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
L. 2002: (5)(b) repealed, p. 871, § 8, effective August 7.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 25-7-603 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-405 was relocated to § 42-4-506.

**42-4-406. Requirement of certification of emissions control for registration - testing for diesel smoke opacity compliance.**

(1) (a) A diesel vehicle in the program area that is registered or required to be registered pursuant to article 3 of this title, routinely operates in the program area, or is principally operated from a terminal, maintenance facility, branch, or division located within the program area shall not be sold, registered for the first time, or reregistered unless such vehicle has been issued a certification of emissions control within:

(I) The past twelve months if the motor vehicle is a heavy-duty diesel vehicle that is over ten model years old;

(II) The last twenty-four months if the motor vehicle is a heavy-duty diesel vehicle that is ten model years old or newer;

(III) The last twelve months if the motor vehicle is a light-duty diesel vehicle that is at least ten model years old or that is model year 2003 or older; or

(IV) The last twenty-four months if the motor vehicle is a light-duty diesel vehicle that is ten model years old or newer and that is model year 2004 or newer.

(b) (I) A certification of emissions control shall be issued to any diesel vehicle that has been inspected and tested pursuant to subsection (2) of this section for diesel smoke opacity compliance and was found at such time to be within the smoke opacity limits established by the commission.

(II) Notwithstanding subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b), new diesel vehicles, required under this section to have a certification of emissions control, shall be issued a certification of emissions compliance without inspection or testing. Prior to the expiration of the certification, the owner shall have the vehicle inspected and shall obtain a certification of emissions control for diesel smoke opacity compliance. The certificate shall expire on the earliest to occur of the following:

(A) The anniversary of the day of the issuance of the certification when the vehicle has reached its fourth model year if it is a light-duty diesel vehicle;

(B) The anniversary of the day of the issuance of the certification when the vehicle has reached its fourth model year if it is a heavy-duty diesel vehicle;

(C) The anniversary of the day of the issuance of the certification when the vehicle has reached its sixth model year if the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating of twenty-six thousand pounds or more and it is of a model year of 2014 or newer; or

(D) On the date of the transfer of ownership if the date is within twelve months before the certification would expire under sub-subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of this subparagraph (II), unless the transfer of ownership is a transfer from the lessor to the lessee.

(2) (a) On or after January 1, 1990, all heavy duty diesel vehicles in the program area not subject to the provisions of section 42-4-414, with fleets of nine or more, shall be required to be tested for diesel smoke opacity compliance at a licensed diesel inspection station by submitting to loaded mode opacity testing utilizing dynamometers or on-road tests as prescribed by the commission.

(b) Light-duty diesel vehicles in the program area shall be required to be tested for diesel smoke opacity compliance at a licensed diesel inspection station by submitting to loaded mode opacity testing utilizing dynamometers.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2319, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 95: (1)(a) amended, p. 954, § 11, effective May 25. L. 97: (1)(b)(II) amended, p. 120, § 1, effective August 6. L. 2003: (1)(a), (1)(b)(II), and (2)(b) amended, p. 1024, § 3, effective August 6. L. 2004: (1)(b) amended, p. 252, § 1, effective July 1. L. 2006: (1)(a) and (1)(b)(II)(A) amended, p. 915, § 1, effective July 1, 2007. L. 2015: (1)(b)(II) amended, (HB 15-1134), ch. 172, p. 541, § 1, effective August 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 25-7-604 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-406 was relocated to § 42-4-507.

**42-4-407. Requirements for a diesel emission-opacity inspection - licensure as diesel emissions inspection station - licensure as emissions inspector.**

(1) Unless a diesel emissions inspector performs an inspection at a licensed diesel inspection station or self-certification fleet station, as described in section 42-4-414, a diesel emission-opacity inspection shall not be performed and a certification of diesel emissions control shall not be issued; except that a certification of diesel emissions control may be issued for a heavy-duty fleet vehicle maintained in compliance with any rules the commission promulgates under section 42-4-414 (2)(b.5).

(2) No station shall be licensed as a diesel emissions inspection station unless the executive director finds that:

(a) The facilities of the station are of adequate size and the station is properly equipped. Such equipment shall include:

(I) A smoke opacity meter which may be owned or leased and which has been approved as being in good working order by the executive director and has been registered with the department of public health and environment;

(II) Any other equipment or testing devices which are required by rule or regulation of the commission;

(b) The owner or operator of the station has one or more licensed diesel emission inspectors employed or under contract and such inspectors are responsible for all diesel emission-opacity inspections and the issuance of all certifications of emissions control;

(c) Inspection procedures shall be properly conducted and shall include a smoke opacity inspection. For model years 1991 and newer, inspection procedures shall include evaluation of applicable emissions control systems.

(3) Applications for licensure as a diesel inspection station shall be made on forms prescribed by the executive director.

(4) No person shall be licensed as a diesel emissions inspector unless the person has demonstrated necessary skills and competence in the performance of diesel inspection by passing a qualification test developed and administered by the executive director of the department of public health and environment.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2320, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2013:** (1) amended, (HB 13-1300), ch. 316, p. 1709, § 139, effective August 7; (1) amended, (HB 13-1091), ch. 94, p. 301, § 2, effective January 1, 2014.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 25-7-605 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-407 was relocated to § 42-4-508.

#### **42-4-408. Operation of diesel inspection station.**

(1) (a) A licensed diesel inspection station shall issue a certification of diesel emissions control to a diesel vehicle only upon forms issued by the executive director.

(b) A certification of diesel emissions control shall be issued by a licensed diesel inspection station to a diesel vehicle only after the licensed diesel emission inspector performing the inspection determines that:

(I) The smoke opacity levels from the diesel vehicle comply with the applicable smoke opacity limits, in which case a certification of diesel emission compliance shall be issued;

(II) The smoke opacity levels from the diesel vehicle do not comply with the applicable smoke opacity limits after adjustment or repair required in accordance to commission rules have been performed, in which case a certification of diesel smoke opacity waiver shall be issued.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, no certification of diesel emissions control may be issued to a diesel vehicle of model year 1991 and newer if there is evidence of diesel emissions control system tampering.

(3) A licensed diesel emissions inspection station shall charge a fee as set by the commission for the inspection of any diesel vehicle pursuant to this section. Such fee shall be intended to encompass all costs related to the inspection, including those costs incurred by the inspection station, the department of revenue, and the department of public health and environment. No fee that is charged pursuant to this section shall exceed the posted hourly shop rate for one hour. Such fee shall be posted by the inspection station pursuant to regulations set by the commission. Personnel within the testing inspection station shall notify the owner of the diesel vehicle to be tested of the fee before commencing any testing activities.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2321, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2000:** (3) amended, p. 1764, § 1, effective February 1, 2001.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 25-7-606 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-408 was relocated to § 42-4-509.

**42-4-409. Improper representation of a diesel inspection station.**

(1) The executive director shall have the authority to suspend or revoke the diesel inspection license and unused certification of diesel emissions control forms held by a licensed inspection station for the following reasons:

- (a) The station is not equipped as required;
- (b) The station is not operating from a location for which licensure was granted;
- (c) The licensed location has been altered so that it no longer qualifies as a diesel inspection station;
- (d) Diesel inspections are not being performed with applicable laws, rules, or regulations of the commission or the executive director.

(2) The executive director shall also have authority to suspend or revoke the license of a diesel emissions inspector and require surrender of such license when the executive director determines that the inspector is not qualified to perform the diesel inspection or when inspections do not comply with applicable laws and the rules and regulations of the executive director or commission.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2321, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 25-7-607 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-409 was relocated to § 42-4-510.

**42-4-410. Inclusion in the diesel inspection program.**

(1) (a) Any home rule city, town, or county shall be included in the diesel inspection program set forth in this part 4 upon request by the governing body of such local government to the department of revenue and the department of public health and environment.

(b) When such a request is made, the departments and governing body shall agree to a start-up date for the diesel inspection program in such areas. Such a date shall be administratively practical and agreed to by the departments.

(c) On or after the dates agreed to pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (1), diesel vehicles which are registered in the area shall be inspected and shall be required to comply with the provisions of this part 4 and rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto as if such area was included in the program area.

(2) The executive directors of the departments of revenue and health and the commission shall perform all functions and exercise all phases related to the diesel emissions inspection program that they are otherwise required to perform under this part 4 in areas included in the program pursuant to this section.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2322, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 25-7-608 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-410 was relocated to § 42-4-106.

#### **42-4-411. Applicability of this part to heavy-duty diesel fleets of nine or more.**

Diesel-powered motor vehicles subject to the provisions of section 42-4-414 shall not be subject to the diesel emissions inspection program set forth in this part 4 unless the conditions set forth in section 42-4-414 (3)(c) have been met.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2322, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 25-7-609 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-411 was relocated to § 42-4-512.

#### **42-4-412. Air pollution violations.**

(1) (a) A person commits a class A traffic infraction if the person causes or permits the emission into the atmosphere from:



(I) Any motor vehicle, including a motorcycle, powered by gasoline or any fuel except diesel of any visible air pollutant as defined in section 25-7-103 (1.5), C.R.S.;

(II) Any diesel-powered motor vehicle, of any visible air pollutant, as defined in section 25-7-103 (1.5), C.R.S., which creates an unreasonable nuisance or danger to the public health, safety, or welfare.

(b) Violations of this section may be determined by visual observations, including the snap acceleration opacity test, or by test procedures using opacity measurements.

(c) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) shall not apply to emissions caused by cold engine start-up.

(2) (a) The air quality control commission shall determine the minimum emission level of visible air pollutants from diesels which shall be considered to create an unreasonable nuisance or danger to the public health, safety, and welfare. Such minimum emission level shall be based on smoke levels attainable by correctly operated and maintained in-use diesel vehicles, considering altitude and other reasonable factors affecting visible smoke levels. In no case shall such level be less than twenty percent opacity when observed for five seconds or more. On interstate highways, opacity may be observed for ten seconds. Standards for transient conditions with no time limit shall also be established. Not later than December 1, 1979, the division shall develop a training course and qualification test designed to enable peace officers and environmental officers to ascertain violations of such standards without reference to opacity levels and to distinguish between air pollutants as defined in section 25-7-103 (1.5), C.R.S., and steam or water vapor.

(b) (I) The Colorado state patrol of the department of public safety shall offer the training course and qualification test.

(II) (Deleted by amendment, L. 96, p. 1263, § 171, effective August 7, 1996.)

(3) (a) This section shall apply only to motor vehicles intended, designed, and manufactured primarily for use in carrying passengers or cargo on roads, streets, and highways.

(b) Subparagraph (II) of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section shall apply to all areas of the state except the program area, which program area shall be subject to section 42-4-413.

(4) (a) Effective January 1, 1980, the offense of causing air pollution pursuant to this section, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of twenty-five dollars.

(b) Subsequent offenses involving the same motor vehicle within one year of a conviction under the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4), upon conviction, shall be punishable by a fine of one hundred dollars.

(c) Any owner who receives a citation under the provisions of this section may continue to use the vehicle for which the offense is alleged, without restriction, until such owner's conviction.

(d) Any fines collected pursuant to the provisions of this subsection (4) shall be divided in equal amounts and transmitted to the treasurer of the local jurisdiction in whose name the penalty was assessed and to the state treasurer for credit to the general fund.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2322, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1)(a) amended, p. 955, § 12, effective May 25. **L. 96:** (2) amended, p. 1263, § 171, effective August 7. **L. 2002:** IP(1)(a) amended, p. 1561, § 366, effective October 1. **L. 2003:** (1)(b) and (4)(c) amended, p. 1025, § 5, effective August 6. **L. 2009:** (3)(b) amended, (SB 09-003), ch. 322, p. 1720, § 5, effective June 1. **L. 2021:** IP(1)(a) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3304, § 727, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 18-13-110 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 1996 act amending subsection (2), see section 1 of chapter 237, Session Laws of Colorado 1996. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending the introductory portion to subsection (1)(a), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

#### **42-4-413. Visible emissions from diesel-powered motor vehicles unlawful - penalty.**

(1) (a) Effective January 1, 1987, no owner or operator of a diesel-powered vehicle shall cause or knowingly permit the emission from the vehicle of any visible air contaminants that exceed the emission level as described in section 42-4-412 (2)(a) within the program area.

(b) As used in this section:

(I) "Air contaminant" means any fume, odor, smoke, particulate matter, vapor, gas, or combination thereof, except water vapor or steam condensate.

(II) "Emission" means a discharge or release of one or more air contaminants into the atmosphere.

(III) "Opacity" means the degree to which an air contaminant emission obscures the view of a trained observer, expressed in percentage of the obscuration or the percentage to which transmittance of light is reduced by an air contaminant emission.

(IV) "Trained observer" means a person who is certified by the department of public health and environment as trained in the determination of opacity.

(2) (a) A police officer or other peace officer who is a trained observer, or an environmental officer employed by a local government and certified by the department of public health and environment to determine opacity, at any time upon reasonable cause, may issue a summons personally to the operator of a motor vehicle emitting visible air contaminants in violation of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section.

(b) (I) Any owner or operator of a diesel-powered motor vehicle receiving the summons issued pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) or mailed pursuant to subparagraph (II) of paragraph (d) of this subsection (2) shall comply therewith and shall secure a certification of opacity compliance from a state emissions technical center that such vehicle conforms to the requirements of this section. Said certification shall be returned to the owner or operator for presentation in court as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection (2).

(II) A fee of not more than six dollars and fifty cents shall be charged by emission technical centers for a certification of opacity compliance inspection and the certificate of no-smoke. Such fee shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the AIR account established in section 42-4-311 (3)(b).

(c) (I) Any owner who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor traffic offense and, upon conviction thereof, except as provided in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (c), shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars, payable within thirty days after conviction.

(II) If the owner submits to the court of competent jurisdiction within thirty days after the issuance of the summons proof that the owner has disposed of the vehicle for junk parts or immobilized the vehicle and if the owner also submits to the court within such time the registration and license plates for the vehicle, the owner shall be punished by a fine of twenty-five dollars. If the owner wishes to relicense the vehicle in the future, the owner shall obtain the certification required in paragraph (b) of this subsection (2).

(d) (I) Any nonowner operator who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor traffic offense and, upon conviction thereof, except as provided in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (d), shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars, payable within thirty days after conviction.

(II) If the operator submits to the court of competent jurisdiction within thirty days after the issuance of the summons proof that the operator was not the owner of the vehicle at the time the summons was issued and that the operator mailed, within five days after issuance thereof, a copy of the notice and summons by certified mail to the owner of the vehicle at the address on the registration, the operator shall be punished by a fine of twenty-five dollars.

(e) Upon a showing of good cause that compliance with this section cannot be made within thirty days after issuance of the notice and summons, the court of competent jurisdiction may extend the period of time for compliance as may appear justified.

(f) The owner or operator, in lieu of appearance, may submit to the court of competent jurisdiction, within thirty days after the issuance of the notice and summons, the certification or proof of mailing specified in this subsection (2) together with the fine of twenty-five dollars.

(3) Any fine collected pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be transmitted to the treasurer of the local jurisdiction in which the violation occurred.

**Source:** L. 94: (1)(b)(IV) and (2)(a) amended, p. 2814, § 592, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2324, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2009: (1)(a) amended, (SB 09-003), ch. 322, p. 1720, § 6, effective June 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-319 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Amendments to subsections (1)(b)(IV) and (2)(a) by House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001, effective January 1, 1995.

#### **42-4-414. Heavy-duty diesel fleet inspection and maintenance program - penalty - rules.**

(1) The commission shall develop and implement, effective January 1, 1987, a fleet inspection and maintenance program for diesel-powered motor vehicles of more than fourteen thousand pounds gross vehicle weight rating. Regional transportation district buses, state, county, and municipal vehicles, and private diesel fleets shall participate in the program through self-certification inspection procedures as developed by the commission.

(2) (a) The commission shall promulgate rules that:

(I) Require owners of diesel-powered motor vehicles, registered in the program area, routinely operated in the program area, or principally operated from a terminal, maintenance facility, branch, or division located within the program area, and subject to the provisions of this section, to bring the vehicles into compliance with existing opacity standards set forth in section 42-4-412;

(II) Are strictly construed;

(III) Except as provided in paragraph (b.5) of this subsection (2), do not require more than normal and reasonable maintenance practices; and

(IV) Do not require additional fees or loaded mode testing equipment.

(b) Fleet owners shall test opacity standards on a periodic basis. Fleet owners shall use an opacity meter to test vehicles that are greater than ten model years old, but may use an automated opacity metering protocol to test vehicles that are less than or equal to ten model years old.

(b.5) As an alternative to automated or visual opacity testing, the commission may promulgate rules that establish an alternative method for operators of heavy-duty diesel vehicles to demonstrate compliance with opacity standards by following and submitting proof of exemplary maintenance practices. Any commission rules promulgated under this paragraph (b.5) must contain eligibility requirements for enrollment of heavy-duty diesel vehicles in the alternative method, including when vehicles or fleets should be discontinued from enrollment.

(c) (I) Except as provided in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (c), the commission shall exempt a new diesel vehicle enrolled in the fleet inspection and maintenance program from testing until the vehicle has reached its fourth model year or, if ownership of the vehicle is transferred after the vehicle has reached its third model year, until the date of the transfer of ownership.

(II) If a new diesel vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating of at least twenty-six thousand pounds and is of a model year of 2014 or newer, the commission shall exempt the vehicle from testing until the vehicle has reached its sixth model year or, if ownership of the vehicle is transferred after the vehicle has reached its fifth model year, until the date of the transfer of ownership.

(d) The commission shall promulgate rules providing for the testing of diesel vehicles every:

(I) Twelve months unless subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (d) applies; or

(II) Twenty-four months if the vehicle is equal to or less than ten model years old.

(2.5) An owner of a fleet registered in the program area may certify to the executive director or the executive director's designee, in a form and manner required by the executive director, that a diesel vehicle registered in the program area is physically based and principally operated from a terminal, division, or maintenance facility outside the program area. Any diesel vehicle registered in the program area, but certified to be physically based and principally operated from a terminal, division, or maintenance facility outside the program area, is exempt from this section. The commission shall promulgate rules to administer this subsection (2.5).

(3) (a) and (b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2003, p. 1023, § 1, effective August 6, 2003.)

(c) On or after January 1, 1990, in addition to any other penalty set forth in this subsection (3), any owner who is subject to the provisions of this section and who commits an excessive violation of this section twice in a twelve-month period shall be subject to the provisions of this part 4. For purposes of this paragraph (c), "excessive violation" shall be that definition

recommended by the governor's blue ribbon diesel task force in 1988 and thereafter adopted by the air quality control commission, or, if such task force does not make a recommendation, "excessive violation" shall be that definition adopted by the air quality control commission.

(4) As used in this section, "fleet" means nine or more diesel-powered motor vehicles.

**Source:** **L. 94:** (2) and (3)(b) amended, p. 2814, § 593, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2325, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2003:** (1), (2), (3)(a), and (3)(b) amended, p. 1023, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2004:** (2)(c) amended, p. 253, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2011:** (2.5) added, (HB 11-1157), ch. 259, p. 1134, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2013:** (2) amended, (HB 13-1091), ch. 94, p. 300, § 1, effective January 1, 2014. **L. 2015:** (2)(c) amended, (HB 15-1134), ch. 172, p. 542, § 2, effective August 5.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-320 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Amendments to subsections (2) and (3)(b) by House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

## PART 5

### SIZE - WEIGHT - LOAD

**Cross references:** For penalties for class A and class B traffic infractions, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

#### **42-4-501. Size and weight violations - penalty.**

Except as provided in section 42-4-509, it is a traffic infraction for any person to drive or move or for the owner to cause or knowingly permit to be driven or moved on any highway any vehicle or vehicles of a size or weight exceeding the limitations stated in sections 42-4-502 to 42-4-512 or otherwise in violation of said sections or section 42-4-1407, except as permitted in section 42-4-510. The maximum size and weight of vehicles specified in said sections shall be lawful throughout this state, and local authorities shall have no power or authority to alter said limitations, except as express authority may be granted in section 42-4-106.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2326, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** Entire section amended, p. 1031, § 65, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-401 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-501 was relocated to § 42-4-104.

**42-4-502. Width of vehicles.**

(1) The total outside width of any vehicle or the load thereon shall not exceed eight feet six inches, except as otherwise provided in this section.

(2) (a) A load of loose hay, including loosely bound, round bales, whether horse drawn or by motor, shall not exceed twelve feet in width.

(b) A vehicle and trailer may transport a load of rectangular hay bales if such vehicle and load do not exceed ten feet six inches in width.

(3) It is unlawful for any person to operate a vehicle or a motor vehicle which has attached thereto in any manner any chain, rope, wire, or other equipment which drags, swings, or projects in any manner so as to endanger the person or property of another.

(4) The total outside width of buses and coaches used for the transportation of passengers shall not exceed eight feet six inches.

(5) (a) The total outside width of vehicles as included in this section shall not be construed so as to prohibit the projection beyond such width of clearance lights, rearview mirrors, or other accessories required by federal, state, or city laws or regulations.

(b) The width requirements imposed by subsection (1) of this section shall not include appurtenances on recreational vehicles, including but not limited to motor homes, travel trailers, fifth wheel trailers, camping trailers, recreational park trailers, multipurpose trailers, and truck campers, all as defined in section 24-32-902, C.R.S., so long as such recreational vehicle, including such appurtenances, does not exceed a total outside width of nine feet six inches.

(6) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2327, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2002:** (2)(b) and (5) amended, p. 404, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2008:** (5)(b) amended, p. 638, § 4, effective August 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-402 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-502 was relocated to § 42-4-601.

**Cross references:** For the definition of "multipurpose trailers", see § 42-1-102.

#### **42-4-503. Projecting loads on passenger vehicles - penalty.**

Except with regard to the operation of a motorcycle, autocycle, bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter, a person shall not operate a passenger-type vehicle on any highway with any load carried on the vehicle extending beyond the line of the fenders on the left side of the vehicle nor extending more than six inches beyond the line of the fenders on the right side of the vehicle. A person who violates this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2327, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1277, § 51, effective October 1. **L. 2019:** Entire section amended, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2561, § 8, effective May 23. **L. 2022:** Entire section amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2586, § 20, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-403 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-503 was relocated to § 42-4-602.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for size, weight, and load violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(F).

#### **42-4-504. Height and length of vehicles.**

(1) A driver shall not drive a vehicle either unladen or with load that exceeds a height of fourteen feet six inches. The department of transportation shall designate highways with overhead highway structures that have less than fourteen feet six inches of vertical clearance. A driver shall not drive a vehicle under a structure if the vehicle's height exceeds the department's designated vertical clearance for the structure.

(2) No single motor vehicle shall exceed a length of forty-five feet extreme overall dimension, inclusive of front and rear bumpers. The length of vehicles used for the mass



transportation of passengers wholly within the limits of a town, city, or municipality or within a radius of fifteen miles thereof may extend to sixty feet. The length of school buses may extend to forty feet.

(3) Buses used for the transportation of passengers between towns, cities, and municipalities in the state of Colorado may be sixty feet extreme overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers but shall not exceed a height of thirteen feet six inches, if such buses are equipped to conform with the load and weight limitations set forth in section 42-4-508; except that buses with a height of fourteen feet six inches which otherwise conform to the requirements of this subsection (3) shall be operated only on highways designated by the department of transportation.

(4) No combination of vehicles coupled together shall consist of more than four units, and no such combination of vehicles shall exceed a total overall length of seventy feet. Said length limitation shall not apply to unladen truck tractor-semitrailer combinations when the semitrailer is fifty-seven feet four inches or less in length or to unladen truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combinations when the semitrailer and the trailer are each twenty-eight feet six inches or less in length. Said length limitations shall also not apply to vehicles operated by a public utility when required for emergency repair of public service facilities or properties or when operated under special permit as provided in section 42-4-510, but, in respect to night transportation, every such vehicle and the load thereon shall be equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps on both sides and marker lamps upon the extreme ends of any projecting load to clearly mark the dimensions of such load.

(4.5) Notwithstanding subsection (4) of this section, drivers shall not drive the following combinations of vehicles:

(a) Saddlemount combinations consisting of more than four units or saddlemount combinations exceeding ninety-seven feet in overall length;

(b) Laden truck tractor-semitrailer combinations exceeding seventy-five feet in overall length;

(c) Stinger-steered vehicle combinations for transporting automobiles or boats and whose total overall length exceeds eighty feet; except that the overall length of these combinations excludes:

(I) Safety devices that are not designed or used for carrying cargo;

(II) Automobiles or boats being transported;

(III) Any extension device that may be used for loading beyond the extreme front or rear ends of a vehicle or combination of vehicles; except that the projection of a load, including any extension devices loaded to the front of the vehicle, must not extend more than four feet beyond

the extreme front of the grille of the vehicle and the load or extension device must not extend more than six feet beyond the extreme rear of the vehicle; and

(d) Towaway trailer transporter combinations that:

(I) Exceed eighty-two feet in overall length;

(II) Carry property;

(III) Exceed an overall weight of twenty-six thousand pounds;

(IV) Consist of more than a single towing unit and two trailers or semitrailers; or

(V) Do not constitute inventory property of a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of the trailer or semitrailer.

(5) The load upon any vehicle operated alone or the load upon the front vehicle of a combination of vehicles shall not extend beyond the front wheels of such vehicles or vehicle or the front most point of the grille of such vehicle; but a load may project not more than four feet beyond the front most point of the grille assembly of the vehicle engine compartment of such a vehicle at a point above the cab of the driver's compartment so long as that part of any load projecting ahead of the rear of the cab or driver's compartment shall be so loaded as not to obscure the vision of the driver to the front or to either side.

(6) The length limitations of vehicles and combinations of vehicles provided for in this section as they apply to vehicles being operated and utilized for the transportation of steel, fabricated beams, trusses, utility poles, and pipes shall be determined without regard to the projection of said commodities beyond the extreme front or rear of the vehicle or combination of vehicles; except that the projection of a load to the front shall be governed by the provisions of subsection (5) of this section, and no load shall project to the rear more than ten feet.

(7) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2327, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (4), (5), and (6) amended and (4.5) added, p. 471, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2016:** (1) and (4.5) amended, (HB 16-1298), ch. 142, p. 421, § 1, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-404 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-504 was relocated to § 42-4-603.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Interstate Trans-Missouri West", see U. Colo. L. Rev. 476 (1966).  
Legal Barriers to Transportation in the

### **42-4-505. Longer vehicle combinations - rules.**

(1) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the contrary, the department of transportation, in the exercise of its discretion, may issue permits for the use of longer vehicle combinations. An annual permit for such use may be issued to each qualified carrier company. The carrier company shall maintain a copy of such annual permit in each vehicle operating as a longer vehicle combination; except that, if a peace officer, as described in section 16-2.5-101, C.R.S., or an authorized agent of the department of transportation may determine that the permit can be electronically verified at the time of contact, a copy of the permit need not be in each vehicle. The fee for the permit shall be two hundred fifty dollars per year.

(b) Notwithstanding the amount specified for the fee in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1), the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may reduce the amount of the fee if necessary pursuant to section 24-75-402 (3), C.R.S., to reduce the uncommitted reserves of the fund to which all or any portion of the fee is credited. After the uncommitted reserves of the fund are sufficiently reduced, the executive director of the department by rule or as otherwise provided by law may increase the amount of the fee as provided in section 24-75-402 (4), C.R.S.

(c) The department shall provide the option to a company filing for a permit under this section to file an express consent waiver that enables the company to designate a company representative to be a party of interest for a violation of this section. The appearance of the company representative in a court hearing without the operator when the operator has signed such waiver shall not be deemed the practice of law in violation of article 93 of title 13.

(d) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, for permit fees collected on or after January 1, 2027, the department of transportation, on behalf of the road enterprise created in section 43-4-1703, shall transmit all permit fees collected pursuant to subsection (1)(a) of this section to the state treasurer, who shall credit the permit fees to the road enterprise cash fund created in section 43-4-1705.

(2) The permits shall allow operation, over designated highways, of the following vehicle combinations of not more than three cargo units and neither fewer than six axles nor more than nine axles:

(a) An unladen truck tractor, a semitrailer, and two trailers. A semitrailer used with a converter dolly shall be considered a trailer. Semitrailers and trailers shall be of approximately equal lengths not to exceed twenty-eight feet six inches in length.

(b) An unladen truck tractor, a semitrailer, and a single trailer. A semitrailer used with a converter dolly shall be considered a trailer. Semitrailers and trailers shall be of approximately equal lengths not to exceed forty-eight feet in length. Notwithstanding any other restriction set forth in this section, such combination may have up to eleven axles when used to transport empty trailers.

(c) An unladen truck tractor, a semitrailer, and a single trailer, one trailer of which is not more than forty-eight feet long, the other trailer of which is not more than twenty-eight feet six inches long. A semitrailer used with a converter dolly shall be considered a trailer. The shorter trailer shall be operated as the rear trailer.

(d) A truck and single trailer, having an overall length of not more than eighty-five feet, the truck of which is not more than thirty-five feet long and the trailer of which is not more than forty feet long. For the purposes of this paragraph (d), a semitrailer used with a converter dolly shall be considered a trailer.

(3) (a) The long combinations are limited to interstate highway 25, interstate highway 76, interstate highway 70 west of its intersection with state highway 13 in Garfield county, interstate highway 70 east of its intersection with U.S. 40 and state highway 26, the circumferential highways designated I-225 and I-270, and state highway 133 in Delta county from mile marker 8.9 to mile marker 9.7. The department of transportation shall promulgate rules to provide carriers with reasonable ingress to and egress from such designated highway segments.

(b) Upon action by the congress of the United States to lift the freeze imposed by the federal "Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991", Pub.L. 102-240, as amended, concerning the use of longer vehicle combinations, either by the total freeze being lifted by congress or by the approval of pilot projects to expand the use of longer vehicle combinations by the states, the department of transportation shall undertake a process to evaluate both interstate and state highways for possible authorization by the department of additional highway segments for inclusion by the general assembly in paragraph (a) of this subsection (3). During the review process, the department shall solicit input from all relevant stakeholders and shall work within existing statutory and regulatory guidelines. The department shall commence the review process within ninety days after action by congress that would allow expansion of the longer vehicle combination route network in Colorado.

(4) The department of transportation shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the issuance of the permits, including, but not limited to, selection of carriers, driver qualifications, equipment selection, hours of operation, and safety considerations; except that they shall not include hazardous materials subject to regulation by the provisions of article 20 of this title.

(5) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2329, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (2)(a) to (2)(c) amended, p. 473, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (1) amended, p. 1358, § 113, effective June 1; (2)(b) amended, p. 1095, § 7, effective June 1. **L. 2003:** (1)(a) amended, p. 581, § 1, effective January 1, 2004. **L. 2004:** (1)(a) amended, p. 1211, § 100, effective August 4. **L. 2006:** (1)(c) added, p. 309, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2011:** (3) amended, (HB 11-1192), ch. 111, p. 344, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2017:** (1)(c) amended, (SB 17-227), ch. 192, p. 705, § 7, effective August 9. **L. 2026:** (1)(d) added, (HB 26-1430), ch. 406, p. 2541, § 14, effective June 4.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-404.5 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-505 was relocated to § 42-4-604.

**Cross references:** For the short title ("Colorado Budget Protection Act") and the legislative declaration in HB 26-1430, see sections 1 and 2 of chapter 406, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

#### **42-4-506. Trailers and towed vehicles.**

(1) When one vehicle is towing another, the drawbar or other connection shall be of sufficient strength to pull all weight towed thereby, and said drawbar or other connection shall not exceed fifteen feet from one vehicle to the other, except the connection between any two vehicles transporting poles, pipe, machinery, or other objects of a structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered and except connections between vehicles in which the combined lengths of the vehicles and the connection does not exceed an overall length of fifty-five feet and the connection is of rigid construction included as part of the structural design of the towed vehicle.

(2) When one vehicle is towing another and the connection consists of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be displayed upon such connection a white flag or cloth not less than twelve inches square.

(3) Whenever one vehicle is towing another, in addition to the drawbar or other connection, except a fifth wheel connection meeting the requirements of the department of transportation, safety chains or cables arranged in such a way that it will be impossible for the vehicle being towed to break loose from the vehicle towing in the event the drawbar or other connection were to be broken, loosened, or otherwise damaged shall be used. This subsection (3) shall apply to all

motor vehicles, to all trailers, except semitrailers connected by a proper fifth wheel, and to any dolly used to convert a semitrailer to a full trailer.

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2330, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-405 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-506 was relocated to § 42-4-605.

**42-4-507. Wheel and axle loads.**

(1) The gross weight upon any wheel of a vehicle shall not exceed the following:

- (a) When the wheel is equipped with a solid rubber or cushion tire, eight thousand pounds;
- (b) When the wheel is equipped with a pneumatic tire, nine thousand pounds.

(2) The gross weight upon any single axle or tandem axle of a vehicle shall not exceed the following:

(a) When the wheels attached to said axle are equipped with solid rubber or cushion tires, sixteen thousand pounds;

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (b.5) of this subsection (2), when the wheels attached to a single axle are equipped with pneumatic tires, twenty thousand pounds;

(b.5) When the wheels attached to a single axle are equipped with pneumatic tires and the vehicle or vehicle combination is a digger derrick or bucket boom truck operated by an electric utility on a highway that is not on the interstate system as defined in section 43-2-101 (2), C.R.S., twenty-one thousand pounds;

(c) When the wheels attached to a tandem axle are equipped with pneumatic tires, thirty-six thousand pounds for highways on the interstate system and forty thousand pounds for highways not on the interstate system.

(3) (a) Vehicles equipped with a self-compactor and used solely for the transporting of trash are exempted from the provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of this section.

(b) After January 1, 1987, the provisions of this subsection (3) shall be reviewed at a joint meeting of the senate transportation committee and the house transportation and energy committee in order to determine the effects of such provisions.

(c) A vehicle contracted by or owned and operated by a city, county, municipal utility, or special district is exempt from paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of this section if the vehicle:

(I) Is equipped with a vacuum or jet equipment to load or unload solid, semisolid, or liquid waste for water or wastewater treatment or transportation systems or for the removal of storm water; and

(II) Is not operated on the interstate system as defined by section 43-2-101, C.R.S.

(4) For the purposes of this section:

(a) A single axle is defined as all wheels, whose centers may be included within two parallel transverse vertical planes not more than forty inches apart, extending across the full width of the vehicle.

(b) A tandem axle is defined as two or more consecutive axles, the centers of which may be included between parallel vertical planes spaced more than forty inches and not more than ninety-six inches apart, extending across the full width of the vehicle.

(5) The gross weight upon any one wheel of a steel-tired vehicle shall not exceed five hundred pounds per inch of cross-sectional width of tire.

(6) Any person who drives a vehicle or owns a vehicle in violation of any provision of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2330, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (2)(b) amended and (2)(b.5) added, p. 629, § 3, effective January 1, 1997. **L. 2003:** (2)(b.5) amended, p. 670, § 1, effective March 20. **L. 2014:** (3)(c) added, (HB 14-1160), ch. 97, p. 352, § 1, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-406 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-507 was relocated to § 42-4-606.

**42-4-508. Gross weight of vehicles and loads - definition.**

(1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1.5) of this section, a person shall not move or operate a vehicle or combination of vehicles on any highway or bridge when the gross weight upon any one axle of a vehicle exceeds the limits prescribed in section 42-4-507.

(b) Subject to the limitations prescribed in section 42-4-507, the maximum gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles shall not exceed that determined by the formula  $W = 1,000 (L + 40)$ , where  $W$  represents the gross weight in pounds and  $L$  represents the length in feet between the centers of the first and last axles of such vehicle or combination of vehicles; except that, in computation of this formula, the gross vehicle weight must not exceed eighty-five thousand pounds. For the purposes of this section, where a combination of vehicles is used, a vehicle must not carry a gross weight of less than ten percent of the overall gross weight of the combination of vehicles; except that these limitations shall not apply to specialized trailers of fixed public utilities whose axles may carry less than ten percent of the weight of the combination. The limitations provided in this section must be strictly construed and enforced.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, except as may be authorized under section 42-4-510, a person shall not move or operate a vehicle or combination of vehicles on any highway or bridge that is part of the national system of interstate and defense highways, also known as the interstate system, when the gross weight of such vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeds the amount determined by the formula  $W = 500 [(LN/N-1) + 12N + 36]$ , up to a maximum of eighty thousand pounds, where  $W$  represents the overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles to the nearest five hundred pounds,  $L$  represents the distance in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles, and  $N$  represents the number of axles in the group.

(d) For the purposes of this subsection (1), where a combination of vehicles is used, a vehicle must not carry a gross weight of less than ten percent of the overall gross weight of the combination of vehicles; except that this limitation does not apply to specialized trailers whose specific use is to haul poles and whose axles may carry less than ten percent of the weight of the combination.

(1.5) The gross weight limits provided in subsection (1) of this section increase, but by no more than two thousand pounds, for any vehicle or combination of vehicles if the vehicle or combination of vehicles contains an alternative fuel system and operates on alternative fuel or both alternative and conventional fuel. For the purposes of this subsection (1.5), "alternative fuel" has the same meaning provided in section 24-30-1104 (2)(c)(III)(A).

(2) The department upon registering any vehicle under the laws of this state, which vehicle is designed and used primarily for the transportation of property or for the transportation of ten or more persons, may acquire such information and may make such investigation or tests as necessary to enable it to determine whether such vehicle may safely be operated upon the



highways in compliance with all the provisions of this article. The department shall not register any such vehicle for a permissible gross weight exceeding the limitations set forth in sections 42-4-501 to 42-4-512 and 42-4-1407. Every such vehicle shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) It shall be equipped with brakes as required in section 42-4-223;
- (b) Every motor vehicle to be operated outside of business and residence districts shall have motive power adequate to propel at a reasonable speed such vehicle and any load thereon or to be drawn thereby.
- (3) If the federal highway administration or the United States congress prescribes or adopts vehicle size or weight limits greater than those now prescribed by the "Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956", which limits exceed in full or in part the provisions of section 42-4-504 or paragraph (b) or (c) of subsection (1) of this section, the transportation commission, upon determining that Colorado highways have been constructed to standards which will accommodate such additional size or weight and that the adoption of said size and weight limitations will not jeopardize any distribution of federal highway funds to the state, may adopt size and weight limits comparable to those prescribed or adopted by the federal highway administration or the United States congress and may authorize said limits to be used by owners or operators of vehicles while said vehicles are using highways within this state; but no vehicle size or weight limit so adopted by the commission shall be less in any respect than those now provided for in section 42-4-504 or paragraph (b) or (c) of subsection (1) of this section.
- (4) Any person who drives a vehicle or owns a vehicle in violation of any provision of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

**Source:** **L. 94:** (1)(c)(III)(B) amended, p. 304, § 3, effective March 22; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2331, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** IP(1) amended and (1.5) added, p. 630, § 4, effective January 1, 1997. **L. 2009:** (1)(b) amended, (SB 09-108), ch. 5, p. 51, § 8, effective January 1, 2010; (1)(b) amended, (HB 09-1318), ch. 316, p. 1703, § 1, effective January 1, 2010. **L. 2013:** (1) amended, (HB 13-1132), ch. 60, p. 197, § 1, effective March 22. **L. 2016:** (1.5) amended, (HB 16-1298), ch. 142, p. 422, § 2, effective August 10. **L. 2020:** (1.5) amended, (HB 20-1167), ch. 56, p. 192, § 5, effective September 14.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-407 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-508 was relocated to § 42-4-607.

(2) Amendments to subsection (1)(c)(III)(B) by House Bill 94-1012 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

(3) Subsection (1)(b) was amended by Senate Bill 09-108 and was further amended by House Bill 09-1318. The amendments made by House Bill 09-1318 reversed the changes made by Senate Bill 09-108 and returned subsection (1)(b) to its original form. Both bills had an effective date of January 1, 2010, therefore, no changes are being shown in subsection (1)(b).

**Cross references:** The "Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956" was repealed and now has provisions contained in 23 U.S.C. §§ 101, 103, 104, 107, 108, 109, 113, 115, 118, 120, 123, 128, 129, and 304 to 306.

**42-4-509. Vehicles weighed - excess removed.**

(1) Any police or peace officer, as described in section 16-2.5-101, C.R.S., having reason to believe that the weight of a vehicle and load is unlawful is authorized to require the driver to stop and submit to a weighing of the same by means of either portable or stationary scales or shall require that such vehicle be driven to the nearest public scales in the event such scales are within five miles.

(2) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (2), whenever an officer upon weighing a vehicle and load as provided in subsection (1) of this section determines that the weight is unlawful, such officer shall require the driver to stop the vehicle in a suitable place and remain standing until such portion of the load is removed as may be necessary to reduce the gross weight of such vehicle to such limit as permitted under sections 42-4-501 to 42-4-512 and 42-4-1407. All material so unloaded shall be cared for by the owner or operator of such vehicle at the risk of such owner or operator.

(b) Whenever an officer upon weighing a vehicle and load as provided in subsection (1) of this section determines that the weight is unlawful and the load consists solely of either explosives or hazardous materials as defined in section 42-1-102 (32), such officer shall permit the driver of such vehicle to proceed to the driver's destination without requiring the driver to unload the excess portion of such load.

(3) Any driver of a vehicle who fails or refuses to stop and submit the vehicle and load to a weighing or who fails or refuses when directed by an officer upon a weighing of the vehicle to stop the vehicle and otherwise comply with the provisions of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2333, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2003:** (1) amended, p. 1628, § 61, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-408 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-509 was relocated to § 42-4-608.

**42-4-510. Permits for excess size and weight and for manufactured homes - penalty - rules - definitions.**

(1) (a) The department of transportation, the Colorado state patrol with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, or any local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction may, upon application in writing and good cause being shown therefor, issue a single trip, a special, or an annual permit in writing authorizing the applicant to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum specified in this article or otherwise not in conformity with the provisions of this article upon any highway under the jurisdiction of the party granting such permit and for the maintenance of which said party is responsible; except that permits for the movement of any manufactured home shall be issued as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(b) (I) The application for any permit must specifically describe the vehicle and load to be operated or moved; the particular highways for which the permit to operate is requested; whether the permit is for a single trip, a special, or an annual operation; and the time of such movement. All state permits are issued in the discretion of the department of transportation, subject to rules adopted by the transportation commission in accordance with this section and section 42-4-511. Except as provided in section 42-4-513, all local permits are issued in the discretion of the local authority pursuant to ordinances or resolutions adopted in accordance with section 42-4-511. Any ordinances or resolutions of local authorities must not conflict with this section.

(II) An overweight permit issued pursuant to this section shall be available for overweight divisible loads if:

(A) The vehicle has a quad axle grouping and the maximum gross weight of the vehicle does not exceed one hundred ten thousand pounds; or

(B) The vehicle is operated in combination with a trailer or semitrailer, the trailer has two or three axles, and the maximum gross weight of the vehicle does not exceed ninety-seven thousand pounds; and

(C) The owner and operator of the motor vehicle are in compliance with the federal "Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999", Pub.L. 106-159, as amended, as applicable to commercial vehicles; and

(D) The vehicle complies with rules promulgated by the department of transportation concerning the distribution of the load upon the vehicle's axles.

(III) A permit issued pursuant to this paragraph (b) shall not authorize the operation or movement of a motor vehicle on the interstate highway in violation of federal law.

(IV) An applicant for a permit must provide the department of transportation, the Colorado state patrol, or the local authority with acceptable third-party documentation establishing the gross weight of the load if the permit application is for a vehicle and load combination weighing at least two hundred thousand pounds and less than five hundred thousand pounds. The driver shall carry the documentation in the vehicle during the permitted move and produce, upon request, the documentation for any state agency or law enforcement personnel. Acceptable third-party documentation includes:

- (A) A manufacturer's certification of the weight of the load;
- (B) A certified weight ticket from a certified public scale;
- (C) A clearance certification from a law enforcement agency that has weighed the vehicle and load; or
- (D) A third-party bill of lading that clearly indicates the weight of the load.

(c) (I) A single trip or annual permit shall be issued pursuant to this section for a self-propelled fixed load crane that exceeds legal weight limits if it does not exceed the weight limits authorized by the department of transportation. A boom trailer or boom dolly shall not be permitted unless the boom trailer or boom dolly is attached to the crane in a manner and for the purpose of distributing load to meet the weight requirements established by the department. A self-propelled fixed load crane may be permitted with counterweights when a boom trailer or boom dolly is used if the counterweights do not exceed the manufacturer's rated capacity of the self-propelled fixed load crane and do not cause the vehicle to exceed permitted axle or gross weight limits. A permit issued pursuant to this paragraph (c) shall not authorize movement on interstate highways if not approved by federal law.

(II) For the purposes of this paragraph (c), "self-propelled fixed load crane" means a self-powered mobile crane designed with equipment or parts permanently attached to the body of the crane. A self-propelled fixed load crane includes, without limitation, the crane's shackles and slings.

(d) For the purposes of this section, section 42-4-511, and any rule promulgated under this section or section 42-4-511, a load of fluid milk products carried by a vehicle is deemed to not be a divisible load.

(1.5) (a) The department of transportation may, upon application in writing or electronically made and good cause being shown therefor, issue an annual fleet permit authorizing the applicant to operate or move any two or more vehicles owned by the applicant of a size or weight of

vehicle or load exceeding the maximum specified in this article or otherwise not in conformity with the provisions of this article upon any highway.

(b) The application for any annual fleet permit shall specifically describe the vehicles, loads, and estimated number of loads to be operated or moved and the particular highways for which the permit to operate is requested, as defined by rules of the department of transportation. Permits issued pursuant to this subsection (1.5) shall not authorize the operation of vehicles that exceed the maximum dimensions allowed for vehicles operating under annual permits issued pursuant to the rules of the department pertaining to transport permits for the movement of extra-legal vehicles or loads.

(c) The department shall provide the option to a company filing for a permit under this subsection (1.5) to file an express consent waiver that enables the company to designate a company representative to be a party of interest for a violation of this section. The appearance of the company representative in a court hearing without the operator when the operator has signed such waiver shall not be deemed the practice of law in violation of article 93 of title 13.

(1.7) (a) The department of transportation may issue super-load permits for:

(I) A combination vehicle with a weight of five hundred thousand pounds or more that occupies two lanes to haul the load; or

(II) An unladen combination vehicle with an expandable dual-lane transport trailer that occupies two lanes.

(b) (I) The department of transportation may place restrictions on the use of a permit. A person shall obey the restrictions contained in a permit.

(II) (A) The department of transportation may refuse to issue a permit to a person who has been held by an administrative law judge to have disobeyed permit restrictions or to have violated this section or rules promulgated under this section in a hearing held in accordance with article 4 of title 24, C.R.S.

(B) The department shall create a system that tracks the compliance of permit holders and use the system to determine if a permit holder has a pattern of noncompliance. The department shall promulgate rules establishing standards to deny permits to persons who show a pattern of noncompliance, which standards include the length of time a permit is denied based upon the number and type of noncomplying events.

(III) The department of transportation shall include in a super-load permit a speed restriction, not to exceed twenty-five miles per hour on the highway and ten miles per hour on structures; except that the department of transportation may modify the speed restriction when necessary for safety or to prevent structural damage.

(c) When filing an application, an applicant for a super-load permit shall provide the department of transportation with documentation, acceptable to the department of transportation, from a third party establishing the gross weight of the load. The driver shall carry the documentation in the vehicle during the permitted move and produce, upon request, the documentation for any state agency or law enforcement personnel.

(d) The department of transportation may refuse to issue a super-load permit under this section for an unladen combination vehicle unless the applicant breaks the load down to the smallest dimensions possible. The department of transportation may refuse to issue a super-load permit under this section for an unladen vehicle unless the applicant renders the dual lane trailer into legal loads.

(e) The department of transportation, Colorado state patrol, or port of entry shall inspect the load of a super-load permit holder, at the permit holder's expense, at the nearest point where the shipment enters the state, at a location specified by the department of transportation, or at the load's point of origin to ensure compliance with the permit requirements and safety statutes and rules, including:

- (I) Height, width, and length;
- (II) Number of axles;
- (III) Date of move;
- (IV) Correct route;
- (V) Documentation of load weight;
- (VI) Use of signs and pilot cars; and
- (VII) Weight, if the vehicle can be weighed within two hours.

(f) The department of transportation shall notify the port of entry of the permit's issuance and the location and date of the move.

(g) Repealed.

(2) (a) An authentication of paid ad valorem taxes, after notification of such movement to the county treasurer, may serve as a permit for movement of manufactured homes on public streets or highways under the county's jurisdiction. An authentication of paid ad valorem taxes from the county treasurer of the county from which the manufactured home is to be moved, after notification of such movement has been provided to the county assessor of the county to which the manufactured home is to be moved, pursuant to section 39-5-205, C.R.S., may also serve as a permit for the movement of manufactured homes from one adjoining county to an adjoining county on streets and highways under local jurisdiction. The treasurer shall issue along with the authentication of paid ad valorem taxes a transportable manufactured home permit. The treasurer

may establish and collect a fee, which shall not exceed ten dollars, for issuing the authentication of paid ad valorem taxes and the transportable manufactured home permit. Such transportable manufactured home permit shall be printed on an eleven inch by six inch fluorescent orange card and shall contain the following information: The name and address of the owner of the mobile home; the name and address of the mover; the transport number of the mover, a description of the mobile home including the make, year, and identification or serial number; the county authentication number; and an expiration date. The expiration date shall be set by the treasurer, but in no event shall the expiration date be more than thirty days after the date of issue of the permit. Such transportable manufactured home permit shall be valid for a single trip only. The transportable manufactured home permit shall be prominently displayed on the rear of the mobile home during transit of the mobile home. Peace officers and local tax and assessment officials may request, and upon demand shall be shown, all moving permits, tax receipts, or certificates required by this subsection (2). Nothing in this section shall require a permit from a county treasurer for the movement of a new manufactured home. For the purposes of this section, a new manufactured home is one in transit under invoice or manufacturer's statement of origin which has not been previously occupied for residential purposes.

(b) All applications for permits to move manufactured homes over state highways must comply with the following special provisions:

(I) Each such application must be for a single trip, a special permit, an annual permit, or, subject to the requirements of subsection (1.5)(a) of this section, an annual fleet permit. The application must be accompanied by a certificate or other proof of public liability insurance in amounts of not less than one hundred thousand dollars per person and three hundred thousand dollars per accident or crash for all manufactured homes moved within this state by the permit holder during the effective term of the permit. Each application for a single trip permit must be accompanied by an authentication of paid ad valorem taxes on the used manufactured home.

(II) Holders of permits shall keep and maintain, for not less than three calendar years, records of all manufactured homes moved in whole or in part within this state, which records shall include the plate number of the towing vehicle; the year, make, serial number, and size of the unit moved, together with date of the move; the place of pickup; and the exact address of the final destination and the county of final destination and the name and address of the landowner of the final destination. These records shall be available upon request within this state for inspection by the state of Colorado or any of its ad valorem taxing governmental subdivisions.

(III) Holders of permits shall obtain an authentication of paid ad valorem taxes through the date of the move from the owner of a used manufactured home or from the county treasurer of the county from which the used manufactured home is being moved. Permit holders shall notify the county treasurer of the county from which the manufactured home is being moved of the new exact address of the final destination and the county of final destination of the manufactured home and the name and address of the landowner of the final destination, and, if within the state,

the county treasurer shall forward copies of the used manufactured home tax certificate to the county assessor of the destination county. County treasurers may compute ad valorem manufactured home taxes due based upon the next preceding year's assessment prorated through the date of the move and accept payment of such as payment in full.

(IV) No owner of a manufactured home shall move the manufactured home or provide for the movement of the manufactured home without being the holder of a paid ad valorem tax certificate and a transportable manufactured home permit thereon, and no person shall assist such an owner in the movement of such owner's manufactured home, including a manufactured home dealer. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (b), a permit holder who moves any manufactured home within this state shall be liable for all unpaid ad valorem taxes thereon through the date of such move if movement is made prior to payment of the ad valorem taxes due on the manufactured home moved.

(V) In the event of an imminent natural or man-made disaster or emergency, including, but not limited to, rising waters, flood, or fire, the owner, owner's representative or agent, occupant, or tenant of a manufactured home or the mobile home park owner or manager, lienholder, or manufactured home dealer is specifically exempted from the need to obtain a permit pursuant to this section and may move the endangered manufactured home out of the danger area to a temporary or new permanent location and may move such manufactured home back to its original location without a permit or penalty or fee requirement. Upon any such move to a temporary location as a result of a disaster or emergency, the person making the move or such person's agent or representative shall notify the county assessor in the county to which the manufactured home has been moved, within twenty days after such move, of the date and circumstances pertaining to the move and the temporary or permanent new location of the manufactured home. If the manufactured home is moved to a new permanent location from a temporary location as a result of a disaster or emergency, a permit for such move shall be issued but no fee shall be assessed.

(3) The department of transportation, the Colorado state patrol, or any local authority is authorized to issue or withhold a permit, as provided in this section, and, if such permit is issued, to limit the number of trips, or to establish seasonal or other time limitations within which the vehicles described may be operated on the highways indicated, or otherwise to limit or prescribe conditions of operation of such vehicles, when necessary to protect the safety of highway users, to protect the efficient movement of traffic from unreasonable interference, or to protect the highways from undue damage to the road foundations, surfaces, or structures and may require such undertaking or other security as may be deemed necessary to compensate for any injury to any highway or highway structure.

(4) The original or a copy of every such permit shall be carried in the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which it refers and shall be open to inspection by any police officer or authorized agent of any authority granting such permit; except that, if a peace officer, as described in section



16-2.5-101, C.R.S., or an authorized agent of the authority that granted a permit may determine that the permit can be electronically verified at the time of contact, a copy of the permit need not be carried in the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which it refers. No person shall violate any of the terms or conditions of such permit.

(5) The department of transportation or the Colorado state patrol shall, unless such action will jeopardize distribution of federal highway funds to the state, authorize the operation or movement of a vehicle or combination of vehicles on the interstate highway system of Colorado at a maximum weight of eighty-five thousand pounds.

(6) No vehicle having a permit under this section shall be remodeled, rebuilt, altered, or changed except in such a way as to conform to those specifications and limitations established in sections 42-4-501 to 42-4-507 and 42-4-1407.

(7) Any person who has obtained a valid permit for the movement of any oversize vehicle or load may attach to such vehicle or load or to any vehicle accompanying the same not more than three illuminated flashing yellow signals as warning devices.

(8) (a) The department of transportation shall have a procedure to allow those persons who are transporting loads from another state into Colorado and who would require a permit under the provisions of this section to make advance arrangements by telephone or other means of communication for the issuance of a permit if the load otherwise complies with the requirements of this section.

(b) The Colorado state patrol shall have available for issuance at each fixed port of entry weigh station permits for extralegal vehicles or loads; except that special permits for extralegal vehicles or loads that are considered extraordinary in dimensions or weight, or both, and that require additional safety precautions while in transit shall be issued only by the department of transportation. A port of entry may issue such special permits if authorized to do so by the department of transportation and under such rules as the department of transportation may establish, and may deliver from a fixed port of entry weigh station any permit issued by the department of transportation.

(c) Repealed.

(9) No permit shall be necessary for the operation of authorized emergency vehicles, public transportation vehicles operated by municipalities or other political subdivisions of the state, county road maintenance and county road construction equipment temporarily moved upon the highway, implements of husbandry, and farm tractors temporarily moved upon the highway, including transportation of such tractors or implements by a person dealing therein to such person's place of business within the state or to the premises of a purchaser or prospective purchaser within the state; nor shall such vehicles or equipment be subject to the size and weight provisions of this part 5.

(10) The Colorado state patrol, the personnel in any port of entry weigh station, and local law enforcement officials shall verify the validity of permits issued under this section whenever feasible. Upon determination by any of such officials or by any personnel of a county assessor's or county treasurer's office indicating that a manufactured home has been moved without a valid permit, the district attorney shall investigate and prosecute any alleged violation as authorized by law.

(11) (a) The department of transportation or the Colorado state patrol may charge permit applicants permit fees as follows:

(I) For overlength, overwidth, and overheight permits on loads or vehicles which do not exceed legal weight limits:

(A) Annual permit, two hundred fifty dollars;

(B) Single trip permit, fifteen dollars;

(II) For overlength, including front or rear overhang, annual fleet permits on loads or vehicles which do not exceed legal weight limits, one thousand five hundred dollars plus fifteen dollars per fleet vehicle. For purposes of this subparagraph (II), "fleet" means any group of two or more vehicles owned by one person. This subparagraph (II) shall only apply for public utility vehicles and loads.

(III) For overweight permits for vehicles or loads exceeding legal weight limits up to two hundred thousand pounds:

(A) Annual permit, four hundred dollars;

(B) Single trip permit, fifteen dollars plus five dollars per axle;

(C) Annual fleet permits, one thousand five hundred dollars plus twenty-five dollars per vehicle to be permitted. For purposes of this sub-subparagraph (C), "fleet" means any group of two or more vehicles owned by one person. This sub-subparagraph (C) shall apply only to longer vehicle combinations as defined in section 42-4-505.

(IV) Special permits for structural, oversize, or overweight moves requiring extraordinary action or moves involving weight in excess of two hundred thousand pounds, one hundred twenty-five dollars for a permit for a single trip, including a super-load permit issued under subsection (1.7) of this section; except that a super-load permit fee is four hundred dollars;

(V) The fee for an annual fleet permit issued pursuant to subsection (1.5) or (2) of this section is three thousand dollars for a fleet of from two to ten vehicles plus three hundred dollars for each additional vehicle in the fleet;

(VI) For overweight permits for vehicles that have a quad axle grouping for divisible vehicles or loads exceeding legal weight limits issued pursuant to subsection (1)(b)(II)(A) of this section:

(A) Annual permit, five hundred dollars; and

(B) Single trip permit, thirty dollars plus ten dollars per axle;

(C) Repealed.

(D) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (HB 09-1318), ch. 316, p. 1704, § 2, effective January 1, 2010.)

(VII) For overweight permits for vehicle combinations with a trailer that has two or three axles for divisible vehicles or loads exceeding legal weight limits established by subsection (1)(b)(II)(B) of this section:

(A) Annual permit, five hundred dollars;

(B) Six-month permit, two hundred fifty dollars; and

(C) Single-trip permit, fifteen dollars plus ten dollars per axle;

(D) Repealed.

(VIII) For annual fleet overweight permits for fleets of vehicles that have a quad axle grouping, fleets of vehicle combinations with a trailer that has two or three axles, and fleets of both vehicles that have a quad axle grouping and vehicle combinations with a trailer that has two or three axles for divisible vehicles or loads exceeding legal weight limits established by subsection (1)(b)(II) of this section, two thousand dollars plus thirty-five dollars per vehicle to be permitted.

(b) Any local authority may impose a fee, in addition to but not to exceed the amounts required in subparagraphs (I) and (III) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (11), as provided by the applicable local ordinance or resolution; and, in the case of a permit under subparagraph (IV) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (11), the amount of the fee shall not exceed the actual cost of the extraordinary action.

(c) (I) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, for permit fees collected on or after January 1, 2027, the department of transportation, on behalf of the road enterprise created in section 43-4-1703, shall transmit all permit fees collected pursuant to subsection (11)(a) of this section to the state treasurer, who shall credit the permit fees to the road enterprise cash fund created in section 43-4-1705.

(II) This subsection (11)(c) does not apply to local fees imposed by a local government or local authority pursuant to subsection (11)(b) of this section, which are remitted to the appropriate local government or local authority.

(12) (a) Any person holding a permit issued pursuant to this section or any person operating a vehicle pursuant to such permit who violates any provision of this section, any ordinance or resolution of a local authority, or any standards or rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to this section, except the provisions of subsection (2)(b)(IV) of this section, commits a class 2 misdemeanor.

(b) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (2)(b)(IV) of this section commits a petty offense.

(c) The department of transportation with regard to any state permit and the local authority with regard to a local permit may, after a hearing under section 24-4-105, C.R.S., revoke, suspend, refuse to renew, or refuse to issue any permit authorized by this section upon a finding that the holder of the permit has violated the provisions of this section, any ordinance or resolution of a local authority, or any standards or rules promulgated pursuant to this section.

(d) A driver or holder of a permit issued pursuant to subsection (1.7) of this section who fails to comply with the terms of the permit or subsection (1.7) of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor.

(e) In addition to any other penalty, a carrier using a permit subject to subsection (1)(b)(IV) of this section that fails to have the documentation described in subsection (1)(b)(IV) of this section is subject to a penalty of one dollar per pound in excess of the gross weight authorized by the permit. A court shall transfer a penalty collected pursuant to this subsection (12)(e) to the state treasurer, who shall credit the penalty to the statewide bridge and tunnel enterprise special revenue fund, created in section 43-4-805 (3).

**Source:** **L. 94:** (12)(b) amended, p. 707, § 16, effective April 19; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2334, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (1), (3), (5), (8), and IP(11) amended, p. 1549, § 9, effective July 1. **L. 2002:** (8)(c) repealed, p. 872, § 9, effective August 7; (12)(b) amended, p. 1561, § 367, effective October 1. **L. 2003:** (1.5) and (11)(a)(V) added and (2)(b)(I) and (4) amended, pp. 581, 582, §§ 2, 3, effective January 1, 2004. **L. 2004:** (4) amended, p. 1212, § 101, effective August 4. **L. 2006:** (1.5)(c) added, p. 309, § 2, effective July 1; (1)(c) added, p. 1482, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2008:** (1)(b) and (5) amended and (11)(a)(VI) added, pp. 2093, 2094, §§ 1, 2, effective June 3. **L. 2009:** (1)(b)(II)(A), (1)(b)(II)(B), (5), and (11)(a)(VI)(B) amended and (11)(a)(VI)(D) added, (SB 09-108), ch. 5, p. 51, §§ 10, 9, effective January 1, 2010; (1)(b)(II)(B), (5), IP(11)(a)(VI), (11)(a)(VI)(B), and (11)(a)(VI)(D) amended and (11)(a)(VII) added, (HB 09-1318), ch. 316, p. 1704, § 2, effective January 1, 2010. **L. 2011:**

(1)(b)(II)(B) and IP(11)(a)(VII) amended, (HB 11-1279), ch. 179, p. 681, § 1, effective August 10; (1.7) and (12)(d) added and (11)(a)(IV) amended, (HB 11-1163), ch. 237, pp. 1029, 1031, §§ 1, 3, 2, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** (1)(a), (3), (5), (8)(b), IP(11)(a), and (12)(c) amended, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 467, § 10, effective July 1. **L. 2014:** (11)(a)(VII) amended, (HB 14-1160), ch. 97, p. 352, § 2, effective August 6. **L. 2017:** (1.5)(c) amended, (SB 17-227), ch. 705, p. 192, § 8, effective August 9. **L. 2020:** IP(11)(a)(VI) and IP(11)(a)(VII) amended, (11)(a)(VI)(C) and (11)(a)(VII)(D) repealed, and (11)(a)(VIII) added, (HB 20-1030), ch. 42, p. 140, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2021:** (12)(a), (12)(b), and (12)(d) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3305, § 728, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (1)(d) added, (SB 22-017), ch. 7, p. 111, § 2, effective March 3. **L. 2024:** (1)(b)(I) amended and (1)(b)(IV) and (12)(e) added, (SB 24-220), ch. 309, p. 2084, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2026:** (11)(c) added, (HB 26-1430), ch. 406, p. 2541, § 15, effective June 4; IP(2)(b) and (2)(b)(I) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 480, § 52, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-409 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-510 was relocated to § 42-4-609.

(2) Amendments to subsection (12)(b) by Senate Bill 94-092 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

(3) Subsections (5) and (11)(a)(VI)(B) were amended and subsection (11)(a)(VI)(D) was added by Senate Bill 09-108. Subsections (5) and (11)(a)(VI)(B) were further amended and subsection (11)(a)(VI)(D) was deleted by House Bill 09-1318. The amendments made by House Bill 09-1318 reversed the changes made by Senate Bill 09-108 to subsections (5) and (11)(a)(VI)(B) and returned them to their original form. Both bills had an effective date of January 1, 2010, therefore, no changes are being shown in subsections (5) and (11)(a)(VI)(B) and subsection (11)(a)(VI)(D) is being shown as deleted by amendment.

(4) Subsection (1.7)(g) provided for the repeal of subsection (1.7)(g), effective July 1, 2012. (See L. 2011, p. 1029.)

**Cross references:** (1) For penalties for misdemeanors, see § 18-1.3-501; for penalties for petty offenses, see § 18-1.3-503; for the penalty and surcharge for size, weight, and load violations of subsection (12)(a), see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(F).

(2) For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsection (12)(b), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002. For the legislative declaration in SB 22-017, see section 1 of chapter 7, Session Laws of Colorado 2022.

(3) For the short title ("Colorado Budget Protection Act") and the legislative declaration in HB 26-1430, see sections 1 and 2 of chapter 406, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

## ANNOTATION

**Subsection (9) specifies that operators of implements of husbandry** are exempt from applying for permits for implements that are temporarily moved upon the highway. If the county cannot restrict temporary movement of an oversized

agricultural sprinkler by denying a permit, it necessarily cannot achieve the same forbidden result via resolution. *Bd. of County Comm'rs of Logan County v. Vandemoer*, 205 P.3d 423 (Colo. App. 2008).

### **42-4-511. Permit standards - state and local.**

(1) The transportation commission shall adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of section 42-4-510 with regard to state permits.

(2) (a) Any permits which may be required by local authorities shall be issued in accordance with ordinances and resolutions adopted by the respective local authorities after a public hearing at which testimony is received from affected motor vehicle owners and operators. Notice of such public hearing shall be published in a newspaper having general circulation within the local authority's jurisdiction. Such notice shall not be less than eight days prior to the date of hearing. The publication shall not be placed in that portion of the newspaper in which legal notices or classified advertisements appear. Such notice shall state the purpose of the hearing, the time and place of the hearing, and that the general public, including motor vehicle owners and operators to be affected, may attend and make oral or written comments regarding the proposed ordinance or resolution. Notice of any subsequent hearing shall be published in the same manner as for the original hearing.

(b) At least thirty days prior to such public hearing, the local authority shall transmit a copy of the proposed ordinance or resolution to the department of transportation for its comments, and said department shall make such comments in writing to the local authority prior to such public hearing.

(c) A local authority that adopts or has adopted an ordinance or resolution governing permits for the movement of oversize or overweight vehicles or loads shall file a copy of the ordinance or resolution with the department of transportation.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2338, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (2)(c) added, p. 1551, § 10, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** (2)(c) amended, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 468, § 11, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-409.1 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-4-511.2. Authority for cooperative agreements with regional states on excess size or weight vehicles - regulations.**

(1) **Purpose.** The purpose of this section is to authorize the negotiation and execution of agreements in cooperation with other states to:

(a) Establish a regional permit system to allow nondivisible oversize or overweight vehicles to operate between and among two or more states under one single trip permit, instead of requiring such vehicles to stop and obtain a separate permit before entering each state;

(b) Promote uniformity concerning administrative and enforcement procedures for applicable vehicle size and weight standards to facilitate regional movement of such vehicles, to eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic barriers, and to improve the highway operating environment and vehicle safety under the applicable laws of the respective states; and

(c) Encourage and utilize research that will facilitate the achievement of the purposes described in this subsection (1).

(2) **Authority.**

(a) In addition to any other powers granted by law, the executive director of the department of transportation, or the executive director's designee, is hereby authorized to negotiate and enter into appropriate agreements with other states concerning the regional operation or movement of nondivisible oversize or overweight vehicles and to facilitate the uniform application, administration, and enforcement of applicable laws concerning such vehicles.

(b) A cooperative agreement under this section may include, but shall not be limited to, the establishment of a regional permit system authorizing the operation or movement of nondivisible oversize or overweight vehicles from one state in the region to or through another state or states in the region under a single trip permit in accordance with the applicable requirements of each of the states.

(c) For the purposes of a regional permit agreement, the department of transportation is authorized to:

(I) Delegate to other states its authority under section 42-4-510 (1) to issue permits for nondivisible oversize or overweight vehicles to operate on Colorado state highways; except that any such issuance by another state shall conform, at a minimum, to the applicable Colorado permit standards and legal requirements as described in this part 5 and to the regulations implementing this part 5. The department of transportation may also impose additional standards concerning such regional permits as it deems appropriate.

(II) Accept a delegation of authority from other states to issue permits for the operation of vehicles on the highways of such states in accordance with the applicable standards and requirements of such states, pursuant to the terms of the regional permit agreement; and

(III) Collect any fees, taxes, and penalties on behalf of other states that are parties to the regional permit agreement and to remit such fees, taxes, and penalties to such states. Such fees, taxes, and penalties shall not be considered taxes or funds of the state of Colorado for any purpose.

(d) For the purposes of a regional permit agreement, the Colorado state patrol, ports of entry, and local law enforcement authorities are authorized to enforce the terms of any regional permit concerning the operation of the permitted vehicle on state highways in Colorado. The Colorado state patrol, ports of entry, and local law enforcement authorities are also permitted to take necessary actions in Colorado to enforce the applicable requirements of the permitting state or states which shall include, but shall not be limited to, monitoring licenses and other credential usage; enforcing tax restraint, distraint, or levy orders; issuing civil citations; and conducting necessary safety and equipment inspections.

(e) The executive director of the department of transportation, or the executive director's designee, is hereby authorized to appoint employees and officials of other states as agents of the department for the limited purpose of enforcing the laws of Colorado under the terms of the cooperative agreements entered into under the provisions of this section. The executive director or the designee may promulgate such regulations as are necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this section.

(f) Any agreement entered into under the provisions of this section shall contain provisions that express the understanding that any employees and officials of any other state who enforce the laws of Colorado under the terms of such agreement, or who otherwise act under the terms of such agreement, shall not be eligible for compensation, employee rights, or benefits from the state of Colorado and shall not be considered to be employees or officials of the state of Colorado.

(g) A cooperative agreement under this section may also provide for uniformity concerning enforcement procedures, safety inspection standards, operational standards, permit and application form procedures, driver qualifications, and such other matters that may be pertinent to said matters.

(h) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, all existing statutes and rules and regulations prescribing size or weight vehicle requirements, or relating to permits for such vehicles, shall continue to be in full force and effect until amended or repealed by law, and any cooperative agreement must comply with such statutes and rules and regulations. The transportation commission shall ratify any cooperative agreement entered into under the provisions of this section.



**Source: L. 94:** Entire section added, p. 301, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (2)(c)(I) amended, p. 955, § 13, effective May 25.

**Editor's note:** This section was originally numbered as § 42-4-409.2 as enacted by House Bill 94-1012 but has been renumbered on revision and harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

**42-4-512. Liability for damage to highway.**

(1) No person shall drive, operate, or move upon or over any highway or highway structure any vehicle, object, or contrivance in such a manner so as to cause damage to said highway or highway structure. When the damage sustained to said highway or highway structure is the result of the operating, driving, or moving of such vehicle, object, or contrivance weighing in excess of the maximum weight authorized by sections 42-4-501 to 42-4-512 and 42-4-1407, it shall be no defense to any action, either civil or criminal, brought against such person that the weight of the vehicle was authorized by special permit issued in accordance with sections 42-4-501 to 42-4-512 and 42-4-1407.

(2) Every person violating the provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall be liable for all damage which said highway or highway structure may sustain as a result thereof. Whenever the driver of such vehicle, object, or contrivance is not the owner thereof but is operating, driving, or moving such vehicle, object, or contrivance with the express or implied consent of the owner thereof, then said owner or driver shall be jointly and severally liable for any such damage. The liability for damage sustained by any such highway or highway structure may be enforced by a civil action by the authorities in control of such highway or highway structure. No satisfaction of such civil liability, however, shall be deemed to be a release or satisfaction of any criminal liability for violation of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2339, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-411 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-512 was relocated to § 42-4-610.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Interstate Trans-Missouri West", see U. Colo. L. Rev. Legal Barriers to Transportation in the 476 (1966).

### **42-4-513. Overweight and oversize permits in emergencies.**

- (1) As used in this section, "emergency" means a temporary circumstance in which:
  - (a) The public safety or health is threatened;
  - (b) Critical infrastructure or homes are not able to maintain heat, power, or light;
  - (c) People are unable to secure adequate food, water, or fuel; or
  - (d) Agriculture operations or production is threatened with hazard or harm, including hazard or harm to animals.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, the department of transportation may, on an expedited basis, issue a single-use state permit or local permit to mitigate the effects of an emergency or to provide aid to people affected by an emergency.
- (3) (a) Before applying for a local permit under this section, the applicant must make a reasonable attempt to contact and obtain the approval of the local authority with jurisdiction over any highway used pursuant to the permit.
  - (b) If a permit issued under subsection (2) of this section is a local permit, the executive director of the department of transportation or the designee of the executive director shall, prior to issuing the permit, make a reasonable attempt to contact and obtain the approval of the local authorities with jurisdiction over any highway used pursuant to the permit. If the department of transportation is unable to contact or obtain the approval of the local authority within a reasonable amount of time based on the emergency situation, the department of transportation may issue the local permit.
  - (c) To issue a single-use state permit or local permit, the department of transportation must obtain approval from the chief of the Colorado state patrol if a law enforcement escort is needed.
- (4) If a permit issued under subsection (2) of this section is a local permit, the department of transportation shall collect the fee imposed by the local authority under section 42-4-510 (11)(b) and remit the fee to the appropriate local authority.

**Source: L. 2024:** Entire section added, (SB 24-220), ch. 309, p. 2085, § 2, effective August 7.

## PART 6

### SIGNALS - SIGNS - MARKINGS

**Cross references:** For penalties for class A and class B traffic infractions, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

#### **42-4-601. Department to sign highways, where.**

(1) The department of transportation shall place and maintain such traffic control devices, conforming to its manual and specifications, upon state highways as it deems necessary to indicate and to carry out the provisions of this article or to regulate, warn, or guide traffic.

(2) No local authority shall place or maintain any traffic control device upon any highway under the jurisdiction of the department of transportation except by the latter's permission.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2340, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-502 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-601 was relocated to § 42-4-701.

#### **42-4-602. Local traffic control devices.**

(1) No local authority shall erect or maintain any stop sign or traffic control signal at any location so as to require the traffic on any state highway to stop before entering or crossing any intersecting highway unless approval in writing has first been obtained from the department of transportation.

(2) Where practical no local authority shall maintain three traffic control signals located on a roadway so as to be within one minute's driving time (to be determined by the speed limit) from any one of the signals to the other without synchronizing the lights to enhance the flow of traffic and thereby reduce air pollution.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2340, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-503 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-602 was relocated to § 42-4-702.

#### ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Interstate Legal Barriers to Transportation in the Trans-Missouri West", see U. Colo. L. Rev. 476 (1966).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-602 is similar to § 42-4-503 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by

SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**The regulation of traffic at street intersections in a home-rule city is a matter of local concern.** Freeland v. Fife, 151 Colo. 339, 377 P.2d 942 (1963).

#### **42-4-603. Obedience to official traffic control devices.**

(1) No driver of a vehicle shall disobey the instructions of any official traffic control device including any official hand signal device placed or displayed in accordance with the provisions of this article unless otherwise directed by a police officer subject to the exceptions in this article granted the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle.

(2) No provision of this article for which official traffic control devices are required shall be enforced against an alleged violator if at the time and place of the alleged violation an official device is not in proper position and sufficiently legible to be seen by an ordinarily observant person. Whenever a particular section does not state that official traffic control devices are required, such section shall be effective even though no devices are erected or in place.

(3) Whenever official traffic control devices are placed in position approximately conforming to the requirements of this article, such devices shall be presumed to have been so placed by the official act or direction of lawful authority unless the contrary is established by competent evidence.

(4) Any official traffic control device placed pursuant to the provisions of this article and purporting to conform to the lawful requirements pertaining to such devices shall be presumed to comply with the requirements of this article unless the contrary is established by competent evidence.

(5) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2340, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-504 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-603 was relocated to § 42-4-703.

#### **42-4-604. Traffic control signal legend.**

(1) If traffic is controlled by traffic control signals exhibiting different colored lights, or colored lighted arrows, successively one at a time or in combination as declared in the traffic control manual adopted by the department of transportation, only the colors green, yellow, and red shall be used, except for special pedestrian-control signals carrying a word or symbol legend as provided in section 42-4-802, and said lights, arrows, and combinations thereof shall indicate and apply to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians as follows:

(a) Green indication:

(I) Vehicular traffic facing a circular green signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place prohibits such turn; but vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection and to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk at the time such signal is exhibited.

(II) Vehicular traffic facing a green arrow signal, shown alone or in combination with another indication, may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow or such other movement as is permitted by other indications shown at the same time. Such vehicular traffic shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

(III) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal as provided in section 42-4-802, pedestrians facing any green signal, except when the sole green signal is a turn arrow, may proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk.

(b) Steady yellow indication:

(I) Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal is thereby warned that the related green movement is being terminated or that a red indication will be exhibited immediately thereafter.

(II) Pedestrians facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal as provided in section 42-4-802, are thereby advised that there is insufficient time to cross the roadway before a red indication is shown, and no pedestrian shall then start to cross the roadway.

(c) Steady red indication:

(I) Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal alone shall stop at a clearly marked stop line but, if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until an indication to proceed is shown; except that:

(A) Such vehicular traffic, after coming to a stop and yielding the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection, may make a right turn, unless state or local road authorities within their respective jurisdictions have by ordinance or resolution prohibited any such right turn and have erected an official sign at each intersection where such right turn is prohibited.

(B) Such vehicular traffic, when proceeding on a one-way street and after coming to a stop, may make a left turn onto a one-way street upon which traffic is moving to the left of the driver. Such turn shall be made only after yielding the right-of-way to pedestrians and other traffic proceeding as directed. No turn shall be made pursuant to this sub-subparagraph (B) if local authorities have by ordinance prohibited any such left turn and erected a sign giving notice of any such prohibition at each intersection where such left turn is prohibited.

(C) To promote uniformity in traffic regulation throughout the state and to protect the public peace, health, and safety, the general assembly declares that no local authority shall have any discretion other than is expressly provided in this subparagraph (I).

(II) Pedestrians facing a steady circular red signal alone shall not enter the roadway, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal as provided in section 42-4-802.

(III) Vehicular traffic facing a steady red arrow signal may not enter the intersection to make the movement indicated by such arrow and, unless entering the intersection to make such other movement as is permitted by other indications shown at the same time, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line but, if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until an indication to make the movement indicated by such arrow is shown.

(IV) Pedestrians facing a steady red arrow signal shall not enter the roadway, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal as provided in section 42-4-802.

(d) Nonintersection signal: In the event an official traffic control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this section shall be applicable except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application. Any stop required shall be made at a sign or pavement marking indicating where the stop shall be made, but in the absence of any such sign or marking the stop shall be made at the signal.

(e) Lane-use-control signals: Whenever lane-use-control signals are placed over the individual lanes of a street or highway, as declared in the traffic control manual adopted by the department of transportation, such signals shall indicate and apply to drivers of vehicles as follows:

(I) Downward-pointing green arrow (steady): A driver facing such signal may drive in any lane over which said green arrow signal is located.

(II) Yellow "X" (steady): A driver facing such signal is warned that the related green arrow movement is being terminated and shall vacate in a safe manner the lane over which said steady yellow signal is located to avoid if possible occupying that lane when the steady red "X" signal is exhibited.

(III) Yellow "X" (flashing): A driver facing such signal may use the lane over which said flashing yellow signal is located for the purpose of making a left turn or a passing maneuver, using proper caution, but for no other purpose.

(IV) Red "X" (steady): A driver facing such signal shall not drive in any lane over which said red signal is exhibited.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2341, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-505 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-604 was relocated to § 42-4-704.

#### **42-4-605. Flashing signals.**

(1) Whenever an illuminated flashing red or yellow signal is used in conjunction with a traffic sign or a traffic signal or as a traffic beacon, it shall require obedience by vehicular traffic as follows:

(a) When a red lens is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles shall stop at a clearly marked stop line but, if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering the intersection, and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.

(b) When a yellow lens is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles may proceed past such signal and through the intersection or other hazardous location only with caution.

(2) This section shall not apply at railroad grade crossings. Conduct of drivers of vehicles approaching railroad crossings shall be governed by the provisions of sections 42-4-706 to 42-4-708.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2343, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-506 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-605 was relocated to § 42-4-705.

#### **42-4-606. Display of unauthorized signs or devices.**

(1) No person shall place, maintain, or display upon or in view of any highway any unauthorized sign, signal, marking, or device which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles an official traffic control device or railroad sign or signal, or which attempts to direct the movement of traffic, or which hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any official traffic control device or any railroad sign or signal, and no person shall place or maintain nor shall any public authority permit upon any highway any traffic sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial advertising. The provisions of this section shall not be deemed to prohibit the use of motorist services information of a general nature on official highway guide signs if such signs do not indicate the brand, trademark, or name of any private business or commercial enterprise offering the service, nor shall this section be deemed to prohibit the erection upon private property adjacent to highways of signs giving useful directional information and of a type that cannot be mistaken for official signs.

(2) Every such prohibited sign, signal, or marking is declared to be a public nuisance, and the authority having jurisdiction over the highway is empowered to remove the same or cause it to be removed without notice.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

(4) The provisions of this section shall not be applicable to informational sites authorized under section 43-1-405, C.R.S.



(5) The provisions of this section shall not be applicable to specific information signs authorized under section 43-1-420, C.R.S.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2344, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-507 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-606 was relocated to § 42-4-706.

#### ANNOTATION

|                                                                                                                                |                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>When used to prohibit expressive activities this section is unconstitutional on the basis it is impermissibly broad and</b> | <b>vague.</b> Faustin v. City and County of Denver, 104 F. Supp. 2d 1280 (D. Colo. 2000). |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

#### **42-4-607. Interference with official devices.**

(1) (a) No person shall, without lawful authority, attempt to or in fact alter, deface, injure, knock down, remove, or interfere with the effective operation of any official traffic control device or any railroad sign or signal or any inscription, shield, or insignia thereon or any other part thereof. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, any person who violates any provision of this paragraph (a) commits a class B traffic infraction.

(b) No person shall possess or sell, without lawful authority, an electronic device that is designed to cause a traffic light to change. A person who violates any provision of this paragraph (b) commits a class B traffic infraction.

(2) (a) No person shall use an electronic device, without lawful authority, that causes a traffic light to change. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (2), a person who violates any provision of this paragraph (a) commits a class A traffic infraction.

(b) A person who violates any provision of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) and thereby proximately causes bodily injury to another person commits a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense. In addition to any other penalty imposed by law, the court shall impose a fine of one thousand dollars.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2344, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2004:** Entire section amended, p. 333, § 2, effective August 4. **L. 2006:** Entire section amended, p. 1711, § 1, effective June 6.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-508 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-607 is similar to § 42-4-508 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

subject matter of "Interference with official devices" and a driver's "Duty upon striking highway fixtures". Therefore, this field has been preempted by the state. *City of Aurora v. Mitchell*, 144 Colo. 526, 357 P.2d 923 (1960).

**Subject matter preempted by state.**  
Sections 42-4-508 and 42-4-1405 cover the

#### **42-4-608. Signals by hand or signal device.**

(1) Any stop or turn signal when required as provided by section 42-4-903 shall be given either by means of the hand and arm as provided by section 42-4-609 or by signal lamps or signal device of the type approved by the department, except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) Any motor vehicle in use on a highway shall be equipped with, and the required signal shall be given by, signal lamps when the distance from the center of the top of the steering post to the left outside limit of the body, cab, or load of such motor vehicle exceeds twenty-four inches or when the distance from the center of the top of the steering post to the rear limit of the body or load thereof exceeds fourteen feet. The latter measurement shall apply to any single vehicle, also to any combination of vehicles.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2344, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-509 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-608 was relocated to § 42-4-707.

**42-4-609. Method of giving hand and arm signals.**

(1) All signals required to be given by hand and arm shall be given from the left side of the vehicle in the following manner, and such signals shall indicate as follows:

- (a) Left-turn, hand and arm extended horizontally;
- (b) Right-turn, hand and arm extended upward;
- (c) Stop or decrease speed, hand and arm extended downward.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2345, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-510 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-609 was relocated to § 42-4-708.

**42-4-610. Unauthorized insignia.**

No owner shall display upon any part of the owner's vehicle any official designation, sign, or insignia of any public or quasi-public corporation or municipal, state, or national department or governmental subdivision without authority of such agency or any insignia, badge, sign, emblem, or distinctive mark of any organization or society of which the owner is not a bona fide member or otherwise authorized to display such sign or insignia. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2345, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-512 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-610 was relocated to § 42-4-710.

**42-4-611. Paraplegic persons or persons with disabilities - distress flag.**

(1) Any paraplegic person or person with a disability when in motor vehicle distress is authorized to display by the side of such person's disabled vehicle a white flag of approximately seven and one-half inches in width and thirteen inches in length, with the letter "D" thereon in red color with an irregular one-half inch red border. Said flag shall be of reflective material so as to be readily discernible under darkened conditions, and said reflective material must be submitted to and approved by the department of transportation before the same is used.

(2) Any person desiring to use such display shall make application to the department, and the department may in its discretion issue to such person with a disability upon application a card that sets forth the applicant's name, address, and date of birth, the physical apparatus needed to operate a motor vehicle, if any, and any other pertinent facts that the department deems desirable, and in its discretion the department may issue a permit for the use of and issue to such person a display flag. Each such flag shall be numbered, and in the event of loss or destruction, a duplicate may be issued upon the payment of the sum of one dollar by such applicant. The department shall maintain a list of such applicants and persons to whom permits and flags have been issued and furnish a copy thereof to the Colorado state patrol upon request.

(3) Any person who is not a paraplegic person or a person with a disability who uses such flag as a signal or for any other purpose commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2345, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2000: (2) amended, p. 1643, § 29, effective June 1. L. 2021: (3) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3305, § 729, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-513 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-611 was relocated to § 42-4-711.

**42-4-612. When signals are inoperative or malfunctioning - penalty.**

(1) (a) When a driver approaches an intersection and faces a traffic control signal that is inoperative, that remains on steady red or steady yellow during several time cycles, or that does not recognize a motorcycle or autocycle that is operated by the driver, the provisions controlling entrance to a through street or highway from a stop sign or highway, as provided under section 42-4-703, apply until a police officer assumes control of traffic or until the traffic control signal resumes normal operation.

(b) If a traffic control signal at a place other than an intersection ceases to operate or malfunctions as specified in subsection (1)(a) of this section, drivers may proceed past the signal only with caution, as if the signal were flashing yellow.

(2) Whenever a pedestrian faces a pedestrian-control signal as provided in section 42-4-802 which is inoperative or which remains on "Don't Walk" or "Wait" during several time cycles, such pedestrian shall not enter the roadway unless the pedestrian can do so safely and without interfering with any vehicular traffic.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2346, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2019:** (1) amended, (SB 19-144), ch. 126, p. 571, § 1, effective August 2. **L. 2022:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2586, § 21, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-514 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-612 was relocated to § 42-4-1903.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class A traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for signals, signs, and markings violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(G).

#### **42-4-613. Failure to pay toll established by regional transportation authority.**

Any person who fails to pay a required fee, toll, rate, or charge established by a regional transportation authority created pursuant to part 6 of article 4 of title 43, C.R.S., for the privilege of traveling on or using any property included in a regional transportation system pursuant to part 6 of article 4 of title 43, C.R.S., commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 498, § 2, effective August 6. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 1069, § 17, effective January 1, 2006.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2005 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 269, Session Laws of Colorado 2005.

**42-4-614. Designation of highway maintenance, repair, or construction zones - signs - increase in penalties for speeding violations.**

(1) (a) If maintenance or repair activities are occurring on a portion of a state highway, the department of transportation may designate the portion of the highway as a highway maintenance or repair zone. If construction activities are occurring on a portion of a state highway, the department of transportation shall designate the portion of the highway as a highway construction zone. Any person who commits certain violations listed in section 42-4-1701 (4) in a maintenance, repair, or construction zone that is designated pursuant to this section is subject to the increased penalties and surcharges imposed by section 42-4-1701 (4)(c).

(b) If maintenance, repair, or construction activities are occurring or will occur within four hours on a portion of a roadway that is not a state highway, the public entity conducting the activities may designate such portion of the roadway as a maintenance, repair, or construction zone. A person who commits certain violations listed in section 42-4-1701 (4) in a maintenance, repair, or construction zone that is designated pursuant to this section is subject to the increased penalties and surcharges imposed by section 42-4-1701 (4)(c).

(2) The department of transportation or other public entity must designate a maintenance, repair, or construction zone by erecting or placing an appropriate sign in a conspicuous place before the area where the maintenance, repair, or construction activity is taking place or, if the zone is not on a state highway, will be taking place within four hours. The sign must notify the public that increased penalties for certain traffic violations are in effect in the zone. The department of transportation or other public entity must erect or place a second sign after the zone indicating that the increased penalties for certain traffic violations are no longer in effect. A maintenance, repair, or construction zone begins at the location of the sign indicating that increased penalties are in effect and ends at the location of the sign indicating that the increased penalties are no longer in effect.

(3) Signs used for designating the beginning and end of a maintenance, construction, or repair zone shall conform to department of transportation requirements. The department of transportation or other public entity may display such signs on any fixed, variable, or movable stand. The department of transportation or other public entity may place such a sign on a moving vehicle if required for certain activities, including, but not limited to, highway painting work.

**Source:** L. 97: Entire section added, p. 1385, § 5, effective July 1. L. 2005: (1) and (2) amended, p. 1222, § 4, effective August 8. L. 2008: Entire section amended, p. 2078, § 2, effective June 3. L. 2024: (1)(a) and (2) amended, (HB 24-1464), ch. 358, p. 2437, § 1, effective August 7.

**Editor's note:** This section was originally numbered as § 42-4-613 in House Bill 97-1003 but has been renumbered on revision for ease of location.

**Cross references:** (1) In 2005, subsections (1) and (2) were amended by the "Lopez-Forrester act". For the short title and legislative declaration, see sections 1 and 2 of chapter 276, Session Laws of Colorado 2005.

(2) Section 1 of chapter 412, Session Laws of Colorado 2008, provides that the act amending this section shall be known and may be cited as the "Charles Mather Highway Safety Act".

**42-4-615. School zones - increase in penalties for moving traffic violations.**

(1) Any person who commits a moving traffic violation in a school zone is subject to the increased penalties and surcharges imposed by section 42-4-1701 (4)(d).

(2) (a) As used in this section, "school zone" means all roadways within at least one thousand feet of a school property boundary; except that:

(I) State highways, as defined in section 42-4-110.5, are not included in a school zone unless designated as part of a school zone by the Colorado department of transportation or by a county, city and county, or municipality with the written approval of the Colorado department of transportation;

(II) A school zone that exists on August 12, 2026, that extends more than two hundred feet from a school property boundary is the school zone for that school property; and

(III) If a county, city and county, or municipality that has jurisdiction over a school zone reduces the size of the school zone pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, then only the reduced school zone is the school zone for that school property.

(b) If a school zone existing pursuant to subsection (2)(a)(II) of this section is less than two hundred feet from a school property, the county, city and county, or municipality that has jurisdiction over the school zone must increase the school zone to a minimum of two hundred feet.

(c) A school zone must have appropriate signs posted indicating a school zone and indicating that the penalties and surcharges within a school zone will be doubled. The state or local government having jurisdiction over the placement of traffic signs and traffic control devices in a school zone area shall designate the area deemed to be a school zone for the purposes of this section, which, except if reduced as permitted in subsection (4) of this section, must include all

roadways within one thousand feet of the school property boundary and shall post the signs required by this section. For school zones existing pursuant to subsection (2)(a)(II) of this section, signage that exists on August 12, 2026, meets the signage requirements for this subsection.

(d) A county, city and county, or municipality shall compile a list of schools for which it must determine school zones for the purposes of this section. A county, a city and county, or a municipality has the authority to determine which schools to include on the list.

(3) This section does not apply if the penalty and surcharge for a violation has been doubled pursuant to section 42-4-614 because such violation also occurred within a highway maintenance, repair, or construction zone.

(4) A county, city and county, or municipality that has jurisdiction over a school zone may reduce the size of the school zone to extend to less than one thousand feet from a school property boundary but shall not reduce the size of the school zone to less than two hundred feet from a school property boundary. A county, city and county, or municipality shall not reduce the size of a school zone without first holding a public hearing.

(5) Nothing in this section prohibits a county, city and county, or municipality from increasing the size of a school zone to larger than one thousand feet from a school property boundary or, in collaboration with a local school board, from raising revenue through bonding to finance increased school zone signage.

**Source:** L. 98: Entire section added, p. 588, § 1, effective July 1. L. 2026: (2) amended and (4) and (5) added, (HB 26-1318), ch. 234, p. 1350, § 2, effective August 12.

**Cross references:** For the short title ("Liam Stewart School Zone Act") in HB 26-1318, see section 1 of chapter 234, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

#### **42-4-616. Wildlife crossing zones - increase in penalties for moving traffic violations.**

(1) Except as described by subsection (4) of this section, a person who commits a moving traffic violation in a wildlife crossing zone is subject to the increased penalties and surcharges imposed by section 42-4-1701 (4)(d.5).

(2) For the purposes of this section, "wildlife crossing zone" means an area on a public highway that:



(a) Begins at a sign that conforms to the state traffic control manual, was erected by the department of transportation pursuant to section 42-4-118, and indicates that a person is about to enter a wildlife crossing zone; and

(b) Extends to:

(I) A sign that conforms to the state traffic control manual, was erected by the department of transportation pursuant to section 42-4-118, and indicates that a person is about to leave a wildlife crossing zone; or

(II) If no sign exists that complies with subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b), the distance indicated on the sign indicating the beginning of the wildlife crossing zone; or

(III) If no sign exists that complies with subparagraph (I) or (II) of this paragraph (b), one-half mile beyond the sign indicating the beginning of the wildlife crossing zone.

(3) (a) If the department of transportation erects a sign that indicates that a person is about to enter a wildlife crossing zone pursuant to section 42-4-118, the department of transportation shall:

(I) Establish the times of day and the periods of the calendar year during which the area will be deemed to be a wildlife crossing zone for the purposes of this section; and

(II) Ensure that the sign indicates the times of day and the periods of the calendar year during which the area will be deemed to be a wildlife crossing zone for the purposes of this section.

(b) In erecting signs as described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (3), the department of transportation, pursuant to section 42-4-118, shall not erect signs establishing a lower speed limit for more than one hundred miles of the public highways of the state that have been established as wildlife crossing zones.

(4) This section shall not apply if:

(a) The person who commits a moving traffic violation in a wildlife crossing zone is already subject to increased penalties and surcharges for said violation pursuant to section 42-4-614 or 42-4-615;

(b) The sign indicating that a person is about to enter a wildlife crossing zone does not indicate that increased traffic penalties are in effect in the zone; or

(c) The person who commits a moving traffic violation in a wildlife crossing zone commits the violation during a time that the area is not deemed by the department of transportation to be a wildlife crossing zone for the purposes of this section.

**Source: L. 2010:** Entire section added, (HB 10-1238), ch. 393, p. 1868, § 2, effective September 1.

**42-4-617. Steep downhill grade zones - increase in penalties and surcharges for speeding violations - definitions.**

(1) The department may designate a steep downhill grade zone in any area of any state highway where the downhill grade is five percent or greater and where the department determines there are safety concerns related to commercial motor vehicles exceeding the posted speed limits.

(2) The department shall erect, where applicable, signs consistent with subsection (3) of this section notifying drivers of each area of the state highways that the department has designated as a steep downhill grade zone.

(3) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "steep downhill grade zone" means an area of a state highway that:

(a) Begins at a sign that:

(I) Conforms to the state traffic control manual;

(II) Was erected by the department pursuant to subsection (2) of this section;

(III) Indicates that a driver is about to enter a steep downhill grade zone; and

(IV) Notifies commercial motor vehicle drivers that increased penalties and surcharges are in effect and assessed for speeding in the zone; and

(b) Extends to:

(I) A sign that:

(A) Conforms to the state traffic control manual;

(B) Was erected by the department pursuant to subsection (2) of this section; and

(C) Indicates that a driver is at the end of the steep downhill grade zone; or

(II) If no sign exists that complies with subsection (3)(b)(I) of this section, a distance:

(A) As indicated on the sign described in subsection (3)(a) of this section; or

(B) Of one-half of a mile beyond the sign described in subsection (3)(a) of this section; and

(c) Is designated as a steep downhill grade zone by the department of transportation pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

(4) A driver of a commercial motor vehicle who commits a speeding violation in a steep downhill grade zone is subject to the increased penalties and surcharges imposed under section 42-4-1701 (4)(d.7).

(5) As used in this section:

(a) "Commercial motor vehicle" has the same meaning as set forth in section 42-2-402 (4).

(b) "Department" means the department of transportation created in section 43-1-103.

**Source: L. 2023:** Entire section added, (HB23-1267), ch. 382, p. 2294, § 2, effective January 1, 2024.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in HB 23-1267, see section 1 of chapter 382, Session Laws of Colorado 2023.

**42-4-618. Glenwood Canyon - increase in penalties and surcharges for speeding violations - definitions.**

(1) The department may determine that there are safety concerns in Glenwood Canyon on interstate 70 eastbound between milepost 116.0 and milepost 131.0 and westbound between milepost 118.5 and milepost 131.0 related to commercial motor vehicles exceeding the posted speed limits.

(2) The department shall erect, where applicable, signs notifying drivers of each area of the state highways that the department has designated as a heightened speed limit enforcement zone.

(3) A driver of a commercial motor vehicle who commits a speeding violation in a heightened speed limit enforcement zone is subject to the increased penalties and surcharges imposed under section 42-4-1701 (4)(d.9); except that the increased penalties and surcharges do not apply when the driver commits the violation within a highway maintenance, repair, or construction zone and is already subject to an increased penalty and surcharge for the violation pursuant to section 42-4-614.

(4) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Commercial motor vehicle" has the same meaning as set forth in section 42-2-402 (4).

(b) "Department" means the department of transportation created in section 43-1-103.

(c) "Heightened speed limit enforcement zone" means an area of a state highway that:

- (I) Begins and ends at a sign that:
  - (A) Conforms to the state traffic control manual;
  - (B) Indicates that a driver is about to enter or is at the end of a heightened speed limit enforcement zone; and
  - (C) Notifies commercial motor vehicle drivers that increased penalties and surcharges are in effect and assessed for speeding in the zone; and
- (II) Is designated as a heightened speed limit enforcement zone by the department of transportation pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

**Source: L. 2024:** Entire section added, (SB 24-100), ch. 207, p. 1276, § 2, effective August 7.

## PART 7

### RIGHTS-OF-WAY

**Cross references:** For penalties for class A and class B traffic infractions, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

#### **42-4-701. Vehicles approaching or entering intersection.**

- (1) When two vehicles approach or enter an intersection from different highways at approximately the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right.
- (2) The foregoing rule is modified at through highways and otherwise as stated in sections 42-4-702 to 42-4-704.
- (3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2346, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-601 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-701 was relocated to § 42-4-801.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Scope of the Right-of-Way Privilege", see 19 Dicta 122 (1942).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-701 is similar to § 42-4-601 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**State law does not take away city's power to regulate traffic.** If a city has power under the state constitution to pass ordinances regulating vehicular traffic upon its streets, it cannot be deprived of that power by the passage of a state law. And if there is a conflict between statute and ordinance the ordinance controls. *City & County of Denver v. Henry*, 95 Colo. 582, 38 P.2d 895 (1934); *Brown v. Maier*, 96 Colo. 1, 38 P.2d 905 (1934); *Thomasson v. Burlington Transp. Co.*, 128 F. 2d 355 (10th Cir. 1942).

**Question of contributory negligence measured by requirements of city ordinance.** Thus, in action for injuries sustained in automobile accident at an intersection, the question of plaintiff's contributory negligence must be measured by the requirements of the city ordinance relating to right-of-way at intersections and not by this section, where there was a conflict. *Thomasson v. Burlington Transp. Co.*, 128 F.2d 355 (10th Cir. 1942).

**Insufficient evidence to charge contributory negligence.** To properly apply

the "look but not see" rule, as a matter of law, it is elemental that the approaching vehicle must be plainly visible and that the view of it must be unobstructed. If the evidence on these points is not clear or is disputed, then it remains a fact question for the trier of the facts to resolve. The effect of these findings by the trial court is that the evidence was insufficient to charge the defendant with contributory negligence when plaintiff negligently failed to yield right-of-way. *Hernandez v. Ratliff*, 172 Colo. 129, 470 P.2d 579 (1970).

**Need not yield right-of-way to one already at fault.** A driver cannot be required to yield the right-of-way when his inability to know and act is chargeable to the lawless conduct of him who claims it. *Boyd v. Close*, 82 Colo. 150, 257 P. 1079 (1927); *Andrus v. Hall*, 93 Colo. 526, 27 P.2d 495 (1933).

**One having right-of-way must still use reasonable care.** *Prentiss v. Johnston*, 119 Colo. 370, 203 P. 2d 733 (1949).

**Violation is question for jury.** Whether or not either of the drivers or both were negligent in violating this section and whether said negligence was the proximate cause of this accident, or whether it was caused by the joint and concurrent negligence of both, are questions of fact for the jury to determine. *Amos v. Remington Arms Co.*, 117 Colo. 399, 188 P.2d 896 (1948).

**Applied** in *Lorenzini v. Rucker*, 95 Colo.

246, 35 P.2d 865 (1934).

**42-4-702. Vehicle turning left.**

The driver of a vehicle intending to turn to the left within an intersection or into an alley, private road, or driveway shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction which is within the intersection or so close thereto as to constitute an immediate hazard. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2346, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-602 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-702 was relocated to § 42-4-802.

**ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-702 is similar to § 42-4-602 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**The evidence clearly disclosed negligence on the part of defendants in making left turn** and failed to show any contributory negligence on the part of driver of plaintiff's car which would bar recovery. *Thoen v. Pub. Serv. Co.*, 112 Colo. 126, 146 P.2d 349 (1944).

**Sufficient evidence of contributory negligence to take issue to jury.** Where the

defendant testified that no vehicle was within the intersection or so close thereto as to constitute an immediate hazard and that he was therefore entitled to the right-of-way as he proceeded to make his left turn, and where plaintiff testified that defendant turned directly in front of him and plaintiff had the right-of-way, there is evidence in the record from which the jury might find that the plaintiff was contributorily negligent, and the issue of contributory negligence should have gone to the jury. *Eagan v. Maiselson*, 142 Colo. 233, 350 P.2d 567 (1960).

**42-4-703. Entering through highway - stop or yield intersection.**

(1) The department of transportation and local authorities, within their respective jurisdictions, may erect and maintain stop signs, yield signs, or other official traffic control devices to designate through highways or to designate intersections or other roadway junctions at which vehicular traffic on one or more of the roadways is directed to yield or to stop and yield before entering the intersection or junction. In the case of state highways, such regulations shall be subject to the provisions of section 43-2-135 (1)(g), C.R.S.

(2) Every sign erected pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall be a standard sign adopted by the department of transportation.

(3) Except when directed to proceed by a police officer, every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering it. After having stopped, the driver shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction of roadways.

(4) The driver of a vehicle approaching a yield sign, in obedience to such sign, shall slow to a speed reasonable for the existing conditions and, if required for safety to stop, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering it. After slowing or stopping, the driver shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time such driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction of roadways; except that, if a driver is involved in a collision with a vehicle in the intersection or junction of roadways after driving past a yield sign without stopping, such collision shall be deemed prima facie evidence of the driver's failure to yield right-of-way.

(5) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2347, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-603 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-703 was relocated to § 42-4-803.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-703 is similar to § 42-4-603 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**This section governs traffic at rural intersections.** Seifried v. Mosher, 129 Colo. 156, 268 P.2d 411 (1954).

**The phrase "approaching so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard" necessarily imposes due care** and caution on the part of the approaching driver under all the facts and circumstances present. Seifried v. Mosher, 129 Colo. 156, 268 P.2d 411 (1954).

**Violation of a traffic statute may serve as the basis of a negligence per se determination.** Subsection (3) was adopted for the public's safety and may be used as a basis for asserting negligence per se. Bullock v. Wayne, 623 F. Supp. 2d 1247 (D. Colo. 2009).

**Section 42-4-1713 prevents the admission of evidence of conviction for failure to yield** in violation of subsection (3) of this section. That evidence may not be introduced at trial or during summary judgment. Bullock v. Wayne, 623 F. Supp. 2d 1247 (D. Colo. 2009).

**Violation is question for jury.** Whether or not either of the drivers or both were negligent in violating this section and whether said negligence was the proximate cause of this accident, or whether it was caused by the joint and concurrent negligence of both, were questions of fact for the jury to determine. Amos v. Remington Arms Co., 117 Colo. 399, 188 P.2d 896 (1948).

**Negligence is generally for the jury, and always so when the measure of duty is reasonable care.** Seifried v. Mosher, 129 Colo. 156, 268 P.2d 411 (1954).

**Applied** in Smith v. Charnes, 649 P.2d 1089 (Colo. 1982).

### **42-4-704. Vehicle entering roadway.**

The driver of a vehicle about to enter or cross a roadway from any place other than another roadway shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on the roadway to be entered or crossed. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2347, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.



**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-604 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-704 was relocated to § 42-4-804.

**Cross references:** For duty to yield when entering a roadway from a driveway or alley, see § 42-4-710.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-704 is similar to § 42-4-604 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Whether one is heading into the highway, or backing into it, he is still entering the highway.** Yockey Trucking Co. v. Handy, 128 Colo. 404, 262 P.2d 930 (1953).

**The duty of a driver backing his automobile into a street or roadway** is clearly set forth in McBride v. Woods, 124 Colo. 384, 238 P.2d 183 (1951); Yockey Trucking Co. v. Handy, 128 Colo. 404, 262 P.2d 930 (1953).

**The duty of one driving on a highway who arrives at an intersection of that**

**highway and a private road** or driveway is not the same duty of care as at an intersection of two highways. Curtis v. Lawley, 140 Colo. 476, 346 P.2d 579 (1959).

**And despite the statutory requirement that one traveling on a public highway has the right-of-way over one entering the highway from a private road** is but a reaffirmation of the rule of the road. Curtis v. Lawley, 140 Colo. 476, 346 P.2d 579 (1959).

**Right-of-way must be used with due care.** Notwithstanding the fact the operator of a vehicle over a public road has the right-of-way over a person entering thereon from a private roadway, he must use his right in a reasonable manner; in other words, it is the duty of both parties to use due care as that term is understood at common law. Curtis v. Lawley, 140 Colo. 476, 346 P.2d 579 (1959).

**42-4-705. Operation of vehicle approached by emergency vehicle - operation of vehicle approaching stationary emergency vehicle, stationary towing carrier vehicle, or stationary public utility service vehicle.**

(1) Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle making use of audible or visual signals meeting the requirements of section 42-4-213 or 42-4-222, the driver of every other vehicle shall yield the right-of-way and where possible shall immediately clear the farthest left-hand lane lawfully available to through traffic and shall drive to a position parallel to, and as

close as possible to, the right-hand edge or curb of a roadway clear of any intersection and shall stop and remain in that position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

(2) (a) A driver in a motor vehicle shall exhibit due care and caution and proceed as described in subsections (2)(b) and (2)(c) of this section when approaching or passing:

(I) A stationary authorized emergency vehicle, including a port of entry vehicle, that is giving a visual signal by means of flashing, rotating, or oscillating red, blue, or white lights as permitted by section 42-4-213 or 42-4-222;

(II) A stationary towing carrier vehicle that is giving a visual signal by means of flashing, rotating, or oscillating yellow lights;

(III) A stationary public utility service vehicle that is operated by a public utility, as defined in section 39-4-101 or 40-1-103, or an authorized contractor of the public utility and that is giving a visual signal by means of flashing, rotating, or oscillating amber lights; or

(IV) A stationary motor vehicle giving a hazard signal by displaying alternately flashing lights or displaying warning lights.

(b) On a highway with at least two adjacent lanes proceeding in the same direction on the same side of the highway where a stationary vehicle described in subsection (2)(a) of this section is located, the driver of an approaching or passing vehicle shall proceed with due care and caution and yield the right-of-way by moving into a lane at least one moving lane apart from the stationary vehicle described in subsection (2)(a) of this section unless directed otherwise by a peace officer or other authorized emergency personnel. If movement to an adjacent moving lane is not possible due to weather, road conditions, or the immediate presence of vehicular or pedestrian traffic, the driver of the approaching motor vehicle shall proceed in the manner described in subsection (2)(c) of this section.

(c) (I) On a highway that does not have at least two adjacent lanes proceeding in the same direction on the same side of the highway where a stationary vehicle described in subsection (2)(a) of this section is located, or if movement by the driver of the approaching motor vehicle into an adjacent moving lane, as described in subsection (2)(b) of this section, is not possible, the driver of an approaching motor vehicle shall reduce and maintain a safe speed with regard to the location of the stationary vehicle described in subsection (2)(a) of this section; weather conditions; road conditions; and vehicular or pedestrian traffic and proceed with due care and caution, or as directed by a peace officer or other authorized emergency personnel.

(II) For the purposes of this subsection (2)(c), the following speeds are presumed to be safe unless the speeds are unsafe for the conditions as provided in section 42-4-1101 (1) and (3):

(A) If the speed limit is less than forty-five miles per hour, twenty-five miles per hour or less; or

(B) If the speed limit is forty-five miles per hour or more, twenty miles per hour less than the speed limit.

(2.5) (a) A driver in a vehicle that is approaching or passing a maintenance, repair, or construction vehicle that is moving at less than twenty miles per hour shall exhibit due care and caution and proceed as described in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection (2.5).

(b) On a highway with at least two adjacent lanes proceeding in the same direction on the same side of the highway where a stationary or slow-moving maintenance, repair, or construction vehicle is located, the driver of an approaching or passing vehicle shall proceed with due care and caution and yield the right-of-way by moving into a lane at least one moving lane apart from the vehicle, unless directed otherwise by a peace officer or other authorized emergency personnel. If movement to an adjacent moving lane is not possible due to weather, road conditions, or the immediate presence of vehicular or pedestrian traffic, the driver of the approaching vehicle shall proceed in the manner described in paragraph (c) of this subsection (2.5).

(c) On a highway that does not have at least two adjacent lanes proceeding in the same direction on the same side of the highway where a stationary or slow-moving maintenance, repair, or construction vehicle is located, or if movement by the driver of the approaching vehicle into an adjacent moving lane, as described in paragraph (b) of this subsection (2.5), is not possible, the driver of an approaching vehicle shall reduce and maintain a safe speed with regard to the location of the stationary or slow-moving maintenance, repair, or construction vehicle, weather conditions, road conditions, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic, and shall proceed with due care and caution, or as directed by a peace officer or other authorized emergency personnel.

(2.6) A driver in a vehicle that is approaching or passing a motor vehicle where the tires are being equipped with chains on the side of the highway shall exhibit due care and caution and proceed as described in subsection (2) of this section. The driver of a motor vehicle that is being equipped with chains shall give a hazard signal by displaying alternately flashing lights or displaying warning lights.

(3) (a) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

(b) (I) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (3)(b)(II) and (3)(b)(III) of this section, any person who violates subsection (2), (2.5), or (2.6) of this section commits careless driving as described in section 42-4-1402.

(II) If the person violates subsection (2) of this section and the person's actions are the proximate cause of bodily injury to another person, the person commits a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(III) If the person violates subsection (2) of this section and the person's actions are the proximate cause of the death of another person, the person commits a class 6 felony and shall be punished as described in section 18-1.3-401.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2347, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 711, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (2.5) and (2.6) added and (3)(b) amended, p. 2081, § 6, effective June 3. **L. 2011:** (2) amended, (SB 11-260), ch. 298, p. 1434, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** (2)(a), (2)(b), (2)(c), and (3)(b) amended, (SB 17-229), ch. 278, p. 1520, § 2, effective September 1. **L. 2020:** (2) amended, (HB 20-1145), ch. 107, p. 420, § 1, effective September 14. **L. 2021:** (3)(b)(II) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3305, § 730, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2023:** (2)(a), (2)(b), (2)(c)(I), and (2.6) amended, (HB 23-1123), ch. 19, p. 70, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2026:** (3)(b)(II) amended, (HB 26-1297), ch. 123, p. 535, § 8, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-605 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-705 was relocated to § 42-4-805.

**Cross references:** (1) Section 1 of chapter 412, Session Laws of Colorado 2008, provides that the act enacting subsections (2.5) and (2.6) and amending subsection (3)(b) shall be known and may be cited as the "Charles Mather Highway Safety Act".

(2) In 2011, subsection (2) was amended by the "Allen Rose Tow-truck Safety Act". For the short title, see section 1 of chapter 298, Session Laws of Colorado 2011.

(3) For the short title ("Move Over for Cody Act") in SB 17-229, see section 1 of chapter 278, Session Laws of Colorado 2017.

#### **42-4-706. Obedience to railroad signal.**

(1) Any driver of a motor vehicle approaching a railroad crossing sign shall slow down to a speed that is reasonable and safe for the existing conditions. If required to stop for a traffic control device, flagperson, or safety before crossing the railroad grade crossing, the driver shall stop at the marked stop line, if any. If no marked stop line exists, the driver shall:

(a) Stop not less than fifteen feet nor more than fifty feet from the nearest rail of the railroad grade crossing and shall not proceed until the railroad grade can be crossed safely; or

(b) If the driver would not have a reasonable view of approaching trains or on-track equipment when stopped in accordance with subsection (1)(a) of this section:

(I) Stop before proceeding across the railroad grade crossing at the point nearest the crossing where the driver has a reasonable view of approaching trains or on-track equipment; and

(II) Not proceed until the railroad grade can be crossed safely.

(2) No person shall drive any vehicle through, around, or under any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad crossing while such gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed, nor shall any pedestrian pass through, around, over, or under any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad grade crossing while such gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2348, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1)(b) amended, p. 955, § 14, effective May 25. **L. 2021:** IP(1) and (1)(b) amended, (HB 21-1245), ch. 218, p. 1151, § 1, effective September 7.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-606 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-706 was relocated to § 42-4-806.

**42-4-707. Certain vehicles must stop at railroad grade crossings - applicability - penalty - definitions.**

(1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the driver of a school bus, as defined in subsection (5)(b) of this section, or the driver of a multifunction school activity bus, as defined in subsection (5)(a.5) of this section; the driver of a vehicle carrying hazardous materials that is required to be placarded in accordance with rules issued under section 42-20-108; or the driver of a commercial vehicle, as defined in section 42-4-235, that is transporting passengers, before crossing at grade any tracks of a railroad:

(I) Shall stop the vehicle within fifty feet but not less than fifteen feet from the nearest rail of the railroad;

(II) While stopped, shall listen and look in both directions along the track for any approaching train or on-track equipment or for signals indicating the approach of a train or on-track equipment; and

(III) Shall not proceed until the driver can do so safely.

(b) After stopping as required in this section and upon proceeding when it is safe to do so, the driver of a vehicle described in subsection (1)(a) of this section:

(I) Shall cross only if there is no necessity for changing gears while traversing the crossing; and

(II) Shall not manually shift gears while crossing the tracks.

(2) This section shall not apply at street railway grade crossings within a business district.

(3) When stopping as required at such railroad crossing, the driver shall keep as far to the right of the roadway as possible and shall not form two lanes of traffic unless the roadway is marked for four or more lanes of traffic.

(4) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply at:

(a) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2006, p. 42, § 1, effective July 1, 2006.)

(b) Any railroad grade crossing at which traffic is regulated by a traffic control signal;

(c) Any railroad grade crossing at which traffic is controlled by a police officer or human flagperson;

(d) A railroad crossing where state or local road authorities within their respective jurisdictions have determined that trains or on-track equipment are not operating during certain periods or seasons of the year and have erected an official sign carrying the legend "exempt", which sign constitutes legally sufficient notice that the crossing is exempt from the stopping requirement in this section.

(5) As used in this section:

(a) The definition of hazardous materials shall be the definition contained in the rules adopted by the chief of the Colorado state patrol pursuant to section 42-20-108.

(a.5) "Multifunction school activity bus" means a multifunction school activity bus that is required to bear on the front and rear of the bus the words "ACTIVITY BUS" pursuant to section 42-4-1903 (2)(a.5).

(b) "School bus" means a school bus that is required to bear on the front and rear of such school bus the words "SCHOOL BUS" and display visual signal lights pursuant to section 42-4-1903 (2)(a).

(6) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2349, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1) amended, p. 956, § 15, effective May 25. **L. 2000:** (1) and (5) amended, p. 20, § 2, effective March 9. **L. 2006:** (1), (2), and (4)(a) amended, p. 42, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2010:** (5)(b) amended, (HB 10-1232), ch. 163, p. 573, § 13, effective April 28. **L. 2021:** (1), IP(4), and (4)(d) amended, (HB 21-1245), ch. 218, p. 1151, § 2, effective September 7. **L. 2025:** IP(1)(a) and IP(5) amended and (5)(a.5) added, (HB 25-1320), ch. 236, p. 1176, § 26, effective May 23.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-608 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-707 was relocated to § 42-4-807.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in HB 25-1320, see section 1 of chapter 236, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

#### **42-4-708. Moving heavy equipment at railroad grade crossing.**

(1) No person shall operate or move any crawler-type tractor, steam shovel, derrick, or roller or any equipment or structure having a normal operating speed of ten or less miles per hour or a vertical body or load clearance of less than nine inches above the level surface of a roadway upon or across any tracks at a railroad grade crossing without first complying with this section.

(2) Notice of any such intended crossing shall be given to a superintendent of such railroad and a reasonable time be given to such railroad to provide proper protection at such crossing.

(3) Before making a crossing described in subsection (1) of this section, the person operating or moving the vehicle or equipment:

(a) Shall first stop the vehicle or equipment not less than fifteen feet nor more than fifty feet from the nearest rail of the railroad;

(b) While stopped, shall listen and look in both directions along the track for any approaching train, for on-track equipment, or for signals indicating the approach of a train or on-track equipment; and

(c) Shall not proceed until the crossing can be made safely.

(4) Before making a crossing described in subsection (1) of this section, the person moving or operating the vehicle or equipment shall ensure that no warning is being given, whether by automatic signal or crossing gates or a flagperson or otherwise, of the immediate approach of a railroad train or on-track equipment.

(5) Subsection (3) of this section does not apply at any railroad crossing where state or local road authorities within their respective jurisdictions have determined that trains or on-track equipment are not operating during certain periods or seasons of the year and have erected an official sign carrying the legend "exempt", which sign constitutes legally sufficient notice that the crossing is exempt from the stopping requirement in this section.

(6) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2350, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
L. 2021: (3), (4), and (5) amended, (HB 21-1245), ch. 218, p. 1152, § 3, effective September 7.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-609 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-708 is similar to § 42-4-609 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Violation of this section is negligence per se.** Colo. & S. Ry. v. Duffy Storage & Moving Co., 145 Colo. 344, 361 P.2d 144 (1961).

**Last clear chance applies.** A violation of this section which would otherwise preclude a party from recovering is not conclusive if the doctrine of last clear chance applies, for then violation of the statute is not the proximate cause of the accident and a negligent plaintiff may yet recover. Colo. & S. Ry. v. Duffy Storage & Moving Co., 145 Colo. 344, 361 P.2d 144 (1961).

#### **42-4-709. Stop when traffic obstructed.**

A driver shall not enter an intersection or a marked crosswalk or drive onto any railroad grade crossing unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection, crosswalk, or railroad grade crossing to accommodate the vehicle the driver is operating without obstructing



the passage of other vehicles, pedestrians, railroad trains, or railroad on-track equipment, notwithstanding the indication of a traffic control signal to proceed. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2350, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (HB 21-1245), ch. 218, p. 1153, § 4, effective September 7.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-609.5 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-709 was relocated to § 42-4-808.

#### **42-4-710. Emerging from or entering alley, driveway, or building.**

(1) The driver of a vehicle emerging from an alley, driveway, building, parking lot, or other place, immediately prior to driving onto a sidewalk or into the sidewalk area extending across any such alleyway, driveway, or entranceway, shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian upon or about to enter such sidewalk or sidewalk area extending across such alleyway, driveway, or entranceway, as may be necessary to avoid collision, and when entering the roadway shall comply with the provisions of section 42-4-704.

(2) The driver of a vehicle entering an alley, driveway, or entranceway shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian within or about to enter the sidewalk or sidewalk area extending across such alleyway, driveway, or entranceway.

(3) No person shall drive any vehicle other than a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or any other human-powered vehicle upon a sidewalk or sidewalk area, except upon a permanent or duly authorized temporary driveway.

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2351, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2009:** (3) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1277, § 52, effective October 1. **L. 2019:** (3) amended, (SB 19-241), ch. 390, p. 3478, § 58, effective August 2.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-610 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-4-711. Driving on mountain highways.**

(1) The driver of a motor vehicle traveling through defiles or canyons or on mountain highways shall hold such motor vehicle under control and as near to the right-hand edge of the highway as reasonably possible and, except when driving entirely to the right of the center of the roadway, shall give audible warning with the horn of such motor vehicle upon approaching any curve where the view is obstructed within a distance of two hundred feet along the highway.

(2) On narrow mountain highways with turnouts having a grade of six percent or more, ascending vehicles shall have the right-of-way over descending vehicles, except where it is more practicable for the ascending vehicle to return to a turnout.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2351, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-611 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-4-712. Driving in highway work area.**

(1) The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to any authorized vehicle or pedestrian engaged in work upon a highway within any highway construction or maintenance work area indicated by official traffic control devices.

(2) The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to any authorized service vehicle engaged in work upon a highway whenever such vehicle displays flashing lights meeting the requirements of section 42-4-214.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2351, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2014:** (3) amended, (SB 14-060), ch. 70, p. 298, § 1, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-614 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-4-713. Yielding right-of-way to transit buses - definitions.**

- (1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - (a) "Public mass transit operator" has the same meaning as in section 43-1-102 (5), C.R.S.
  - (b) "Transit bus" means a bus operated by a public mass transit operator.
- (2) Drivers of vehicles in the same lane of traffic and behind a transit bus shall yield the right-of-way to the bus if:
  - (a) The driver of the transit bus, after stopping to allow passengers to board or exit, is signaling an intention to enter a traffic lane; and
  - (b) A yield sign as described in subsection (3) of this section is displayed and illuminated on the back of the transit bus.
- (3) The yield sign referred to in paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of this section shall:
  - (a) Warn a driver of a vehicle behind the transit bus that the driver is required to yield when the bus is entering a traffic lane; and
  - (b) Be illuminated when the driver of the transit bus is attempting to enter a traffic lane.
- (4) This section does not require a public mass transit operator to install yield signs as described in subsection (3) of this section on transit buses operated by the public mass transit operator.
- (5) This section does not relieve a driver of a transit bus from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the roadway.

**Source: L. 2009:** Entire section added, (HB 09-1027), ch. 79, p. 287, § 1, effective August 5.

**42-4-714. Bicyclist or other authorized user in bicycle lane.**

- (1) The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a bicyclist or other authorized user of a bicycle lane in a bicycle lane.
- (2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b) of this section, any person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.
  - (b) (I) If a person violates subsection (1) of this section and the person's actions are the proximate cause of a crash, the person commits careless driving and shall be punished as described in section 42-4-1402 (2)(a).

(II) If a person violates subsection (1) of this section and the person's actions are the proximate cause of bodily injury to another person, the person commits careless driving and shall be punished as described in section 42-4-1402 (2)(b).

**Source: L. 2020:** Entire section added, (SB 20-061), ch. 30, p. 101, § 2, effective July 1.

#### **42-4-715. Yielding right-of-way in roundabouts - definitions.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Large vehicle" means a truck, bus, emergency vehicle, or recreational vehicle that generally has a total length of more than thirty-five feet or a total width of more than ten feet.

(b) "Roundabout" means a circular intersection or junction in which road traffic flows almost continuously in one direction around a central island.

(2) (a) When entering, exiting, or driving in the circulatory lanes in a roundabout, a person driving a vehicle shall:

(I) Yield the right-of-way to the driver of a large vehicle that is entering, exiting, or driving in the circulatory lanes in a roundabout at the same time or so closely as to present an immediate hazard; and

(II) Slow down or yield to the other vehicle as required by subsection (2)(a)(I) of this section.

(b) This subsection (2) does not require a person who is entering, exiting, or driving in the circulatory lanes in a roundabout to yield the right-of-way to the driver of a large vehicle that is approaching, but has not yet entered, the roundabout.

(c) This subsection (2) does not require a person who is driving a vehicle that is entering, exiting, or driving in the circulatory lanes in a roundabout to yield the right-of-way to a large vehicle that is driving behind the person's vehicle and allow the large vehicle to pass the person's vehicle.

(3) If two vehicles that are large vehicles enter, exit, or drive in the circulatory lanes in a roundabout at the same time or so closely as to present an immediate hazard, the driver on the right shall yield the right-of-way to the driver on the left and shall slow down or yield to the driver on the left.

(4) A person who violates this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 2023:** Entire section added, (HB 23-1014), ch. 31, p. 108, § 1, effective October 1.

## PART 8

### PEDESTRIANS

**Cross references:** For penalties for class A and class B traffic infractions, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

#### **42-4-801. Pedestrian obedience to traffic control devices and traffic regulations.**

(1) A pedestrian shall obey the instructions of any official traffic control device specifically applicable to the pedestrian, unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

(2) Pedestrians shall be subject to traffic and pedestrian-control signals as provided in sections 42-4-604 and 42-4-802 (5).

(3) At all other places, pedestrians shall be accorded the privileges and shall be subject to the restrictions stated in this title.

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2352, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-701 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-801 was relocated to § 42-4-901.

#### **42-4-802. Pedestrians' right-of-way in crosswalks.**

(1) When traffic control signals are not in place or not in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply under the conditions stated in section 42-4-803.

(3) A pedestrian shall not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and ride a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter, or walk or run into the path of a moving vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.

(4) Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass such stopped vehicle.

(5) Whenever special pedestrian-control signals exhibiting "Walk" or "Don't Walk" word or symbol indications are in place, as declared in the traffic control manual adopted by the department of transportation, such signals shall indicate and require as follows:

(a) "Walk" (steady): While the "Walk" indication is steadily illuminated, pedestrians facing such signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal indication and shall be given the right-of-way by the drivers of all vehicles.

(b) "Don't Walk" (steady): While the "Don't Walk" indication is steadily illuminated, no pedestrian shall enter the roadway in the direction of the signal indication.

(c) "Don't Walk" (flashing): Whenever the "Don't Walk" indication is flashing, no pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of such signal indication, but any pedestrian who has partly completed crossing during the "Walk" indication shall proceed to a sidewalk or to a safety island, and all drivers of vehicles shall yield to any such pedestrian.

(d) Whenever a signal system provides for the stopping of all vehicular traffic and the exclusive movement of pedestrians and "Walk" and "Don't Walk" signal indications control such pedestrian movement, pedestrians may cross in any direction between corners of the intersection offering the shortest route within the boundaries of the intersection while the "Walk" indication is exhibited, if signals and other official devices direct pedestrian movement in such manner consistent with section 42-4-803 (4).

(6) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2352, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2005:** (3) amended, p. 1354, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (3) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1277, § 53, effective October 1. **L. 2019:** (3) amended, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2561, § 9, effective May 23.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-702 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-802 was relocated to § 42-4-902.

(2) Section 137 of Senate Bill 09-292 changed the effective date of subsection (3) from July 1, 2010, to October 1, 2009.

#### ANNOTATION

**"Crosswalk", as used in subsection (1), does not include a wheelchair ramp or** **curb cut.** May v. Petersen, 2020 COA 75, 465 P.3d 589.

#### **42-4-803. Crossing at other than crosswalks.**

(1) Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

(2) Any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

(3) Between adjacent intersections at which traffic control signals are in operation, pedestrians shall not cross at any place except in a marked crosswalk.

(4) No pedestrian shall cross a roadway intersection diagonally unless authorized by official traffic control devices; and, when authorized to cross diagonally, pedestrians shall cross only in accordance with the official traffic control devices pertaining to such crossing movements.

(5) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2353, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-703 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-803 was relocated to § 42-4-903.

#### ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "One Year Review of Torts", see 37 Dicta 67 (1960).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-803 is similar to § 42-4-703 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by

SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**A pedestrian "jay-walking" across a highway is required to yield the right-of-way** to automobiles, and failure to do so is negligence per se. *Dennis v. Johnson*, 136 Colo. 357, 317 P.2d 890 (1957).

**Instruction based on this section alone is erroneous.** In an action by a pedestrian against a motorist for injuries allegedly occurring at an intersection, an instruction

based upon subsection (1) of this section, which fails to advise a jury of the qualifications thereof contained in § 42-4-707, is erroneous. *Allison v. Trustee*, 140 Colo. 392, 344 P.2d 1077 (1959).

**The care and caution required of an 11-year-old child**, who while crossing a multiple lane highway was struck by defendant's automobile, depend on its maturity and capacity and is also dependent on the circumstances of each particular case. *Schaffner v. Smith*, 158 Colo. 387, 407 P.2d 23 (1965).

#### **42-4-804. Pedestrian to use right half of crosswalk. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2354, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 96:** Entire section repealed, p. 564, § 29, effective April 24.

#### **42-4-805. Pedestrians walking or traveling in a wheelchair on highways - riders of animals - penalty - definition.**

(1) Pedestrians walking or traveling in a wheelchair along and upon highways where sidewalks are not provided shall walk or travel only on a road shoulder as far as practicable from the edge of the roadway. Where neither a sidewalk nor road shoulder is available, any pedestrian walking or traveling in a wheelchair along and upon a highway shall walk or travel as near as practicable to an outside edge of the roadway and, in the case of a two-way roadway, shall walk or travel only on the left side of the roadway facing traffic that may approach from the opposite direction; except that:

(a) An individual lawfully soliciting a ride may stand on either side of a two-way roadway where there is a view of traffic approaching from both directions; and

(b) An individual riding or leading a horse may travel on the right side of the road with the direction of traffic.

(2) No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of any private vehicle. For the purposes of this subsection (2), "roadway" means that portion of the road normally used by moving motor vehicle traffic.



(3) It is unlawful for any person who is under the influence of alcohol or of any controlled substance, as defined in section 18-18-102 (5), C.R.S., or of any stupefying drug to walk or be upon that portion of any highway normally used by moving motor vehicle traffic.

(4) This section applying to pedestrians shall also be applicable to riders of animals.

(5) Any city or town may, by ordinance, regulate the use by pedestrians of streets and highways under its jurisdiction to the extent authorized under subsection (6) of this section and sections 42-4-110 and 42-4-111, but no ordinance regulating such use of streets and highways in a manner differing from this section shall be effective until official signs or devices giving notice thereof have been placed as required by section 42-4-111 (2).

(6) No person shall solicit a ride on any highway included in the interstate system, as defined in section 43-2-101 (2), C.R.S., except at an entrance to or exit from such highway or at places specifically designated by the department of transportation; or, in an emergency affecting a vehicle or its operation, a driver or passenger of a disabled vehicle may solicit a ride on any highway.

(7) Pedestrians shall only be picked up where there is adequate road space for vehicles to pull off and not endanger and impede the flow of traffic.

(8) Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle making use of audible or visual signals meeting the requirements of section 42-4-213 or of a police vehicle properly and lawfully making use of an audible signal only, every pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to the authorized emergency vehicle and shall leave the roadway and remain off the same until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer. This subsection (8) shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to use due care as provided in sections 42-4-108 (4) and 42-4-807.

(9) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2354, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (8) amended, p. 959, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** (3) amended, (HB 12-1311), ch. 281, p. 1632, § 90, effective July 1. **L. 2025:** (1) amended, (SB 25-149), ch. 266, p. 1377, § 9, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-706 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** (1) For obstruction of highway or other passageway, see § 18-9-107; for the penalty for a class B traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for pedestrian violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(I).

(2) For the legislative declaration in SB 25-149, see section 1 of chapter 266, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

**42-4-806. Driving through safety zone prohibited.**

No vehicle at any time shall be driven through or within a safety zone. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2355, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-706 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-4-807. Drivers to exercise due care.**

Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this article, every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian upon any roadway and shall give warning by sounding the horn when necessary and shall exercise proper precaution upon observing any child or any obviously confused or incapacitated person upon a roadway. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2355, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-707 as it existed prior to 1994.

**ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-807 is similar to § 42-4-707 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**This section does not create strict liability for a driver.** May v. Petersen, 2020 COA 75, 465 P.3d 589.

**This section places a definite qualification upon the broad language of**

**subsection (1) of § 42-4-703.** Allison v. Trustee, 140 Colo. 392, 344 P.2d 1077 (1959) (decided under similar provisions of law in effect prior to section 13-5-148, C.R.S. 1963).

**42-4-808. Drivers and pedestrians, other than persons in wheelchairs, to yield to individuals with disabilities.**

(1) Any pedestrian, other than a person in a wheelchair, or any driver of a vehicle who approaches an individual who has an obviously apparent disability shall immediately come to a full stop and take such precautions before proceeding as are necessary to avoid an accident, crash, or injury to said individual. A disability is deemed to be obviously apparent if, by way of example and without limitation, the individual is using a mobility device, is assisted by a service animal, as defined in section 24-34-301, is being assisted by another person, or is walking with an obvious physical impairment. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic offense.

(2) The department has no authority to assess any points under section 42-2-127 to any pedestrian who is convicted of a violation of subsection (1) of this section.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2355, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1) amended, p. 325, § 5, effective August 7. **L. 2014:** (1) amended, (SB 14-118), ch. 250, p. 987, § 26, effective August 6. **L. 2026:** (1) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 480, § 53, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-709 as it existed prior to 1994.

**ANNOTATION**

**This section does not eliminate defenses, including comparative negligence, available to a driver of a vehicle in a civil action.** McCall v. Meyers, 94 P.3d 1271 (Colo. App. 2004); May v. Petersen, 2020 COA 75, 465 P.3d 589.

**This section does not create strict liability for a driver.** May v. Petersen, 2020 COA 75, 465 P.3d 589.

## PART 9

### TURNING - STOPPING

**Cross references:** For penalties for class A traffic infractions, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

#### **42-4-901. Required position and method of turning.**

(1) The driver of a motor vehicle intending to turn shall do so as follows:

(a) **Right turns.** Both the approach for a right turn and a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.

(b) **Left turns.** The driver of a vehicle intending to turn left shall approach the turn in the extreme left-hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the direction of travel of such vehicle. Whenever practicable, the left turn shall be made to the left of the center of the intersection so as to leave the intersection or other location in the extreme left-hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the same direction as such vehicle on the roadway being entered.

(c) **Two-way left-turn lanes.** Where a special lane for making left turns by drivers proceeding in opposite directions has been indicated by official traffic control devices in the manner prescribed in the state traffic control manual, a left turn shall not be made from any other lane, and a vehicle shall not be driven in said special lane except when preparing for or making a left turn from or into the roadway or when preparing for or making a U-turn when otherwise permitted by law.

(2) The department of transportation and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may cause official traffic control devices to be placed and thereby require and direct that a different course from that specified in this section be traveled by turning vehicles, and, when such devices are so placed, no driver shall turn a vehicle other than as directed and required by such devices. In the case of streets which are a part of the state highway system, the local regulation shall be subject to the approval of the department of transportation as provided in section 43-2-135 (1)(g), C.R.S.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2356, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-801 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-901 was relocated to § 42-4-1001.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-901 is similar to § 42-4-801 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Proof of a violation of subsection (1)(a) constitutes negligence as a matter of law.** Knaus v. Yoder, 98 Colo. 1, 52 P.2d 1152 (1935).

#### **42-4-902. Limitations on turning around.**

(1) No vehicle shall be turned so as to proceed in the opposite direction upon any curve or upon the approach to or near the crest of a grade where such vehicle cannot be seen by the driver of any other vehicle approaching from either direction within such distance as is necessary to avoid interfering with or endangering approaching traffic.

(2) The driver of any vehicle shall not turn such vehicle at an intersection or any other location so as to proceed in the opposite direction unless such movement can be made in safety and without interfering with or endangering other traffic.

(3) Local and state authorities, within their respective jurisdictions, subject to the provisions of section 43-2-135 (1)(g), C.R.S., in the case of streets which are state highways, may erect "U-turn" prohibition or restriction signs at intersections or other locations where such movements are deemed to be hazardous, and, whenever official signs are so erected, no driver of a vehicle shall disobey the instructions thereof.

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2356, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-802 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-902 was relocated to § 42-4-1002.

#### **42-4-903. Turning movements and required signals.**

(1) No person shall turn a vehicle at an intersection unless the vehicle is in proper position upon the roadway as required in section 42-4-901, or turn a vehicle to enter a private road or driveway, or otherwise turn a vehicle from a direct course or move right or left upon a roadway unless and until such movement can be made with reasonable safety and then only after giving an appropriate signal in the manner provided in sections 42-4-608 and 42-4-609.

(2) A signal of intention to turn right or left shall be given continuously during not less than the last one hundred feet traveled by the vehicle before turning in urban or metropolitan areas and shall be given continuously for at least two hundred feet on all four-lane highways and other highways where the prima facie or posted speed limit is more than forty miles per hour. Such signals shall be given regardless of existing weather conditions.

(3) No person shall stop or suddenly decrease the speed of a vehicle without first giving an appropriate signal in the manner provided in sections 42-4-608 and 42-4-609 to the driver of any vehicle immediately to the rear when there is opportunity to give such signal.

(4) The signals provided for in section 42-4-608 (2) shall be used to indicate an intention to turn, change lanes, or start from a parked position and shall not be flashed on one side only on a parked or disabled vehicle or flashed as a courtesy or "do pass" signal to operators of other vehicles approaching from the rear.

(5) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2357, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-803 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-903 was relocated to § 42-4-1003.

#### **ANNOTATION**

**A driver must first signal and then begin moving right or left to change lanes.**

The phrase "indicate an intention to ... change lanes" means that a person must signal and then change lanes. A person who crosses the line before signaling has violated

the statute. *People v. Gutierrez*, 2020 CO 60, 465 P.3d 577.

**A turn signal is not required for navigating roundabouts.** A driver need not use a turn signal when entering or exiting a roundabout. *People v. McBride*, 2020 COA

111, 490 P.3d 810, rev'd on other grounds, 2022 CO 30, 511 P.3d 613.

**The violation of this section does not, of itself, impose liability** for injuries caused by an automobile, but the person seeking to recover for such injuries must show, not only a violation, but that such was the proximate cause of the damage sustained. Barsch v. Hammond, 110 Colo. 441, 135 P.2d 519 (1943).

**Evidence showing violation.** Alden v. Watson, 106 Colo. 103, 102 P.2d 479 (1940).

**Section relating to parking outside business inapplicable under certain circumstances when signals given.** Where the condition of the traffic was such that the

truck driver had the right to slow down, and even to stop, prior to making the left-hand turn, provided he gave the statutory signals, § 42-4-803, relating to parking outside of a business or residence, does not apply. Hinkle v. Union Transf. Co., 229 F.2d 403 (10th Cir. 1955).

**It is not a reasonable mistake of law** to interpret the plain language of this section to conclude that a driver is required to signal continuously for any set distance before changing lanes on a highway and therefore provide reasonable suspicion to justify a traffic stop pursuant to the fourth amendment when the driver did not signal continuously for two hundred feet prior to the lane change. People v. Burnett, 2019 CO 2, 432 P.3d 617.

## PART 10

### DRIVING - OVERTAKING - PASSING

**Cross references:** For penalties for class A traffic infractions, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

#### **42-4-1001. Drive on right side - exceptions.**

(1) Upon all roadways of sufficient width, a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the roadway, except as follows:

(a) When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction under the rules governing such movement;

(b) When an obstruction exists making it necessary to drive to the left of the center of the highway; but any person so doing shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles traveling in the proper direction upon the unobstructed portion of the highway within such distance as to constitute an immediate hazard;

(c) Upon a roadway divided into three lanes for traffic under the rules applicable thereon; or

(d) Upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic as indicated by official traffic control devices.

(2) Upon all roadways any vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway.

(3) Upon any roadway having four or more lanes for moving traffic and providing for two-way movement of traffic, no vehicle shall be driven to the left of the center line of the roadway, except when authorized by official traffic control devices designating certain lanes to the left side of the center of the roadway for use by traffic not otherwise permitted to use such lanes or except as permitted under subsection (1)(b) of this section. However, this subsection (3) does not prohibit the crossing of the center line in making a left turn into or from an alley, private road, or driveway when such movement can be made in safety and without interfering with, impeding, or endangering other traffic lawfully using the highway.

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2357, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-901 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1001 was relocated to § 42-4-1101.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1001 is similar to § 42-4-901 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Driving on the left side of the road is presumptive evidence of negligence.** *Globe Cereal Mills v. Scrivener*, 240 F.2d 330 (10th Cir. 1956).

Driving to the left of center may give rise to a presumption of negligence. *Sanchez v. Staats*, 34 Colo. App. 243, 526 P.2d 672 (1974), *aff'd*, 189 Colo. 228, 539 P.2d 1233 (1975).

**Violation of a statute or ordinance regulating the use of highways is negligence as a matter of law.** *Ankeny v. Talbot*, 126 Colo. 313, 250 P.2d 1019 (1952).



**But the presumption of negligence may be rebutted** by evidence showing that the conduct was reasonable under the circumstances. *Sanchez v. Staats*, 34 Colo. App. 243, 526 P.2d 672 (1974), *aff'd*, 189 Colo. 228, 539 P.2d 1233 (1975).

**Issues of fact.** Whether conduct in driving left of the center line was reasonable under the circumstances and, if not, whether that conduct was a proximate cause of the accident are clearly issues of fact which should be left to the jury to determine. *Sanchez v. Staats*, 34 Colo. App. 243, 526 P.2d 672 (1974), *aff'd*, 189 Colo. 228, 539 P.2d 1233 (1975).

**Last clear chance doctrine applicable.** If violation of this section is the proximate cause of an accident, such negligent person cannot recover unless the doctrine of last clear chance is applicable. *Ankeny v. Talbot*, 126 Colo. 313, 250 P.2d 1019 (1952).

**One of the essential conditions to application of the doctrine of last clear chance** is that the person relying on the doctrine is unable to extricate himself from a position of peril. *Ankeny v. Talbot*, 126 Colo. 313, 250 P.2d 1019 (1952).

#### **42-4-1002. Passing oncoming vehicles.**

(1) Drivers of vehicles proceeding in opposite directions shall pass each other to the right, and, upon roadways having width for not more than one lane of traffic in each direction, each driver shall give to the other at least one-half of the main-traveled portion of the roadway as nearly as possible.

(2) A driver shall not pass a bicyclist moving in the same direction and in the same lane when there is oncoming traffic unless the driver can simultaneously:

(a) Allow oncoming vehicles at least one-half of the main-traveled portion of the roadway in accordance with subsection (1) of this section; and

(b) Allow the bicyclist at least a three-foot separation between the right side of the driver's vehicle, including all mirrors or other projections, and the left side of the bicyclist at all times.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2358, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (SB 09-148), ch. 239, p. 1087, § 1, effective August 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-902 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1002 was relocated to § 42-4-1102.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1002 is similar to § 42-4-902 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**This section contemplates two lines of traffic,** and a main traveled roadway sufficient in width for their accommodation. The statute by its terms clearly requires the yielding, as nearly as possible, by each of two vehicles approaching each other, of at least one-half of the main traveled portion of the roadway. So far as the statute is explicit, the main traveled portion may be in the center, or on either side of the roadway. One-half of such traveled portion is exacted of each traveler, if it is possible to be given; if not, then as nearly as possible. *Parrish v. Smith*, 102 Colo. 250, 78 P.2d 629 (1938); *Parrish v. Smith*, 108 Colo. 256, 115 P.2d 647 (1941).

**A situation might arise in which a strict compliance with these statutory requirements would be impossible.** The reasonable provisions are indicated for roadways, and of course no fixed application thereof could be made to parts of a road under construction, where changing conditions would not permit orderly travel under established rules. *Parrish v. Smith*, 102 Colo. 250, 78 P.2d 629 (1938); *Parrish v. Smith*, 108 Colo. 256, 115 P.2d 647

(1941); *Orth v. Bauer*, 163 Colo. 136, 429 P.2d 279 (1967).

**In a case in which strict compliance with these statutory requirements would be impossible,** then the ordinary rules are suspended. An ordinarily prudent traveler with any warning at all, in approaching a place of construction is bound to know that all rules of the road are suspended, and upon entering such an area be prepared — for his own safety and that of others — to submit to, and be governed by, conditions as he finds them. In such circumstances he cannot rely upon written traffic rules. *Parrish v. Smith*, 102 Colo. 250, 78 P.2d 629 (1938); *Parrish v. Smith*, 108 Colo. 256, 115 P.2d 647 (1941).

**Suspension of rules is question for jury.** The question as to whether the physical condition of the roadway and its width were sufficient to permit a truck to yield one-half of the roadway to an automobile, as required by this section, is properly submitted to the jury. *Parrish v. Smith*, 108 Colo. 256, 115 P.2d 647 (1941).

**Violation of section not negligence per se.** Violation of this section requiring drivers to yield at least half of the roadway is not negligence per se. *Sanchez v. Staats*, 34 Colo. App. 243, 526 P.2d 672 (1974), *aff'd*, 189 Colo. 228, 539 P.2d 1233 (1975).

**The rule that driving on the wrong side of the road is presumptive evidence of negligence, must be applied on a case by**

**case basis** and cannot apply to every fact situation. *Orth v. Bauer*, 163 Colo. 136, 429 P.2d 279 (1967).

#### **42-4-1003. Overtaking a vehicle on the left.**

(1) The following rules shall govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in the same direction, subject to the limitations, exceptions, and special rules stated in this section and sections 42-4-1004 to 42-4-1008:

(a) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left of the vehicle at a safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle.

(b) The driver of a motor vehicle overtaking a bicyclist proceeding in the same direction shall allow the bicyclist at least a three-foot separation between the right side of the driver's vehicle, including all mirrors or other projections, and the left side of the bicyclist at all times.

(c) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal and shall not increase the speed of the driver's vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2358, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2009:** (1) amended, (SB 09-148), ch. 239, p. 1088, § 2, effective August 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-903 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1003 was relocated to § 42-4-1103.

#### **ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1003 is similar to § 42-4-903 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Forward automobile not required to turn further to right.** Under this section it would seem clear that where the left half of the roadway is clear and the forward automobile is on the right half thereof, the driver of the latter is not required to turn

further to the right upon hearing a passing signal given by the driver of an overtaking car. Vasquez v. Morrow, 106 Colo. 540, 107 P.2d 246 (1940).

**Failure to turn does not justify overtaking vehicle to drive into collision.**

The mere failure of the driver of an overtaken vehicle to turn to the right does not justify the operator of the overtaking vehicle to drive on into a collision with the first. Vasquez v. Morrow, 106 Colo. 540, 107 P.2d 246 (1940).

**Situation in which section not applicable.** Where plaintiff attempted to pass defendants' truck within 200 feet of an intersection on a four-lane, divided highway and defendants' driver attempted to make a U-turn in front of plaintiff without giving a warning signal, although plaintiff gave all signals customarily used in indicating that he was about to pass, this section did not apply and defendants' negligence was the proximate cause of a collision between the vehicles of the parties. Wilson v. Stroh, 121 Colo. 411, 216 P.2d 999 (1950).

**42-4-1004. When overtaking on the right is permitted.**

(1) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle only under the following conditions:

- (a) When the vehicle overtaken is making or giving indication of making a left turn;
- (b) Upon a street or highway with unobstructed pavement not occupied by parked vehicles and marked for two or more lanes of moving vehicles in each direction; or
- (c) Upon a one-way street or upon any roadway on which traffic is restricted to one direction of movement where the roadway is free from obstructions and marked for two or more lanes of moving vehicles.

(1.5) The driver of a motor vehicle upon a one-way roadway with two or more marked traffic lanes, when overtaking a bicyclist proceeding in the same direction and riding on the left-hand side of the road, shall allow the bicyclist at least a three-foot separation between the left side of the driver's vehicle, including all mirrors or other projections, and the right side of the bicyclist at all times.

(2) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle upon the right only under conditions permitting such movement in safety. In no event shall such movement be made by driving off the pavement or main-traveled portion of the roadway.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2359, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2009:** (1.5) added, (SB 09-148), ch. 239, p. 1088, § 3, effective August 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-904 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1004 was relocated to § 42-4-1104.

**42-4-1005. Limitations on overtaking on the left.**

(1) No vehicle shall be driven to the left side of the center of the roadway in overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless authorized by the provisions of this article and unless such left side is clearly visible and is free of oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance ahead to permit such overtaking and passing to be completed without interfering with the operation of any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction or any vehicle overtaken. In every event the overtaking vehicle must return to an authorized lane of travel as soon as practicable and, in the event the passing movement involves the use of a lane authorized for vehicles approaching from the opposite direction, before coming within two hundred feet of any approaching vehicle.

(2) No vehicle shall be driven on the left side of the roadway under the following conditions:

(a) When approaching or upon the crest of a grade or a curve in the highway where the driver's view is obstructed within such distance as to create a hazard in the event another vehicle might approach from the opposite direction;

(b) When approaching within one hundred feet of or traversing any intersection or railroad grade crossing; or

(c) When the view is obstructed upon approaching within one hundred feet of any bridge, viaduct, or tunnel.

(3) The department of transportation and local authorities are authorized to determine those portions of any highway under their respective jurisdictions where overtaking and passing or driving on the left side of the roadway would be especially hazardous and may, by appropriate signs or the beginning and end of solid yellow line pavement or line pavement markings on the roadway, indicate the beginning and end of the zones. Where signs or solid yellow line or line pavement markings are in place to define a no-passing zone and the signs or markings are clearly visible to an ordinarily observant person, a driver shall not drive on the left side of the roadway within the no-passing zone or on the left side of any pavement striping designed to mark the no-passing zone throughout its length.

(3.5) Within existing resources, the department of transportation shall prioritize installing signage on roadways with increased crashes resulting from incidents of illegal overtaking on the left in no-passing zones. Increased crashes resulting from incidents of illegal overtaking on the left are measured as an increase of crashes resulting from incidents of illegal overtaking on the left in no-passing zones over the previous year's number of crashes as reported by the statewide crash data listing maintained by the department of transportation, as required by 23 U.S.C. secs. 148 and 405.

(4) The provisions of this section shall not apply:

(a) Upon a one-way roadway;

(b) Under the conditions described in section 42-4-1001 (1)(b);

(c) To the driver of a vehicle turning left into or from an alley, private road, or driveway when such movement can be made in safety and without interfering with, impeding, or endangering other traffic lawfully using the highway; or

(d) To the driver of a vehicle passing a bicyclist moving the same direction and in the same lane when such movement can be made in safety and without interfering with, impeding, or endangering other traffic lawfully using the highway.

(5) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2359, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2009: (4)(d) added, (SB 09-148), ch. 239, p. 1088, § 4, effective August 5. L. 2026: (3) amended and (3.5) added, (SB 26-035), ch. 178, p. 1022, § 3, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-905 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1005 was relocated to § 42-4-1105.

(2) Section 8(2) of chapter 178 (SB 26-035), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to traffic infractions committed on or after August 12, 2026.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 26-035, see section 1 of chapter 178, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

## ANNOTATION

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**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1005 is similar to § 42-4-905 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**The purpose of this section is to restrict traffic to its proper lane if, for example, the view ahead is obstructed** by a grade or curve. *Globe Cereal Mills v. Scrivener*, 240 F.2d 330 (10th Cir. 1956).

**No vehicle shall at any time be driven on the left side of the roadway when the prohibited conditions exist.** This section also is clearly intended to apply to a two-way or two-lane highway for the avoidance of traffic coming from the opposite direction and does not make sensible application to two lanes for traffic all going in the same direction. *Wilson v. Stroh*, 121 Colo. 411, 216 P.2d 999 (1950).

**Vehicles approaching an intersection must remain in or return to the right lane**

**within 100 feet to remain free of negligence per se.** Since operators of motor vehicles often make left turns at intersections and vehicles traveling in the same direction which attempt to pass the turning vehicle on its left may collide with it. This is true whether the passing vehicle is "driven to" or is "driven on" the left side of the highway; within 100, 200, or 300 feet before reaching the point of impact — the intersection. *Bd. of County Comm'rs v. F. H. Linneman, Inc.*, 170 Colo. 130, 459 P.2d 277 (1969).

**Instruction using this section is proper.** In an action for personal injuries sustained by passenger in automobile which collided with car that had negligently stopped in center of highway, it was held that evidence warranted an instruction wherein court gave this section concerning the passing of a car on the left. *Jaekel v. Funk*, 111 Colo. 179, 138 P.2d 939 (1943).

#### **42-4-1006. One-way roadways and rotary traffic islands.**

(1) Upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic, a vehicle shall be driven only in the direction designated at all or such times as shall be indicated by official traffic control devices.

(2) A vehicle passing around a rotary traffic island shall be driven only to the right of such island.

(3) The department of transportation and local authorities with respect to highways under their respective jurisdictions may designate any roadway, part of a roadway, or specific lanes upon which vehicular traffic shall proceed in one direction at all or such times as shall be indicated by official traffic control devices. In the case of streets which are a part of the state highway system, the regulation shall be subject to the approval of the department of transportation pursuant to section 43-2-135 (1)(g), C.R.S.

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2360, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-906 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1006 is similar to § 42-4-906 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that

provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Applied** in *People v. Dooley*, 630 P.2d 608 (Colo. 1981).

#### **42-4-1007. Driving on roadways laned for traffic.**

(1) Whenever any roadway has been divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for traffic, the following rules in addition to all others consistent with this section shall apply:

(a) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practicable entirely within a single lane and shall not be moved from such lane until the driver has first ascertained that such movement can be made with safety.

(b) Upon a roadway which is divided into three lanes and provides for two-way movement of traffic, a vehicle shall not be driven in the center lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle traveling in the same direction where the roadway is clearly visible and such center lane is clear of traffic within a safe distance, or in preparation for a left turn, or where such center lane is at the time allocated exclusively to the traffic moving in the direction the vehicle is proceeding and is designated by official traffic control devices to give notice of such allocation. Under no condition shall an attempt be made to pass upon the shoulder or any portion of the roadway remaining to the right of the indicated right-hand traffic lane.

(c) Official traffic control devices may be erected directing specified traffic to use a designated lane or designating those lanes to be used by traffic moving in a particular direction regardless of the center of the roadway, and drivers of vehicles shall obey the directions of every such device.



(d) Official traffic control devices may be installed prohibiting the changing of lanes on sections of roadway, and drivers of vehicles shall obey the directions of every such device.

(2) (a) The department of transportation may designate with signage an area on a roadway not otherwise laned for traffic for use by commercial vehicles, as defined in section 42-4-235 (1)(a), that are designed to transport sixteen or more passengers, including the driver, and that are operated by a governmental entity or government-owned business that transports the general public or by a contractor on behalf of such an entity or government-owned business. Use of such an area is limited to vehicles authorized by the department operating under conditions of use established by the department but, subject to the conditions of use, the driver of an authorized vehicle has sole discretion to decide whether or not to drive on such an area based on the driver's assessment of the safety of doing so. The department shall consult with the Colorado state patrol before granting authorization for use of the area and establishing conditions of use. The department shall impose and each authorized user shall acknowledge the conditions of use by written agreement, and the department need not note the conditions of use in roadway signage. An authorized user does not violate this section or section 42-4-1004 when operating in accordance with the conditions of use for an area imposed by the department and acknowledged by the user in a written agreement.

(b) The department of transportation shall work with local governmental agencies in implementing the provisions of this subsection (2).

(3) A person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2360, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2016: (2) amended and (3) added, (HB 16-1008), ch. 8, p. 15, § 1, effective March 9.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-907 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1007 is similar to § 42-4-907 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**In order to determine whether a driver complied with subsection (1)(a), it is essential to consider the totality of the circumstances.** People v. Chavez-Barragan, 2016 CO 16, 365 P.3d 981.

**Officer had reasonable suspicion that a violation of this statute occurred, thus**

justifying officer to stop vehicle, where vehicle moved three to four feet into another lane of traffic, essentially straddling the lane divider for several seconds. *United States v. Valenzuela*, 494 F.3d 886 (10th Cir. 2007).

**Officer did not have reasonable suspicion that a violation of this statute occurred** when a driver changed lanes in front of patrol car which gave less than three seconds of space between vehicles because driver determined the lane change was safe

given the specific circumstances on the road. *People v. Deaner*, 2022 CO 43, 517 P.3d 66; *People v. Barrera*, 2022 CO 44, 517 P.3d 61.

Two trips across the fog line gave rise to a reasonable, articulable suspicion of a violation of subsection (1)(a). *People v. Chavez-Barragan*, 2016 CO 16, 365 P.3d 981.

**Applied** in *Brutcher v. District Court*, 195 Colo. 579, 580 P.2d 396 (1978); *People v. Mascarenas*, 632 P.2d 1028 (Colo. 1981).

#### **42-4-1008. Following too closely.**

(1) The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicles and the traffic upon and the condition of the highway.

(2) The driver of any motor truck or motor vehicle drawing another vehicle when traveling upon a roadway outside of a business or residence district and which is following another motor truck or motor vehicle drawing another vehicle shall, whenever conditions permit, leave sufficient space so that an overtaking vehicle may enter and occupy such space without danger; except that this shall not prevent a motor truck or motor vehicle drawing another vehicle from overtaking and passing any like vehicle or other vehicle.

(3) Motor vehicles being driven upon any roadway outside of a business or residence district in a caravan or motorcade, whether or not towing other vehicles, shall be so operated as to allow sufficient space between each such vehicle or combination of vehicles so as to enable any other vehicle to enter and occupy such space without danger. This provision shall not apply to funeral processions.

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2361, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-908 as it existed prior to 1994.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1008 is similar to § 42-4-908 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Violation of section not actionable negligence unless proximate cause of accident.** Where the plaintiff, by his own admission was following a truck closer than 300 feet but his pickup truck was hit in the rear by another truck, the violation of this section was not actionable negligence unless it was a proximate cause of the accident. *Gossard v. Watson*, 122 Colo. 271, 221 P.2d 353 (1950); *Bettner v. Boring*, 764 P.2d 829 (Colo. 1988).

**A pickup is not a "motor truck" within the meaning of this section.** *Gossard v. Watson*, 128 Colo. 275, 261 P.2d 502 (1953).

**Evidently the general assembly in enacting this statute had in mind "motor trucks" carrying heavy weights,** or designed for transporting heavy loads. Normally these are vehicles of large size used for the purpose of transporting heavy materials and merchandise, as distinguished from an ordinary automobile with a wagon-shaped body. *Gossard v. Watson*, 128 Colo. 275, 261 P.2d 502 (1953).

### **42-4-1008.5. Crowding or threatening bicyclist.**

(1) The driver of a motor vehicle shall not, in a careless and imprudent manner, drive the vehicle unnecessarily close to, toward, or near a bicyclist.

(2) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits careless driving as described in section 42-4-1402.

**Source: L. 2009:** Entire section added, (SB 09-148), ch. 239, p. 1088, § 5, effective August 5.

### **42-4-1009. Coasting prohibited.**

(1) The driver of any motor vehicle when traveling upon a downgrade shall not coast with the gears or transmission of such vehicle in neutral.

(2) The driver of a truck or bus when traveling upon a downgrade shall not coast with the clutch disengaged.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2361, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-909 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-4-1010. Driving on divided or controlled-access highways.**

(1) Whenever any highway has been divided into separate roadways by leaving an intervening space or by a physical barrier or clearly indicated dividing section so constructed as to impede vehicular traffic, every vehicle shall be driven only upon the right-hand roadway, unless directed or permitted to use another roadway by official traffic control devices. No vehicle shall be driven over, across, or within any such dividing space, barrier, or section, except through an opening in such physical barrier or dividing section or space or at a crossover or intersection as established, unless specifically prohibited by official signs and markings or by the provisions of section 42-4-902. However, this subsection (1) does not prohibit a left turn across a median island formed by standard pavement markings or other mountable or traversable devices as prescribed in the state traffic control manual when such movement can be made in safety and without interfering with, impeding, or endangering other traffic lawfully using the highway.

(2) (a) No person shall drive a vehicle onto or from any controlled-access roadway except at such entrances and exits as are established by public authority.

(b) Wherever an acceleration lane has been provided in conjunction with a ramp entering a controlled-access highway and the ramp intersection is not designated or signed as a stop or yield intersection as provided in section 42-4-703 (1), drivers may use the acceleration lane to attain a safe speed for merging with through traffic when conditions permit such acceleration with safety. Traffic so merging shall be subject to the rule governing the changing of lanes as set forth in section 42-4-1007 (1)(a).

(c) Wherever a deceleration lane has been provided in conjunction with a ramp leaving a controlled-access highway, drivers shall use such lane to slow to a safe speed for making an exit turn after leaving the mainstream of faster-moving traffic.

(3) The department of transportation may by resolution or order entered in its minutes and local authorities may by ordinance consistent with the provisions of section 43-2-135 (1)(g), C.R.S., with respect to any controlled-access highway under their respective jurisdictions, prohibit the use of any such highway by any class or kind of traffic which is found to be

incompatible with the normal and safe movement of traffic. The department of transportation or the local authority adopting such prohibitory regulations shall install official traffic control devices in conformity with the standards established by sections 42-4-601 and 42-4-602 at entrance points or along the highway on which such regulations are applicable. When such devices are so in place, giving notice thereof, no person shall disobey the restrictions made known by such devices. This subsection (3) shall not be construed to give the department authority to regulate pedestrian use of highways in a manner contrary to the provisions of section 42-4-805.

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2362, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-910 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-4-1011. Use of runaway vehicle ramps.**

(1) No person shall use a runaway vehicle ramp unless such person is in an emergency situation requiring use of the ramp to stop such person's vehicle.

(2) No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle on a runaway vehicle ramp or in the pathway of the ramp.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2363, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-911 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-4-1012. High occupancy vehicle (HOV) and high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes - penalty.**

(1) (a) The department of transportation and local authorities, with respect to streets and highways under their respective jurisdictions, may designate exclusive or preferential lanes for

vehicles that carry a specified number of persons. The occupancy level of vehicles and the time of day when lane usage is restricted to high occupancy vehicles, if applicable, shall be designated by official traffic control devices.

(b) (I) On or before July 1, 2001, the department shall issue a request for proposals to private entities for the purpose of entering into a contract with such an entity for the conversion of an existing high occupancy vehicle lane described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) to a high occupancy toll lane and for the purpose of entering into a contract for the operation of the high occupancy toll lane by a private entity; except that the department may convert or operate the high occupancy toll lane, or both, in the event that no proposal by a private entity for such conversion or operation, or both, is acceptable.

(II) The high occupancy toll lane shall be a lane for use by vehicles carrying less than the specified number of persons for such high occupancy vehicle lane that pay a specified toll or fee.

(III) Any contract entered into between the department and a private entity pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b) shall:

(A) Authorize the private entity to impose tolls for use of the high occupancy toll lane;

(B) Require that over the term of such contract only toll revenues be applied to payment of the private entity's capital outlay costs for the project, the costs associated with operations, toll collection, administration of the high occupancy toll lane, if any, and a reasonable return on investment to the private entity, as evidenced by and consistent with the returns on investment to private entities on similar public and private projects;

(C) Require that any excess toll revenue either be applied to any indebtedness incurred by the private entity with respect to the project or be paid into the state highway fund created pursuant to section 43-1-219, C.R.S., for exclusive use in the corridor where the high occupancy toll lane is located including for maintenance and enforcement purposes in the high occupancy toll lane and for other traffic congestion relieving options including transit. Such contract shall define or provide a method for calculating excess toll revenues and shall specify the amount of indebtedness that the private entity may incur and apply excess toll revenues to before such revenues must be paid into the state highway fund. It is not the intent of the general assembly that the conversion of a high occupancy vehicle lane to a high occupancy toll lane shall detract in any way from the possible provision of mass transit options by the regional transportation district or any other agency in the corridor where the high occupancy toll lane is located.

(IV) The department shall structure a variable toll or fee to ensure a level of service C and unrestricted access to the lanes at all times by eligible vehicles, including buses, carpools, and EPA certified low-emitting vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating over ten thousand pounds.

(V) The department shall not enter into a contract for the conversion of a high occupancy vehicle lane to a high occupancy toll lane if such a conversion will result in the loss or refund of

federal funds payable, available, or paid to the state for construction, reconstruction, repairs, improvement, planning, supervision, and maintenance of the state highway system and other public highways.

(VI) The department shall require the private entity entering into a contract pursuant to this section to provide such performance bond or other surety for the project as the department may reasonably require.

(c) Whenever practicable, a high occupancy toll lane described in paragraph (b) of this subsection (1) shall be physically separated from the other lanes of a street or highway so as to minimize the interference between traffic in the designated lanes and traffic in the other lanes.

(d) The department shall develop and adopt functional specifications and standards for an automatic vehicle identification system for use on high occupancy vehicle lanes, high occupancy toll lanes, any public highway constructed and operated under the provisions of part 5 of article 4 of title 43, C.R.S., and any other street or highway where tolls or charges are imposed for the privilege of traveling upon such street or highway. The specifications and standards shall ensure that:

(I) Automatic vehicle identification systems utilized by the state, municipality, or other entity having jurisdiction over the street or highway are compatible with one another;

(II) A vehicle owner shall not be required to purchase or install more than one device to use on all toll facilities;

(III) Toll facility operators have the ability to select from different manufacturers and vendors of automatic vehicle identification systems; and

(IV) There is compatibility between any automatic vehicle identification system in operation on August 4, 1999, and any automatic vehicle identification system designed and installed on and after said date; except that the operator of an automatic vehicle identification system in operation on August 4, 1999, may replace such system with a different system that is not compatible with the system in operation on August 4, 1999, subject to the approval of the department. After the department approves such replacement, the specifications and standards developed pursuant to this paragraph (d) shall be amended to require compatibility with the replacement system.

(2) A motorcycle or autocycle may be operated upon high occupancy vehicle lanes pursuant to section 163 of the "Highway Improvement Act of 1982", Pub.L. 97-424, as amended, or upon high occupancy toll lanes, unless prohibited by official traffic control devices.

(2.5) (a) (I) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (d) of this subsection (2.5), a motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of twenty-six thousand pounds or less that is either an inherently low-emission vehicle or a hybrid vehicle may be operated upon high occupancy vehicle lanes without regard to the number of persons in the vehicle and without payment of a

special toll or fee. The exemption relating to hybrid vehicles shall apply only if such exemption does not affect the receipt of federal funds and does not violate any federal laws or regulations.

(II) As used in this subsection (2.5), "inherently low-emission vehicle" or "ILEV" means:

(A) A light-duty vehicle or light-duty truck, regardless of whether such vehicle or truck is part of a motor vehicle fleet, that has been certified by the federal environmental protection agency as conforming to the ILEV guidelines, procedures, and standards as published in the federal register at 58 FR 11888 (March 1, 1993) and 59 FR 50042 (September 30, 1994), as amended from time to time; and

(B) A heavy-duty vehicle powered by an engine that has been certified as set forth in subparagraph (A) of this subparagraph (II).

(III) As used in this subsection (2.5), "hybrid vehicle" means a motor vehicle with a hybrid propulsion system that uses an alternative fuel by operating on both an alternative fuel, including electricity, and a traditional fuel.

(b) No person shall operate a vehicle upon a high occupancy vehicle lane pursuant to this subsection (2.5) unless the vehicle:

(I) Meets all applicable federal emission standards set forth in 40 CFR sec. 88.311-93, as amended from time to time, or, subject to subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2.5), is a hybrid vehicle; and

(II) Is identified by means of a circular sticker or decal at least four inches in diameter, made of bright orange reflective material, and affixed either to the windshield, to the front of the side-view mirror on the driver's side, or to the front bumper of the vehicle. Said sticker or decal shall be approved by the Colorado department of transportation.

(c) The department of transportation and local authorities, with respect to streets and highways under their respective jurisdictions, shall provide information via official traffic control devices to indicate that ILEVs and, subject to subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2.5), hybrid vehicles may be operated upon high occupancy vehicle lanes pursuant to this section. Such information may, but need not, be added to existing printed signs, but as existing printed signs related to high occupancy vehicle lane use are replaced or new ones are erected, such information shall be added. In addition, whenever existing electronic signs are capable of being reprogrammed to carry such information, they shall be so reprogrammed by September 1, 2003.

(d) (I) In consultation with the regional transportation district, the department of transportation and local authorities, with respect to streets and highways under their respective jurisdictions, shall, in connection with their periodic level-of-service evaluation of high occupancy vehicle lanes, perform a level-of-service evaluation of the use of high occupancy



vehicle lanes by ILEVs and hybrid vehicles. If the use of high occupancy vehicle lanes by ILEVs or hybrid vehicles is determined to cause a significant decrease in the level of service for other bona fide users of such lanes, then the department of transportation or a local authority may restrict or eliminate use of such lanes by ILEVs or hybrid vehicles.

(II) If the United States secretary of transportation makes a formal determination that, by giving effect to paragraph (a) of this subsection (2.5) on a particular highway or lane, the state of Colorado would disqualify itself from receiving federal highway funds the state would otherwise qualify to receive or would be required to refund federal transportation grant funds it has already received, then said paragraph (a) shall not be effective as to such highway or lane.

(3) (a) Any person who uses a high occupancy vehicle lane in violation of restrictions imposed by the department of transportation or local authorities commits a class A traffic infraction.

(b) Any person convicted of a third or subsequent offense of paragraph (a) of this subsection (3) committed within a twelve-month period shall be subject to an increased penalty pursuant to section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(K).

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2363, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (3) amended, p. 1359, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (2.5) added, p. 1205, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 99:** (1), (2), (2.5)(a)(II)(A), and (2.5)(b)(I) amended, p. 1319, § 1, effective August 4. **L. 2002:** (1)(d)(IV) amended, p. 737, § 7, effective August 7; (1)(d)(IV) amended, p. 717, § 7, effective August 7. **L. 2003:** (2.5)(a)(I), (2.5)(b)(I), (2.5)(c), and (2.5)(d)(I) amended and (2.5)(a)(III) added, p. 1235, § 3, effective September 1. **L. 2009:** (2.5)(a)(III) amended, (HB 09-1331), ch. 416, p. 2310, § 12, effective June 4. **L. 2022:** (2) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2586, § 22, effective January 1, 2023.

**Cross references:** (1) In 2009, subsection (2.5)(a)(III) was amended by the "Motor Vehicle Innovation Act". For the short title, see section 1 of chapter 416, Session Laws of Colorado 2009.

(2) For specific definitions of levels of service A through F, see the Highway Capacity Manual published by the Transportation Research Board.

#### **42-4-1013. Passing lane - definitions - penalty.**

(1) A person shall not drive a motor vehicle in the passing lane of a highway if the speed limit is sixty-five miles per hour or more unless such person is passing other motor vehicles that

are in a nonpassing lane or turning left, or unless the volume of traffic does not permit the motor vehicle to safely merge into a nonpassing lane.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Nonpassing lane" means any lane that is to the right of the passing lane if there are two or more adjacent lanes of traffic moving in the same direction in one roadway.

(b) "Passing lane" means the farthest to the left lane if there are two or more adjacent lanes of traffic moving in the same direction in one roadway; except that, if such left lane is restricted to high occupancy vehicle use or is designed for left turns only, the passing lane shall be the lane immediately to the right of such high occupancy lane or left-turn lane.

(3) A person who violates this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 2004:** Entire section added, p. 124, § 1, effective July 1.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class A traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for driving, overtaking, and passing violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(K).

**42-4-1014. No commercial vehicles in the left lane - penalty.**

(1) A driver of a commercial vehicle may not enter the farthest left-hand general-purpose lane when driving in the following areas of interstate 70 unless specifically required or authorized to pass by law:

- (a) Between milepost 115.5 and milepost 131.0 (Glenwood canyon);
- (b) Between milepost 169.5 and milepost 173.0 (Dowd junction);
- (c) Between milepost 180.0 and milepost 190.5 (Vail pass);
- (d) Between milepost 205.5 and 221.0 (Eisenhower-Johnson tunnel);
- (e) Between milepost 224.0 and milepost 228.5 (Georgetown hill); and
- (f) Between milepost 243.0 and milepost 247.0 (Floyd hill).

(2) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 2024:** Entire section added, (SB 24-100), ch. 207, p. 1277, § 3, effective August 7. **L. 2025:** IP(1) amended, (SB 25-300), ch. 428, p. 2460, § 72, effective August 6. **L. 2026:** IP(1) amended, (HB 26-1076), ch. 265, p. 1469, § 9, effective August 12.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class A traffic infraction, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

## PART 11

### SPEED REGULATIONS

**Cross references:** For the penalties for class 2 misdemeanor traffic offenses and class A traffic infractions, see § 42-4-1701 (3).

#### **42-4-1101. Speed limits - penalties.**

(1) No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing.

(2) Except when a special hazard exists that requires a lower speed, the following speeds shall be lawful:

- (a) Twenty miles per hour on narrow, winding mountain highways or on blind curves;
- (b) Twenty-five miles per hour in any business district, as defined in section 42-1-102 (11);
- (c) Thirty miles per hour in any residence district, as defined in section 42-1-102 (80);
- (d) Forty miles per hour on open mountain highways;
- (e) Forty-five miles per hour for all single rear axle vehicles in the business of transporting trash that exceed twenty thousand pounds, where higher speeds are posted, when said vehicle is loaded as an exempted vehicle pursuant to section 42-4-507 (3);
- (f) Fifty-five miles per hour on other open highways which are not on the interstate system, as defined in section 43-2-101 (2), C.R.S., and are not surfaced, four-lane freeways or expressways;
- (g) Sixty-five miles per hour on surfaced, four-lane highways which are on the interstate system, as defined in section 43-2-101 (2), C.R.S., or are freeways or expressways;
- (h) Any speed not in excess of a speed limit designated by an official traffic control device.

(3) No driver of a vehicle shall fail to decrease the speed of such vehicle from an otherwise lawful speed to a reasonable and prudent speed when a special hazard exists with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of weather or highway conditions.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of this section, any speed in excess of the lawful speeds set forth in subsection (2) of this section shall be prima facie evidence that such speed was not reasonable or prudent under the conditions then existing. As used in this subsection (4), "prima facie evidence" means evidence which is sufficient proof that the speed was not reasonable or prudent under the conditions then existing, and which will remain sufficient proof of such fact, unless contradicted and overcome by evidence bearing upon the question of whether or not the speed was reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing.

(5) In every charge of violating subsection (1) of this section, the complaint, summons and complaint, or penalty assessment notice shall specify the speed at which the defendant is alleged to have driven and also the alleged reasonable and prudent speed applicable at the specified time and location of the alleged violation.

(6) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to relieve the party alleging negligence under this section in any civil action for damages from the burden of proving that such negligence was the proximate cause of a crash.

(7) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (2) of this section, any city or town may by ordinance adopt absolute speed limits as the maximum lawful speed limits in its jurisdiction, and such speed limits shall not be subject to the provisions of subsection (4) of this section.

(8) (a) (Deleted by amendment, L. 96, p. 578, § 2, effective May 25, 1996.)

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, no person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed in excess of a maximum lawful speed limit of seventy-five miles per hour.

(c) The speed limit set forth in paragraph (b) of this subsection (8) is the maximum lawful speed limit and is not subject to the provisions of subsection (4) of this section.

(d) State and local authorities within their respective jurisdictions shall not authorize any speed limit which exceeds seventy-five miles per hour on any highway.

(e) The provisions of this subsection (8) are declared to be matters of both local and statewide concern requiring uniform compliance throughout the state.

(f) In every charge of a violation of paragraph (b) of this subsection (8), the complaint, summons and complaint, or penalty assessment notice shall specify the speed at which the defendant is alleged to have driven and also the maximum lawful speed limit of seventy-five miles per hour.

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no person shall drive a low-power scooter on a roadway at a speed in excess of forty miles per hour. State and local authorities shall not authorize low-power scooters to exceed forty miles per hour on a roadway.

(9) The conduct of a driver of a vehicle which would otherwise constitute a violation of this section is justifiable and not unlawful when:

(a) It is necessary as an emergency measure to avoid an imminent public or private injury which is about to occur by reason of a situation occasioned or developed through no conduct of said driver and which is of sufficient gravity that, according to ordinary standards of intelligence and morality, the desirability and urgency of avoiding the injury clearly outweigh the desirability of avoiding the consequences sought to be prevented by this section; or

(b) With respect to authorized emergency vehicles, the applicable conditions for exemption, as set forth in section 42-4-108, exist.

(10) The minimum requirement for commission of a traffic infraction or misdemeanor traffic offense under this section is the performance by a driver of prohibited conduct, which includes a voluntary act or the omission to perform an act which said driver is physically capable of performing.

(11) It shall not be a defense to prosecution for a violation of this section that:

(a) The defendant's conduct was not performed intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence; or

(b) The defendant's conduct was performed under a mistaken belief of fact, including, but not limited to, a mistaken belief of the defendant regarding the speed of the defendant's vehicle; or

(c) The defendant's vehicle has a greater operating or fuel-conserving efficiency at speeds greater than the reasonable and prudent speed under the conditions then existing or at speeds greater than the maximum lawful speed limit.

(12) (a) A violation of driving one to twenty-four miles per hour in excess of the reasonable and prudent speed or in excess of the maximum lawful speed limit of seventy-five miles per hour is a class A traffic infraction.

(b) A violation of driving twenty-five or more miles per hour in excess of the reasonable and prudent speed or in excess of the maximum lawful speed limit of seventy-five miles per hour is a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense; except that such violation within a maintenance, repair, or construction zone, designated pursuant to section 42-4-614, is a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(c) A violation under subsection (3) of this section is a class A traffic infraction.

(13) The department shall assess the following penalty for driving twenty miles per hour or more in excess of the reasonable and prudent speed or driving in excess of the maximum lawful speed of seventy-five miles per hour:

(a) For a second violation in a twelve-month period: Two points in addition to the number of points described in section 42-2-127 (5)(f) for the violation;

(b) For a third or subsequent violation in a twenty-four-month period: Four points in addition to the number of points described in section 42-2-127 (5)(f) for the violation; and

(c) For a fifth or subsequent violation in a five-year period: Eight points in addition to the number of points described in section 42-2-127 (5)(f) for the violation.

(14) The department shall assess four points in addition to the number of points described in section 42-2-127 (5)(f) for driving one hundred miles per hour or greater.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2363, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (2)(f), (2)(g), (8)(a), (8)(b), (8)(c), (8)(d), (8)(f), and (12) amended, p. 578, § 2, effective May 25. **L. 2003:** (2)(e) amended, p. 717, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2008:** (12) amended, p. 2082, § 7, effective June 3. **L. 2009:** (8)(g) added, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1277, § 54, effective October 1. **L. 2026:** (6) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 480, § 54, effective August 12; (13) and (14) added, (SB 26-035), ch. 178, p. 1022, § 4, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-1001 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1101 was relocated to § 42-4-1201.

(2) Section 8(2) of chapter 178 (SB 26-035), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to traffic infractions committed on or after August 12, 2026.

**Cross references:** (1) Section 1 of chapter 412, Session Laws of Colorado 2008, provides that the act amending subsection (12) shall be known and may be cited as the "Charles Mather Highway Safety Act".

(2) For the legislative declaration in SB 26-035, see section 1 of chapter 178, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1101 is similar to § 42-4-1001 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Speeding classifications constitutional.** Decision to treat higher rates of speeding as more serious making them criminal acts is within legislature's discretion and does not create a suspect class or infringe on a fundamental right. Drawing a distinction based on speed is rationally related to legislative purpose of safety and fuel conservation. *People v. Lewis*, 745 P.2d 668 (Colo. 1987).

**It was the legislative intent of the general assembly in enacting the provisions of this section effective January 24, 1974,** to fix a speed limit of 55 miles per hour for the period during which federal restrictions, as originated in the emergency highway energy conservation act, continued under the federal aid highway amendments of 1974, until such time as the general assembly took further action. *People v. Driver*, 189 Colo. 276, 539 P.2d 1248 (1975).

The general assembly clearly intended to enact an enforceable 55 mile-per-hour maximum speed limit, because maintenance of federal highway funding was contingent upon enactment of such a statute. *Olinyk v. People*, 642 P.2d 490 (Colo. 1982).

**The policy considerations behind the enactment of this section** prohibiting the driving of a vehicle in excess of the maximum speed of 55 miles per hour is that

a driver must be charged as a matter of public policy, with the responsibility of ensuring that his vehicle is safe, so as to minimize the risk inherent in travel on our public highways. *People v. Caddy*, 189 Colo. 353, 540 P.2d 1089 (1975).

**Intent to enact enforceable speed limit.** It was obviously the intention of the general assembly to enact a maximum speed limit enforceable through penal sanctions. *Olinyk v. People*, 642 P.2d 490 (Colo. 1982).

**Speed limit is enforceable.** Since the penalty applicable to violation of the 55 mile-per-hour speed limit charged by complaint and summons is ascertainable, the speed limit is enforceable. *Olinyk v. People*, 642 P.2d 490 (Colo. 1982).

**Speed should be no greater than is reasonable and prudent.** The driver of a motor vehicle must at all times so operate it as to maintain reasonable control over it, at a speed no greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing. *Bennett v. Hall*, 132 Colo. 419, 290 P.2d 241 (1955); *Union P. R. R. v. Snyder*, 220 F.2d 388 (10th Cir. 1955); *Eagan v. Maiselson*, 142 Colo. 233, 350 P.2d 567 (1960); *Mayer v. Sampson*, 157 Colo. 278, 402 P.2d 185 (1965).

**This section creates a mandatory rebuttable presumption** that if the prosecution proves that a defendant was driving in excess of the posted speed limit, the burden of going forward shifts to the defendant to prove that his or her speed was reasonable and prudent under the circumstances. *People v. Hoskin*, 2016 CO 63, 380 P.3d 130.

**And mandatory rebuttable presumption does not violate due process.** People v. Hoskin, 2016 CO 63, 380 P.3d 130.

**A "special hazard" can be anything that is not a normal traffic condition.** It need not be an unusual event such as heavy traffic after a parade or sports event. A construction zone may well be a "special hazard". Dempsey v. Denver Police Dept., 2015 COA 67, 353 P.3d 928.

**The appropriate signs erected pursuant to subsection (2) of this section indicate the speed limit starts at the physical location of the sign and continues to be in effect until the next different speed limit sign** pursuant to the manual adopted by the department of transportation pursuant to § 42-4-104. Shafron v. Cooke, 190 P.3d 812 (Colo. App. 2008).

**Crime irrespective of intent or scienter.** Although the absence of a specified "culpable mental state" in this section is not conclusive on the issue, it is well settled that the general assembly may make a prohibited act a crime, irrespective of the elements of intent or scienter, when public policy so requires. People v. Caddy, 189 Colo. 353, 540 P.2d 1089 (1975).

**Offense of strict liability.** In the absence of a specified element of "criminal intent", and because of the strong public policy considerations, speeding is an offense of strict liability. People v. Caddy, 189 Colo. 353, 540 P.2d 1089 (1975).

**Lack of culpable mental state no defense.** Even though defendant presented

evidence at trial that his speedometer reflected a speed 10 miles per hour below the true speed of his vehicle, and that he had no knowledge that the speedometer reading was in error, or that he should have known of the defective speedometer, his lack of a culpable mental state was not a defense to the charge of speeding. People v. Caddy, 189 Colo. 353, 540 P.2d 1089 (1975).

There is no element of mental culpability required in the speeding statute. People v. Caddy, 189 Colo. 353, 540 P.2d 1089 (1975).

**Lack of criminal intent is not a defense** to a charge of speeding. People v. Caddy, 189 Colo. 353, 540 P.2d 1089 (1975).

**Justification is recognized as an affirmative defense to the charge of speeding,** but the defendant must present credible evidence as to the specific threat of injury and the lack of a reasonable alternative other than commission of the offense. People v. Dover, 790 P.2d 834 (Colo. 1990).

**A county court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of offenses alleged to have been committed under this section.** People v. Griffith, 130 Colo. 475, 276 P.2d 559 (1954).

**Violation is question for jury.** In an action for damages resulting from an automobile accident, the question whether defendant was driving in excess of the statutory speed limit, and if not, whether he was driving at such a rate of speed, as would, under the circumstances constitute negligence, is for the determination of the



jury. *Carlson v. Millisack*, 82 Colo. 491, 261 P. 657 (1927); *Amos v. Remington Arms Co.*, 117 Colo. 399, 188 P.2d 896 (1948); *Eagan v. Maiselson*, 142 Colo. 233, 350 P.2d 567 (1960); *Western Distrib. Co. v. United States*, 318 F.2d 353 (10th Cir. 1963).

**Sufficiency of evidence to show violation of this section.** *Lorenzini v. Rucker*, 95 Colo. 246, 35 P.2d 865 (1934); *Alden v. Watson*, 106 Colo. 103, 102 P.2d 479 (1940).

**A person of reasonable intelligence may express an opinion of the speed of an automobile** or other moving object coming under his observation without proof of further qualifications. *Eagan v. Maiselson*, 142 Colo. 233, 350 P.2d 567 (1960).

**Administrator of general services administration properly delegated to the secretary of defense the authority to promulgate traffic and pedestrian regulations for military installations within the United States.** Therefore secretary properly promulgated regulations adopting all traffic rules of state in which installation located and defendant could be charged with speeding in violation of this section, although charge was dismissed on other grounds. *U.S. v. Boyer*, 935 F. Supp. 1138 (D. Colo. 1996).

**Applied** in *City of Greenwood Vill. v. Fleming*, 643 P.2d 511 (Colo. 1982); *Smith v. Charnes*, 649 P.2d 1089 (Colo. 1982); *Corr v. District Court*, 661 P.2d 668 (Colo. 1983).

#### **42-4-1102. Altering of speed limits - department to study rural state highways and increase speed limits - definitions.**

(1) (a) Whenever the department of transportation determines upon the basis of a traffic investigation or survey or upon the basis of appropriate design standards and projected traffic volumes in the case of newly constructed highways or segments thereof that any speed specified or established as authorized under sections 42-4-1101 to 42-4-1104 is greater or less than is reasonable or safe under the road and traffic conditions at any intersection or other place or upon any part of a state highway under its jurisdiction, said department shall determine and declare a reasonable and safe speed limit thereat which shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected at such intersection or other place or upon the approaches thereto; except that no speed limit in excess of seventy-five miles per hour shall be authorized by said department.

(b) Repealed.

(2) Whenever county or municipal authorities, within their respective jurisdictions, determine upon the basis of a traffic investigation or survey and, for residential neighborhoods, after additional optional consideration of road characteristics, current and future development, environmental factors, parking practices, pedestrian and bicycle activity in the vicinity, and crash statistics from the most recent year, or upon the basis of appropriate design standards and

projected traffic volumes in the case of newly constructed highways or segments thereof, that any speed specified or established as authorized under sections 42-4-1101 to 42-4-1104 is greater or less than is reasonable or safe under the road and traffic conditions at an intersection or other place or upon any part of a street or highway in its jurisdiction, the local authority shall determine and declare a reasonable and safe speed limit that is effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected at the intersection or other place or upon the approaches thereto. A local authority shall not alter the basic rules set forth in section 42-4-1101 (1) or authorize by resolution or ordinance a speed in excess of seventy-five miles per hour.

(3) Local municipal authorities within their respective jurisdictions shall determine upon the basis of a traffic investigation or survey the proper speed for all arterial streets and shall declare a reasonable and safe speed limit thereon which may be greater or less than the speed specified under section 42-4-1101 (2)(b) or (2)(c). Such speed limit shall not exceed seventy-five miles per hour and shall become effective when appropriate signs are erected giving notice thereof. For purposes of this subsection (3), an "arterial street" means any United States or state-numbered route, controlled-access highway, or other major radial or circumferential street or highway designated by local authorities within their respective jurisdictions as part of a major arterial system of streets or highways.

(3.5) Repealed.

(4) No alteration of speed limits on state highways within cities, cities and counties, and incorporated towns is effective until it has been approved in writing by the department of transportation. Upon the request of any incorporated city or town, the department of transportation shall conduct any traffic investigation or survey that is deemed to be warranted for determination of a safe and reasonable speed limit on any street or portion thereof that is a state highway. In conducting such a traffic investigation, the department may receive and consider traffic and engineering data provided by the city or county engineer of any requesting local government that will be impacted by a proposed alteration of speed limits. Any speed limit so determined by the department becomes effective when declared by the local authority and made known by official signs conforming to the state traffic control manual.

(5) Whenever the department of transportation or local authorities, within their respective jurisdictions, determine upon the basis of a traffic investigation or survey that a reduced speed limit is warranted in a school or construction area or other place during certain hours or periods of the day when special or temporary hazards exist, the department or the concerned local authority may erect or display official signs of a type prescribed in the state traffic control manual giving notice of the appropriate speed limit for such conditions and stating the time or period the regulation is effective. When such signs are erected or displayed, the lawful speed limit at the particular time and place shall be that which is then indicated upon such signs; except that no such speed limit shall be less than twenty miles per hour on a state highway or other arterial street as defined in subsection (3) of this section nor less than fifteen miles per hour on

any other road or street, nor shall any such reduced speed limit be made applicable at times when the special conditions for which it is imposed cease to exist. Such reduced speed limits on streets which are state highways shall be subject to the written approval of the department of transportation before becoming effective.

(6) In its discretion, a municipality, by ordinance, or a county, by resolution of the board of county commissioners, may impose and enforce stop sign regulations and speed limits, not inconsistent with the provisions of sections 42-4-1101 to 42-4-1104, upon any way which is open to travel by motor vehicles and which is privately maintained in mobile home parks, when appropriate signs giving notice of such enforcement are erected at the entrances to such ways. Unless there is an agreement to the contrary, the jurisdiction ordering the regulations shall be responsible for the erection and maintenance of the signs.

(7) Any powers granted in this section to county or municipal authorities may be exercised by such authorities or by any municipal officer or employee who is designated by ordinance to exercise such powers.

(8) The department of transportation shall not set a speed limit on interstate 70 for commercial vehicles or any other motor vehicle that differs from the highest authorized speed for any other type of motor vehicle on the same portion of a highway by more than twenty-five miles per hour.

(9) For purposes of this section, "residential neighborhood" has the same meaning as set forth in section 42-4-110.5 (2)(g)(II).

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2366, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 95: (3) amended, p. 956, § 16, effective May 25. L. 96: (1), (2), and (3) amended, p. 579, § 3, effective May 25. L. 2010: (8) added, (SB 10-196), ch. 333, p. 1534, § 1, effective July 1. L. 2014: (4) amended, (SB 14-146), ch. 141, p. 486, § 1, effective May 2. L. 2018: (2) amended and (9) added, (HB 18-1191), ch. 156, p. 1098, § 1, effective August 8. L. 2020: (3.5) added, (HB 20-1178), ch. 90, p. 361, § 1, effective September 14.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-1002 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1102 was relocated to § 42-4-1202.

(2) Subsection (1)(b)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (1)(b), effective July 1, 1998. (See L. 96, p. 579.)

(3) Subsection (3.5)(e) provided for the repeal of subsection (3.5), effective July 1, 2022. (See L. 2020, p. 361.)

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1102 is similar to § 42-4-1002 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**The statute is a proper delegation of legislative authority** to department of highways with adequate safeguards to protect against an uncontrolled exercise of discretionary power. It allows for imposition of more than one speed limit for different vehicle types on a state highway or segment thereof, if this is necessary for public safety.

People v. Peterson, 734 P.2d 118 (Colo. 1987).

**The regulation of speed is not solely a matter of statewide concern.** Wiggins v. McAuliffe, 144 Colo. 363, 356 P.2d 487 (1960).

**The state has not so preempted the field by statute as to exclude a city from enacting valid ordinances** on the regulation of speed. Wiggins v. McAuliffe, 144 Colo. 363, 356 P.2d 487 (1960).

**Applied** in Waltemeyer v. People ex rel. City of Arvada, 658 P.2d 264 (Colo. 1983).

### **42-4-1103. Minimum speed regulation.**

(1) No person shall drive a motor vehicle on any highway at such a slow speed as to impede or block the normal and reasonable forward movement of traffic, except when a reduced speed is necessary for safe operation of such vehicle or in compliance with law.

(2) Whenever the department of transportation or local authorities within their respective jurisdictions determine, on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation as described in the state traffic control manual, that slow speeds on any part of a highway consistently impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, said department or such local authority may determine and declare a minimum speed limit below which no person shall drive a vehicle, except when necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

(3) Notwithstanding any minimum speed that may be authorized and posted pursuant to this section, if any person drives a motor vehicle on a highway outside an incorporated area or on any controlled-access highway at a speed less than the normal and reasonable speed of traffic under the conditions then and there existing and by so driving at such slower speed impedes or retards the normal and reasonable movement of vehicular traffic following immediately behind, then such driver shall:

(a) Where the width of the traveled way permits, drive in the right-hand lane available to traffic or on the extreme right side of the roadway consistent with the provisions of section 42-4-1001 (2) until such impeded traffic has passed by; or

(b) Pull off the roadway at the first available place where such movement can safely and lawfully be made until such impeded traffic has passed by.

(4) Wherever special uphill traffic lanes or roadside turnouts are provided and posted, drivers of all vehicles proceeding at less than the normal and reasonable speed of traffic shall use such lanes or turnouts to allow other vehicles to pass or maintain normal traffic flow.

(5) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2368, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1003 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-4-1104. Speed limits on elevated structures.**

(1) No person shall drive a vehicle over any bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part of a highway at a speed which is greater than the maximum speed which can be maintained with safety to such bridge or structure, when such structure is signposted as provided in this section.

(2) The department of transportation upon request from any local authority shall, or upon its own initiative may, conduct an investigation of any bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part of a highway, and, if it finds that such structure cannot with safety to itself withstand vehicles traveling at the speed otherwise permissible under sections 42-4-1101 to 42-4-1104, said department shall determine and declare the maximum speed of vehicles which such structure can withstand and shall cause or permit suitable standard signs stating such maximum speed to be erected and maintained before each end of such structure in conformity with the state traffic control manual.

(3) Upon the trial of any person charged with a violation of this section, proof of said determination of the maximum speed by said department and the existence of said signs shall constitute conclusive evidence of the maximum speed which can be maintained with safety to such bridge or structure.

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2368, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1004 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1104 was relocated to § 42-4-1204.

**42-4-1105. Speed contests - speed exhibitions - aiding and facilitating - immobilization of motor vehicle - definitions.**

(1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this section, it is unlawful for a person to knowingly engage in a speed contest on a highway.

(b) For purposes of this section, "speed contest" means the operation of one or more motor vehicles to conduct a race or a time trial, including but not limited to rapid acceleration, exceeding reasonable and prudent speeds for highways and existing traffic conditions, vying for position, or performing one or more lane changes in an attempt to gain advantage over one or more of the other race participants.

(c) A person who violates any provision of this subsection (1) commits a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this section, it is unlawful for a person to knowingly engage in a speed exhibition on a highway.

(b) For purposes of this section, "speed exhibition" means the operation of a motor vehicle to present a display of speed or power. "Speed exhibition" includes, but is not limited to, squealing the tires of a motor vehicle while it is stationary or in motion, rapid acceleration, rapid swerving or weaving in and out of traffic, producing smoke from tire slippage, or leaving visible tire acceleration marks on the surface of the highway or ground.

(c) A person who violates any provision of this subsection (2) commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this section, a person shall not, for the purpose of facilitating or aiding or as an incident to any speed contest or speed exhibition upon a highway, in any manner obstruct or place a barricade or obstruction, or assist or participate in placing any such barricade or obstruction, upon a highway.

(b) A person who violates any provision of this subsection (3) commits, pursuant to section 42-4-1703, the offense that the person aided in or facilitated the commission of. Nothing in this subsection (3) shall be construed to preclude charging a person under section 42-4-1703 for otherwise being a party to the crime of engaging in a speed contest or engaging in a speed exhibition.

(4) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the operation of a motor vehicle in an organized competition according to accepted rules on a designated and duly authorized race track, race course, or drag strip.

(5) (a) In addition to a sentence imposed pursuant to this section or pursuant to any other provision of law:

(I) Upon the second conviction for an offense specified in subsection (1) or (2) of this section, or any other crime, the underlying factual basis of which has been found by the court to include an act of operating a motor vehicle in violation of subsection (1) or (2) of this section, the court may, in its discretion, order the primary law enforcement agency involved with the case to place an immobilization device on the motor vehicle or motor vehicles so operated for a period of up to fourteen days.

(II) Upon the third or subsequent conviction for an offense specified in subsection (1) or (2) of this section, or any other crime, the underlying factual basis of which has been found by the court to include an act of operating a motor vehicle in violation of subsection (1) or (2) of this section, the court may, in its discretion, order the primary law enforcement agency involved with the case to place an immobilization device on the motor vehicle or motor vehicles so operated for a period of up to thirty days but more than fourteen days.

(b) The period during which a motor vehicle may be fitted with an immobilization device pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (5) shall be in addition to any period during which the motor vehicle was impounded prior to sentencing.

(c) An order issued under this subsection (5) shall state the requirements included in subsections (7) and (8) of this section.

(d) For purposes of this section, "immobilization device" means a device locked into place over a wheel of a motor vehicle that prevents the motor vehicle from being moved. "Immobilization device" includes but is not limited to a device commonly referred to as a "traffic boot" or "boot".

(6) (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (9) of this section, a law enforcement agency that is ordered to place an immobilization device on a motor vehicle pursuant to subsection (5) of this section shall attempt to locate the motor vehicle within its jurisdiction. The law enforcement agency may, in its discretion, attempt to locate the motor vehicle outside of its jurisdiction.

(b) Nothing in this subsection (6) shall be construed to:

(I) Prohibit a law enforcement agency from seeking the assistance of another law enforcement agency for the purpose of placing an immobilization device on a motor vehicle or removing the device in accordance with this section; or

(II) Require a law enforcement agency to expend excessive time or commit excessive staff to the task of locating a motor vehicle subject to immobilization under this section.

(c) The time spent by a law enforcement agency in locating a motor vehicle in accordance with this subsection (6) shall not alter the immobilization period ordered by the court under subsection (5) of this section.

(d) A law enforcement agency that places an immobilization device on a motor vehicle pursuant to this section shall affix a notice to the immobilized motor vehicle stating the information described in subsections (7) and (8) of this section.

(e) A peace officer who locates or attempts to locate a motor vehicle, or who places or removes, or assists with the placement or removal of, an immobilization device in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be immune from civil liability for damages, except for damages arising from willful and wanton conduct.

(7) (a) The owner of a motor vehicle immobilized under this section shall be assessed a fee of thirty-five dollars for each day the motor vehicle is ordered immobilized and, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (d) of this subsection (7), thirty-five dollars for each day up to fourteen days after the immobilization period that the fee for the immobilization period is not paid. The owner shall pay the fee to the law enforcement agency that places the immobilization device on the motor vehicle.

(b) The owner, within fourteen days after the end of the immobilization period ordered by the court, may obtain removal of the immobilization device by the law enforcement agency that placed it by requesting the removal and paying the fee required under paragraph (a) of this subsection (7).

(c) The failure of the owner of the immobilized motor vehicle to request removal of the immobilization device and pay the fee within fourteen days after the end of the immobilization period ordered by the court or within the additional time granted by the court pursuant to paragraph (d) of this subsection (7), whichever is applicable, shall result in the motor vehicle being deemed an "abandoned motor vehicle", as defined in sections 42-4-1802 (1)(d) and 42-4-2102 (1)(d), and subject to the provisions of part 18 or 21 of this article, whichever is applicable. The law enforcement agency entitled to payment of the fee under this subsection (7) shall be eligible to recover the fee if the abandoned motor vehicle is sold, pursuant to section 42-4-1809 (2)(b.5) or 42-4-2108 (2)(a.5).



(d) Upon application of the owner of an immobilized motor vehicle, the court that ordered the immobilization may, in its discretion, grant additional time to pay the immobilization fee required under paragraph (a) of this subsection (7). If additional time is granted, the court shall notify the law enforcement agency that placed the immobilization device.

(8) (a) A person may not remove an immobilization device that is placed on a motor vehicle pursuant to this section during the immobilization period ordered by the court.

(b) No person may remove the immobilization device after the end of the immobilization period except the law enforcement agency that placed the immobilization device and that has been requested by the owner to remove the device and to which the owner has properly paid the fee required by subsection (7) of this section. Nothing in this subsection (8) shall be construed to prevent the removal of an immobilization device in order to comply with the provisions of part 18 or 21 of this article.

(c) A person who violates any provision of this subsection (8) commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(9) (a) A law enforcement agency that is ordered to place an immobilization device on a motor vehicle pursuant to subsection (5) of this section shall inform the court at sentencing if it is unable to comply with the court's order either because the law enforcement agency is not yet equipped with an immobilization device or because it does not have a sufficient number of immobilization devices. The court, upon being so informed, shall, in lieu of ordering immobilization, order the law enforcement agency to impound the motor vehicle for the same time period that the court initially ordered the motor vehicle to be immobilized.

(b) If a motor vehicle is ordered to be impounded pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (9), the provisions of subsections (6) to (8) of this section shall not apply.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2369, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2006:** Entire section R&RE, p. 168, § 1, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1005 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1105 was relocated to § 42-4-1205.

**Cross references:** For obstructing a highway, see § 18-9-107.

## ANNOTATION

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**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1105 is similar to § 42-4-1005 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**This section is sufficiently definite to meet the constitutional requirements of due process of law.** People v. Heckard, 164 Colo. 19, 431 P.2d 1014 (1967).

**Subsection (1) forbids** intentional participation in operating motor vehicles competitively to test the swiftness of the vehicles involved. It further prohibits an individual's deliberate drawing of public attention to the vehicle's quality for swiftness. People v. Heckard, 164 Colo. 19, 431 P.2d 1014 (1967).

**"Speed" and "acceleration" are related terms.** The former refers to the act or state of moving swiftly, while "acceleration" means the act of increasing the speed. People v. Heckard, 164 Colo. 19, 431 P.2d 1014 (1967).

**The speed or acceleration must occur under circumstances of a "contest" or "exhibition"** on a highway. The terms employed in the instant statute give a clear and meaningful definition by virtue of their relation to each other. People v. Heckard, 164 Colo. 19, 431 P.2d 1014 (1967).

**"Contest" and "exhibition" imply.** A "contest" ordinarily implies a plurality of participants in a deliberate, competitive act (here of speed or acceleration), while an "exhibition" implies a person's display, for the purpose of attracting public attention, of the same acts. People v. Heckard, 164 Colo. 19, 431 P.2d 1014 (1967).

**This section is prohibition of aiding or abetting the primary offense and imposes the ordinary common-law accessorial liability.** People v. Heckard, 164 Colo. 19, 431 P.2d 1014 (1967).

**The language of subsection (2) provides definite warning when that language is measured by common understanding and practice.** People v. Heckard, 164 Colo. 19, 431 P.2d 1014 (1967).

#### **42-4-1106. Minimum speed in left lane - interstate 70.**

(1) Where the average grade is six percent or more uphill for at least one mile, no person shall operate a motor vehicle in the far left lane of traffic of interstate 70 at a speed of less than the lower of ten miles per hour below the speed limit or the minimum speed set by the department of transportation, except if:

- (a) Necessary to obey traffic control devices;
- (b) Necessary to exit or enter interstate 70;
- (c) Weather or traffic conditions require speeds slower than the speed limit necessary under section 42-4-1101; or

- (d) Necessary because of a lane closure or blockage.
- (2) The department of transportation shall post signs giving the public notice of this section.

**Source: L. 2010:** Entire section added, (SB 10-196), ch. 333, p. 1534, § 2, effective July 1.

## PART 12

### PARKING

**Cross references:** For penalties for class A and class B traffic infractions, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

#### **42-4-1201. Starting parked vehicle.**

No person shall start a vehicle which is stopped, standing, or parked unless and until such movement can be made with reasonable safety. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2369, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1101 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1201 was relocated to § 42-2-128.

#### **42-4-1202. Parking or abandonment of vehicles.**

(1) No person shall stop, park, or leave standing any vehicle, either attended or unattended, outside of a business or a residential district, upon the paved or improved and main-traveled part of the highway. Nothing contained in this section shall apply to the driver of any vehicle which is disabled while on the paved or improved and main-traveled portion of a highway in such manner and to such extent that it is impossible to avoid stopping and temporarily leaving such disabled vehicle in such position, subject, when applicable, to the emergency lighting requirements set forth in section 42-4-230.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2369, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1102 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1202 was relocated to § 42-4-1301.

**Cross references:** For transfer and purge of titles of abandoned vehicles, see § 42-4-1810; for criminal penalty for abandonment of a motor vehicle, see § 18-4-512.

**42-4-1203. Ski areas to install signs.**

(1) Colorado ski areas shall install traffic control signs as provided in this section on both sides of that segment of every highway which is within one mile of and which leads to the recognized entrances to the ski area parking lots if it is found that:

(a) The ski area has insufficient parking capacity as evidenced by the practice of parking by motor vehicles on such highways; and

(b) Such parking constitutes a hazard to traffic or an obstacle to snow removal or the movement or passage of emergency equipment.

(2) The findings required by subsection (1) of this section shall be made by the department of transportation for the state highway system, by the chairman of the board of county commissioners for county roads, and by the chief executive officer of a municipality for a municipal street system. Such findings shall be based upon a traffic investigation.

(3) Such signs shall conform to any and all specifications of the department of transportation adopted pursuant to section 42-4-601. All such signs shall contain a statement that there is no parking allowed on a highway right-of-way so as to obstruct traffic or highway maintenance and that offending vehicles will be towed away.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2370, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1103.1 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1203 was relocated to § 42-4-1401.

**42-4-1204. Stopping, standing, or parking prohibited in specified places - penalty.**

(1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this section, no person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or an official traffic control device, in any of the following places:

- (a) On a sidewalk;
- (b) Within an intersection;
- (c) On a crosswalk;
- (d) Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within thirty feet of points on the curb immediately opposite the ends of a safety zone, unless the traffic authority indicates a different length by signs or markings;
- (e) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing, or parking would obstruct traffic;
- (f) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street;
- (g) Upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a highway or within a highway tunnel;
- (h) On any railroad tracks;
- (i) On any controlled-access highway;
- (j) In the area between roadways of a divided highway, including crossovers;
- (j.5) In the portion of a roadway designated as a bike lane;
- (k) At any other place where official signs prohibit stopping.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this section, in addition to the restrictions specified in subsection (1) of this section, no person shall stand or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or an official traffic control device, in any of the following places:

- (a) Within five feet of a public or private driveway;
- (b) Within fifteen feet of a fire hydrant;
- (c) Within twenty feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;
- (d) Within thirty feet upon the approach to any flashing beacon or signal, stop sign, yield sign, or traffic control signal located at the side of a roadway;

(e) Within twenty feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station or, on the side of a street opposite the entrance to any fire station, within seventy-five feet of said entrance when properly signposted;

(f) At any other place where official signs prohibit standing.

(3) In addition to the restrictions specified in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, no person shall park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or official traffic control device, in any of the following places:

(a) Within fifty feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing;

(b) At any other place where official signs prohibit parking.

(4) (a) Subsection (1)(a) of this section does not prohibit a person from parking a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter on a sidewalk in accordance with the provisions of section 42-4-1412 (11)(a) and (11)(b).

(b) Subsection (1)(f) of this section does not prohibit persons from parking two or more bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, or electric scooters abreast in accordance with the provisions of section 42-4-1412 (11)(d).

(c) Subsections (2)(a), (2)(c), and (2)(d) of this section do not apply to a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter parked on a sidewalk in accordance with section 42-4-1412 (11)(a) and (11)(b).

(5) No person shall move a vehicle not lawfully under such person's control into any such prohibited area or away from a curb such distance as is unlawful.

(6) The department of transportation, with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may place official traffic control devices prohibiting, limiting, or restricting the stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles on any highway where it is determined, upon the basis of a traffic investigation or study, that such stopping, standing, or parking is dangerous to those using the highway or where the stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles would unduly interfere with the free movement of traffic thereon. No person shall stop, stand, or park any vehicle in violation of the restrictions indicated by such devices.

(7) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction; except that, if a person violates paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of this section and the violation occurs in an unincorporated area of a county, the penalty is fifty dollars.

(8) A political subdivision shall not adopt or enforce an ordinance or regulation that prohibits the parking of more than one motorcycle or autocycle within a space served by a single parking meter.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2370, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** (8) added, p. 1102, § 24, effective June 1. **L. 2009:** (4) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1277, § 55, effective October 1. **L. 2012:** (7) amended, (HB 12-1094), ch. 77, p. 258, § 1, effective April 6. **L. 2019:** (4) amended, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2561, § 10, effective May 23. **L. 2022:** (8) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2586, § 23, effective January 1, 2023. **L. 2026:** (1)(j.5) added, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 461, § 2, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1104 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1204 was relocated to § 42-4-1402.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class B traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for parking violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(M).

#### **42-4-1205. Parking at curb or edge of roadway.**

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, every vehicle stopped or parked upon a two-way roadway shall be so stopped or parked with the right-hand wheels parallel to and within twelve inches of the right-hand curb or as close as practicable to the right edge of the right-hand shoulder.

(2) Except as otherwise provided by local ordinance, every vehicle stopped or parked upon a one-way roadway shall be so stopped or parked parallel to the curb or edge of the roadway in the direction of authorized traffic movement, with its right-hand wheels within twelve inches of the right-hand curb or as close as practicable to the right edge of the right-hand shoulder or with its left-hand wheels within twelve inches of the left-hand curb or as close as practicable to the left edge of the left-hand shoulder.

(3) Local authorities may by ordinance permit angle parking on any roadway; except that angle parking shall not be permitted on any state highway unless the department of transportation has determined by resolution or order entered in its minutes that the roadway is of sufficient width to permit angle parking without interfering with the free movement of traffic.

(4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2372, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1105 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1205 was relocated to § 42-4-1403.

**42-4-1206. Unattended motor vehicle - definitions.**

(1) A person driving or in charge of an unlocked motor vehicle shall not permit it to stand unattended without first stopping the engine, locking the ignition, removing the key from the ignition, and effectively setting the brake thereon. When the vehicle is standing upon any grade, the person shall turn the front wheels to the curb or side of the highway in such a manner as to prevent the vehicle from rolling onto the traveled way.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(3) The use or operation of a remote starter system or adequate security measures is sufficient to comply with subsection (1) of this section.

(4) As used in this section:

(a) "Adequate security measures" includes, but is not limited to:

(I) Using a vehicle that requires a key to put the vehicle into gear and move the vehicle;

(II) Keeping a keyless start fob out of proximity of the vehicle; or

(III) Employing steering wheel security devices.

(b) "Remote starter system" means a device installed in a motor vehicle that allows the engine of the vehicle to be started by remote or radio control.

(5) Nothing in this section preempts or otherwise impairs the power of local authorities to enforce or enact ordinances or resolutions concerning time limits on the idling of motor vehicles within one year after August 10, 2016.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2372, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2016:** Entire section amended, (HB 16-1122), ch. 62, p. 163, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2018:** (3) amended, (HB 18-1296), ch. 296, p. 1807, § 1, effective May 29.



**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1106 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1206 was relocated to § 42-4-1404.

**42-4-1207. Opening and closing vehicle doors.**

No person shall open the door of a motor vehicle on the side available to moving traffic unless and until it is reasonably safe to do so and can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic; nor shall any person leave a door open on the side of a vehicle available to moving traffic for a period of time longer than necessary to load or unload passengers. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2372, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1107 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1207 was relocated to § 42-4-1406.

**42-4-1208. Reserved parking for persons with disabilities - applicability - rules - standards - legislative declaration - definitions.**

(1) **Definitions.** As used in this section:

- (a) "Disability" or "disabled" has the same meaning as set forth in section 42-3-204.
  - (b) "Holder" means a person with a disability who has lawfully obtained an identifying plate or placard.
  - (c) "Identifying figure" has the same meaning as set forth in section 42-3-204.
  - (d) "Identifying placard" has the same meaning as set forth in section 42-3-204.
  - (e) "Identifying plate" has the same meaning as set forth in section 42-3-204.
  - (f) "Professional" has the same meaning as set forth in section 42-3-204.
  - (f.5) "Remuneration-exempt identifying placard" has the same meaning as set forth in section 42-3-204.
  - (g) "Reserved parking" means a parking space reserved for a person with a disability.
- (2) **Use of plate or placard.**

(a) A person with a disability may use reserved parking on public property or private property if the person displays an identifying plate or placard while using reserved parking.

(b) When an identifying placard is used for reserved parking, the driver of the parked motor vehicle shall ensure that the front of the identifying placard is legible and visible through the windshield when viewed from outside the vehicle. The driver shall hang the placard from the rear-view mirror unless a rear-view mirror is not available or the individual is physically unable to hang the placard from the rear-view mirror. If the tag is not hung from the rear-view mirror, the driver shall display it on the dashboard.

(c) A person with a disability who is a resident of a state other than Colorado may use reserved parking in Colorado if the motor vehicle displays an identifying plate or placard issued by a state other than Colorado, and if:

(I) The identifying plate or placard is currently valid in the state of issuance and meets the requirements of 23 CFR 1235; and

(II) The holder has not been a resident in Colorado for more than ninety days.

(d) A motor vehicle with an identifying plate or a placard may be parked in public parking areas along public streets or in private parking lots regardless of any time limitation imposed upon parking in the area; except that a jurisdiction may specifically limit reserved parking on any public street to no less than four hours. To limit reserved parking, the jurisdiction must clearly post the appropriate time limits in the area. The ability to park notwithstanding parking limitations does not apply to areas in which:

(I) Stopping, standing, or parking of all vehicles is prohibited;

(II) Only special vehicles may be parked; or

(III) Parking is not allowed during specific periods of the day in order to accommodate heavy traffic.

(e) (I) The owner of public or private property may request the installation of official signs or pavement markings identifying reserved parking spaces. The request operates as a waiver of any objection the owner may assert concerning enforcement of this section by a peace officer. An officer may enforce this section on private property notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary.

(II) (A) The number and placement of accessible parking spaces should meet or exceed section 1106 of chapter 11 of the 2012 (second printing) version of the international building code, or any succeeding standard, published by the International Code Council.

(B) The technical standards for accessible parking spaces should meet or exceed section 502, or any successor section, of the "Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities" standard, or

any succeeding standard, promulgated and amended from time to time by the International Code Council (commonly cited as ICC/ANSI A117.1).

(C) Access aisles should post a "Wheelchair Access Aisle Absolutely No Parking" sign, which blocks neither the access aisle nor accessible routes.

(D) The technical standards for post- or wall-mounted signs indicating accessible parking spaces and van-accessible parking spaces should meet or exceed section 2B.46 concerning parking, standing, and stopping signs and section 2B.47 concerning design of parking, standing, and stopping of the 2009 version of the manual on uniform traffic control devices, or any succeeding standard, published by the United States federal highway administration.

(III) The owner of real property with multiple-family dwellings affixed and with reserved parking shall retain the reserved parking as commonly owned for the tenants, owners, or visitors of the individual units within the dwellings. This subparagraph (III) does not prohibit the sale of all commonly owned property so long as the reserved parking is not severed from the other elements.

(IV) A person shall not impose restrictions on the use of disabled parking unless specifically authorized by a statute of Colorado and a resolution of or ordinance of a political subdivision of Colorado and notice of the restriction is prominently posted by a sign clearly visible at the parking space.

**(3) Misuse of reserved parking.**

(a) A person without a disability shall not park in a parking space on public or private property that is clearly identified by an official sign or by visible pavement markings as being reserved parking or as being a passenger loading zone unless:

(I) The person is parking the vehicle for the direct benefit of a person with a disability to enter or exit the vehicle while it is parked in the reserved parking space; and

(II) An identifying plate or placard obtained under or authorized by section 42-3-204 is displayed in or on the vehicle if the license plate or placard is currently valid or has expired less than one month before the day the person used the reserved parking.

(a.5) A person shall not, while parked in a parking space that requires remuneration, display a remuneration-exempt identifying placard that is not issued to the person. A person who possesses a remuneration-exempt identifying placard shall not allow another person to use the placard to park in a parking space that requires remuneration.

(b) (I) A person, after using a reserved parking space that has a time limit, shall not switch motor vehicles or move the motor vehicle to another reserved parking space within one hundred yards of the original parking space within the same eight hours in order to exceed the time limit.

(II) (A) Parking in a time-limited reserved parking space for more than three hours for at least three days a week for at least two weeks creates a rebuttable presumption that the person is violating this paragraph (b).

(B) This subparagraph (II) does not apply to privately owned parking spaces.

(c) A person shall not use reserved parking for a commercial purpose unless:

(I) The purpose relates to transacting business with a business the reserved parking is intended to serve; or

(II) The owner of private property consents to allow the use.

(d) (I) An employee of an entity shall not use an identifying placard issued to the entity unless the employee is transporting persons with disabilities.

(II) For a violation of this paragraph (d), the chief operations officer within Colorado of the entity to whom the placard or plate was issued and the offending employee are each subject to the penalties in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(M).

(III) (A) It is an affirmative defense to a violation of this paragraph (d) for the chief operations officer within Colorado that the entity enforces an internal policy controlling access to and use of identifying placards issued to the entity.

(B) If the placard used is expired by operation of section 42-3-204 (6)(f), it is an affirmative defense to a violation of this paragraph (d) that the person did not know the placard was expired if the person who used the placard was the person to whom it was issued.

(e) (I) A person who violates subsection (3)(a) or (3)(a.5) of this section is subject to the penalties in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(VIII) and (4)(a)(IX).

(II) A person who violates paragraphs (b) to (d) of this subsection (3) is subject to the penalties in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(M).

**(4) Blocking access.**

(a) Regardless of whether a person displays an identifying plate or placard, a person shall not park a vehicle so as to block reasonable access to curb ramps, passenger loading zones, access aisles, or accessible routes, as those terms are defined in the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design identified in 28 CFR 36 appendix A, that are clearly identified unless the person is actively loading or unloading a person with a disability.

(a.5) A person shall not block reasonable access to reserved parking, curb ramps, access aisles, or accessible routes by any means.

(b) A person who violates this subsection (4) is subject to the penalties in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(VIII).

(c) An entity whose property obstructs access to reserved parking, curb ramps, access aisles, and accessible routes is subject to the monetary penalties in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(VIII)(A) to (4)(a)(VIII)(C).

(5) **Fraud and trafficking.** A person is subject to the penalties in sections 18-5-121 (6) and 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(X) if the person:

(a) Knowingly and fraudulently obtains, possesses, uses, or transfers an identifying placard issued to a person with a disability;

(b) Knowingly makes, possesses, uses, alters, or transfers what purports to be, but is not, an identifying placard; or

(c) Knowingly creates or uses a device intended to give the impression that it is an identifying placard when viewed from outside the vehicle.

(6) **Enforcement of reserved parking.**

(a) A peace officer or authorized and uniformed parking enforcement official may check the identification of a person using an identifying plate or placard in order to determine whether the use is authorized.

(b) (I) A peace officer or authorized and uniformed parking enforcement official may confiscate an identifying placard that is being used in violation of this section.

(II) The peace officer or parking enforcement official shall send a confiscated placard to the department unless it is being held as evidence for prosecution of a violation of this section. If the tag is being held as evidence, the peace officer or parking enforcement official shall notify the department of the confiscation and pending charges.

(III) The department shall hold a confiscated placard for thirty days and may dispose of the placard after thirty days. The department shall release the placard to the person with a disability to whom it was issued when the person signs a statement under penalty of perjury that he or she was unaware that the violator used, or intended to use, the placard in violation of this section.

(c) A peace officer, a parking enforcement officer, and the department may investigate an allegation that a person is violating this section; except that, if a peace officer receives a complaint of a violation of subsection (4) of this section, the peace officer shall investigate the complaint or notify the state or local agency having jurisdiction over the complaint, which agency shall investigate the complaint within a reasonable time.

(d) A person who observes a violation of this section may submit evidence, including a sworn statement, concerning the violation to any law enforcement agency.

(e) (I) A peace officer may issue a penalty assessment notice for a violation of paragraph (b), (c), or (d) of subsection (3) of this section by sending it by certified mail to the registered owner

of the motor vehicle. The peace officer shall include in the penalty assessment notice the offense or infraction, the time and place where it occurred, and a statement that the payment of the penalty assessment and a surcharge is due within twenty days after the issuance of the notice. The department receives payment of the penalty assessment by the due date if the payment is received or postmarked by the twentieth day after the vehicle owner received the penalty assessment notice.

(II) If the penalty assessment and surcharge are not paid within twenty days after the date the vehicle owner receives the assessment notice specified in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (e), the peace officer who issued the original penalty assessment notice shall file a complaint with a court having jurisdiction and issue and serve upon the registered owner of the vehicle a summons to appear in court at the time and place specified.

(f) (I) The entering court shall send certification of the entry of judgment for each violation of paragraph (b), (c), or (d) of subsection (3) of this section to the department.

(II) Upon receipt of certification of an entry of judgment for a violation of paragraph (b), (c), or (d) of subsection (3) of this section, the department shall not register the person's vehicle until all fines imposed for the violations have been paid.

(III) Upon receipt of certification or independent verification of an entry of judgment, the department shall revoke an identifying plate or placard as provided in section 42-3-204 (7)(d).

(g) (I) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to the contrary, a holder is liable for any penalty or fine as set forth in this section or section 42-3-204 or for any misuse of an identifying plate or placard, including the use of such plate or placard by any person other than a holder, unless the holder furnishes sufficient evidence that the identifying plate or placard was, at the time of the violation, in the care, custody, or control of another person without the holder's knowledge or consent.

(II) A holder may avoid the liability described in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (g) if, within a reasonable time after notification of the violation, the holder furnishes to the prosecutorial division of the appropriate jurisdiction the name and address of the person who had the care, custody, or control of the identifying plate or placard at the time of the violation or the holder reports the license plate or placard lost or stolen to both the appropriate local law enforcement agency and the department.

(h) An employer shall not forbid an employee from reporting violations of this section. A person shall not initiate or administer any disciplinary action against an employee because the employee notified the authorities of a possible violation of this section if the employee has a good-faith belief that a violation has occurred.

(i) A landlord shall not retaliate against a tenant because the tenant notified the authorities of a possible violation of this section if the tenant has a good-faith belief that a violation has occurred.

(j) In order to stop a vehicle from blocking access or illegally using reserved parking, a peace officer may order a vehicle that is used to violate subsection (4) of this section to be towed to an impound lot or a vehicle storage location. The peace officer shall verify that the vehicle has not been stolen and report the tow to the department of revenue in accordance with section 42-4-1804.

(k) Repealed.

**(7) Statewide concern.**

(a) The general assembly finds that access to reserved parking by persons with disabilities ensures that those persons have equal access to goods and services essential for daily life.

(b) The general assembly determines that:

(I) Reserved parking for persons with disabilities is a state-administered program and that identifying license plates and placards are issued under state law;

(II) Because local regulations regarding reserved parking for persons with disabilities vary significantly across jurisdictions, they are inconsistent and confusing for persons with disabilities, medical professionals, peace officers, and members of the general public;

(III) Modern life requires travel across multiple local jurisdictions. Inconsistent local marking and enforcement of reserved parking for persons with disabilities confuses people, which prevents them from fully obeying disabled parking regulations.

(IV) A message disseminated by one political subdivision of the state using modern communication methods will be received by individuals from multiple political subdivisions. Any attempt to use modern communication methods to educate the public on local regulations governing reserved parking for persons with disabilities will result in public exposure to multiple inconsistent, confusing regulations, so education requires uniform regulation across the state, and a statewide effort is needed to educate the public about disabled parking. This effort is funded by fines that are typically issued by local authorities.

(c) The general assembly therefore declares that access to reserved parking by persons with disabilities is a matter of statewide concern and that the provisions set forth in this section preempt any action contrary to this section if the action is adopted by a political subdivision of the state.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2373, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** (1), IP(2), (3)(a), (4), and (7) amended, p. 216, § 2, effective August 5. **L. 99:** Entire section amended, p. 709, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (1)(a), (1)(b), IP(2), (3)(a), (5)(b), (7), (11), (12)(b), (12)(d), (13)(a), and (13)(b) amended, p. 1175, § 16, effective August 8. **L. 2010:** Entire section amended, (HB 10-1019), ch. 400, p. 1923, § 3, effective January 1, 2011. **L. 2014:** Entire section R&RE, (HB 14-1029), ch. 252, p. 998, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** (2)(e)(II)(B) amended, (HB 17-1067), ch. 19, p. 64, § 5, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** (1)(f.5) and (3)(a.5) added and (3)(e)(I) amended, (HB 18-1285), ch. 265, p. 1629, § 3, effective January 1, 2019. **L. 2020:** (6)(j) amended, (SB 20-136), ch. 70, p. 299, § 54, effective September 14. **L. 2024:** (4)(a) and (6)(c) amended and (4)(a.5) and (4)(c) added, (HB 24-1161), ch. 322, p. 2149, § 5, effective June 3. **L. 2025:** IP(5) amended, (HB 25-1076), ch. 16, p. 61, § 4, effective August 6. **L. 2026:** (6)(k) repealed, (HB 26-1382), ch. 301, p. 1715, § 17, effective June 2.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1109 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1208 was relocated to § 42-4-1407.

**Cross references:** (1) For the short title ("The Chris Hinds Act") in HB 18-1285, see section 1 of chapter 265, Session Laws of Colorado 2018.

(2) For the legislative declaration in SB 20-136, see section 1 of chapter 70, Session Laws of Colorado 2020.

#### **42-4-1209. Owner liability for parking violations.**

(1) In addition to any other liability provided for in this article, the owner of a motor vehicle who is engaged in the business of leasing or renting motor vehicles is liable for payment of a parking violation fine unless the owner of the leased or rented motor vehicle can furnish sufficient evidence that the vehicle was, at the time of the parking violation, in the care, custody, or control of another person. To avoid liability for payment the owner of the motor vehicle is required, within a reasonable time after notification of the parking violation, to furnish to the prosecutorial division of the appropriate jurisdiction the name and address of the person or company who leased, rented, or otherwise had the care, custody, or control of such vehicle. As a condition to avoid liability for payment of a parking violation, any person or company who leases or rents motor vehicles to another person shall attach to the leasing or rental agreement a notice stating that, pursuant to the requirements of this section, the operator of the vehicle is liable for payment of a parking violation fine incurred when the operator has the care, custody, or control of the motor vehicle. The notice shall inform the operator that the operator's name and



address shall be furnished to the prosecutorial division of the appropriate jurisdiction when a parking violation fine is incurred by the operator.

(2) The provisions of this section may be adopted by local authorities pursuant to section 42-4-110 (1).

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2375, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1110 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-4-1210. Designated areas on private property for authorized vehicles.**

(1) The owner or lessee of any private property available for public use in the unincorporated areas of a county may request in writing that specified areas on such property be designated by the board of county commissioners for use only by authorized vehicles and that said areas, upon acceptance in writing by the board of county commissioners, shall be clearly marked by the owner or lessee with official traffic control devices, as defined in section 42-1-102 (64). Such a request shall be a waiver of any objection the owner or lessee may assert concerning enforcement of this section by peace officers of this state, and such officers are hereby authorized and empowered to so enforce this section, provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding. When the owner or lessee gives written notice to the board of county commissioners that said request is withdrawn, and the owner or lessee removes all traffic control devices, the provisions of this section shall no longer be applicable.

(2) It is unlawful for any person to park any vehicle other than an authorized vehicle in any area designated and marked for such use as provided in this section.

(3) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (2) of this section commits a class A traffic infraction. The disposition of fines and forfeitures shall be paid into the treasury of the county at such times and in such manner as may be prescribed by the board of county commissioners.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2376, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2021:** (3) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3305, § 731, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1111 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1210 was relocated to § 42-4-314.

**42-4-1211. Limitations on backing.**

(1) (a) The driver of a vehicle, whether on public property or private property which is used by the general public for parking purposes, shall not back the same unless such movement can be made with safety and without interfering with other traffic.

(b) The driver of a vehicle shall not back the same upon any shoulder or roadway of any controlled-access highway.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2376, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-112 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1211 was relocated to § 42-4-1304.

**42-4-1212. Pay parking access for persons with disabilities.**

(1) A person who owns, operates, or manages a parking space, including a parking space within a parking lot, that requires remuneration paid through a parking device shall not tow, boot, or otherwise take adverse action against an individual or motor vehicle parking in the space for failure to pay the remuneration if the motor vehicle bears a remuneration-exempt identifying placard issued pursuant to section 42-3-204.

(2) Notwithstanding any statute, resolution, or ordinance of the state of Colorado, a political subdivision of Colorado, or a governing board of a state institution of higher education, parking in a space without paying the required remuneration is not a violation of the statute, resolution, or ordinance if the conditions specified in subsection (1) of this section are met.

(3) A law or parking enforcement agency shall withdraw any penalty assessment notice or summons and complaint that is deemed not to be a violation under subsection (2) of this section within five business days after being shown proof that the individual cited has a valid remuneration-exempt identifying placard.

(4) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2018.)

**Source: L. 2010:** Entire section added, (HB 10-1019), ch. 400, p. 1929, § 4, effective January 1, 2011. **L. 2018:** Entire section amended, (HB 18-1285), ch. 265, p. 1630, § 4, effective January 1, 2019. **L. 2024:** (1) amended, (SB 24-019), ch. 195, p. 1191, § 2, effective November 1.

**Cross references:** For the short title ("The Chris Hinds Act") in HB 18-1285, see section 1 of chapter 265, Session Laws of Colorado 2018.

**42-4-1213. Parking in electric motor vehicle charging stations - definition.**

(1) (a) For the purposes of this section, "official sign" means a sign identifying a parking space for electric motor vehicle charging that cites this section or the equivalent local ordinance and that clearly displays the penalties for violating this section or the equivalent local ordinance.

(b) The owner of public or private property may install official signs that identify a parking space as a dedicated charging station. The installation operates as a waiver of any objection the owner may assert concerning enforcement of this section by a peace officer. A peace officer may enforce this section on private property.

(2) (a) A person shall not park a motor vehicle within a parking space designated for charging a plug-in electric motor vehicle unless the motor vehicle is a plug-in electric motor vehicle.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a person shall not park a plug-in electric motor vehicle in a parking space with a dedicated charging connector for the parking space unless the person is parked in the charging station for the purpose of charging the plug-in electric motor vehicle.

(c) A plug-in electric motor vehicle is rebuttably presumed to not be charging if the motor vehicle is:

(I) Parked in a charging station parking space with a dedicated charging connector for the space; and

(II) Not continuously and electrically connected to the charger for longer than thirty minutes.

(3) (a) A person may park a plug-in electric motor vehicle at a charging station after the motor vehicle is fully charged in a parking lot:

(I) That serves a lodging business if the person is a client of the lodging business and has parked the plug-in electric motor vehicle in the lot to charge overnight;

(II) That serves an airport if the person is a client of the airport and has parked the plug-in electric motor vehicle in the lot to charge when traveling; or

(III) Between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

(b) The exception in subsection (3)(a) of this section is an affirmative defense to a violation of subsection (2) of this section.

(4) A person who violates this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 2019:** Entire section added, (HB 19-1298), ch. 384, p. 3439, § 3, effective August 2.

## PART 13

### ALCOHOL AND DRUG OFFENSES

#### **42-4-1300.3. Definitions. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire section added, p. 1897, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (3) amended, p. 781, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** Entire section repealed, p. 255, § 26, effective July 1.

#### **42-4-1301. Driving under the influence - driving while impaired - driving with excessive alcoholic content - definitions - penalties.**

(1) (a) A person who drives a motor vehicle or vehicle under the influence of alcohol or one or more drugs, or a combination of both alcohol and one or more drugs, commits driving under the influence. Driving under the influence is a misdemeanor, but it is a class 4 felony if the violation occurred after three or more prior convictions, arising out of separate and distinct criminal episodes, for DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI; vehicular homicide, as described in section 18-3-106 (1)(b); vehicular assault, as described in section 18-3-205 (1)(b); or any combination thereof.

(b) A person who drives a motor vehicle or vehicle while impaired by alcohol or by one or more drugs, or by a combination of alcohol and one or more drugs, commits driving while ability impaired. Driving while ability impaired is a misdemeanor, but it is a class 4 felony if the violation occurred after three or more prior convictions, arising out of separate and distinct criminal episodes, for DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI; vehicular homicide, as described in section

18-3-106 (1)(b); vehicular assault, as described in section 18-3-205 (1)(b); or any combination thereof.

(c) Repealed.

(d) As used in this section, one or more drugs means any drug, as defined in section 27-80-203 (13), C.R.S., any controlled substance, as defined in section 18-18-102 (5), C.R.S., and any inhaled glue, aerosol, or other toxic vapor or vapors, as defined in section 18-18-412, C.R.S.

(e) The fact that any person charged with a violation of this subsection (1) is or has been entitled to use one or more drugs under the laws of this state, including, but not limited to, the medical use of marijuana pursuant to section 18-18-406.3, C.R.S., shall not constitute a defense against any charge of violating this subsection (1).

(f) "Driving under the influence" means driving a motor vehicle or vehicle when a person has consumed alcohol or one or more drugs, or a combination of alcohol and one or more drugs, that affects the person to a degree that the person is substantially incapable, either mentally or physically, or both mentally and physically, to exercise clear judgment, sufficient physical control, or due care in the safe operation of a vehicle.

(g) "Driving while ability impaired" means driving a motor vehicle or vehicle when a person has consumed alcohol or one or more drugs, or a combination of both alcohol and one or more drugs, that affects the person to the slightest degree so that the person is less able than the person ordinarily would have been, either mentally or physically, or both mentally and physically, to exercise clear judgment, sufficient physical control, or due care in the safe operation of a vehicle.

(h) Pursuant to section 16-2-106, C.R.S., in charging the offense of DUI, it shall be sufficient to describe the offense charged as "drove a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs or both".

(i) Pursuant to section 16-2-106, C.R.S., in charging the offense of DWAI, it shall be sufficient to describe the offense charged as "drove a vehicle while impaired by alcohol or drugs or both".

(j) For the purposes of this section, a person is deemed to have a prior conviction for DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI; vehicular homicide, as described in section 18-3-106 (1)(b), C.R.S.; or vehicular assault, as described in section 18-3-205 (1)(b), C.R.S., if the person has been convicted under the laws of this state or under the laws of any other state, the United States, or any territory subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, of an act that, if committed within this state, would constitute any of these offenses. The prosecution shall set forth such prior convictions in the indictment or information.

(k) Repealed.

(2) (a) A person who drives a motor vehicle or vehicle when the person's BAC is 0.08 or more at the time of driving or within two hours after driving commits DUI per se. During a trial, if the state's evidence raises the issue, or if a defendant presents some credible evidence, that the defendant consumed alcohol between the time that the defendant stopped driving and the time that testing occurred, such issue shall be an affirmative defense, and the prosecution must establish beyond a reasonable doubt that the minimum 0.08 blood or breath alcohol content required in this subsection (2)(a) was reached as a result of alcohol consumed by the defendant before the defendant stopped driving. DUI per se is a misdemeanor, but it is a class 4 felony if the violation occurred after three or more prior convictions, arising out of separate and distinct criminal episodes, for DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI; vehicular homicide, as described in section 18-3-106 (1)(b); vehicular assault, as described in section 18-3-205 (1)(b); or any combination thereof.

(a.5) Repealed.

(b) In any prosecution for the offense of DUI per se, the defendant shall be entitled to offer direct and circumstantial evidence to show that there is a disparity between what any tests show and other facts so that the trier of fact could infer that the tests were in some way defective or inaccurate. Such evidence may include testimony of nonexpert witnesses relating to the absence of any or all of the common symptoms or signs of intoxication for the purpose of impeachment of the accuracy of the analysis of the person's blood or breath.

(c) Pursuant to section 16-2-106, C.R.S., in charging the offense of DUI per se, it shall be sufficient to describe the offense charged as "drove a vehicle with excessive alcohol content".

(d) (I) It is a class A traffic infraction for any person under twenty-one years of age to drive a motor vehicle or vehicle when the person's BAC, as shown by analysis of the person's breath, is at least 0.02 but not more than 0.05 at the time of driving or within two hours after driving. The court, upon sentencing a defendant pursuant to this subparagraph (I), may order, in addition to any penalty imposed under a class A traffic infraction, that the defendant perform up to twenty-four hours of useful public service, subject to the conditions and restrictions of section 18-1.3-507, C.R.S., and may further order that the defendant submit to and complete an alcohol evaluation or assessment, an alcohol education program, or an alcohol treatment program at such defendant's own expense.

(II) A second or subsequent violation of this subsection (2)(d) is a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(3) The offenses described in subsections (1) and (2) of this section are strict liability offenses.

(4) No court shall accept a plea of guilty to a non-alcohol-related or non-drug-related traffic offense or guilty to the offense of UDD from a person charged with DUI or DUI per se; except

that the court may accept a plea of guilty to a non-alcohol-related or non-drug-related traffic offense or to UDD upon a good faith representation by the prosecuting attorney that the attorney could not establish a prima facie case if the defendant were brought to trial on the original alcohol-related or drug-related offense.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 18-1-408, C.R.S., during a trial of any person accused of both DUI and DUI per se, the court shall not require the prosecution to elect between the two violations. The court or a jury may consider and convict the person of either DUI or DWAI, or DUI per se, or both DUI and DUI per se, or both DWAI and DUI per se. If the person is convicted of more than one violation, the sentences imposed shall run concurrently.

(6) (a) In any prosecution for DUI or DWAI, the defendant's BAC or drug content at the time of the commission of the alleged offense or within a reasonable time thereafter gives rise to the following presumptions or inferences:

(I) If at such time the defendant's BAC was 0.05 or less, it shall be presumed that the defendant was not under the influence of alcohol and that the defendant's ability to operate a motor vehicle or vehicle was not impaired by the consumption of alcohol.

(II) If at such time the defendant's BAC was in excess of 0.05 but less than 0.08, such fact gives rise to the permissible inference that the defendant's ability to operate a motor vehicle or vehicle was impaired by the consumption of alcohol, and such fact may also be considered with other competent evidence in determining whether or not the defendant was under the influence of alcohol.

(III) If at such time the defendant's BAC was 0.08 or more, such fact gives rise to the permissible inference that the defendant was under the influence of alcohol.

(IV) If at such time the driver's blood contained five nanograms or more of delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinol per milliliter in whole blood, as shown by analysis of the defendant's blood, such fact gives rise to a permissible inference that the defendant was under the influence of one or more drugs.

(b) The limitations of this subsection (6) shall not be construed as limiting the introduction, reception, or consideration of any other competent evidence bearing upon the question of whether or not the defendant was under the influence of alcohol or whether or not the defendant's ability to operate a motor vehicle or vehicle was impaired by the consumption of alcohol.

(c) (I) In all actions, suits, and judicial proceedings in any court of this state concerning alcohol-related or drug-related traffic offenses, the court shall take judicial notice of methods of testing a person's alcohol or drug level and of the design and operation of devices, as certified by the department of public health and environment, for testing a person's blood, breath, saliva, or urine to determine such person's alcohol or drug level. The department of public health and environment may, by rule, determine that, because of the reliability of the results from certain

devices, the collection or preservation of a second sample of a person's blood, saliva, or urine or the collection and preservation of a delayed breath alcohol specimen is not required.

(II) Nothing in this paragraph (c) prevents the necessity of establishing during a trial that the testing devices used were working properly and were properly operated. Nothing in this paragraph (c) precludes a defendant from offering evidence concerning the accuracy of testing devices.

(III) The database compiled by the department of public health and environment containing personal identifying information relating to the results of tests of persons' breath alcohol content, and all personal identifying information thereof, are not public information. The department of public health and environment shall disclose such information only to:

(A) The individual who is the subject of the test, or to his or her legal representative;

(B) A named interested party in a civil or criminal action in which the test results are directly related, or to his or her legal representative;

(C) Any prosecuting attorney, law enforcement officer, state agency, or state and local public official legally authorized to utilize such information to carry out his or her duties; or

(D) Any party who obtains an order in a pending civil or criminal case if the court finds the party has shown good cause to have the information. In determining whether there is good cause, the court shall consider whether the materials sought exist; whether the materials sought are evidentiary and relevant; whether the materials are not otherwise procurable reasonably in advance of the proceeding by the exercise of due diligence; whether the party cannot properly prepare for the proceeding without such production and inspection in advance of the proceeding, and the failure to obtain such inspection may tend to unreasonably delay the proceeding; and whether the request for the information is made in good faith and is not for the purposes of general discovery.

(IV) The department of public health and environment may release nonpersonal identifying information from the database in accordance with sections 24-72-101 to 24-72-309.

(d) If a person refuses to take or to complete, or to cooperate with the completing of, any test or tests as provided in section 42-4-1301.1 and such person subsequently stands trial for DUI or DWAI, the refusal to take or to complete, or to cooperate with the completing of, any test or tests shall be admissible into evidence at the trial, and a person may not claim the privilege against self-incrimination with regard to admission of refusal to take or to complete, or to cooperate with the completing of, any test or tests.

(e) **Involuntary blood test - admissibility.** Evidence acquired through an involuntary blood test pursuant to section 42-4-1301.1 (3) is admissible in a prosecution for DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD and in a prosecution for criminally negligent homicide while operating or



driving a motor vehicle pursuant to section 18-3-105 (1)(b), vehicular homicide pursuant to section 18-3-106 (1)(b), assault in the third degree pursuant to section 18-3-204, or vehicular assault pursuant to section 18-3-205 (1)(b).

(f) **Chemical test - admissibility.** Strict compliance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the department of public health and environment shall not be a prerequisite to the admissibility of test results at trial unless the court finds that the extent of noncompliance with a board of health rule has so impaired the validity and reliability of the testing method and the test results as to render the evidence inadmissible. In all other circumstances, failure to strictly comply with such rules and regulations shall only be considered in the weight to be given to the test results and not to the admissibility of such test results.

(g) It shall not be a prerequisite to the admissibility of test results at trial that the prosecution present testimony concerning the composition of any kit used to obtain blood, urine, saliva, or breath specimens. A sufficient evidentiary foundation concerning the compliance of such kits with the rules and regulations of the department of public health and environment shall be established by the introduction of a copy of the manufacturer's or supplier's certificate of compliance with such rules and regulations if such certificate specifies the contents, sterility, chemical makeup, and amounts of chemicals contained in such kit.

(h) In any trial for a violation of this section, the testimony of a law enforcement officer that he or she witnessed the taking of a blood specimen by a person who the law enforcement officer reasonably believed was authorized to withdraw blood specimens shall be sufficient evidence that such person was so authorized, and testimony from the person who obtained the blood specimens concerning such person's authorization to obtain blood specimens shall not be a prerequisite to the admissibility of test results concerning the blood specimens obtained.

(i) (I) Following the lawful contact with a person who has been driving a motor vehicle or vehicle and when a law enforcement officer reasonably suspects that a person was driving a motor vehicle or vehicle while under the influence of or while impaired by alcohol, the law enforcement officer may conduct a preliminary screening test using a device approved by the executive director of the department of public health and environment after first advising the driver that the driver may either refuse or agree to provide a sample of the driver's breath for such preliminary test; except that, if the driver is under twenty-one years of age, the law enforcement officer may, after providing such advisement to the person, conduct such preliminary screening test if the officer reasonably suspects that the person has consumed any alcohol.

(I.3) Following lawful contact with an individual who has been driving a motor vehicle or vehicle involved in a collision resulting in death or suspected serious bodily injury, a law enforcement officer shall offer the driver the opportunity to voluntarily submit a sample of the driver's breath for a preliminary screening test for alcohol using a device approved by the

executive director of the department of public health and environment, after first advising the driver that the driver may refuse or agree to the preliminary test, when:

(A) The law enforcement officer has reasonable suspicion that the individual is the driver and is at fault in the collision;

(B) The individual who the law enforcement officer reasonably suspects to be the driver at fault in the collision is not significantly injured or in need of immediate medical attention; and

(C) The law enforcement officer does not have probable cause necessary for the expressed consent requirements described pursuant to section 42-4-1301.1.

(I.4) Notwithstanding subsection (6)(i)(I.3) of this section, a law enforcement officer is not required to offer the driver the opportunity to voluntarily submit a sample of the driver's breath for a preliminary screening test for alcohol pursuant to subsection (6)(i)(I.3) of this section if the law enforcement officer's initial contact with the driver:

(A) Occurs more than two hours following the collision; or

(B) Ended, and the driver has left the scene of the collision or the area where law enforcement made initial contact with the driver and the driver is not in law enforcement's presence but law enforcement subsequently learns that the collision involved death or serious bodily injury when that was not initially suspected or known.

(I.5) When, pursuant to subsection (6)(i)(I.3) of this section, a law enforcement officer advises a driver that the driver may either refuse or agree to voluntarily provide a sample of the driver's breath for a preliminary screening test, the law enforcement officer shall advise the driver in plain language that:

(A) The individual is being asked to provide a sample of their breath for a preliminary screening test regarding whether they are intoxicated because they were driving a motor vehicle or vehicle involved in a serious collision;

(B) If the individual takes the preliminary screening test, the results or the individual's refusal to take the test are not admissible in court;

(C) If the individual takes the preliminary screening test, evidence of intoxication may be used as evidence to request further testing that is admissible in court or to make an arrest;

(D) The preliminary screening test is voluntary; and

(E) If the individual refuses to take the preliminary screening test, the refusal does not affect the status of their driver's license.

(I.6) If a law enforcement officer is unable to administer a preliminary screening test for alcohol because the device malfunctions or is unable to produce a valid result, or if the law

enforcement officer is unable to offer a preliminary screening test for alcohol because a device is unavailable due to extenuating circumstances or circumstances beyond the law enforcement officer's reasonable control, the law enforcement officer shall document on any required incident report related to the collision that the preliminary screening test could not be administered and the reason why it could not be administered.

(II) The results of this preliminary screening test may be used by a law enforcement officer in determining whether probable cause exists to believe such person was driving a motor vehicle or vehicle in violation of this section and whether to administer a test pursuant to section 42-4-1301.1 (2).

(III) Neither the results of such preliminary screening test nor the fact that the person refused such test shall be used in any court action except in a hearing outside of the presence of a jury, when such hearing is held to determine if a law enforcement officer had probable cause to believe that the driver committed a violation of this section. The results of such preliminary screening test shall be made available to the driver or the driver's attorney on request.

(j) In any trial for a violation of this section, if, at the time of the alleged offense, the person possessed a valid medical marijuana registry identification card, as defined in section 25-1.5-106 (2)(e), C.R.S., issued to himself or herself, the prosecution shall not use such fact as part of the prosecution's case in chief.

(k) In any traffic stop, the driver's possession of a valid medical marijuana registry identification card, as defined in section 25-1.5-106 (2)(e), C.R.S., issued to himself or herself shall not, in the absence of other contributing factors, constitute probable cause for a peace officer to require the driver to submit to an analysis of his or her blood.

(7) Repealed.

(8) A second or subsequent violation of this section committed by a person under eighteen years of age may be filed in juvenile court.

(9) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "serious bodily injury" has the meaning set forth in section 18-1-901.

**Source:** **L. 94:** (2.5), (3)(a)(II), (3)(b)(I), and (6) amended, p. 2814, § 594, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2376, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (9)(a) and (9)(b) amended, p. 956, § 17, effective May 25; (9)(e)(II) and (12) amended, p. 315, § 3, effective July 1; (10)(d) amended, p. 224, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 97:** (2)(a.5) added and (6) and (8) amended, p. 1467, §§ 12, 13, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (2)(a.5), (9)(a), and (9)(b)(III) amended, p. 174, § 6, effective April 6; (9)(b)(IV) added and (9)(g) amended, p. 1240, §§ 5, 6, effective July 1; (10)(a), (10)(b), (10)(c), (10)(d), and (10)(e) amended, p. 716, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 99:**

(9)(a)(II), (9)(g), and (10)(c) amended, p. 1158, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (2)(a.5) and (7)(a)(II) amended, p. 514, § 2, effective May 12; (9)(e)(II) amended, p. 1643, § 30, effective June 1; (9)(g)(III) amended, p. 1078, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2001:** (1)(e) amended, p. 474, § 3, effective April 27; (9)(a), (9)(b), and (9)(f)(I) amended, p. 789, § 8, effective July 1. **L. 2001, 2nd Ex. Sess.:** (9)(a), (9)(b), and (9)(f)(I) amended, p. 2, § 3, effective September 25. **L. 2002:** Entire section amended with relocations, p. 1898, § 2, effective July 1; (7)(e) and (7)(f) amended, p. 1561, § 368, effective October 1; (7)(d)(III) added, p. 1609, § 4, effective January 1, 2004. **L. 2003:** (7)(h) amended, p. 2004, § 73, effective May 22. **L. 2004:** (6)(c) amended, p. 234, § 1, effective April 1; (2)(a), (4), (6)(a)(II), and (6)(a)(III) amended, p. 780, § 1, effective July 1; (2)(a.5) and (7)(e) amended and (8) added, p. 1130, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (7)(d)(II) amended, p. 1177, § 17, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (7)(d)(II) amended, p. 1369, § 9, effective January 1, 2007. **L. 2008:** (7)(a)(I)(B), (7)(a)(II)(B), (7)(a)(IV)(B), (7)(b)(I)(B), (7)(b)(II)(B), and (7)(b)(III)(B) amended, p. 2086, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (7)(d)(III) amended, (SB 09-133), ch. 392, p. 2119, § 2, effective August 5; (1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), (1)(f), (1)(g), (2)(a), (2)(a.5)(I), (6)(a)(I), (6)(a)(II), (6)(b), (6)(i)(I), and (6)(i)(II) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1278, § 56, effective October 1; (7)(d)(IV) added, (HB 09-1119), ch. 397, p. 2146, § 3, effective January 1, 2010. **L. 2010:** (7)(d)(IV)(A) and (7)(d)(IV)(B) amended, (SB 10-175), ch. 188, p. 807, § 86, effective April 29; (7) repealed, (HB 10-1347), ch. 258, p. 1149, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** (1)(c) and (1)(d) amended, (HB 12-1311), ch. 281, p. 1632, § 91, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** (1)(c) repealed, (1)(d), (2)(b), (4), IP(6)(a), and (6)(e) amended, and (6)(a)(IV), (6)(j), and (6)(k) added, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1877, § 1, effective May 28. **L. 2015:** (1)(a), (1)(b), and (2)(a) amended, (1)(j), (1)(k), and (2)(d) added, and (2)(a.5) repealed, (HB 15-1043), ch. 262, p. 990, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2016:** (6)(c) amended, (SB 16-132), ch. 221, p. 839, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2017:** (1)(k) repealed, (HB 17-1288), ch. 387, p. 2004, § 2, effective August 9. **L. 2021:** (1)(a), (1)(b), and (2)(a) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3306, § 732, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (1)(a), (1)(b), and (2)(a) amended, (HB 22-1229), ch. 68, p. 348, § 37, effective March 1. **L. 2023:** (6)(c)(IV) amended, (HB 23-1019), ch. 366, p. 2203, § 12, effective August 7. **L. 2026:** (2)(d)(II) amended, (HB 26-1297), ch. 123, p. 535, § 9, effective August 12; (6)(i)(I.3), (6)(i)(I.4), (6)(i)(I.5), (6)(i)(I.6), and (9) added, (SB 26-132), ch. 370, p. 2240, § 3, effective August 12; (6)(e) amended, (SB 26-072), ch. 200, p. 1144, § 6, effective September 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) This title was amended with relocations in 1994, effective January 1, 1995, and this section was subsequently amended with relocations in 2002, resulting in the relocation of provisions. Some portions of this section have been relocated to §§ 42-4-1301.1, 42-4-1301.2, 42-4-1301.3, and 42-4-1301.4. For a detailed comparison of this section, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

(2) Amendments to subsections (2.5), (3)(a)(II), (3)(b)(I), and (6) by House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

(3) Subsections (7)(e) and (7)(f) were originally numbered as subsection (9)(h), and the amendments to it in House Bill 02-1046 were harmonized with subsections (7)(e) and (7)(f) as they appeared in Senate Bill 02-057.

(4) Section 47 of chapter 68 (HB 22-1229), Session Laws of Colorado 2022, provides that the act changing this section is effective March 1, 2022, but the governor did not approve the act until April 7, 2022.

(5) Section 8(2) of chapter 200 (SB 26-072), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to offenses committed on or after September 1, 2026.

(6) Section 5(2) of chapter 370 (SB 26-132), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to incidents occurring on or after August 12, 2026.

**Cross references:** (1) For community or useful public service for persons convicted of misdemeanors, see § 18-1.3-507; for community service for juvenile offenders, see § 19-2-308; for additional costs imposed on criminal actions and traffic offenses, see §§ 24-4.1-119 and 24-4.2-104; for provision that the operation of vehicles and the movement of pedestrians pursuant to this section apply upon streets and highways and elsewhere throughout the state, see § 42-4-103 (2)(b); for additional costs levied on alcohol- and drug-related traffic offenses, see § 43-4-402; for community or useful public service for class 1 and class 2 misdemeanor traffic offenders, see § 42-4-1701; for collateral attacks of alcohol- or drug-related traffic offenses, see § 42-4-1702.

(2) For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsections (7)(e) and (7)(f), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

(3) For the short title ("Magnus' Law") and the legislative declaration in SB 26-132, see sections 1 and 2 of chapter 370, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

## ANNOTATION

### I. General Consideration.

### II. Presumptions.

### III. Prior Convictions.

### IV. Useful Public Service.

### I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.

**Law reviews.** For comment, "The Theory and Practice of Implied Consent in Colorado", see 47 U. Colo. L. Rev. 723 (1976). For article, "Review of new Legislation Relating to Criminal Law", see 11 Colo. Law. 2148 (1982). For article, "The

New Colorado Per Se DUI Law", see 12 Colo. Law. 1451 (1983). For article, "Drunk Driving Laws: A Study of the Views of Colorado Trial Judges", see 14 Colo. Law. 189 (1985). For article, "DUI Defense Under the Per Se Law", see 14 Colo. Law. 2155 (1985). For comment, "The Constitutionality of Drunk Driving Roadblocks", see 58 U. Colo. L. Rev. 109 (1986-87). For article, "A DUI Primer", see 16 Colo. Law. 2179 (1987). For comment, "Greathouse: Has Colorado Abandoned the Protections of Garcia?", see 59 U. Colo. L. Rev. 351 (1988). For article, "Drinking and Driving: An Update on the 1989 Legislation", see 18 Colo. Law. 1943 (1989). For article, "A Young Lawyer's Guide to DUI Suppression Motions", see 25 Colo. Law. 63 (Apr. 1996). For article, "Plea Bargaining, Legislative Limits, and the Separation of Powers", see 32 Colo. Law. 63 (Mar. 2003). For article, "Drunk Drivers and Blood Draws in Colorado", see 43 Colo. Law. 27 (Feb. 2014).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1301 is similar to § 42-4-1301 as it existed prior to its 2002 amendment and § 42-4-1202 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing those provisions have been included in the annotations to this section.

**Procedural due process violated when guilty plea to serious offense entered in summary proceeding.** In view of the serious consequences which follow the entry of a plea of guilty to driving under the influence of alcohol, the summary disposal immediately after arrest, notwithstanding the belief of the officer, evidenced by the fact

that he filed the charge, that the accused was under the influence of liquor, constitutes a serious deprivation of the constitutional right of the accused to a fair trial. It is axiomatic that justice delayed is justice denied, but there are limits to the acceleration process, and the instant procedure was so unjustifiably sudden as to constitute a violation of the constitutional guarantee of procedural due process of law. *Toland v. Strohl*, 147 Colo. 577, 364 P.2d 588 (1961).

**A first-time charge of driving while ability impaired is not a petty offense.** The general assembly's placement of numerous alcohol and drug-related offenses in a single statute demonstrates an intention to not treat first-time driving while ability impaired offenses as petty offenses. The penalties are dependant upon circumstances that may not be known by the court at the time of arraignment. The penalties for a first-time offense may easily exceed those of a petty offense under § 16-10-109. Therefore, defendants are not required to file with a court under § 16-10-109 to obtain a trial by jury. *Byrd v. Stavelly*, 113 P.3d 1273 (Colo. App. 2005).

**Failure to preserve a second sample of the defendant's blood for independent testing did not violate his due process rights** under the state constitution because the test for materiality of evidence set forth in *People v. Greathouse*, 742 P.2d 334 (Colo. 1987), was not met. *People v. Humes*, 762 P.2d 665 (Colo. 1988).

**Defendant, who was convicted of vehicular assault while under the**

**influence, vehicular assault by driving recklessly, and driving under the influence, was not denied her right to procedural due process** by the prosecution's failure to preserve a second sample of her breath at the time the breathalyzer test was administered to her or to keep the victim's car in storage. Defendant failed to meet the test of materiality set forth in *People v. Greathouse*, 742 P.2d 334 (Colo. 1987), or the test for bad faith set forth in *Arizona v. Youngblood*, 488 U.S. 51 (1988). *People v. Acosta*, 860 P.2d 1376 (Colo. App. 1993).

**Challenge raised initially on appeal to supreme court not considered.** An equal protection challenge to this section not raised during the license revocation review proceedings will not be considered if raised for the first time on appeal to the supreme court. *Colgan v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 623 P.2d 871 (Colo. 1981).

**Subsection (6)(d) is not unconstitutional because use of refusal to consent to blood alcohol test as evidence of guilt does not violate fourth amendment right prohibiting unreasonable search.** *Fitzgerald v. People*, 2017 CO 26, 394 P.3d 671; *People v. King*, 2017 CO 44, 401 P.3d 516; *People v. Sewick*, 2017 CO 45, 401 P.3d 521; *People v. Maxwell*, 2017 CO 46, 401 P.3d 523; *People v. Maxwell*, 2017 CO 47, 401 P.3d 518.

**Governmental purpose.** The implied consent statute serves the distinct governmental purpose of facilitating citizen cooperation in achieving traffic safety by the

use of the administrative sanction of revocation upon a refusal to submit to a test, while the statutory authorization for a probationary license is expressly directed towards the "alcohol and drug traffic driving education or treatment" of the convicted traffic offender. *DeScala v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 667 P.2d 1360 (Colo. 1983).

**Legislative policy of this state** has been to create a graduated scale of penalties arising from driving an automobile after the use of intoxicants. *Thompson v. People*, 181 Colo. 194, 510 P.2d 311 (1973).

**The primary purpose of this section** is to obtain scientific evidence of the amount of alcohol in the bloodstream in order to curb drunk driving through prosecution for that offense. *Zahtila v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 39 Colo. App. 8, 560 P.2d 847 (1977); *Hess v. Tice*, 43 Colo. App. 47, 598 P.2d 536 (1979).

This section's purpose is to assist in the prosecution of the drinking driver. *Marin v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 41 Colo. App. 557, 591 P.2d 1336 (1978).

**The terms "intoxicated", "drunk", and "under the influence of intoxicating liquor" are substantially synonymous.** There is no reason to allow opinion testimony by a lay witness phrased in one of these terms and to prohibit it when it is phrased in another of these terms. *People v. Norman*, 194 Colo. 372, 572 P.2d 819 (1977).

**The terms "drive" and "drove" as used in this section and for purposes of the DUI statute include "actual physical control" of a vehicle,** even if the vehicle is

not actually moving. Proof that a person is in actual physical control of a vehicle is sufficient to prove that the person drove the vehicle. *People v. Swain*, 959 P.2d 426 (Colo. 1998); *People v. Valdez*, 2014 COA 125, 411 P.3d 94.

**Driving a motor vehicle means exercising physical control over a motor vehicle.** Although the court did not instruct the jury that it must find the vehicle was reasonably capable of being rendered operable, it did not err because there was undisputed testimony that the vehicle's alleged inoperability was a result only of a lack of fuel and a dead battery. These circumstances do not, as a matter of law, render a vehicle not reasonably capable of being rendered operable. *People v. VanMatre*, 190 P.3d 770 (Colo. App. 2008).

**Prosecution not required to prove the operability of a vehicle beyond a reasonable doubt.** *People v. Valdez*, 2014 COA 125, 411 P.3d 94.

**Trial court did not commit plain error** in upholding the jury's separate convictions for DUI and aggravated driving after revocation prohibited offenses and for imposing separate sentences for those crimes. *People v. Valdez*, 2014 COA 125, 411 P.3d 94.

**For general explanation of provisions of this section,** see *Marin v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 41 Colo. App. 557, 591 P.2d 1336 (1978).

**This section is not vague, indefinite, nor uncertain** as there are reasonable ascertainable standards by which the guilt of

an accused can be determined. *Thompson v. People*, 181 Colo. 194, 510 P.2d 311 (1973).

This section, when read as a whole, provides standards sufficiently precise to inform the defendant of the crime charged. *Thompson v. People*, 181 Colo. 194, 510 P.2d 311 (1973).

**Defendant not deprived of his constitutional right to equal protection under this section** since all class 2 misdemeanors do not reflect similar criminal conduct to which similar sanctions must be applied, the general assembly is entitled to establish more severe penalties for acts that it believes have greater social impact and graver consequences, and the defendant failed to prove that the mandatory sentencing scheme has impacted him differently from all other persons convicted of similar criminal conduct of driving under the influence. *People v. Martinnillie*, 940 P.2d 1090 (Colo. App. 1996).

**For even a full reading of the penalty section of this section would not apprise the accused of the consequences of the guilty plea.** If, as the charge suggests, the accused was under the influence of liquor, he could not give an effectual waiver. The fact that the accused evidenced a desire to accept the impetuous proceedings tendered does not in the present circumstances justify the summary disposition of the charge. *Toland v. Strohl*, 147 Colo. 577, 364 P.2d 588 (1961).

**It is a misdemeanor for any person under the influence of intoxicating liquor to drive** an automobile on the public highways. *Solt v. People*, 130 Colo. 1, 272



P.2d 638 (1954); *People v. Sanchez*, 173 Colo. 188, 476 P.2d 980 (1970).

**Proceedings under the implied consent law are civil in nature.** *Johnson v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 38 Colo. App. 230, 556 P.2d 488 (1976).

**Traffic laws and revocation procedures contained in §§ 42-2-122 and 42-2-203 are aimed at all drivers who** operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or while their ability is impaired, regardless of their status as alcoholics or problem drinkers. *Heninger v. Charnes*, 200 Colo. 194, 613 P.2d 884 (1980).

**Subsection (1)(b) intended to be a less serious offense than subsection (1)(a).** The penalty and presumptions of this section clearly show a legislative intent that subsection (1)(b) is a less serious offense than subsection (1)(a), and demonstrates that the general assembly intended to establish two levels of prohibited conduct. *Thompson v. People*, 181 Colo. 194, 510 P.2d 311 (1973).

**And is a lesser included offense.** Driving while one's ability is impaired due to consumption of alcohol is considered a lesser included offense of driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor if the evidence warrants. *Thompson v. People*, 181 Colo. 194, 510 P.2d 311 (1973).

**Driving under the influence is a lesser included offense of aggravated driving after revocation.** Merger principles preclude conviction for a lesser included offense of a crime for which a defendant has also been convicted in the same prosecution.

*People v. Mersman*, 148 P.3d 199 (Colo. App. 2006).

**Driving under the influence is a lesser included offense of vehicular assault.** If a person is guilty of vehicular assault by virtue of driving under the influence, driving under the influence is a lesser included offense prohibited by the double jeopardy clause. *People v. Cruthers*, 124 P.3d 887 (Colo. App. 2005); *People v. Smoots*, 2013 COA 152, 396 P.3d 53, *aff'd sub nom. Reyna-Abarca v. People*, 2017 CO 15, 390 P.3d 816.

**Misdemeanor offenses under this section are not the same as the felony offenses under § 18-3-205** because the elements and the required proof for conviction are different. *People v. Smith*, 182 Colo. 228, 512 P.2d 269 (1973).

The misdemeanor count of driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor is not the same offense as the felony count of inflicting bodily injury by operating an automobile in a reckless manner while under the influence of intoxicating liquor. *People v. Smith*, 182 Colo. 228, 512 P.2d 269 (1973).

**And are not lesser included offenses.** Driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor and driving while ability is impaired are not lesser included offenses of the felony charge of inflicting bodily injury while under the influence of intoxicating liquor by driving an automobile in a reckless manner. *People v. Smith*, 182 Colo. 228, 512 P.2d 269 (1973).

**Dismissal of count under this section not bar to prosecution under § 18-3-205.**

The court's dismissal of a misdemeanor count under this section, which placed the defendant in jeopardy as to that count, did not bar prosecution on felony count under § 18-3-205. *People v. Smith*, 182 Colo. 228, 512 P.2d 269 (1973).

**Dismissal by hearing officer not bar to subsequent action.** Absent the sworn report of the law enforcement officer, a hearing officer may dismiss a case without prejudice; and such dismissal is not on the merits and does not bar a subsequent action on the same incident. *McBride v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 626 P.2d 760 (Colo. App. 1981).

**Dismissal following successful completion of deferred judgment does not remove a "conviction" for purposes of statute governing the sealing of criminal records.** *In re Harte*, 2012 COA 183, 337 P.3d 1232.

**The refusal of nondriver to take sobriety test is not within the scope of this section.** *Marin v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 41 Colo. App. 557, 591 P.2d 1336 (1978).

**Failure of police to obtain test from unconscious victim pursuant to subsection (7)(c) does not entitle defendant to a dismissal of the charges under this section** when the defendant cannot show that the failure was in bad faith. *People v. Kearns*, 988 P.2d 189 (Colo. App. 1999).

**Where officer made no attempt to comply with the requirements of the statute** and there were no circumstances that

would have prevented compliance, trial court did not abuse its discretion by suppressing results of blood test. *People v. Maclaren*, 251 P.3d 578 (Colo. App. 2010).

**Section not applicable to person not driving on public highway.** The driver's license revocation provisions of this section do not apply to one who is not driving upon a public highway. *Dayhoff v. State Motor Veh. Div.*, 42 Colo. App. 91, 595 P.2d 1051 (1979), *aff'd*, 199 Colo. 363, 609 P.2d 119 (1980).

**Express consent provision not applicable to federal reservations.** The federal Assimilative Crimes Act does not assimilate the express consent provision because the provision is part of state administrative proceedings. *United States v. Hopp*, 943 F. Supp. 1313 (D. Colo. 1996).

**There is no requirement in this section that there be both a driving violation and evidence of operating a vehicle while under the influence** of or impaired by alcohol. *Johnson v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 38 Colo. App. 230, 556 P.2d 488 (1976); *Gilbert v. Dolan*, 41 Colo. App. 173, 586 P.2d 233 (1978).

Under this section, an officer may make an arrest of one who commits a moving violation and then, if he has probable cause to believe that the person is driving under the influence of alcohol, can request that the driver take a chemical test, even though he is not under arrest at the time for driving under the influence. On the other hand, the officer may, in the first instance, arrest the suspect for driving while under the influence and then request a test be taken. *Johnson v.*

Motor Veh. Div., 38 Colo. App. 230, 556 P.2d 488 (1976).

**Advisement form must contain reasons for believing driver under influence.** The advisement form must contain the officer's reasons for believing a driver was under the influence of alcohol and the officer may not later supplement those reasons by testimony at the implied consent hearing. *Marquez v. Charnes*, 632 P.2d 640 (Colo. App. 1981).

**But not reason for stopping driver.** It is not necessary for the officer to set out the reason on the advisement form for stopping a driver. *Marquez v. Charnes*, 632 P.2d 640 (Colo. App. 1981).

**Grounds for believing driver under the influence limited.** The grounds relied on by an officer for believing that a person was driving under the influence of alcohol must be limited to the grounds set forth in the advisement. *Lucero v. Charnes*, 44 Colo. App. 73, 607 P.2d 405 (1980).

**Inference that person behind wheel was driver held appropriate.** The inference drawn by a police officer, that one seated behind the wheel of, and attempting to start, a vehicle stopped in a highway travel lane was a driver thereof, was not inappropriate, and served as an adequate basis for the officer to proceed pursuant to this section. *Johnson v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 38 Colo. App. 230, 556 P.2d 488 (1976); *People v. Valdez*, 2014 COA 125, 411 P.3d 94.

**Standard of proof necessary for conviction of driving while under the influence** of intoxicating liquor is "substantially under the influence".

*Thompson v. People*, 181 Colo. 194, 510 P.2d 311 (1973) (decided prior to 1989 enactment of subsection (1)(f)).

**Standard of intoxication in prosecution for driving while impaired** is impairment to the "slightest degree". *Thompson v. People*, 181 Colo. 194, 510 P.2d 311 (1973) (decided prior to 1989 enactment of subsection (1)(g)).

**Reasonable grounds to arrest driver.** Evidence that a driver's automobile was weaving across traffic lanes and speeding, that there was an odor of alcohol on the driver's breath, and that the driver did not satisfactorily perform the roadside sobriety tests, is sufficient to support a hearing officer's finding that there existed "reasonable grounds" to believe that the driver was driving under the influence of alcohol. *Hall v. Charnes*, 42 Colo. App. 111, 590 P.2d 516 (1979).

**Reasonable grounds to believe licensee was driving under the influence of or impaired by alcohol.** Based on his own observations, the information received from the investigating officer and the fact that the licensee did not deny the written allegation in the advisement form that he had been driving a motor vehicle, the officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the licensee had been driving under the influence of or impaired by alcohol. *Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. Kirke*, 743 P.2d 16 (Colo. 1987) (decided under law in effect prior to 1983 amendment).

**Police officer is not authorized to request and to direct an arrested driver to submit to alcohol testing absent probable**

**cause** for the DUI arrest and also for the initial stop. *Peterson v. Tipton*, 833 P.2d 830 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Express consent provision does not apply to roadside sobriety tests.** Instead it deals only with the express consent given by any driver on state roads to take a blood or breath test if a peace officer has probable cause to arrest for an alcohol driving offense. *United States v. Hopp*, 943 F. Supp. 1313 (D. Colo. 1996).

**Failure to request suppression of test results is waiver of objection.** Where defendant not only failed to request suppression of the breath test results but also stipulated to those results and permitted them to be received in evidence without objection, he has waived any right to object on appeal to the admission of this evidence, absent a showing of plain error. *People v. Dee*, 638 P.2d 749 (Colo. 1981).

**Defective complaint does not bar prosecution.** A complaint charging driving a vehicle "while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs," in the disjunctive, is defective in form only, and an amendment should be allowed to cure this technical irregularity. *People v. Dickinson*, 197 Colo. 338, 592 P.2d 807 (1979).

**Evidence held admissible.** Video portion of movie film taken at the time of arrest, showing defendant's refusal to take some of the sobriety tests requested by the police and pictures of his going through one test, later was admissible in prosecution for driving under the influence regardless of fact that the sound on the film had been ordered suppressed by the court because it revealed

that defendant invoked his constitutional right to remain silent. *Thompson v. People*, 181 Colo. 194, 510 P.2d 311 (1973).

The appellant's erratic driving behavior constituted sufficient probable cause to stop his car. Thus, the results of the roadside sobriety tests conducted by a deputy sheriff were validly included in the evidence adduced at the hearing under this section. *Stream v. Heckers*, 184 Colo. 149, 519 P.2d 336 (1974).

Claim that roadside sobriety test results should be suppressed from evidence after defendant voluntarily consented to performing such tests is without merit. *People v. Lowe*, 687 P.2d 454 (1984).

Evidence of refusal to take a blood or breath test is admissible in evidence at a revocation of license proceeding or at a trial for driving under the influence or while ability impaired, and the effect of subsection (3)(e) is to allow admission of such evidence in every case without a determination of relevancy on a case-by-case basis. *Cox v. People*, 735 P.2d 153 (Colo. 1987).

**Weight of toxicologist's testimony is for trier of fact.** The weight of a toxicologist's testimony for purposes of establishing whether the defendant was under the influence of intoxicating liquor in prosecution for vehicular homicide is for the trier of fact. *People v. Mascarenas*, 181 Colo. 268, 509 P.2d 303 (1973).

**Sufficiency of foundation to admit test results as evidence.** Prima facie case for introduction of intoxilyzer test results is made when breath testing device is operated

by a person certified to use the device and when it is administered in accordance with administrative rules and regulations. *Aultman v. Motor Veh. Div., Dept. of Rev.*, 706 P.2d 5 (Colo. App. 1985); *Malone v. Dept. of Rev.*, 707 P.2d 363 (Colo. App. 1985).

Introduction of operational checklist and testimony that checklist procedures were followed establishes a sufficient foundation to allow admission of breath test results. State does not have to establish by current inspection and certification that breath testing device performed accurately. *Aultman v. Motor Veh. Div., Dept. of Rev.*, 706 P.2d 5 (Colo. App. 1985); *Malone v. Dept. of Rev.*, 707 P.2d 363 (Colo. App. 1985).

Arresting officer's testimony and police report are prima facie evidence that blood test was administered in compliance with rules and regulations. *Miller v. Motor Veh. Div., Dept. of Rev.*, 706 P.2d 10 (Colo. App. 1985).

A certificate generated by a breathalyzer machine is not testimonial and does not implicate a defendant's confrontation rights. The certificate is admissible if it complies with the requirements of § 42-4-1303. Evidence related to the machine's reliability goes to the weight of the evidence, not its admissibility. *People v. Ambrose*, 2021 COA 62, 506 P.3d 57.

**Preliminary breath test (PBT) results inadmissible in trial proceedings.** The plain language of subsection (6)(i)(III) precludes the use of PBT results for impeachment purposes at trial, and the PBT

results may only be used in a probable cause hearing outside the presence of the jury. *Cain v. People*, 2014 CO 49M, 327 P.3d 249.

**Once driver refused to take breath test after deputy informed him that breathalyzer was functioning properly, the operability of the breathalyzer was not at issue.** Because driver refused testing, there was no testing device, there was no method of testing, and there were no test results as contemplated by subsection (6)(c). Accordingly, subsection (6)(c) is not applicable. *Long v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 2012 COA 130, 296 P.3d 329.

**The failure of the arresting officer to identify which particular nurse drew driver's blood** and the failure to establish whether such nurse met the criteria set forth in regulations went to the weight, rather than the admissibility, of blood alcohol test results in driver's license revocation proceeding. *Dye v. Charnes*, 757 P.2d 1162 (Colo. App. 1988).

**The delay in obtaining samples did not affect the validity or reliability of the test nor did it affect the admissibility of the test results.** The "reasonable time" limitation is to ensure that the request for the test is made close enough in time to the alleged offense that the results will be relevant in the determination of defendant's sobriety at the time of the incident. *People v. Emery*, 812 P.2d 665 (Colo. App. 1990).

**While the timeliness of the blood test may affect its accuracy,** evidence which relates to the accuracy of a chemical test affects the weight to be accorded the

evidence, rather than its admissibility. *People v. Emery*, 812 P.2d 665 (Colo. App. 1990).

**No error in hearing officer's ruling that testing request made one hour and 58 minutes after the accident was within a "reasonable time".** *Poe v. Dept. of Rev.*, 859 P.2d 906 (Colo. App. 1993).

**Admission of blood test results does not limit any efforts by the defendant to challenge the accuracy of the results,** or the weight they are to be given. Nor does it prohibit the jury from considering any other competent evidence regarding the inference of intoxication. *People v. Emery*, 812 P.2d 665 (Colo. App. 1990).

**Evidence held sufficient.** When the toxicologist's testimony is considered together with the testimony of the two investigating officers concerning the alcoholic odor about the defendant immediately after the accident and the testimony that defendant was driving on the wrong side of the road, the evidence of defendant being under the influence of intoxicating liquor is abundant and sustains the verdict of guilty of vehicular homicide. *People v. Mascarenas*, 181 Colo. 268, 509 P.2d 303 (1973).

**Common signs of intoxication and refusal to take a field sobriety and blood alcohol tests constitute sufficient evidence** to prove that defendant drove while under the influence of alcohol. *People v. Mersman*, 148 P.3d 199 (Colo. App. 2006).

**Odor of alcohol is not inconsistent with ability to operate a motor vehicle in**

compliance with Colorado law. *People v. Roybal*, 655 P.2d 410 (Colo. 1982).

**Sufficient facts for reasonable grounds for implied consent test request.** The odor of alcohol on a driver's breath, coupled with the position of his vehicle on an interstate highway, are sufficient facts to constitute reasonable grounds for an officer to request an implied consent test. *Stephens v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 671 P.2d 1348 (Colo. App. 1983).

**Determining whether one is substantially under influence is jury issue.** Given the rebuttable presumptions, if chemical analysis of a defendant's blood is taken or other evidence is offered, juries of common experience can determine whether one is substantially under the influence so as to be incapable of operating a vehicle safely, as distinguished from merely driving while ability is impaired. *Thompson v. People*, 181 Colo. 194, 510 P.2d 311 (1973).

**Jury instruction is too broad where it does not recognize the two levels of intoxication** created by the general assembly in this section. *Thompson v. People*, 181 Colo. 194, 510 P.2d 311 (1973).

**A trial court's instruction on the meaning of "intoxication" is not erroneous where** it states that one drink of an intoxicating liquor might produce such a mental and physical condition as to render the defendant "under the influence" of alcohol within the meaning of the statute. *Lanford v. People*, 159 Colo. 36, 409 P.2d 829 (1966).

**Proper instruction defining "under the influence".** Jury should be instructed that in order for one to be found guilty of the charge of "driving while under the influence", the degree of influence must be substantial so as to render the defendant incapable of safely operating a vehicle. *Thompson v. People*, 181 Colo. 194, 510 P.2d 311 (1973) (decided prior to 1989 enactment of subsection (1)(f)).

It is error for an instruction to be given which defines "under the influence" as meaning anything from the slightest to the greatest effect. *Thompson v. People*, 181 Colo. 194, 510 P.2d 311 (1973) (decided prior to 1989 enactment of subsection (1)(f)).

**No error in failing sua sponte to instruct jury on affirmative defense** where affirmative defense addresses an element of the crime. The prosecution is required to prove the elements of the crime, and, in doing so, has negated an affirmative defense. *People v. Jacobson*, 2017 COA 92, 474 P.3d 1222.

**The specific statutory provisions of this section** that contain a mandatory sentencing scheme for alcohol-related driving offenses and that provide for extended treatment of the underlying cause of the criminal conduct, prevail over the general provisions of § 16-11-202. *People v. Martinnillie*, 940 P.2d 1090 (Colo. App. 1996).

**Order revoking a driver's license for failure to submit to a chemical test was not stayed** by a subsequent district court order declining to order return of the license to the driver but granting him the privilege

of driving in the course of his employment. *Donelson v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 38 Colo. App. 354, 561 P.2d 345 (1976).

**Trial court has no power to award costs to plaintiff** in a case challenging revocation of a driver's license under this section, because there is no specific statutory provision allowing for such an award. *Lucero v. Charnes*, 44 Colo. App. 73, 607 P.2d 405 (1980).

**Before reviewing court sets aside order of revocation as arbitrary or capricious**, it must be convinced from the record as a whole that there is a manifest insufficiency of evidence to support the department's decision. *Davis v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 623 P.2d 874 (Colo. 1981).

**Driving status of "revoked" continues until new license obtained.** Until a driver complies with the terms of a denial order and obtains a new license, his driving status as "revoked" or "denied" continues. *People v. Lessar*, 629 P.2d 577 (Colo. 1981).

**Expired revocation order continued in effect until driver's application for license approved pursuant to § 42-2-124 (2).** *Donelson v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 38 Colo. App. 354, 561 P.2d 345 (1976).

**A county court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of offenses alleged to have been committed under this section.** *People v. Griffith*, 130 Colo. 475, 276 P.2d 559 (1954).

**The various degrees of intoxication under this section are all "legal intoxication"** for purposes of § 523(a)(9) of the federal Bankruptcy Code. *Dougherty v.*

Brackett, 51 B.R. 987 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1985).

**Categorization of driving under the influence as a vehicular offense precludes a determination** that general assembly intended to consider it a drug law offense under the habitual criminal statute (§ 16-13-101 (3)). *People v. Wilczynski*, 873 P.2d 10 (Colo. App. 1993).

**Definition of "police officer" is not limited to state, county, or municipal personnel** and the Air Force security police are law enforcement officers who can request testing pursuant to subsection (6). *Eggleston v. Dept. of Rev. Motor Veh. Div.*, 895 P.2d 1169 (Colo. App. 1995).

**County court judge did not abuse his discretion nor exceed his authority in resentencing defendant who was immediately sentenced as provided in subsection (9)(e)(I)** after the judge discovered that, contrary to defendant's representations, defendant had a prior charge under this section. *Walker v. Arries*, 908 P.2d 1180 (Colo. App. 1995).

**Vehicular homicide while driving under the influence is not grave and serious per se** for purposes of a proportionality review. *People v. Kennedy*, 2023 COA 83M, 541 P.3d 11, *aff'd*, 2025 CO 63, 580 P.3d 1167 (overruling in part *People v. Strock*, 252 P.3d 1148 (Colo. App. 2010), annotated below).

**Vehicular homicide while driving under the influence is grave and serious per se** for purposes of a proportionality review because of the grave harm caused, the death

of a person, and the culpability of the defendant's conduct, choosing to drive while intoxicated. *People v. Strock*, 252 P.3d 1148 (Colo. App. 2010), overruled in part in *People v. Kennedy*, 2025 CO 63, 580 P.3d 1167.

**Applied** in *People v. Oldefest*, 192 Colo. 229, 557 P.2d 417 (1976); *Rust v. Dolan*, 38 Colo. App. 529, 563 P.2d 28 (1977); *People v. Smith*, 192 Colo. 271, 579 P.2d 1129 (1978); *Tobias v. State*, 41 Colo. App. 444, 586 P.2d 669 (1978); *Zullo v. Charnes*, 41 Colo. App. 544, 587 P.2d 1203 (1978); *People v. Heinz*, 197 Colo. 102, 589 P.2d 931 (1979); *Amon v. People*, 198 Colo. 172, 597 P.2d 569 (1979); *Charnes v. Arnold*, 198 Colo. 362, 600 P.2d 64 (1979); *Cagle v. Charnes*, 43 Colo. App. 401, 604 P.2d 697 (1979); *Butters v. Mince*, 43 Colo. App. 89, 605 P.2d 922 (1979); *Mince v. Butters*, 200 Colo. 501, 616 P.2d 127 (1980); *People v. McKnight*, 200 Colo. 486, 617 P.2d 1178 (1980); *Charnes v. Kiser*, 617 P.2d 1201 (Colo. 1980); *Van Gerpen v. Peterson*, 620 P.2d 714 (1980); *Nix v. Tice*, 44 Colo. App. 42, 607 P.2d 399 (1980); *Harris v. Charnes*, 616 P.2d 996 (Colo. App. 1980); *Zamora v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 616 P.2d 1003 (Colo. App. 1980); *People v. Ensor*, 632 P.2d 641 (Colo. App. 1981); *People v. Beltran*, 634 P.2d 1003 (Colo. App. 1981); *Zoske v. People*, 625 P.2d 1024 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Dooley*, 630 P.2d 608 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Mascarenas*, 632 P.2d 1028 (Colo. 1981); *State v. Laughlin*, 634 P.2d 49 (Colo. 1981); *Fish v. Charnes*, 652 P.2d 598 (Colo. 1982); *Corr v. District Court*, 661 P.2d 668 (Colo. 1983); *Stieghorst v. Charnes*, 676 P.2d 1227 (Colo. App. 1983); *Swim v.*



Charnes, 717 P.2d 1016 (Colo. App. 1986); Potier v. Dept. of Rev., 739 P.2d 915 (Colo. App. 1987); Knox v. Motor Veh. Div., 739 P.2d 928 (Colo. App. 1987).

## **II. PRESUMPTIONS.**

**This section sets up a series of presumptions arising from the amount of alcohol in the blood.** Egle v. People, 159 Colo. 217, 411 P.2d 325 (1966).

**The limitations of this section shall not prevent the consideration of any other competent evidence** that defendant was under the influence of intoxicating liquor. Egle v. People, 159 Colo. 217, 411 P.2d 325 (1966).

**Subsection (2) authorizes only a permissive inference that defendant was under the influence of alcohol.** Because of the constitutional conflicts which arise with the use of presumptions in criminal cases and because of the central purposes behind the legislature's enactment of the presumption, subsection (2)(c) is properly construed to authorize only a permissive inference that the defendant was under the influence of alcohol. Barnes v. People, 735 P.2d 869 (Colo. 1987).

Instruction which told jurors that they "must accept the presumption as if it had been factually established by the evidence" and that they could reject this presumption only if it was "rebutted by evidence to the contrary" created a mandatory and not a permissive presumption that the petitioner was under the influence of alcohol. Barnes v. People, 735 P.2d 869 (Colo. 1987).

**Both subsection (2) of this section and § 18-3-106 (2) permit a jury to infer that a defendant was under the influence of alcohol** if it finds that the amount of alcohol in his blood at the time of the commission of the alleged offense "or within a reasonable time thereafter," as shown by chemical analysis of the defendant's blood, is 0.10 percent or more. People v. Emery, 812 P.2d 665 (Colo. App. 1990).

**Subsection (2)(c) is very specific in limiting the use of its presumption to the misdemeanors** of driving any vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor and driving while ability is impaired by the consumption of alcohol. People v. Davis, 187 Colo. 16, 528 P.2d 251 (1974).

**Statutory presumption of subsection (2)(c) is not applicable to a felony charge** under § 18-3-106. People v. Davis, 187 Colo. 16, 528 P.2d 251 (1974).

**Defendant's ability to attack validity of presumption** that he was driving under the influence of alcohol when he had a blood alcohol level of .10 percent is dependent upon his ability to attack the accuracy of the machine which tested his blood alcohol level. Garcia v. District Court, 197 Colo. 38, 589 P.2d 924 (1979).

**The blood alcohol test results are statutorily deemed to relate back to the alleged offense for purposes of applying the statutory inferences.** People v. Emery, 812 P.2d 665 (Colo. App. 1990).

**Jury could infer that the defendant was under the influence at the time of the offense** where the prosecution presented

evidence that approximately three hours after the accident, defendant's blood alcohol level was above the statutory percentage. Because the circumstances at issue permitted the jury to make such inference, the extrapolation evidence offered to establish a still higher blood alcohol level was neither necessary nor relevant and the admission thereof was harmless error. *People v. Emery*, 812 P.2d 665 (Colo. App. 1990).

**Presumption that defendant was under influence specifically does not limit the introduction, reception, or consideration of other competent evidence** bearing upon the question of whether or not a defendant was under the influence of intoxicating liquor. *People v. Hedrick*, 192 Colo. 37, 557 P.2d 378 (1976).

**Thus, moving pictures and their sound are admissible.** Moving pictures and their sound, which are relevant and which allegedly show the demeanor and condition of a defendant charged with driving under the influence of either alcohol or drugs, taken at the time of the arrest or soon thereafter, are admissible in evidence even though they show the defendant's refusal to take sobriety and coordination tests, when properly offered in order to show the defendant's demeanor, conduct and appearance, and to show why sobriety and coordination tests were not given. *Lanford v. People*, 159 Colo. 36, 409 P.2d 829 (1966).

**Even if a defendant objects to the introduction and admission of movies,** they still are to be admitted, provided that then the trial court must, at defendant's

request, caution the jury as to the limited purpose of the evidence, and again at defendant's request, give a limiting instruction in the general charge for the same purpose. *Lanford v. People*, 159 Colo. 36, 409 P.2d 829 (1966).

**Evidence of breath analysis results** indicating a level of 0.139 grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath and testimony of both lay witness and law enforcement agents that defendant was driving erratically before the collision and that she exhibited some symptoms of being under the influence after the collision was sufficient to establish that, at the time of the collision, defendant's physical or mental capacities had been adversely affected by her previous consumption of alcohol. *People v. Acosta*, 860 P.2d 1376 (Colo. App. 1993).

**Jury verdict convicting defendant of driving under the influence and vehicular assault while under the influence is not inconsistent with** defendant's acquittal of driving with an excessive blood or breath alcohol content since the jury could well have rejected the reliability of breath tests indicating a level of 0.139 grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath to show beyond a reasonable doubt an excessive level of alcohol in defendant's breath but could have concluded that her mental and physical capacities had been so affected that she had been under the influence given her admission that she had consumed at least one and one-half glasses of wine. *People v. Acosta*, 860 P.2d 1376 (Colo. App. 1993).

### III. PRIOR CONVICTIONS.

**Law reviews.** For article, "Joinder of Criminal Charges, Election, Duplicity", see 30 Dicta 117 (1953).

**Subsections (1) and (4) of this section do not create two separate offenses.** The obvious purpose of these statutory provisions is to regulate the punishment to be imposed upon the single offense of drunk driving. *Righi v. People*, 145 Colo. 457, 359 P.2d 656 (1961); *Quintana v. People*, 169 Colo. 295, 455 P.2d 210 (1969).

**A prior conviction is an element of felony DUI.** The statutory provisions that define and provide penalties for felony DUI make prior convictions an element of the crime, and, therefore, the prior convictions must be proved to the jury beyond a reasonable doubt. *Linnebur v. People*, 2020 CO 79M, 476 P.3d 734; *People v. Carter*, 2021 COA 29, 486 P.3d 473; *People v. Tun*, 2021 COA 34, 486 P.3d 490; *People v. Ambrose*, 2021 COA 62, 506 P.3d 57.

**A trial court's error in failing to present the element of the defendant's relevant convictions to the jury in a felony DUI case is not structural and is, instead, a trial error.** Therefore, it does not warrant automatic reversal; rather, it is subject to an appropriate case-specific, outcome-determinative standard of reversal. *People v. Crabtree*, 2024 CO 40M, 550 P.3d 656.

**The plain language of subsection (1) compels the conclusion that the general assembly intended prior DUI or DWAI offenses to constitute elements of felony DUI that do more than increase the**

**penalty of the crime.** Therefore, to obtain a conviction, a prosecutor must prove prior convictions to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt. Transforming a misdemeanor into a felony does far more than simply increase the potential punishment; it changes the very nature of the offense because felony trials have important procedural distinctions and collateral consequences that misdemeanor cases do not. *People v. Viburg*, 2020 COA 8M, 477 P.3d 746, overruled to the extent it conflicts with *Caswell v. People*, 2023 CO 50, 536 P.3d 323 (the sixth amendment does not require that a fact that transforms a misdemeanor into a felony be found by a jury beyond a reasonable doubt).

**The trial court may not bifurcate the elements of the offense of felony DUI during a jury trial.** *People v. Kembel*, 2023 CO 5, 524 P.3d 18.

**Subsection (4) only intended to increase punishment for substantive offense.** The guilt of a substantive offense and the proof of prior convictions are clearly severable. Proof of prior convictions or the adjudication that the defendant is an habitual criminal do not involve substantive offenses, but merely provide for increased punishment of those whose prior convictions fall within the scope of these statutes. The important relation between the primary offenses and the prior convictions charged is, therefore, the sentence to be imposed, and the jury does not participate in that. *Righi v. People*, 145 Colo. 457, 359 P.2d 656 (1961); *Quintana v. People*, 169 Colo. 295, 455 P.2d 210 (1969).

**Former convictions must be in separate counts of the information,** and then it appears to be the accepted practice that when arraignment is had, the defendant be fully advised of these counts in the information. *Heinze v. People*, 127 Colo. 54, 253 P.2d 596 (1953); *Quintana v. People*, 169 Colo. 295, 455 P.2d 210 (1969).

**The use of the proof of convictions of second or more offenses cannot obtain until guilt of the substantive offense on trial is established.** *Heinze v. People*, 127 Colo. 54, 253 P.2d 596 (1953); *Quintana v. People*, 169 Colo. 295, 455 P.2d 210 (1969).

**The same jury need not be utilized in both segments in the prosecution of a drunk driving charge aggravated by a charge of a prior conviction** within five years. *Quintana v. People*, 169 Colo. 295, 455 P.2d 210 (1969).

**However, proof may be offered to the same jury if a guilty verdict has been returned on the substantive count.** *Heinze v. People*, 127 Colo. 54, 253 P.2d 596 (1953).

**A description that a person with a prior conviction was a "Caucasian Male" with the same name and date of birth as the current defendant is insufficient specific corroborating evidence of identification** connecting the defendant to the person with a prior conviction to convict the defendant of felony DUI under subsection (1)(a).

*People v. Herold*, 2024 COA 53, 554 P.3d 512.

**Abuse of discretion to set aside guilty verdict on substantive offense and order another trial on second count of prior conviction.** *Quintana v. People*, 169 Colo. 295, 455 P.2d 210 (1969).

**When the sole question on remand from an appellate court involves the proof of an alleged prior conviction,** there is no reason to require the parties to retry the question of guilt of the primary offenses when the correctness of that determination is not challenged. There is nothing prejudicial involved in a limited new trial on the issue of the challenged prior conviction by a jury different from that which tried the issue of guilt of the primary offenses. *Quintana v. People*, 169 Colo. 295, 455 P.2d 210 (1969).

#### **IV. USEFUL PUBLIC SERVICE.**

**Although the useful public service statute may not impose specific duties upon a public employee so as to allow application of the doctrine of negligence per se,** under the facts of this case, a special relationship between the sheriff and offender under the program was created which brought into existence a duty on the part of the sheriff to use due care in selecting entities for whom service would be rendered and monitoring the offender's work under the program. *Felger v. Bd. of County Comm'rs*, 776 P.2d 1169 (Colo. App. 1989).

**42-4-1301.1. Expressed consent for the taking of blood, breath, urine, or saliva sample - testing - rules - definition.**

(1) Any person who drives any motor vehicle upon the streets and highways and elsewhere throughout this state shall be deemed to have expressed such person's consent to the provisions of this section.

(2) (a) (I) A person who drives a motor vehicle upon the streets and highways and elsewhere throughout this state shall be required to take and complete, and to cooperate in the taking and completing of, any test or tests of the person's breath or blood for the purpose of determining the alcoholic content of the person's blood or breath when so requested and directed by a law enforcement officer having probable cause to believe that the person was driving a motor vehicle in violation of the prohibitions against DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD. Except as otherwise provided in this section, if a person who is twenty-one years of age or older requests that the test be a blood test, then the test shall be of his or her blood; but, if the person requests that a specimen of his or her blood not be drawn, then a specimen of the person's breath shall be obtained and tested. A person who is under twenty-one years of age shall be entitled to request a blood test unless the alleged violation is UDD, in which case a specimen of the person's breath shall be obtained and tested, except as provided in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (a).

(II) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a.5) of this subsection (2), if a person elects either a blood test or a breath test, the person shall not be permitted to change the election, and, if the person fails to take and complete, and to cooperate in the completing of, the test elected, the failure shall be deemed to be a refusal to submit to testing. If the person is unable to take, or to complete, or to cooperate in the completing of a breath test because of injuries, illness, disease, physical infirmity, or physical incapacity, or if the person is receiving medical treatment at a location at which a breath testing instrument certified by the department of public health and environment is not available, the test shall be of the person's blood.

(III) If a law enforcement officer requests a test under this paragraph (a), the person must cooperate with the request such that the sample of blood or breath can be obtained within two hours of the person's driving.

(a.5) (I) If a law enforcement officer who requests a person to take a breath or blood test under paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) determines there are extraordinary circumstances that prevent the completion of the test elected by the person within the two-hour time period required by subparagraph (III) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2), the officer shall inform the person of the extraordinary circumstances and request and direct the person to take and complete the other test described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (2). The person shall then be required to take and complete, and to cooperate in the completing of, the other test.

(II) A person who initially requests and elects to take a blood or breath test, but who is requested and directed by the law enforcement officer to take the other test because of the

extraordinary circumstances described in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a.5), may change his or her election for the purpose of complying with the officer's request. The change in the election of which test to take shall not be deemed to be a refusal to submit to testing.

(III) If the person fails to take and complete, and to cooperate in the completing of, the other test requested by the law enforcement officer pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a.5), the failure shall be deemed to be a refusal to submit to testing.

(IV) (A) As used in this paragraph (a.5), "extraordinary circumstances" means circumstances beyond the control of, and not created by, the law enforcement officer who requests and directs a person to take a blood or breath test in accordance with this subsection (2) or the law enforcement authority with whom the officer is employed.

(B) "Extraordinary circumstances" includes, but shall not be limited to, weather-related delays, high call volume affecting medical personnel, power outages, malfunctioning breath test equipment, and other circumstances that preclude the timely collection and testing of a blood or breath sample by a qualified person in accordance with law.

(C) "Extraordinary circumstances" does not include inconvenience, a busy workload on the part of the law enforcement officer or law enforcement authority, minor delay that does not compromise the two-hour test period specified in subparagraph (III) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2), or routine circumstances that are subject to the control of the law enforcement officer or law enforcement authority.

(b) (I) Any person who drives any motor vehicle upon the streets and highways and elsewhere throughout this state shall be required to submit to and to complete, and to cooperate in the completing of, a test or tests of such person's blood, saliva, and urine for the purpose of determining the drug content within the person's system when so requested and directed by a law enforcement officer having probable cause to believe that the person was driving a motor vehicle in violation of the prohibitions against DUI or DWAI and when it is reasonable to require such testing of blood, saliva, and urine to determine whether such person was under the influence of, or impaired by, one or more drugs, or one or more controlled substances, or a combination of both alcohol and one or more drugs, or a combination of both alcohol and one or more controlled substances.

(II) If a law enforcement officer requests a test under this paragraph (b), the person must cooperate with the request such that the sample of blood, saliva, or urine can be obtained within two hours of the person's driving.

(3) A person who is required to take and to complete, and to cooperate in the completing of, a test or tests shall cooperate with the person authorized to obtain specimens of the person's blood, breath, saliva, or urine, including the signing of any release or consent forms required by a person, hospital, clinic, or association authorized to obtain the specimens. If a person does not

cooperate with the person, hospital, clinic, or association authorized to obtain the specimens, including the signing of any release or consent forms, the person's noncooperation is considered a refusal to submit to testing. A law enforcement officer shall not physically restrain a person for the purpose of obtaining a specimen of the person's blood, breath, saliva, or urine for testing except when the officer has probable cause to believe that the person has committed criminally negligent homicide while operating or driving a motor vehicle pursuant to section 18-3-105 (1)(b), vehicular homicide pursuant to section 18-3-106 (1)(b), assault in the third degree pursuant to section 18-3-204, or vehicular assault pursuant to section 18-3-205 (1)(b), and the person is refusing to take or to complete, or to cooperate in the completing of, any test or tests, then the law enforcement officer may require a blood test.

(4) Any driver of a commercial motor vehicle requested to submit to a test as provided in paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (2) of this section shall be warned by the law enforcement officer requesting the test that a refusal to submit to the test shall result in an out-of-service order as defined under section 42-2-402 (8) for a period of twenty-four hours and a revocation of the privilege to operate a commercial motor vehicle for one year as provided under section 42-2-126.

(5) The tests shall be administered at the direction of a law enforcement officer having probable cause to believe that the person had been driving a motor vehicle in violation of section 42-4-1301 and in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the department of public health and environment concerning the health of the person being tested and the accuracy of such testing.

(6) (a) No person except a physician, a registered nurse, an emergency medical service provider certified or licensed under part 2 of article 3.5 of title 25 who is authorized within his or her scope of practice to draw blood, or a person whose normal duties include withdrawing blood samples under the supervision of a physician or registered nurse shall withdraw blood to determine the alcohol or drug content of the blood for purposes of this section.

(b) No civil liability shall attach to any person authorized to obtain blood, breath, saliva, or urine specimens or to any hospital, clinic, or association in or for which such specimens are obtained as provided in this section as a result of the act of obtaining such specimens from any person submitting thereto if such specimens were obtained according to the rules and regulations prescribed by the department of public health and environment; except that this provision shall not relieve any such person from liability for negligence in the obtaining of any specimen sample.

(7) A preliminary screening test conducted by a law enforcement officer pursuant to section 42-4-1301 (6)(i) shall not substitute for or qualify as the test or tests required by subsection (2) of this section.

(8) Any person who is dead or unconscious must be tested to determine the alcohol or drug content of the person's blood or any drug content within such person's system as provided in this

section. If a test cannot be administered to a person who is unconscious, hospitalized, or undergoing medical treatment because the test would endanger the person's life or health, the law enforcement agency must be allowed to test any blood, urine, or saliva that was obtained and not utilized by a health-care provider and must have access to that portion of the analysis and results of any tests administered by such provider that shows the alcohol or drug content of the person's blood, urine, or saliva or any drug content within the person's system. Such test results are not considered privileged communications, and the provisions of section 13-90-107 relating to the physician-patient privilege do not apply. Any person who is dead, in addition to the tests prescribed, must also have the person's blood checked for carbon monoxide content and for the presence of drugs, as prescribed by the department of public health and environment. Such information obtained must be made a part of the crash report.

(9) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 2002:** Entire section added with relocations, p. 1907, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2007:** (2)(a) amended and (2)(a.5) added, p. 1022, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** (6)(a) amended, (HB 12-1059), ch. 271, p. 1439, § 25, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** (2)(a)(I) and (2)(b)(I) amended, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1884, § 14, effective May 28. **L. 2014:** (9) added, (HB 14-1310), ch. 294, p. 1199, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2019:** (6)(a) amended, (SB 19-242), ch. 396, p. 3532, § 26, effective May 31. **L. 2026:** (8) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 481, § 55, effective August 12; (3) amended, (SB 26-072), ch. 200, p. 1145, § 7, effective September 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-1301 (6), (7)(a), (7)(b), and (7)(c) and § 42-2-126 (2)(a)(II) as they existed prior to 2002.

(2) Subsection (9)(e) provided for the repeal of subsection (9), effective September 1, 2024. (See L. 2014, p. 1199.)

(3) Section 8(2) of chapter 200 (SB 26-072), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to offenses committed on or after September 1, 2026.

## ANNOTATION

### I. General Consideration.

### II. Implied Consent.

### I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.

**Law reviews.** For comment, "The Theory and Practice of Implied Consent in Colorado", see 47 U. Colo. L. Rev. 723 (1976). For article, "Review of new



Legislation Relating to Criminal Law", see 11 Colo. Law. 2148 (1982). For article, "The New Colorado Per Se DUI Law", see 12 Colo. Law. 1451 (1983). For article, "Drunk Driving Laws: A Study of the Views of Colorado Trial Judges", see 14 Colo. Law. 189 (1985). For article, "DUI Defense Under the Per Se Law", see 14 Colo. Law. 2155 (1985). For comment, "The Constitutionality of Drunk Driving Roadblocks", see 58 U. Colo. L. Rev. 109 (1986-87). For article, "A DUI Primer", see 16 Colo. Law. 2179 (1987). For comment, "Greathouse: Has Colorado Abandoned the Protections of Garcia?", see 59 U. Colo. L. Rev. 351 (1988). For article, "Drinking and Driving: An Update on the 1989 Legislation", see 18 Colo. Law. 1943 (1989). For article, "A Young Lawyer's Guide to DUI Suppression Motions", see 25 Colo. Law. 63 (Apr. 1996). For article, "Drunk Drivers and Blood Draws in Colorado", see 43 Colo. Law. 27 (Feb. 2014).

**Annotator's note.** (1) Annotations resulting from cases involving the implied consent law, which was replaced by the express consent law in 1983, have been included under this heading where appropriate and relevant.

(2) Since § 42-4-1301.1 is similar to § 42-4-1301 as it existed prior to its 2002 amendment with relocations and § 42-4-1202 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing those provisions have been included in the annotations to this section.

## II. IMPLIED CONSENT.

**Annotator's note.** The annotations below resulted from cases involving the implied consent law, which was replaced by the express consent law in 1983, and have been included for historical purposes.

**This section was known as the "implied consent law".** Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. District Court ex rel. County of Adams, 172 Colo. 144, 470 P.2d 864 (1970).

**The implied consent law is constitutional.** People v. Brown, 174 Colo. 513, 485 P.2d 500 (1971); Sweeney v. State Dept. of Rev., 185 Colo. 116, 522 P.2d 101 (1974).

This section is not unconstitutional as violative of equal protection. Norsworthy v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 197 Colo. 527, 594 P.2d 1055 (1979).

The statutory scheme militates against a standardless discretion in enforcement and does not violate equal protection of the laws. Davis v. Colo. Dept. of Rev., 623 P.2d 874 (Colo. 1981).

The federal constitution does not prohibit the states from requiring a driver to submit to chemical testing of his blood shortly after a valid arrest. People v. Gillett, 629 P.2d 613 (Colo. 1981).

This section does not violate constitutional standards because the statute does not expressly require an evidentiary hearing on the issue of any alleged refusal to submit to some form of test to determine the alcohol content of a driver's breath or blood. The statutory requirement of a specific

avermment by the arresting officer that the driver refused to submit to an appropriate chemical analysis test makes the issue of refusal a question of fact, permitting the driver to present evidence contrary to such an averment and requiring the hearing officer to make a finding on such a factual issue based on all of the evidence. *DuPuis v. Charnes*, 668 P.2d 1 (Colo. 1983).

The failure of the implied consent statute to provide for a probationary license does not violate equal protection of the laws. *DeScala v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 667 P.2d 1360 (Colo. 1983).

**The implied consent law met the constitutional requirements of due process.** *People v. Brown*, 174 Colo. 513, 485 P.2d 500 (1971).

**Probable cause is required before test may be administered.** *People v. Grassi*, 192 P.3d 496 (Colo. App. 2008), *aff'd*, 2014 CO 12, 320 P.3d 332 (2014).

**Probable cause may be established under the fellow-officer rule if two conditions are met:** (1) The officer acts pursuant to a coordinated investigation, and (2) the police, as a whole, possess the information giving rise to probable cause at the time of the search or arrest. *Grassi v. People*, 2014 CO 12, 320 P.3d 332 (2014).

**The implied consent law gave rights which were greater than those required by due process.** It specifically provided that at the time of the request to take the test, the officer shall inform the licensee orally and in writing "of his rights under the law and the probable consequences of refusal to

submit to such a test". *Vigil v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 184 Colo. 142, 519 P.2d 332 (1974).

**Reason implied consent statute enacted.**

The implied consent statute was enacted to assist in the prosecution of the drinking driver. *Calvert v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 184 Colo. 214, 519 P.2d 341 (1974); *People v. Carlson*, 677 P.2d 310 (Colo. 1984).

The implied consent law was enacted to assist law enforcement officers in prosecuting the drinking driver. *Zahtila v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 39 Colo. App. 8, 560 P.2d 847 (1977).

**Purpose of revocation penalty.** To encourage the suspected drunk driver to take a blood-alcohol test voluntarily, the implied consent statute imposed an automatic revocation penalty, with very few exceptions, on those who refused to take the test. *Calvert v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 184 Colo. 214, 519 P.2d 341 (1974).

**Written notice required.** Former subsection (3)(b) required that the "person arrested" be given an explanation, in written form, of his rights and the probable consequences of refusing to submit to a test, in order that he may read and study the same before having to make a decision. *Cantrell v. Weed*, 35 Colo. App. 180, 530 P.2d 986 (1974); *Cooper v. Nielson*, 687 P.2d 541 (Colo. App. 1984) (decided under subsection (3) prior to 1983 repeal and reenactment).

**Such notice must be physically offered to licensee at time of test.** Under former subsection (3)(b) notice in writing had to be physically handed or offered to the licensee contemporaneously with or prior to the

officer's request for the sobriety test. *Cantrell v. Weed*, 35 Colo. App. 180, 530 P.2d 986 (1974).

Merely affording driver the opportunity to "read along" while the officer orally recited the form containing written notice of the consequences of refusal to submit to test was not sufficient to constitute written notice under former subsection (3)(b). *Cantrell v. Weed*, 35 Colo. App. 180, 530 P.2d 986 (1974).

Where the arresting officer testified unequivocally that he read the advisement form to the plaintiff and offered him the opportunity to read it for himself, but that the plaintiff refused to do so, the evidence was sufficient to support a hearing examiner's finding that the plaintiff was properly advised under former subsection (3)(b). *Gilbert v. Dolan*, 41 Colo. App. 173, 586 P.2d 233 (1978).

**How warning should be phrased.** The warning under former subsection (3)(b) had to be phrased so that a person of normal intelligence would understand the consequences of his actions. *Calvert v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 184 Colo. 214, 519 P.2d 341 (1974).

**What licensee to be informed of.** The implied consent law required that the licensee be informed of both the hearing and the possibility of the revocation of the license. *Vigil v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 184 Colo. 142, 519 P.2d 332 (1974).

A licensee was advised of the "probable consequences of refusal" under former subsection (3)(b) if he was informed that his

license "might" be revoked. *Hall v. Charnes*, 42 Colo. App. 111, 590 P.2d 516 (1979).

Where the motorist was given the *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 U.S. 436 (1966), warnings and he manifested his desire to call his attorney before deciding whether or not to submit to the test, but was not told that he had no such right, under these circumstances, the motorist should have been advised that the right to remain silent does not include the right to refuse to submit to the test or the right to prior consultation with an attorney. *Calvert v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 184 Colo. 214, 519 P.2d 341 (1974).

**The fact that the defendant was handcuffed and could neither touch nor feel the implied consent form** when it was read to him was of no consequence where it was placed in such a position that he could, if he so desired, read it, and he was given the form as soon as practicable when his handcuffs were removed. *Herren v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 39 Colo. App. 146, 565 P.2d 955 (1977).

**Officer was not required to orally advise a driver** of his rights prior to a second request to submit to a blood alcohol test which was accompanied by a written advisement of the driver's rights. *Bowker v. Charnes*, 679 P.2d 1119 (Colo. App. 1984).

**Notice requirements of former subsection (3)(b) were not violated** by the fact that the advisement form read by an arresting officer to one stopped for suspicion of driving while intoxicated did not state that an individual could refuse to submit to a test if it would be medically inadvisable for him to do so or if the test to be given would

not conform to the rules and regulations prescribed by the state board of health. *Zinn v. Dolan*, 41 Colo. App. 370, 588 P.2d 389 (1978).

**The only valid justifications in the implied consent law for refusing the test** are either that it was medically inadvisable for the licensee or that the test would not be given in compliance with proper health standards. *Vigil v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 184 Colo. 142, 519 P.2d 332 (1974).

**The implied consent law applied only to the misdemeanor offense of driving under the influence** of intoxicating liquor as defined in this section. *People v. Sanchez*, 173 Colo. 188, 476 P.2d 980 (1970).

The consent provision of this section applied only to misdemeanor offenses and not to felonies. *People v. Acosta*, 620 P.2d 55 (Colo. App. 1980).

**One charged with felony could not claim consent to test was statutorily or constitutionally required.** Inasmuch as this section did not extend to felonies, a defendant charged with the felony of causing injury while driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor could not claim any statutory right to refuse to take a breathalyzer test. Since consent was neither statutorily nor constitutionally required, it was immaterial whether such defendant was inadequately advised or whether his consent was uninformed. *People v. Sanchez*, 173 Colo. 188, 476 P.2d 980 (1970).

**One could not be compelled to take a roadside sobriety test** against one's wishes. *People v. Helm*, 633 P.2d 1071 (Colo. 1981).

**Other jurisdictions, with similar implied consent laws, have unanimously found their statutes to be merely permissive** and not mandatory. *People v. Culp*, 189 Colo. 76, 537 P.2d 746 (1975).

### III. EXPRESS CONSENT.

A. Constitutionality.

B. Purpose.

C. Prerequisites to Testing.

D. Testing Requirements.

E. Multiple Samples.

F. Refusal to Take Test.

**Annotator's note.** Annotations resulting from cases involving the implied consent law, which was replaced by the express consent law in 1983, have been included under this heading where appropriate and relevant.

A. Constitutionality.

**Law reviews.** For article, "One Year Review of Constitutional and Administrative Law", see 36 *Dicta* 11 (1959).

**There is no constitutionally guaranteed illimitable right to drive upon highways.** *People v. Brown*, 174 Colo. 513, 485 P.2d 500 (1971).

**State's exercise of police power.** An individual's right to use the public highways of this state is an adjunct of the constitutional right to acquire, possess, and protect property, yet such a right may be limited by a proper exercise of the police power of the state based upon a reasonable relationship to the public health, safety, and

welfare. *People v. Brown*, 174 Colo. 513, 485 P.2d 500 (1971).

**There is no constitutional right to refuse to surrender blood** for a chemical analysis to determine its alcohol content. *People v. Brown*, 174 Colo. 513, 485 P.2d 500 (1971).

**This section does not violate equal protection.** A rational basis exists for the statute's differential treatment of individuals who receive medical treatment at locations without breath testing equipment because providing such individuals with the option of choosing a breath test would cause delays in obtaining test samples. These delays would substantially hinder the state's legitimate public safety interest in securing timely alcohol test results for individuals suspected of driving while intoxicated. *Evans v. Dept. of Rev.*, 159 P.3d 769 (Colo. App. 2006).

**This section is not unconstitutionally vague.** The words and phrases of this section are readily comprehensible to persons of ordinary intelligence without further definition. The statute, in sufficiently clear terms, provides individuals with fair warning as to the circumstances under which a choice of tests is, and is not, available. *Evans v. Dept. of Rev.*, 159 P.3d 769 (Colo. App. 2006).

**The right to refuse a blood test under the implied consent (now express consent) law is a statutory right only** and as such is subject to the sanction of possible suspension of one's driver's license. *People v. Brown*, 174 Colo. 513, 485 P.2d 500 (1971); *Fitzgerald v. People*, 2017 CO 26,

394 P.3d 671; *People v. King*, 2017 CO 44, 401 P.3d 516; *People v. Sewick*, 2017 CO 45, 401 P.3d 521; *People v. Maxwell*, 2017 CO 46, 401 P.3d 523; *People v. Maxwell*, 2017 CO 47, 401 P.3d 518.

**Right to refuse.** Statutory, not constitutional, law provides the basis for determining whether there is any requirement that a motorist alleged to have violated drunk driving statute must be advised of right to refuse or to choose a type of blood alcohol test. Moreover, no such statutorily required advisement exists. *Brewer v. Motor Veh. Div., Dept. of Rev.*, 720 P.2d 564 (Colo. 1986); *Smith v. Charnes*, 728 P.2d 1287 (Colo. 1986); *Evans v. Dept. of Rev.*, 159 P.3d 769 (Colo. App. 2006).

**Miranda warnings are not required** before the administration of a roadside sobriety test. *People v. Helm*, 633 P.2d 1071 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Lowe*, 687 P.2d 454 (Colo. 1984).

**Use of refusal to consent to blood alcohol test as evidence of guilt does not violate fourth amendment right prohibiting unreasonable search.** Defendant argued that use of refusal-to-consent evidence penalized the exercise of a defendant's right to refuse consent. Refusal to consent to testing is a statutory right under the express consent statute. While criminalizing a refusal to consent would be improper, use of refusal to consent as evidence of guilt and automatic suspension of driving privileges for refusal would not impermissibly burden a defendant's fourth amendment constitutional right to be free

from a warrantless search. *Fitzgerald v. People*, 2017 CO 26, 394 P.3d 671; *People v. King*, 2017 CO 44, 401 P.3d 516; *People v. Sewick*, 2017 CO 45, 401 P.3d 521; *People v. Maxwell*, 2017 CO 46, 401 P.3d 523; *People v. Maxwell*, 2017 CO 47, 401 P.3d 518.

**A motorist does not have a constitutional right to talk with an attorney before choosing** whether to submit to the test. *Calvert v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 184 Colo. 214, 519 P.2d 341 (1974).

Driver was not prejudiced by the failure of arresting officer to warn him that he had no right to counsel under this statute. *Sauer v. Heckers*, 34 Colo. App. 217, 524 P.2d 1387 (1974).

There was no duty to advise defendant that he had no right to counsel prior to deciding whether to permit a chemical test of his blood where he was given an opportunity to make a phone call and despite defendant's confusion between his fifth amendment rights to counsel and his rights under the implied consent law. *Washington v. Dolan*, 38 Colo. App. 414, 557 P.2d 1223 (1976).

A motorist has no right under the Colorado implied consent (now express consent) law to confer with counsel prior to deciding whether to consent to a chemical test. *Drake v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 674 P.2d 359 (Colo. 1984).

**Failure to submit to test because wanting attorney is refusal.** Generally, when a suspect does not submit to the test because he wants to talk to his attorney

before deciding whether to take the test, it is deemed a refusal as a matter of law. *Drake v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 674 P.2d 359 (Colo. 1984).

It is generally true that when a suspect does not submit to the test under this section because he requests to call his attorney first, this is deemed a "refusal" as a matter of law. *Calvert v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 184 Colo. 214, 519 P.2d 341 (1974).

**Taking of blood not violation of privilege against self-incrimination.** The privilege against self-incrimination protects an accused only from being compelled to testify against himself, or otherwise provide the state with evidence of a testimonial or communicative nature, and the withdrawal of blood and use of the analysis in a case does not involve compulsion to these ends. *People v. Brown*, 174 Colo. 513, 485 P.2d 500 (1971).

**Privilege against self-incrimination does not extend to results obtained from roadside sobriety test.** Such a test does not contravene the privilege by requiring the subject to divulge any knowledge he might have; the fact that the subject's guilt may be inferred from the results of the test goes to the probity of the testing method, not to its character as a supposed confession surrogate. *People v. Ramirez*, 199 Colo. 367, 609 P.2d 616 (1980).

**Statutory changes not impermissible under constitution.** The deletion of a provision for the offense of driving while ability is impaired by alcohol, and the amendments made and adopted relating to implied consent during the course of

legislative proceedings, amending what is now § 42-4-1202, did not amount to an impermissible change in the purpose of the original bill so as to violate § 17 of art. V, Colo. Const. *People v. Brown*, 174 Colo. 513, 485 P.2d 500 (1971).

**Constitutional prohibition of unlawful searches and seizures and constitutional privilege against self-incrimination** are not violated when police officer requires driver to submit to a blood or breath test. *People v. Bowers*, 716 P.2d 471 (Colo. 1986).

**Taking of blood is not unreasonable search and seizure.** Although it has been determined that the taking of blood is an intrusion of the person and a search within the meaning of the state and federal constitutions, such is not an unreasonable search and seizure violative of the fourth amendment or § 7 of art. II, Colo. Const. *People v. Brown*, 174 Colo. 513, 485 P. 2d 500 (1971).

**A search warrant is not required prior to taking the tests.** *Stream v. Heckers*, 184 Colo. 149, 519 P.2d 336 (1974).

**Taking of blood held reasonable search.** Notwithstanding the fact that the blood extraction for the purpose of administering blood-alcohol test took place in a nonmedical environment without a doctor or nurse present, where a record reveals that a highly qualified and experienced medical technologist took the blood sample in conformity with the department of health regulations and with no infringement upon the personal dignity of the defendant, the taking was well within the ambit of a

reasonable search. *People v. Mari*, 187 Colo. 85, 528 P.2d 917 (1974).

**The prohibition against forced specimen collection in subsection (3) applies only to warrantless searches based on implied consent.** *People v. Raider*, 2022 CO 40, 516 P.3d 911.

**The prohibition against forced specimen collection has no bearing on searches executed pursuant to a valid search warrant for which consent is unnecessary.** Consent, rather, operates as an exception to the fourth amendment warrant requirement. *People v. Raider*, 2022 CO 40, 516 P.3d 911.

**Statutory consent satisfies consent exception to fourth amendment warrant requirement.** By driving in the state, driver consented to the terms of this section, including its requirement that driver submit to a blood draw. That prior statutory consent eliminated the need for the trial court to assess the voluntariness of driver's consent at the time of the interaction with law enforcement. *People v. Simpson*, 2017 CO 25, 392 P.3d 1207.

**A driver can revoke statutory consent to a breath or blood test that is used to determine alcohol levels pursuant to this section.** If a driver revokes consent to a breath or blood test, a warrant must be obtained. Otherwise, the breath or blood test violates the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable searches or seizures, and evidence obtained is inadmissible in court unless one of the exceptions to the exclusionary rule applies. *Tarr v. People*, 2024 CO 37, 549 P.3d 966.

**By driving in the state, drivers expressly consent to blood alcohol testing in certain circumstances, and the law requires testing of an unconscious driver.** Law enforcement is not required to wait until an unconscious driver regains consciousness to allow an opportunity to withdraw statutory consent. *People v. Hyde*, 2017 CO 24, 393 P.3d 962.

**Denial of motion to suppress results of alcohol blood test taken without consent as unlawful search and seizure affirmed.** *People v. Smith*, 175 Colo. 212, 486 P.2d 8 (1971).

**Notice through publication of statutes is sufficient.** The requirements of due process in relation to the warnings under subsection (3) are satisfied by the notice which is given licensees through publication of the statutes. *Vigil v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 184 Colo. 142, 519 P.2d 332 (1974).

**Notice given licensees through publication of express consent statute satisfies due process;** licensee is presumed to know law regarding operation of motor vehicles, including consequences of refusing request for chemical testing. *Dikeman v. Charnes*, 739 P.2d 870 (Colo. App. 1987).

Driver was not entitled to advisement of consequences of refusing chemical test to determine blood alcohol level before he was requested by officer to submit to test. *Dikeman v. Charnes*, 739 P.2d 870 (Colo. App. 1987).

**A person who has a license to operate a motor vehicle on the public highways is presumed to know the law** regarding his

use of the public highways. *Vigil v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 184 Colo. 142, 519 P.2d 332 (1974).

**Failure to warn a driver that evidence of his refusal to take blood or breath test may be used against him at trial** coupled with the subsequent use of the evidence at trial does not violate due process under the federal or state constitutions. Moreover, a refusal to take a blood or breath test is not compelled testimony entitled to protection under the state constitution. *Cox v. People*, 735 P.2d 153 (Colo. 1987).

**Fundamental fairness does not require that officers inform suspects of the evidentiary effect of a decision whether to perform roadside sobriety maneuvers** when constitutional rights or statutory consequences are not implicated by the choice. *McGuire v. People*, 749 P.2d 960 (Colo. 1988).

#### B. Purpose.

**Eases administrative burden.** The implied consent (now express consent) law provides the state with an easily administered, reliable method of proving intoxication in a driving under the influence case and also provides for a simple administrative remedy for revoking the driver's license of an arrested person who refuses to submit to a test. *People v. Culp*, 189 Colo. 76, 537 P.2d 746 (1975).

**Tests not required to prove intoxication.** In prosecution for driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, chemical tests are neither necessary



nor required to prove intoxication. *People v. Culp*, 189 Colo. 76, 537 P.2d 746 (1975).

Evidence apart from blood alcohol tests may in and of itself be sufficient to establish guilt in a drunk driving prosecution. *Garcia v. District Court*, 197 Colo. 38, 589 P.2d 924 (1979).

**Language of subsection (2)(d) negates the defendant's claim that he must be advised of the existence of the implied consent (now express consent) law** and his rights thereunder, including his right to refuse to take the chemical test and his right to know the consequences thereof, before he can be charged with driving while intoxicated. *People v. Culp*, 189 Colo. 76, 537 P.2d 746 (1975).

#### C. Prerequisites to Testing.

**Due process principles do not require the state to offer a chemical test to the motorist before charging him** with driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquors. *People v. Culp*, 189 Colo. 76, 537 P.2d 746 (1975).

There is nothing in subsection (3) which requires that a person must be given an opportunity to take a chemical test before he can be charged with driving under the influence. *People v. Culp*, 189 Colo. 76, 537 P.2d 746 (1975).

The people have no duty to give the defendant any chemical test. *People v. Hedrick*, 192 Colo. 37, 557 P.2d 378 (1976).

The implied consent (now express consent) law neither requires the arresting officer to request a chemical test nor does it

grant the driver an independent right to a test in the absence of the arresting officer's invocation of the statute. *People v. Gillett*, 629 P.2d 613 (Colo. 1981).

**Probable cause is required before test may be administered.** This includes a test administered to an unconscious person under subsection (8). *People v. Grassi*, 192 P.3d 496 (Colo. App. 2008), *aff'd*, 2014 CO 12, 320 P.3d 332 (2014).

**As long as a detective has sufficient probable cause to arrest a defendant for one of the crimes enumerated in subsection (3), a nonconsensual blood draw is statutorily authorized.** *People v. Barry*, 2015 COA 4, 349 P.3d 1139.

**Probable cause may be established under the fellow-officer rule if two conditions are met:** (1) The officer acts pursuant to a coordinated investigation, and (2) the police, as a whole, possess the information giving rise to probable cause at the time of the search or arrest. *Grassi v. People*, 2014 CO 12, 320 P.3d 332 (2014).

**Probable cause justifies test prior to arrest and without permission.** A urine sample that is taken prior to a defendant's arrest and without his permission is not a violation of defendant's constitutional rights so long as the facts establish probable cause to make such arrest at the time the sample is taken. *People v. Kokesh*, 175 Colo. 206, 486 P.2d 429 (1971).

**Particularly, where necessity requires immediate test.** Where defendant was charged with felony of causing an injury while driving under the influence of

intoxicating liquor, and necessity required an immediate breathalyzer test to prevent destruction of the evidence, held, under the circumstances a warrant was not required, nor was consent of defendant necessary under fourth amendment to United States constitution in order to administer breathalyzer test. *People v. Sanchez*, 173 Colo. 188, 476 P.2d 980 (1970).

Consent is not a prerequisite to the performance of a chemical test to determine the alcohol content of a defendant's blood when the offense charged is a felony. *People v. Deadmond*, 683 P.2d 763 (Colo. 1984).

**Meaning of "arrest".** The arrest referred to in this section constitutes detention by an officer such that the driver is in custody and obviously not free to leave of his own volition. *Ayala v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 43 Colo. App. 357, 603 P.2d 979 (1979).

**Driving.** Person who was in the driver's seat of an automobile which had its motor running and its parking lights on and which was located in a private parking lot was in actual physical control of the automobile and thus was driving a motor vehicle. Therefore, refusal to consent to testing violates the "express consent" provision of this section. *Motor Veh. Div. v. Warman*, 763 P.2d 558 (Colo. 1988).

Person seated behind a steering wheel with the seat belt fastened with the key in the ignition turned to "on", even though the car is not running, is driving a motor vehicle. *Caple v. Dept. of Rev.*, 804 P.2d 873 (Colo. App. 1990).

**Arrest is condition precedent to blood alcohol test request.** A defendant who had not been "arrested" before implementation of the implied consent (now express consent) procedure could not have his driver's license revoked for three months for failure to take a blood alcohol test because an arrest is a condition precedent to the state's request that a driver submit to a blood alcohol test. *Humphrey v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 674 P.2d 987 (Colo. App. 1983).

**Consent is implied only if driver is arrested.** *Arnold v. Charnes*, 41 Colo. App. 338, 589 P.2d 1373 (1978), rev'd on other grounds, 198 Colo. 362, 600 P.2d 64 (1979).

An arrest must precede any request that a driver submit to a blood alcohol test. *Ayala v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 43 Colo. App. 357, 603 P.2d 979 (1979); *O'Rourke v. Motor Veh. Div., Dept. of Rev.*, 735 P.2d 207 (Colo. App. 1987).

**A roadside sobriety test can only be administered when** there is probable cause to arrest the driver for driving under the influence of, or while his ability is impaired by, intoxicating liquor or other chemical substance, or when the driver voluntarily consents to perform the test. *People v. Carlson*, 677 P.2d 310 (Colo. 1984).

**No new probable cause and arrest are necessary at time driver is requested to provide a urine sample for drug testing;** same probable cause that supported arrest on suspicion of driving under the influence of some substance is sufficient. *Halter v. Dept. of Rev.*, 857 P.2d 535 (Colo. App. 1993).

**Once probable cause exists to arrest driver on suspicion of driving under the influence and test for presence of alcohol is negative,** it is reasonable to require driver to submit to testing for presence of drugs where driver continues to exhibit evidence of intoxication. *Halter v. Dept. of Rev.*, 857 P.2d 535 (Colo. App. 1993).

An officer who administers a test provided for by subsection (2)(a)(I) may subsequently require a driver to submit to testing under subsection (2)(b)(I). *People v. Fuerst*, 2019 COA 2, 488 P.3d 454.

**Officer is not authorized to request and to direct an arrested driver to submit to testing absent probable cause for the DUI arrest** and, by implication, absent reasonable suspicion for the initial stop. *Peterson v. Tipton*, 833 P.2d 830 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Reliance on valid arrest.** Officer requesting blood test can rely on information of fellow officer in determining that a valid arrest has been made for purposes of the express consent statute. *Sanger v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 736 P.2d 431 (Colo. App. 1987).

**Officer may originally arrest for moving violation.** There is no proscription in this section against an officer first making an arrest for a moving violation, and then, if reasonable grounds exist to believe that the person driving is also under the influence of alcohol, personally or by fellow officer, instituting the procedures under the implied consent (now express consent) act. *Renck v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 636 P.2d 1294 (Colo. App. 1981).

**Legality of initial contact between driver and police not relevant in civil proceeding.** A hearing officer or court is not required or allowed to determine in a revocation proceeding the lawfulness of the initial contact. *Francen v. Dept. of Rev.*, 2012 COA 110, 411 P.3d 693, *aff'd*, 2014 CO 54, 328 P.3d 111; *Hanson v. Dept. of Rev., Motor Veh. Div.*, 2012 COA 143, 411 P.3d 1, *aff'd*, 2014 CO 55, 328 P.3d 122.

**Statute does not require police officers to ask for a defendant's consent prior to proceeding with a constitutionally proper, involuntary blood draw following a suspected vehicular assault.** Section 18-3-205 (4)(a) allows a police officer to perform blood tests on a driver without his or her consent if the officer has probable cause to believe the driver has committed vehicular assault under the influence of alcohol or drugs. *People v. Smith*, 254 P.3d 1158 (Colo. 2011).

#### D. Testing Requirements.

**A field test on a portable breath testing device** given to the suspect prior to arrest did not constitute a chemical test within the meaning of the express consent statute, and so a revocation for refusal to submit to additional testing is supported. *Davis v. Carroll*, 782 P.2d 884 (Colo. App. 1989).

**Purpose of board of health regulation.** The regulation of the board of health as to taking tests under this section — outside of those designed to prevent injury to and to preserve the health of the individual — are designed for internal operating procedure and not for the defendant. *People v. Hedrick*, 192 Colo. 37, 557 P.2d 378 (1976).

**Regulations promulgated pursuant to this section** apply only to offenses charged under it and not to felonies charged under § 18-3-106. *People v. Acosta*, 620 P.2d 55 (Colo. App. 1980); *People v. Nhan Dao Van*, 681 P.2d 932 (Colo. 1984).

**Provisions of former subsection (3)(b)(I) (currently subsection (7)(b)(I)) regarding the foundation to admit test results** apply to revocation proceedings under § 42-2-122.1. *Siddall v. Dept. of Rev.*, 843 P.2d 85 (Colo. App. 1992).

**The provisions of former subsection (3)(b)(I) (currently subsection (7)(b)(I)) do not establish any minimum foundational requirements** for the admissibility of test results at criminal trials or revocation hearings, but rather indicate that if the department of revenue chooses to introduce a manufacturer's or supplier's certificate of compliance for a test kit, such certificate shall constitute a sufficient evidentiary foundation. *Siddall v. Dept. of Rev.*, 843 P.2d 85 (Colo. App. 1992); *Thomas v. People*, 895 P.2d 1040 (Colo. 1995) (decided under former § 42-4-1202.2 as it existed prior to the 1994 recodification of title 42).

**Results of breathalyzer test were admissible in DUI proceeding** where prima facie showing was made that testing device was in proper working order and was properly operated by qualified person and that test was administered in substantial compliance with department of health regulations. *Thomas v. People*, 895 P.2d 1040 (Colo. 1995) (decided under former §

42-4-1202 as it existed prior to the 1994 recodification of title 42).

**Failure to provide certification documents as to breath test instruments** went to weight of breath test results and not to their admissibility. *Thomas v. People*, 895 P.2d 1040 (Colo. 1995) (decided under former § 42-4-1202 as it existed prior to the 1994 recodification of title 42).

**Even when the breath test is not performed in strict compliance with board of health rules**, the results of such test are admissible so long as the proponent of the evidence lays a foundation which satisfies the court that the test is reliable. *People v. Bowers*, 716 P.2d 471 (Colo. 1986); *Thomas v. People*, 895 P.2d 1040 (Colo. 1995) (decided under former § 42-4-1202.2 as it existed prior to the 1994 recodification of title 42).

**The "under supervision" clause in former subsection (3)(b) (currently subsection (7)(b)) is read as referring to any "normal duties"** and not as a requirement that the supervision be present at the time the technician withdraws the blood. *People v. Mari*, 187 Colo. 85, 528 P.2d 917 (1974).

**Under statute's plain language, a paramedic need not be supervised by a physician or nurse to withdraw blood.** The statute describes five categories of individuals authorized to withdraw blood: physicians, nurses, paramedics, emergency medical service providers, and other persons "whose normal duties include withdrawing blood samples under the supervision of a physician or registered nurse". To apply the

"under the supervision of a physician or registered nurse" requirement to any of the categories of individuals other than the last category would lead to an absurd result requiring physicians and nurses to be supervised. *Neppel v. Dept. of Rev.*, 2019 COA 29, 439 P.3d 76.

**Former subsection (3)(b) (currently subsection (7)(b)) is not read to require on-the-spot supervision.** On the contrary, if one's normal duties as a medical technologist include withdrawing blood samples while under the supervision of a physician or registered nurse, he qualified notwithstanding the fact that supervision was not present at this time. *People v. Mari*, 187 Colo. 85, 528 P.2d 917 (1974).

**Effect of failure to apprise driver of substance of former subsection (3)(b) (currently subsection (7)(b)) provision.** The provision of this section limiting the withdrawal of blood to qualified medical personnel is not of sufficient importance that an arresting officer's failure to apprise a driver of its substance immunizes the driver from the consequences of his refusal to submit to any chemical sobriety testing. *Shiarla v. State*, 40 Colo. App. 320, 576 P.2d 193 (1978).

**Test to be taken with reasonable promptness.** In order to obtain a valid test it is necessary that it be accomplished with reasonable promptness before the evidence dissipates. *People v. Dee*, 638 P.2d 749 (Colo. 1981).

**Where delay in consenting to test.** While a motorist has no right under the statute to confer with counsel prior to

deciding whether he will consent to a test, where he is permitted to do so, thereafter consents to the test, and the officer is available to see that the test is administered, the primary purpose of the statute is fulfilled unless the delay will materially affect the result of the test. *Zahtila v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 39 Colo. App. 8, 560 P.2d 847 (1977).

Submitting to a chemical test six hours after an arrest is not sufficient compliance with this section. *Cooper v. Dir. of Dept. of Rev.*, 42 Colo. App. 109, 593 P.2d 1382 (1979).

**Burden on driver to tell officer which test driver is willing to take.** When an arresting officer offers a driver his statutorily required choice between blood or breath testing, burden is on the driver to tell officer which test he is willing to take. *Shumate v. Dept. of Rev.*, 781 P.2d 181 (Colo. App. 1989).

**Officer must comply with driver's request for blood test.** Former subsection (3) (currently subsection (7)) requires that when an arresting officer invokes the sanctions of the implied consent (now express consent) law by requesting a driver to submit to chemical testing, the officer has a corresponding duty to comply with the driver's request for a blood test. *People v. Gillett*, 629 P.2d 613 (Colo. 1981).

**Inability of officer to accommodate driver's request for blood test does not constitute good cause.** An officer's denial of a driver's right to select a blood test to measure sobriety because the ambulance service retained by the sheriff's office to draw blood was unavailable was not a denial

for good cause under the express consent law. *Riley v. People*, 104 P.3d 218 (Colo. 2004).

**Weather-caused delays and high-call volume, however, do not require the case to be dismissed.** The police department had adequate protocol for administering requested blood test, but arresting office could not obtain the test within the required two-hour period because of extraordinary circumstances beyond his control. The court, therefore, abused its discretion by dismissing the charges. *Turbyne v. People*, 151 P.3d 563 (Colo. 2007).

**Prosecution must present evidence that extraordinary or "non-routine" circumstances prevented medical personnel from responding to law enforcement's request for a blood test.** In the absence of such evidence, defendant's right to receive a blood test violated. *People v. Null*, 233 P.3d 670 (Colo. 2010).

Trial court acted within its discretion when it suppressed evidence of defendant's refusal to take a breath test after medical personnel failed to respond to administer a blood test and when it dismissed the DUI charge. *People v. Null*, 233 P.3d 670 (Colo. 2010).

**"Extraordinary circumstances" includes the inability of medical personnel to locate a vein to draw blood for a blood alcohol test.** *People v. Spencer*, 2024 COA 75, 557 P.3d 1218.

**COVID-19 pandemic constitutes an extraordinary circumstance** sufficient to warrant a law enforcement officer to require

a driver to submit to a blood test in lieu of a breath test. *People v. Young*, 2024 COA 1, 546 P.3d 625.

**"[M]edical treatment" in subsection (2)(a)(I) is an affirmative event involving the application of medical expertise.** An examination by a doctor and a nurse would meet this definition. *Brodak v. Visconti*, 165 P.3d 896 (Colo. App. 2007).

Because driver was receiving medical treatment at a hospital where breath testing was not available, arresting officer properly required him to take a blood test. *Brodak v. Visconti*, 165 P.3d 896 (Colo. App. 2007).

**Arresting officer, not driver, has right to choose which test will be taken to determine the presence of drugs.** *Stanger v. Dept. of Rev.*, 780 P.2d 64 (Colo. App. 1989).

**This section requires taking of test,** not merely consenting to it and then partially taking the test, and a test that is sabotaged by the actions of the person tested is of the same legal effect as no test at all. *Baker v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 42 Colo. App. 133, 593 P.2d 1384 (1979).

**Under express consent provisions of former subsection (3) (currently subsection (7)), driver's failure to provide urine sample for drug test manifested noncooperation and unwillingness to take the test** where more than two hours had elapsed since sample was requested, nearly four hours had elapsed between traffic stop and notice of revocation, driver was given several drinks of water, and driver presented no evidence of a medical condition which

would affect his ability to provide requisite sample. *Halter v. Dept. of Rev.*, 857 P.2d 535 (Colo. App. 1993).

**Right of refusal of test subject to sanction of license suspension.** Under the implied consent statute, the general assembly granted to the driver the right to refuse to take the chemical test, which refusal had to be honored by the arresting officer. Such right of refusal, of course, was subject to the sanction of suspension of one's operator's license. *People v. Sanchez*, 173 Colo. 188, 476 P.2d 980, (1970).

**Test results not admissible and revocation vacated.** Verification on notice form used in driver's license revocation proceeding under express consent statute did not by its terms extend to other documents required to be submitted in arresting officer's report, and thus where document purporting to identify person who drew defendant's blood for blood test was not itself verified, and where no testimony was presented which identified that person as one authorized by regulation to perform test, the test results were inadmissible and the trial court did not err in vacating order revoking driver's license. *Forvilly v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 730 P.2d 888 (Colo. App. 1986).

**Lack of evidence concerning police officer's certification to conduct an intoxilyzer test** does not automatically invalidate result of that test, notwithstanding fact that result of independent test differed from result of test conducted by police officer. *Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. McBroom*, 753 P.2d 239 (Colo. 1988).

**Administration of test held not to violate defendant's dignity.** *People v. Dee*, 638 P.2d 749 (Colo. 1981).

**Driver whose license was revoked for failure to provide urine sample for drug test was not denied equal protection** under this section which does not provide for alternative types of drug testing in the event of physical impairment. *Halter v. Dept. of Rev.*, 857 P.2d 535 (Colo. App. 1993).

**Normally, court must find consent given before test results admitted over defendant's objection.** Where an objection is made by a defendant to the introduction into evidence of the results of a blood alcohol test on the ground that the test was taken without his consent, the trial court, after hearing, must make a specific and affirmative finding that such consent was given before this line of testimony may with propriety be submitted to the jury for its consideration. *Compton v. People*, 166 Colo. 419, 444 P.2d 263 (1968).

**Under express consent provisions of subsection (7),** when a driver makes the required election between testing options, an arresting officer has a duty to implement the method initially elected. *Lahey v. Dept. of Rev.*, 881 P.2d 458 (Colo. App. 1994).

**A driver's election between testing options is irrevocable** and the arresting officer lacks discretion to allow an arrested driver to change the testing option elected. *Lahey v. Dept. of Rev.*, 881 P.2d 458 (Colo. App. 1994); *People v. Shinaut*, 940 P.2d 380 (Colo. 1997).

**Erroneous accommodation of defendant's request to change type of test administered** does not warrant the sanction of excluding the test results. *People v. Shinaut*, 940 P.2d 380 (Colo. 1997).

#### E. Multiple Samples.

**There are no Colorado statutes which require that two samples be taken or that a sample be preserved.** *People v. Hedrick*, 192 Colo. 37, 557 P.2d 378 (1976).

**Single breath sample insufficient reason to suppress test results.** Suppression of the test results is not required where only one breath sample was taken from each of the defendants. *People v. Riggs*, 635 P.2d 556 (Colo. 1981).

**There is no duty on the state to give to the defendant any more than the results of the test.** *People v. Hedrick*, 192 Colo. 37, 557 P.2d 378 (1976).

**Test results admissible.** Where there is a failure to prove that the evidence is preservable or that there was any prejudice to defendant by failure to have available to him a breath sample, the wider interests of society favor the admissibility of the test results at trial. *People v. Hedrick*, 192 Colo. 37, 557 P.2d 378 (1976).

#### F. Refusal to Take Test.

**It is driver's external manifestations of unwillingness or outright refusal** to take chemical test for alcohol which are relevant under express consent statute, not driver's state of mind or later recollection of events. *Boom v. Charnes*, 739 P.2d 868 (Colo. App. 1987), rev'd on other grounds, 766 P.2d 665

(Colo. 1988); *Dikeman v. Charnes*, 739 P.2d 870 (Colo. App. 1987).

**Driver cannot refuse to take a chemical test of breath or blood merely because he or she believes the testing equipment is unreliable or not working properly.** *Long v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 2012 COA 130, 296 P.3d 329.

**Officer is not required to ascertain driver's subjective state of mind** in determining whether driver consents to chemical test for alcohol; objective manifestations of driver are enough to constitute refusal. *Colgan v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 623 P.2d 871 (Colo. 1981); *Boom v. Charnes*, 739 P.2d 868 (Colo. App. 1987), rev'd on other grounds, 766 P.2d 665 (Colo. 1988).

**Driver's actions not to be lightly construed as refusal.** An arresting officer should not lightly construe words and actions of a driver to constitute a refusal to be tested. *Renck v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 636 P.2d 1294 (Colo. App. 1981).

**In deciding whether there was a refusal to submit to a chemical test**, the trier of fact should consider the driver's words and other manifestations of willingness or unwillingness to take the test. *Dolan v. Rust*, 195 Colo. 173, 576 P.2d 560 (1978); *Hess v. Tice*, 43 Colo. App. 47, 598 P.2d 536 (1979).

It is the driver's external manifestations of unwillingness or his outright refusal to take the test which are relevant, and not the driver's state of mind or his later recollection of events. *Dolan v. Rust*, 195 Colo. 173, 576



P.2d 560 (1978); Hess v. Tice, 43 Colo. App. 47, 598 P.2d 536 (1979).

**If the district court makes a pretrial finding of refusal to take a chemical test for evidentiary purposes, the ruling must be based on the same evidentiary rules as any other criminal trial** and should consider whether the proffered evidence of refusal or recantation is admissible under the Colorado rules of evidence. People v. Montoya, 2024 CO 20, 546 P.3d 605.

**Automobile driver's request to speak to attorney before taking chemical test** to determine blood alcohol level constituted refusal to take test as matter of law. Dikeman v. Charnes, 739 P.2d 870 (Colo. App. 1987).

**Inability to decide to submit to test constitutes refusal.** An inability to decide to submit to a test, after being fully advised that Miranda rights do not apply, will constitute a refusal. Stephens v. State Dept. of Rev., 671 P.2d 1348 (Colo. App. 1983).

**It was reasonable for arresting officer to take driver's silence to be a refusal of testing** where driver had not been unable to speak and had answered other questions but failed to speak only in response to the request to take a blood test. Poe v. Dept. of Rev., 859 P.2d 906 (Colo. App. 1993).

**Arresting officer not required to compel performance of involuntary blood test** where driver had not been unable to speak and had answered other questions but failed to speak only in response to the request to take a test, making it reasonable for officer to take driver's silence to be a

refusal of testing. Poe v. Dept. of Rev., 859 P.2d 906 (Colo. App. 1993).

**Breath test must be offered where blood test refused.** That driver appeared too intoxicated to take breath test after refusing blood test did not amount to refusal to take breath test. Officer was required to offer breath test despite his conclusion that defendant was not physically able to perform test due to intoxication. Sedlmayer v. Charnes, 767 P.2d 754 (Colo. App. 1988).

**Breath test suppressed as evidence as a result of officer's erroneous and coercive statement that defendant could lose his license for not taking breath test.** After being unable to comply with defendant's request for a blood test, the arresting officer warned that the defendant could lose his license for failure to take a breath test. Turbyne v. People, 151 P.3d 563 (Colo. 2007).

**Driver's initial refusal to take the test is sufficient grounds upon which to revoke her license.** Rogers v. Charnes, 656 P.2d 1322 (Colo. App. 1982).

**Revocation mandatory.** Creech v. State Dept. of Rev., 190 Colo. 174, 544 P.2d 633 (1976).

**Subsection (2)(a)(III), unlike subsection (2)(a)(I), does not impose any condition on an officer's testing request; instead, it governs a driver's duty to cooperate.** It does not provide a driver need only cooperate with requests made within two hours of driving. Rather, it requires that, if a law enforcement officer requests a test, the suspected drunk driver must cooperate with

the request such that the sample of blood or breath can be obtained within two hours of the person's driving. *Stumpf v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 231 P.3d 1 (Colo. App. 2009).

Subsection (2)(a)(III) requires that drivers provide timely cooperation within a two-hour period if possible, but does not excuse their refusal beyond that period. This does not mean, however, that such requests can never give rise to revocation. Instead, requests made more than two hours after driving remain subject to the reasonable time limitation standard. *Stumpf v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 231 P.3d 1 (Colo. App. 2009).

**Hearing officer properly found testing request to have been made within a reasonable time.** The request was made and refused by the driver less than three and one-half hours after person's driving. A blood test conducted three and one-half hours after driving is not incapable of yielding potentially relevant evidence. *Stumpf v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 231 P.3d 1 (Colo. App. 2009).

**The two-hour standard does not apply to a refusal to take a test.** The refusal to take a blood alcohol test is an independent cause for revoking driver's license. Therefore, so long as the request is within a reasonable time, a refusal to take the test may result in loss of a driver's license. *Stumpf v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 231 P.3d 1 (Colo. App. 2009).

**A driver's refusal to submit to a test pursuant to the implied consent (now express consent) law is not irrevocable** and the driver may reconsider his decision.

*Zahtila v. Motor Veh. Div.*, 39 Colo. App. 8, 560 P.2d 847 (1977).

**Although a driver's decision as to whether to take blood or breath alcohol test is irrevocable, refusing to take a test is revocable.** Subject to limits, a driver may, after initially refusing to take a test, agree to take a blood alcohol test within two hours of driving. *People v. Montoya*, 2022 COA 55M, 516 P.3d 970, *aff'd*, 2024 CO 20, 546 P.3d 605.

**But licensee must inform officer of reconsideration and consent.** Although an attorney informs a police officer that she has advised her client to submit to a blood-alcohol test, unless the licensee informs the officer of his consent to the test, a prior refusal to take the test is grounds for the revocation of his license. *McC Campbell v. Charnes*, 626 P.2d 762 (Colo. App. 1981).

After a driver has refused to submit to a test, recantation must be made to the arresting officer or other law enforcement officer in sufficient time to obtain a sample within two hours of the person's driving. The arresting officer is not obliged to wait with the suspect for two hours in case the suspect may wish to recant the refusal. If the officer has returned to duty, the refusal stands. *Gallion v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 155 P.3d 539 (Colo. App. 2006), *aff'd*, 171 P.3d 217 (Colo. 2007).

When licensee initially agreed to submit to blood test but then refused test, it became obligation of licensee to tell officer he was willing to consent to an alternative test. *Gonzales v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 728 P.2d 754 (Colo. App. 1986).

**A motor vehicle operator who has unequivocally refused a test may no longer retract the refusal** after the law enforcement officer has completed the duties prescribed by statute to deal with the refusal. *Schulte v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 2018 COA 140, 488 P.3d 419.

**Service of the notice of revocation can be sufficient for an officer to disengage from requesting or directing a chemical test** but it is not a necessary predicate to disengaging. *Schulte v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 2018 COA 140, 488 P.3d 419.

**Court concludes that there was not a refusal justifying revocation of license** when driver retracted refusal to take blood or breath test within two and one-half hours after driving. *Pierson v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 923 P.2d 371 (Colo. App. 1996).

**Even absent other driving violations**, an investigatory stop is permissible when a police officer has a reasonable suspicion that the driver is committing or has committed a drunk driving offense. *Peterson v. Tipton*, 833 P.2d 830 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Reasonable suspicion justifying initial stop** was furnished by nonverbal signal of gas station clerk who had called to report intoxicated customer preparing to drive away. *Peterson v. Tipton*, 833 P.2d 830 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Motorist's refusal to submit to blood alcohol test and breath test** was not authorized by statute and was not excused by police's failure to establish statutory qualifications of blood technician to driver's

satisfaction. *Malveaux v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 727 P.2d 875 (Colo. App. 1986).

**In the case of a vehicular assault, in order for an officer to require a test**, the motorist must first be given the opportunity to refuse consent to the test. *People v. Maclaren*, 251 P.3d 578 (Colo. App. 2010).

**In the case of a vehicular assault, failure of an officer to obtain consent prior to subjecting a motorist to a test under this section does not require suppression of the test result or dismissal of the case.** Court has broad discretion to suppress evidence or dismiss the case as a sanction for improper police conduct. *People v. Maclaren*, 251 P.3d 578 (Colo. App. 2010).

**Revocation of license upheld.** When plaintiff refused to sign consent form required by hospital, he refused to submit to testing within the meaning of the express consent statute. *Stahl v. Dept. of Rev., Motor Veh. Div.*, 921 P.2d 74 (Colo. App. 1996).

**Motorist who had agreed to take blood alcohol test until confronted with hospital release form** which did not conform with subsection (3)(b) requirements was not subject to having license revoked based solely on his not signing release form. *Connolly v. Dept. of Rev.*, 739 P.2d 927 (Colo. App. 1987).

**Refusal is prerequisite for revocation proceeding.** A refusal to submit to an appropriate chemical analysis test to determine the alcohol content of breath or blood is the prerequisite for the initiation of revocation proceedings, and such

proceedings are civil in nature. *DuPuis v. Charnes*, 668 P.2d 1 (Colo. 1983).

**Finality of order of revocation.** An order of revocation issued at the conclusion of a hearing is final. Judicial review must be

perfected within thirty days after the date of that hearing as specified in § 42-2-127. If an appeal is not perfected within the statutory time limit, dismissal is mandated. *Houston v. Dept. of Rev.*, 699 P.2d 15 (Colo. App. 1985).

**42-4-1301.2. Refusal of test - effect on driver's license - revocation - reinstatement.**  
**(Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire section added with relocations, p. 1907, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** Entire section repealed, p. 255, § 26, effective July 1.

**42-4-1301.3. Alcohol and drug driving safety program - definition.**

(1) (a) Upon conviction of a violation of section 42-4-1301, the court shall sentence the defendant in accordance with the provisions of this section and other applicable provisions of this part 13. The court shall consider the alcohol and drug evaluation required pursuant to this section prior to sentencing; except that the court may proceed to immediate sentencing without considering such alcohol and drug evaluation:

(I) (A) If the defendant has no prior convictions or pending charges under this section; or

(B) If the defendant has one or more prior convictions, the prosecuting attorney and the defendant have stipulated to such conviction or convictions; and

(II) If neither the defendant nor the prosecuting attorney objects.

(b) If the court proceeds to immediate sentencing, without considering an alcohol and drug evaluation, the alcohol and drug evaluation shall be conducted after sentencing, and the court shall order the defendant to complete the education and treatment program recommended in the alcohol and drug evaluation. If the defendant disagrees with the education and treatment program recommended in the alcohol and drug evaluation, the defendant may request the court to hold a hearing to determine which education and treatment program should be completed by the defendant.

(2) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2011, (HB 11-1268), ch. 267, p. 1217, § 1, effective June 2, 2011.)

(3) (a) The judicial department shall administer in each judicial district an alcohol and drug driving safety program that provides presentence and postsentence alcohol and drug evaluations

on all persons convicted of a violation of section 42-4-1301. The alcohol and drug driving safety program shall further provide supervision and monitoring of all such persons whose sentences or terms of probation require completion of a program of alcohol and drug driving safety education or treatment.

(b) The presentence and postsentence alcohol and drug evaluations shall be conducted by such persons determined by the judicial department to be qualified to provide evaluation and supervision services as described in this section.

(c) (I) An alcohol and drug evaluation shall be conducted on all persons convicted of a violation of section 42-4-1301, and a copy of the report of the evaluation shall be provided to such person. The report shall be made available to and shall be considered by the court prior to sentencing unless the court proceeds to immediate sentencing pursuant to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section.

(II) The report shall contain the defendant's prior traffic record, characteristics and history of alcohol or drug problems, and amenability to rehabilitation. The report shall include a recommendation as to alcohol and drug driving safety education or treatment for the defendant.

(III) The alcohol evaluation shall be conducted and the report prepared by a person who is trained and knowledgeable in the diagnosis of chemical dependency. Such person's duties may also include appearing at sentencing and probation hearings as required, referring defendants to education and treatment agencies in accordance with orders of the court, monitoring defendants in education and treatment programs, notifying the probation department and the court of any defendant failing to meet the conditions of probation or referral to education or treatment, appearing at revocation hearings as required, and providing assistance in data reporting and program evaluation.

(IV) For the purpose of this section, "alcohol and drug driving safety education or treatment" means either level I or level II education or treatment programs approved by the behavioral health administration in the department of human services. Level I programs are short-term, didactic education programs. Level II programs are therapeutically oriented education, long-term outpatient, and comprehensive residential programs. The court shall instruct a defendant sentenced to level I or level II programs to meet all financial obligations of the programs. If the financial obligations are not met, the program shall notify the sentencing court for the purpose of collection or review and further action on the defendant's sentence. Nothing in this section prohibits treatment agencies from applying to the state for money to recover the costs of level II treatment for defendants determined indigent by the court.

(4) (a) There is created an alcohol and drug driving safety program fund in the office of the state treasurer, referred to in this subsection (4) as the "fund". The fund consists of money deposited in it as directed by this subsection (4)(a). The assessment in effect on July 1, 1998, remains in effect unless the judicial department and the behavioral health administration in the

department of human services have provided the general assembly with a statement of the cost of the program, including costs of administration for the past and current fiscal year to include a proposed change in the assessment. The general assembly shall then consider the proposed new assessment and approve the amount to be assessed against each person during the following fiscal year in order to ensure that the alcohol and drug driving safety program established in this section is financially self-supporting. Any adjustment in the amount to be assessed must be noted in the appropriation to the judicial department and the behavioral health administration in the department of human services as a footnote or line item related to this program in the general appropriation bill. The state auditor shall periodically audit the costs of the programs to determine that they are reasonable and that the rate charged is accurate based on these costs. Any other fines, fees, or costs levied against a person are not part of the program fund. The court shall transmit to the state treasurer the amount assessed for the alcohol and drug evaluation to be credited to the fund. Fees charged pursuant to section 27-81-106 (1) to approved alcohol and drug treatment facilities that provide level I and level II programs as provided in subsection (3)(c) of this section must be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fees to the fund. Upon appropriation by the general assembly, the money must be expended by the judicial department and the behavioral health administration in the department of human services for the administration of the alcohol and drug driving safety program. In administering the alcohol and drug driving safety program, the judicial department is authorized to contract with any agency for any services the judicial department deems necessary. Money deposited in the fund remains in the fund to be used for the purposes set forth in this section and must not revert or transfer to the general fund except by further act of the general assembly.

(b) The judicial department shall ensure that qualified personnel are placed in the judicial districts. The judicial department and the behavioral health administration in the department of human services shall jointly develop and maintain criteria for evaluation techniques, treatment referral, data reporting, and program evaluation.

(c) The alcohol and drug driving safety program shall cooperate in providing services to a defendant who resides in a judicial district other than the one in which the arrest was made. Alcohol and drug driving safety programs may cooperate in providing services to any defendant who resides at a location closer to another judicial district's program. The requirements of this section shall not apply to persons who are not residents of Colorado at the time of sentencing.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) to the contrary, on March 5, 2003, the state treasurer shall deduct one million dollars from the alcohol and drug driving safety program fund and transfer such sum to the general fund.

(5) The provisions of this section are also applicable to any defendant who receives a diversion in accordance with section 18-1.3-101, C.R.S., or who receives a deferred sentence in accordance with section 18-1.3-102, C.R.S., and the completion of any stipulated alcohol evaluation, level I or level II education program, or level I or level II treatment program to be

completed by the defendant shall be ordered by the court in accordance with the conditions of such deferred prosecution or deferred sentence as stipulated to by the prosecution and the defendant.

(6) An approved alcohol or drug treatment facility that provides level I or level II programs as provided in paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of this section shall not require a person to repeat any portion of an alcohol and drug driving safety education or treatment program that he or she has successfully completed while he or she was imprisoned for the current offense.

**Source:** **L. 2002:** Entire section added with relocations, p. 1907, § 3, effective July 1; (5) amended, p. 1561, § 368, effective October 1. **L. 2003:** (4)(d) added, p. 459, § 22, effective March 5. **L. 2010:** (4)(a) amended, (SB 10-175), ch. 188, p. 808, § 87, effective April 29; IP(2)(a)(I) amended and (6) added, (HB 10-1347), ch. 258, p. 1159, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2011:** (1) and (2) amended, (HB 11-1268), ch. 267, p. 1217, § 1, effective June 2; (3)(c)(IV) and (4)(b) amended, (HB 11-1303), ch. 264, p. 1182, § 110, effective August 10. **L. 2013:** (5) amended, (HB 13-1156), ch. 336, p. 1960, § 13, effective August 7. **L. 2017:** (3)(c)(IV), (4)(a), and (4)(b) amended, (SB 17-242), ch. 263, p. 1259, § 25, effective May 25. **L. 2020:** (4)(a) amended, (SB 20-007), ch. 286, p. 1417, § 56, effective July 13. **L. 2022:** (3)(c)(IV), (4)(a), and (4)(b) amended, (HB 22-1278), ch. 222, p. 1579, § 205, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-1301 (9)(e)(I), (9)(f)(I), (9)(f)(II), and (10) as it existed prior to 2002.

(2) Subsection (5) was originally numbered as § 42-4-1301 (10)(g), and the amendments to it in House Bill 02-1046 were harmonized with subsection (5) as it appeared in Senate Bill 02-057.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsection (5), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002. For the legislative declaration in SB 17-242, see section 1 of chapter 263, Session Laws of Colorado 2017.

#### **42-4-1301.4. Useful public service - definitions - local programs - assessment of costs.**

(1) This section applies to any person convicted of a violation of section 42-4-1301 and who is ordered to complete useful public service.

(2) (a) For the purposes of this section and section 42-4-1301, "useful public service" means any work that is beneficial to the public and involves a minimum of direct supervision or other public cost. "Useful public service" does not include any work that would endanger the health or

safety of any person convicted of a violation of any of the offenses specified in section 42-4-1301.

(b) The sentencing court, the probation department, the county sheriff, and the board of county commissioners shall cooperate in identifying suitable work assignments. An offender sentenced to such work assignment shall complete the same within the time established by the court.

(3) (a) There may be established in the probation department of each judicial district in the state a useful public service program under the direction of the chief probation officer. It is the purpose of the useful public service program: To identify and seek the cooperation of governmental entities and political subdivisions thereof, as well as corporations organized not-for-profit or charitable trusts, as specified in subsection (3)(c) of this section, for the purpose of providing useful public service jobs; to interview and assign persons who have been ordered by the court to perform useful public service to suitable useful public service jobs; and to monitor compliance or noncompliance of such persons in performing useful public service assignments within the time established by the court.

(b) Nothing in this subsection (3) limits the authority of an entity that is the recipient of community or useful public service to accept or reject such service, in its sole discretion.

(c) In addition to governmental entities and political subdivisions thereof, the following organizations are eligible to provide community or useful public service jobs established under this section or any other provision of law so long as they meet any other requirement related to the provision of those jobs, as established by the entity that is the recipient of community or useful public service:

(I) A charitable trust or other organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501 (c)(3) of the federal "Internal Revenue Code of 1986", as amended;

(II) A civic league or organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501 (c)(4) of the federal "Internal Revenue Code of 1986", as amended, and that also would qualify as a veterans' service organization as defined in section 501 (c)(19) of the federal "Internal Revenue Code of 1986", as amended; and

(III) A veterans' service organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501 (c)(19) of the federal "Internal Revenue Code of 1986", as amended.

(4) (a) Any general public liability insurance policy obtained pursuant to this section shall be in a sum of not less than the current limit on government liability under the "Colorado Governmental Immunity Act", article 10 of title 24, C.R.S.



(b) For the purposes of the "Colorado Governmental Immunity Act", article 10 of title 24, C.R.S., "public employee" does not include any person who is sentenced pursuant to section 42-4-1301 to participate in any type of useful public service.

(c) No governmental entity shall be liable under the "Workers' Compensation Act of Colorado", articles 40 to 47 of title 8, C.R.S., or under the "Colorado Employment Security Act", articles 70 to 82 of title 8, C.R.S., for any benefits on account of any person who is sentenced pursuant to section 42-4-1301 to participate in any type of useful public service, but nothing in this paragraph (c) shall prohibit a governmental entity from electing to accept the provisions of the "Workers' Compensation Act of Colorado" by purchasing and keeping in force a policy of workers' compensation insurance covering such person.

(5) In accordance with section 42-4-1307 (14), in addition to any other penalties prescribed in this part 13, the court shall assess an amount, not to exceed one hundred twenty dollars, upon any person required to perform useful public service. Such amount shall be used by the operating agency responsible for overseeing such person's useful public service program to pay the cost of administration of the program, a general public liability policy covering such person, and, if such person will be covered by workers' compensation insurance pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of this section or an insurance policy providing such or similar coverage, the cost of purchasing and keeping in force such insurance coverage. Such amount shall be adjusted from time to time by the general assembly in order to ensure that the useful public service program established in this section shall be financially self-supporting. The proceeds from such amounts shall be used by the operating agency only for defraying the cost of personal services and other operating expenses related to the administration of the program and the cost of purchasing and keeping in force policies of general public liability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, or insurance providing such or similar coverage and shall not be used by the operating agency for any other purpose.

(6) The provisions of this section relating to the performance of useful public service are also applicable to any defendant who receives a diversion in accordance with section 18-1.3-101, C.R.S., or who receives a deferred sentence in accordance with section 18-1.3-102, C.R.S., and the completion of any stipulated amount of useful public service hours to be completed by the defendant shall be ordered by the court in accordance with the conditions of such deferred prosecution or deferred sentence as stipulated to by the prosecution and the defendant.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire section added with relocations, p. 1907, § 3, effective July 1; (5) amended, p. 303, § 2, effective July 1; (6) amended, p. 1561, § 368, effective October 1. **L. 2004:** (3) amended, p. 506, § 4, effective August 4. **L. 2011:** (5) amended, (HB 11-1268), ch. 267, p. 1220, § 3, effective June 2; (5) amended, (HB 11-1303), ch. 264, p. 1183, § 111, effective

August 10. **L. 2013:** (6) amended, (HB 13-1156), ch. 336, p. 1960, § 14, effective August 7. **L. 2017:** (3) amended, (HB 17-1056), ch. 56, p. 179, § 3, effective March 20.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-1301 (9)(c) and (9)(i) as it existed prior to 2002.

(2) Subsection (5) was originally numbered as § 42-4-1301 (9)(i)(V), and the amendments to it in Senate Bill 02-036 were harmonized with subsection (5) as it appeared in Senate Bill 02-057. Subsection (6) was originally numbered as § 42-4-1301 (9)(c), and the amendments to it in House Bill 02-1046 were harmonized with subsection (6) as it appeared in Senate Bill 02-057.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsection (6), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

#### **42-4-1302. Stopping of suspect.**

A law enforcement officer may stop any person who the officer reasonably suspects is committing or has committed a violation of section 42-4-1301 (1) or (2) and may require the person to give such person's name, address, and an explanation of his or her actions. The stopping shall not constitute an arrest.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2390, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1202.1 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1302 was relocated to § 42-4-1502.

**Cross references:** For provision that the operation of vehicles and the movement of pedestrians pursuant to this section apply upon streets and highways and elsewhere throughout the state, see § 42-4-103 (2)(b).

### **ANNOTATION**

**Law reviews.** For article, "Review of New Legislation Relating to Criminal law",

see 11 Colo. Law. 2148 (1982). For article, "A DUI Primer", see 16 Colo. Law. 2179 (1987).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1302 is similar to § 42-4-1202.1 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Sobriety checkpoint stops need not be based upon reasonable suspicion** merely because of the existence of this statute. *Orr v. People*, 803 P.2d 509 (Colo. 1990).

**An investigatory stop of a motor vehicle is permissible when a police officer has a reasonable suspicion that the driver is committing or has committed a drunk driving offense.** *Peterson v. Tipton*, 833 P.2d 830 (Colo. App. 1992).

**Even absent other driving violations**, an investigatory stop is permissible when a police officer has a reasonable suspicion that the driver is committing or has committed a drunk driving offense. *Peterson v. Tipton*, 833 P.2d 830 (Colo. App. 1992).

#### **42-4-1303. Records - prima facie proof.**

Official records of the department of public health and environment relating to certification of breath test instruments, certification of operators and operator instructors of breath test instruments, certification of standard solutions, and certification of laboratories shall be official records of the state, and copies thereof, attested by the executive director of the department of public health and environment or the director's deputy and accompanied by a certificate bearing the official seal for said department that the executive director or the director's deputy has custody of said records, shall be admissible in all courts of record and shall constitute prima facie proof of the information contained therein. The department seal required under this section may also consist of a rubber stamp producing a facsimile of the seal stamped upon the document.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire section amended, p. 2816, § 595, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2390, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-1202.2 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1303 was relocated to § 42-4-1503.

(2) Amendments to this section by House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

**Cross references:** For provision that the operation of vehicles and the movement of pedestrians pursuant to this section apply upon streets and highways and elsewhere throughout the state, see § 42-4-103 (2)(b).

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Review of New Legislation Relating to Criminal Law", see 11 Colo. Law. 2148 (1982).

**Results of breathalyzer test were admissible in DUI proceeding** where prima facie showing was made that testing device was in proper working order and was properly operated by qualified person and that test was administered in substantial compliance with department of health regulations. *Thomas v. People*, 895 P.2d

1040 (Colo. 1995) (decided under former § 42-4-1202.2 as it existed prior to the 1994 recodification of title 42).

**Failure to provide certification documents as to breath test instruments** went to weight of breath test results and not to their admissibility. *Thomas v. People*, 895 P.2d 1040 (Colo. 1995) (decided under former § 42-4-1202.2 as it existed prior to the 1994 recodification of title 42).

### **42-4-1304. Samples of blood or other bodily substance - duties of department of public health and environment - rules.**

(1) The department of public health and environment shall establish a system for obtaining samples of blood or other bodily substance from the bodies of all pilots in command, vessel operators in command, or drivers and pedestrians fifteen years of age or older who die within four hours after involvement in a crash involving a motor vehicle, a vessel, or an aircraft. For purposes of this section, "vessel" has the meaning set forth in section 33-13-102, C.R.S. No person having custody of the body of the deceased shall perform any internal embalming procedure until a blood and urine specimen to be tested for alcohol, drug, and carbon monoxide concentrations has been taken by an appropriately trained person certified by the department of public health and environment. Whenever the driver of the vehicle cannot be immediately determined, the samples shall be obtained from all deceased occupants of the vehicle.

(2) All samples so collected shall be placed in containers of a type designed to preserve the integrity of a sample from the time of collection until it is subjected to analysis.

(3) All samples shall be tested and analyzed in the laboratories of the department of public health and environment, or in any other laboratory approved for this purpose by the department of public health and environment, to determine the amount of alcohol, drugs, and carbon monoxide contained in such samples or the amount of any other substance contained therein as deemed advisable by the department of public health and environment.

(4) The state board of health shall establish and promulgate such administrative rules and procedures as are necessary to ensure that collection and testing of samples is accomplished to the fullest extent. Such rules and procedures shall include but not be limited to the following:

(a) The certification of laboratories to ensure that the collection and testing of samples is performed in a competent manner, which may include waiving specific certification requirements for laboratories that are accredited by a nationally or internationally recognized accreditation organization that includes the scope of forensic toxicology; and

(b) The designation of responsible state and local officials who shall have authority and responsibility to collect samples for testing.

(5) All records of the results of such tests shall be compiled by the department of public health and environment and shall not be public information, but shall be disclosed on request to any interested party in any civil or criminal action arising out of the collision.

(6) All state and local public officials, including investigating law enforcement officers, have authority to and shall follow the procedures established by the department of public health and environment pursuant to this section, including the release of all information to the department of public health and environment concerning such samples and the testing thereof. The Colorado state patrol and the county coroners and their deputies shall assist the department of public health and environment in the administration and collection of such samples for the purposes of this section.

(7) The office of the highway safety coordinator, the department, the Colorado state patrol, and the division of criminal justice within the department of public safety have access to the results of the tests of samples taken as a result of a traffic crash for statistical analysis. The division of parks and wildlife has access to the results of the tests of samples taken as a result of a boating incident for statistical analysis.

(8) Failure to perform the required duties as prescribed by this section and by the administrative regulations and procedures resulting therefrom shall be deemed punishable under section 18-8-405, C.R.S.

**Source:** L. 94: (6) amended, p. 2816, § 596, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2391, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2008: (1) amended, p. 652, § 4, effective August 5. L. 2014: (4)(a) amended, (HB 14-1340), ch. 124, p. 442, § 3, effective April 18. L. 2017: (7) amended, (HB 17-1315), ch. 280, p. 1529, § 2, effective August 9. L. 2018: IP(4) and (4)(a) amended, (HB 18-1302), ch. 382, p. 2302, § 1, effective August 8. L. 2026: (7) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 481, § 56, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-1211 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1304 was relocated to § 42-4-1504.

(2) Amendments to subsection (6) by House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

**42-4-1305. Open alcoholic beverage container - motor vehicle - prohibited.**

(1) **Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Alcoholic beverage" means a beverage as defined in 23 CFR 1270.3 (a).

(b) "Motor vehicle" means a vehicle driven or drawn by mechanical power and manufactured primarily for use on public highways but does not include a vehicle operated exclusively on a rail or rails.

(c) "Open alcoholic beverage container" means a bottle, can, or other receptacle that contains any amount of alcoholic beverage and:

(I) That is open or has a broken seal; or

(II) The contents of which are partially removed.

(d) "Passenger area" means the area designed to seat the driver and passengers while a motor vehicle is in operation and any area that is readily accessible to the driver or a passenger while in his or her seating position, including but not limited to the glove compartment.

(2) (a) Except as otherwise permitted in paragraph (b) of this subsection (2), a person while in the passenger area of a motor vehicle that is on a public highway of this state or the right-of-way of a public highway of this state may not knowingly:

(I) Drink an alcoholic beverage; or

(II) Have in his or her possession an open alcoholic beverage container.

(b) The provisions of this subsection (2) shall not apply to:

(I) Passengers, other than the driver or a front seat passenger, located in the passenger area of a motor vehicle designed, maintained, or used primarily for the transportation of persons for compensation;

(II) The possession by a passenger, other than the driver or a front seat passenger, of an open alcoholic beverage container in the living quarters of a house coach, house trailer, motor home, as defined in section 42-1-102 (57), or trailer coach, as defined in section 42-1-102 (106);

(III) The possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in the area behind the last upright seat of a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a trunk; or

(IV) The possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in an area not normally occupied by the driver or a passenger in a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a trunk.

(c) A person who violates the provisions of this subsection (2) commits a class A traffic infraction and shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars and a surcharge of sixteen dollars as provided in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(N).

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt or limit the authority of any statutory or home rule town, city, or city and county to adopt ordinances that are no less restrictive than the provisions of this section.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire section added, p. 1187, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2015:** (2)(c) amended, (SB 15-264), ch. 259, p. 969, § 95, effective August 5. **L. 2022:** (2)(b)(II) amended, (SB 22-212), ch. 421, p. 2987, § 90, effective August 10.

#### **42-4-1305.5. Open marijuana container - motor vehicle - prohibited - definitions.**

(1) **Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Marijuana" shall have the same meaning as in section 16 (2)(f) of article XVIII of the state constitution.

(b) "Motor vehicle" means a vehicle driven or drawn by mechanical power and manufactured primarily for use on public highways but does not include a vehicle operated exclusively on a rail or rails.

(c) "Open marijuana container" means a receptacle or marijuana accessory that contains any amount of marijuana and:

(I) That is open or has a broken seal;

(II) The contents of which are partially removed; and

(III) There is evidence that marijuana has been consumed within the motor vehicle.

(d) "Passenger area" means the area designed to seat the driver and passengers, including seating behind the driver, while a motor vehicle is in operation and any area that is readily accessible to the driver or a passenger while in his or her seating position, including but not limited to the glove compartment.

(2) (a) Except as otherwise permitted in paragraph (b) of this subsection (2), a person while in the passenger area of a motor vehicle that is on a public highway of this state or the right-of-way of a public highway of this state may not knowingly:

(I) Use or consume marijuana; or

(II) Have in his or her possession an open marijuana container.

(b) The provisions of this subsection (2) shall not apply to:

(I) Passengers, other than the driver or a front seat passenger, located in the passenger area of a motor vehicle designed, maintained, or used primarily for the transportation of persons for compensation;

(II) The possession by a passenger, other than the driver or a front seat passenger, of an open marijuana container in the living quarters of a house coach, house trailer, motor home, as defined in section 42-1-102 (57), or trailer coach, as defined in section 42-1-102 (106);

(III) The possession of an open marijuana container in the area behind the last upright seat of a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a trunk; or

(IV) The possession of an open marijuana container in an area not normally occupied by the driver or a passenger in a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a trunk.

(c) A person who violates the provisions of this subsection (2) commits a class A traffic infraction and shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars and a surcharge of seven dollars and eighty cents as provided in this section and section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(N).

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt or limit the authority of any statutory or home rule town, city, or city and county to adopt ordinances that are no less restrictive than the provisions of this section.

**Source: L. 2013:** Entire section added, (SB 13-283), ch. 332, p. 1896, § 20, effective May 28. **L. 2014:** (1)(c) amended, (SB 14-129), ch. 387, p. 1937, § 3, effective June 6. **L. 2022:** (2)(b)(II) amended, (SB 22-212), ch. 421, p. 2987, § 91, effective August 10.

**42-4-1306. Colorado task force on drunk and impaired driving - creation - legislative declaration.**

(1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

(a) Drunk and impaired driving continues to cause needless deaths and injuries, especially among young people;



(b) In 2003, there were over thirty thousand arrests for driving under the influence or driving while ability-impaired;

(c) Although Colorado has taken many measures to reduce the incidents of drunk and impaired driving, the persistent regularity of these incidents continues to be a problem, as evidenced by the case of Sonja Marie Devries who was killed in 2004 by a drunk driver who had been convicted of drunk driving on six previous occasions; and

(d) According to the federal national highway traffic safety administration, other states with a statewide task force on drunk and impaired driving have seen a decrease in incidents of drunk and impaired driving.

(2) There is hereby created the Colorado task force on drunk and impaired driving, referred to in this section as the "task force". The task force shall meet regularly to investigate methods of reducing the incidents of drunk and impaired driving and develop recommendations for the state of Colorado regarding the enhancement of government services, education, and intervention to prevent drunk and impaired driving.

(3) (a) The task force shall consist of:

(I) The executive director of the department of transportation or his or her designee who shall also convene the first meeting of the task force;

(II) Three representatives appointed by the executive director of the department of revenue, with the following qualifications:

(A) One representative with expertise in driver's license sanctioning;

(B) One representative with expertise in enforcement of the state's liquor sales laws; and

(C) One representative from the department of revenue's marijuana enforcement division;

(III) The state court administrator or his or her designee;

(IV) The chief of the Colorado state patrol or his or her designee;

(V) The state public defender or his or her designee;

(VI) Two representatives appointed by the commissioner of the behavioral health administration in the department of human services with the following qualifications:

(A) One representative with expertise in substance abuse education and treatment for DUI or DWAI offenders; and

(B) One representative with expertise in providing minors, adolescents, and juvenile offenders with substance abuse treatment and related services;

(VII) The director of the division of probation services or his or her designee;

(VIII) The executive director of the department of public health and environment, or his or her designee;

(IX) The following members selected by the member serving pursuant to subsection (3)(a)(I) of this section:

(A) A representative of a statewide association of chiefs of police with experience in making arrests for drunk or impaired driving;

(B) A representative of a statewide organization of county sheriffs with experience in making arrests for drunk or impaired driving;

(C) A victim or a family member of a victim of drunk or impaired driving;

(D) A representative of a statewide organization of victims of drunk or impaired driving;

(E) A representative of a statewide organization of district attorneys with experience in prosecuting drunk or impaired driving offenses;

(F) A representative of a statewide organization of criminal defense attorneys with experience in defending persons charged with drunk or impaired driving offenses;

(G) A representative of a statewide organization that represents persons who sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on premises;

(G.5) A representative of a statewide organization that represents persons who sell alcoholic beverages for consumption off premises;

(H) A representative of a statewide organization that represents distributors of alcoholic beverages in Colorado;

(I) A manufacturer of alcoholic beverages in Colorado;

(J) A person under twenty-four years of age who is enrolled in a secondary or postsecondary school;

(K) A representative of a statewide organization that represents alcohol and drug addiction counselors;

(L) A representative of a statewide organization that represents persons licensed to sell retail marijuana for consumption off premises;

(M) A community-based representative of the substance use disorder prevention field; and

(N) A representative from the retail or medical marijuana industry who is an owner or manager of a retail dispensary;

(X) The director of the peace officers standards and training board or the director's designee; and

(XI) A researcher who is appointed by a majority of the task force members and who specializes in drunk and impaired driving research.

(b) Members selected pursuant to subparagraph (IX) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (3) shall serve terms of two years but may be selected for additional terms.

(c) Members of the task force shall not be compensated for or reimbursed for their expenses incurred in attending meetings of the task force.

(d) The initial meeting of the task force shall be convened on or before August 1, 2006, by the member serving pursuant to subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (3). At the first meeting, the task force shall elect a chair and vice-chair from the members serving pursuant to subparagraphs (I) to (VIII) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (3), who shall serve a term of two years but who may be reelected for additional terms.

(e) The task force shall meet not less frequently than bimonthly and may adopt policies and procedures necessary to carry out its duties.

(4) Repealed.

(5) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2011, (SB 11-093), ch. 41, p. 108, § 2, effective March 21, 2011.)

**Source:** **L. 2006:** Entire section added, p. 566, § 1, effective April 24. **L. 2011:** (3) and (5) amended, (SB 11-093), ch. 41, p. 108, § 2, effective March 21. **L. 2014:** (1)(d), (2), (3)(a)(VI), IP(3)(a)(IX), (3)(a)(IX)(J), and (3)(a)(IX)(K) amended and (3)(a)(IX)(L), (3)(a)(X), and (3)(a)(XI) added, (HB 14-1321), ch. 369, p. 1760, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2016:** (1)(d) amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 798, § 121, effective June 6. **L. 2017:** (4) repealed, (SB 17-231), ch. 174, p. 633, § 1, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** (3)(a)(II), IP(3)(a)(IX), and (3)(a)(IX)(K) amended and (3)(a)(IX)(M) and (3)(a)(IX)(N) added, (HB 18-1362), ch. 311, p. 1872, § 1, effective August 8. **L. 2022:** IP(3)(a)(VI) amended, (HB 22-1278), ch. 222, p. 1580, § 206, effective July 1.

#### **42-4-1307. Penalties for traffic offenses involving alcohol and drugs - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.**

(1) **Legislative declaration.** The general assembly hereby finds and declares that, for the purposes of sentencing as described in section 18-1-102.5, C.R.S., each sentence for a conviction of a violation of section 42-4-1301 shall include:

(a) A period of imprisonment, which, for a repeat offender, shall include a mandatory minimum period of imprisonment and restrictions on where and how the sentence may be served; and

(b) For a second or subsequent offender, a period of probation. The imposition of a period of probation upon the conviction of a first-time offender shall be subject to the court's discretion as described in paragraph (c) of subsection (3) and paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of this section. The purpose of probation is to help the offender change his or her behavior to reduce the risk of future violations of section 42-4-1301. If a court imposes imprisonment as a penalty for a violation of a condition of his or her probation, the penalty shall constitute a separate period of imprisonment that the offender shall serve in addition to the imprisonment component of his or her original sentence.

(2) **Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Approved ignition interlock device" has the same meaning as set forth in section 42-2-132.5.

(a.7) "Continuous alcohol monitoring" means monitoring the alcohol content in a person by using a device or instrument that is attached to the person and designed to automatically test the alcohol content in the person by contact with the person's skin at least once every one-half hour regardless of the person's location, and which detects the presence of alcohol in a person and whether a person attempts to tamper with, obstruct, or remove the device.

(b) "Conviction" means a verdict of guilty by a judge or jury or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere that is accepted by the court for an offense or adjudication for an offense that would constitute a criminal offense if committed by an adult. "Conviction" also includes having received a deferred judgment and sentence or deferred adjudication; except that a person shall not be deemed to have been convicted if the person has successfully completed a deferred sentence or deferred adjudication.

(c) "Driving under the influence" or "DUI" means driving a motor vehicle or vehicle when a person has consumed alcohol or one or more drugs, or a combination of alcohol and one or more drugs, that affects the person to a degree that the person is substantially incapable, either mentally or physically, or both mentally and physically, of exercising clear judgment, sufficient physical control, or due care in the safe operation of a vehicle.

(d) "Driving while ability impaired" or "DWAI" means driving a motor vehicle or vehicle when a person has consumed alcohol or one or more drugs, or a combination of both alcohol and one or more drugs, that affects the person to the slightest degree so that the person is less able than the person ordinarily would have been, either mentally or physically, or both mentally and physically, to exercise clear judgment, sufficient physical control, or due care in the safe operation of a vehicle.

(e) "UDD" shall have the same meaning as provided in section 42-1-102 (109.7).

**(3) First offenses - DUI and DUI per se.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (5) and (6) of this section, a person who is convicted of DUI or DUI per se shall be punished by:

(I) Imprisonment in the county jail for at least five days but no more than one year, the minimum period of which shall be mandatory; except that the court may suspend the mandatory minimum period if, as a condition of the suspended sentence, the offender undergoes a presentence or postsentence alcohol and drug evaluation and satisfactorily completes and meets all financial obligations of a level I or level II program as is determined to be appropriate by the alcohol and drug evaluation that is required pursuant to section 42-4-1301.3;

(II) A fine of at least six hundred dollars but no more than one thousand dollars, and the court shall have discretion to suspend the fine; and

(III) At least forty-eight hours but no more than ninety-six hours of useful public service, and the court shall not have discretion to suspend the mandatory minimum period of performance of such service.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (3), and except as described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (5) and paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of this section, a person who is convicted of DUI or DUI per se when the person's BAC was 0.20 or more at the time of driving or within two hours after driving shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for at least ten days but not more than one year; except that the court shall have the discretion to employ the sentencing alternatives described in section 18-1.3-106, C.R.S.

(c) In addition to any penalty described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (3), the court may impose a period of probation that shall not exceed two years, which probation may include any conditions permitted by law.

**(4) First offenses - DWAI.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (5) and (6) of this section, a person who is convicted of DWAI shall be punished by:

(I) Imprisonment in the county jail for at least two days but no more than one hundred eighty days, the minimum period of which shall be mandatory; except that the court may suspend the mandatory minimum period if, as a condition of the suspended sentence, the offender undergoes a presentence or postsentence alcohol and drug evaluation and satisfactorily completes and meets all financial obligations of a level I or level II program as is determined to be appropriate by the alcohol and drug evaluation that is required pursuant to section 42-4-1301.3; and

(II) A fine of at least two hundred dollars but no more than five hundred dollars, and the court shall have discretion to suspend the fine; and

(III) At least twenty-four hours but no more than forty-eight hours of useful public service, and the court shall not have discretion to suspend the mandatory minimum period of performance of such service.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4), and except as described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (5) and paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of this section, a person who is convicted of DWAI when the person's BAC was 0.20 or more at the time of driving or within two hours after driving shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for at least ten days but not more than one year; except that the court shall have the discretion to employ the sentencing alternatives described in section 18-1.3-106, C.R.S.

(c) In addition to any penalty described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (4), the court may impose a period of probation that shall not exceed two years, which probation may include any conditions permitted by law.

**(5) Second offenses.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (6) of this section, a person who is convicted of DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI who, at the time of sentencing, has a prior conviction of DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, vehicular homicide pursuant to section 18-3-106 (1)(b), vehicular assault pursuant to section 18-3-205 (1)(b), aggravated driving with a revoked license pursuant to section 42-2-206 (1)(b)(I)(A) or (1)(b)(I)(B), as that crime existed before August 5, 2015, or driving while the person's driver's license was under restraint pursuant to section 42-2-138 (1)(d), shall be punished by:

(I) Imprisonment in the county jail for at least ten consecutive days but no more than one year; except that the court shall have discretion to employ the sentencing alternatives described in section 18-1.3-106. During the mandatory ten-day period of imprisonment, the person is not eligible for deductions of the person's sentence pursuant to section 17-26-109, or for trusty prisoner status pursuant to section 17-26-109 (1)(b); except that the person receives credit for any time that the person served in custody for the violation prior to the person's conviction.

(II) A fine of at least six hundred dollars but no more than one thousand five hundred dollars, and the court shall have discretion to suspend the fine;

(III) At least forty-eight hours but no more than one hundred twenty hours of useful public service, and the court shall not have discretion to suspend the mandatory minimum period of performance of the service; and

(IV) A period of probation of at least two years, which period shall begin immediately upon the commencement of any part of the sentence that is imposed upon the person pursuant to this section, and a suspended sentence of imprisonment in the county jail for one year, as described in subsection (7) of this section; except that the court shall not sentence the defendant to probation if the defendant is sentenced to the department of corrections but shall still sentence the defendant to the provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of this section. The defendant shall complete all court-ordered programs pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of this section before the completion of his or her period of parole.

(b) If a person is convicted of DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI and the violation occurred less than five years after the date of a previous violation for which the person was convicted of DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, vehicular homicide pursuant to section 18-3-106 (1)(b), C.R.S., vehicular assault pursuant to section 18-3-205 (1)(b), C.R.S., aggravated driving with a revoked license pursuant to section 42-2-206 (1)(b)(I)(A) or (1)(b)(I)(B), as that crime existed before August 5, 2015, or driving while the person's driver's license was under restraint pursuant to section 42-2-138 (1)(d), the court does not have discretion to employ any sentencing alternatives described in section 18-1.3-106, C.R.S., during the minimum period of imprisonment described in subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (5); except that a court may allow the person to participate in a program pursuant to section 18-1.3-106 (1)(a)(II), (1)(a)(IV), or (1)(a)(V), C.R.S., only if the program is available through the county in which the person is imprisoned and only for the purpose of:

(I) Continuing a position of employment that the person held at the time of sentencing for said violation;

(II) Continuing attendance at an educational institution at which the person was enrolled at the time of sentencing for said violation; or

(III) Participating in a court-ordered level II alcohol and drug driving safety education or treatment program, as described in section 42-4-1301.3 (3)(c)(IV).

(c) Repealed.

**(6) Third and subsequent offenses.**

(a) Except as provided in section 42-4-1301 (1)(a), (1)(b), and (2)(a), a person who is convicted of DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI who, at the time of sentencing, has two or more prior convictions of DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, vehicular homicide pursuant to section 18-3-106 (1)(b), vehicular assault pursuant to section 18-3-205 (1)(b), aggravated driving with a revoked license pursuant to section 42-2-206 (1)(b)(I)(A) or (1)(b)(I)(B), as that crime existed before August 5, 2015, or driving while the person's driver's license was under restraint pursuant to section 42-2-138 (1)(d) shall be punished by:

(I) Imprisonment in the county jail for at least sixty consecutive days but no more than one year. During the mandatory sixty-day period of imprisonment, the person is not eligible for deductions of the person's sentence pursuant to section 17-26-109, or for trusty prisoner status pursuant to section 17-26-109 (1)(b); except that a person receives credit for any time that the person served in custody for the violation prior to the person's conviction. During the mandatory period of imprisonment, the court does not have discretion to employ any sentencing alternatives described in section 18-1.3-106; except that the person may participate in a work release program pursuant to section 18-1.3-106 (1)(a)(II), (1)(a)(III), (1)(a)(III.5), (1)(a)(IV), or (1)(a)(V), or community corrections placement pursuant to section 18-1.3-301 (4)(a) or (4)(b), only if the program is available through the county in which the person is imprisoned and only for the purpose of:

(A) Continuing work that the person held at the time of sentencing for said violation;

(B) Continuing attendance at an educational institution at which the person was enrolled at the time of sentencing for said violation; or

(C) Participating in a court-ordered level II alcohol and drug driving safety education or treatment program, as described in section 42-4-1301.3 (3)(c)(IV).

(I.5) In a jurisdiction that does not have a work release program or other reasonable substitution for a work release program, such as an alternative sentence served in community corrections pursuant to the provisions of section 18-1.3-301 (4)(a) or (4)(b), the court may sentence the offender to home detention as provided in section 18-1.3-106 but only if the court finds that an alternative sentence of home detention is necessary to address the individual circumstances of the case and fulfill the statutory purposes of sentencing as provided in section 18-1-102.5, and when a sentence to home detention will not undermine the seriousness of the offense.

(II) A fine of at least six hundred dollars but no more than one thousand five hundred dollars, and the court shall have discretion to suspend the fine;

(III) At least forty-eight hours but no more than one hundred twenty hours of useful public service, and the court shall not have discretion to suspend the mandatory minimum period of performance of the service; and

(IV) A period of probation of at least two years, which period shall begin immediately upon the commencement of any part of the sentence that is imposed upon the person pursuant to this section, and a suspended sentence of imprisonment in the county jail for one year, as described in subsection (7) of this section; except that the court shall not sentence the defendant to probation if the defendant is sentenced to the department of corrections, but shall still sentence the defendant to the provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of this section. The defendant shall



complete all court-ordered programs pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of this section before the completion of his or her period of parole.

(b) Repealed.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the defendant satisfies the conditions described in subparagraphs (I) and (II) of this paragraph (c), the court may include as a condition of probation a requirement that the defendant participate in alcohol treatment. If the defendant's assessed treatment need is for residential treatment, the court may make residential alcohol treatment a condition of probation and may place the offender in a community corrections program that can provide the appropriate level of treatment. This paragraph (c) applies only if:

(I) At the time of sentencing, the person has two prior convictions of DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, vehicular homicide pursuant to section 18-3-106 (1)(b), C.R.S., or vehicular assault pursuant to section 18-3-205 (1)(b), C.R.S.; and

(II) The first of the person's two prior convictions was based on a violation that occurred not more than seven years before the violation for which the person is being sentenced.

(d) Offenders placed in community corrections as an alternative sentence pursuant to the provisions of this section must remain in residential placement for any mandatory time period of their sentence as required by the provisions of this section.

**(6.5) Felony offenses.**

(a) A person who commits a felony DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI offense shall be sentenced in accordance with the provisions of section 18-1.3-401 and this subsection (6.5).

(b) If the court sentences the defendant to a term of probation as provided by section 18-1.3-202, the court shall order as a condition of probation one of the following:

(I) Require the defendant to serve at least ninety days but not more than one hundred eighty days imprisonment in the county jail. During the mandatory ninety-day period of imprisonment, the defendant is not eligible for deductions of his or her sentence pursuant to section 17-26-109 or for trusty prisoner status pursuant to section 17-26-109 (1)(b); except that a defendant receives credit for any time that he or she served in custody for the violation prior to his or her conviction. During this mandatory period of imprisonment, the court does not have discretion to employ any sentencing alternatives described in section 18-1.3-106.

(II) Require the defendant to serve at least one hundred twenty days but not more than two years of imprisonment in the county jail through participation in a program pursuant to section 18-1.3-106 (1)(a)(II) or (1)(a)(IV) if the program is available through the county in which the defendant is imprisoned and only for the purposes of continuing a position of employment that the defendant held at the time of sentencing for the violation or for continuing attendance at an educational institution at which the defendant was enrolled at the time of sentencing for the

violation. During the mandatory one-hundred-twenty-day period of imprisonment, the defendant is not eligible for deductions of his or her sentence pursuant to section 17-26-109 or for trusty prisoner status pursuant to section 17-26-109 (1)(b); except that a defendant receives credit for any time that he or she served in custody for the violation prior to his or her conviction. During this mandatory period of imprisonment, the court does not have discretion to employ any other sentencing alternatives described in section 18-1.3-106; except that a court may grant permission for a defendant to leave the jail to obtain medical treatment, pursuant to section 18-1.3-106 (1)(a)(V).

(c) Additionally, if the court sentences the defendant to a term of probation as provided by section 18-1.3-202, then, as a condition of probation, the court shall:

(I) Require the defendant to complete at least forty-eight hours but not more than one hundred twenty hours of useful public service, which may not be suspended; and

(II) Sentence the defendant in accordance with subsection (7)(b) of this section, including requiring the person to submit to continuous alcohol monitoring for at least ninety days as described in subsection (7)(b)(VI)(B) of this section.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (6.5)(a) of this section, before the imposition of any sentence to the department of corrections for a felony DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI offense, at sentencing or at resentencing after a revocation of probation or a community corrections sentence, the court shall consider all the factors described in subsection (6.5)(e) of this section.

(e) If the court sentences the defendant to the department of corrections for a felony DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI offense, it must determine that incarceration is the most suitable option given the facts and circumstances of the case, including the defendant's willingness to participate in treatment. Additionally, the court shall consider whether all other reasonable and appropriate sanctions and responses to the violation that are available to the court have been exhausted, do not appear likely to be successful if tried, or present an unacceptable risk to public safety.

(6.7) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, if a judge finds there are exceptional circumstances which would make incarceration in a jail a substantial and imminent risk to the health or safety of an offender, or, when so advised by the sheriff, to the health, safety, or security of the jail operations or persons in the jail, the court shall make findings on the record of the exceptional circumstances and may employ any alternative sentences, including home detention. If an offender requests the court find exceptional circumstances based on the risk to the offender's health or safety, the offender shall expressly waive any confidentiality as to the medical or other health information that establishes the basis for the exceptional circumstances.

(7) **Probation-related penalties.** When a person is sentenced to a period of probation pursuant to subsection (5)(a)(IV) or (6)(a)(IV) of this section:

(a) The court shall impose a sentence to one year of imprisonment in the county jail, which sentence shall be suspended, and against which sentence the person shall not receive credit for any period of imprisonment to which he or she is sentenced pursuant to subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of this section or subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of this section;

(b) The court:

(I) Shall include, as a condition of the person's probation, a requirement that the person complete a level II alcohol and drug driving safety education or treatment program, as described in section 42-4-1301.3 (3)(c)(IV), at the person's own expense;

(II) May impose an additional period of probation for the purpose of monitoring the person or ensuring that the person continues to receive court-ordered alcohol or substance abuse treatment, which additional period shall not exceed two years;

(III) May require that the person commence the alcohol and drug driving safety education or treatment program described in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b) during any period of imprisonment to which the person is sentenced;

(IV) May require the person to appear before the court at any time during the person's period of probation;

(V) May require the person to use an approved ignition interlock device during the period of probation at the person's own expense;

(VI) (A) May require a person sentenced for a second offense pursuant to subsection (5)(a)(IV) of this section to submit to continuous alcohol monitoring using technology or devices available to the court for that purpose; except that the court shall not require continuous alcohol monitoring if the court finds that requiring monitoring is not in the best interests of justice, and the court enters that finding in the record, or if the person's residence is in an area where the person cannot reasonably acquire a continuous alcohol monitoring device; and

(B) Shall require a person sentenced for a third or subsequent offense pursuant to subsection (6)(a)(IV) of this section to submit to continuous alcohol monitoring for at least ninety days using technology or devices available to the court for that purpose; except that the court shall not require continuous alcohol monitoring if the court finds that requiring monitoring is not in the best interests of justice, and the court enters that finding in the record, or if the person's residence is in an area where the person cannot reasonably acquire a continuous alcohol monitoring device; and

(VII) May impose such additional conditions of probation as may be permitted by law.

(c) (I) The court may impose all or part of the suspended sentence described in subparagraph (IV) of paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of this section or subparagraph (IV) of paragraph (a) of

subsection (6) of this section at any time during the period of probation if the person violates a condition of his or her probation. During the period of imprisonment, the person shall continue serving the probation sentence with no reduction in time for the sentence to probation. A cumulative period of imprisonment imposed pursuant to this paragraph (c) shall not exceed one year. In imposing a sentence of imprisonment pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (7), the court shall consider the nature of the violation, the report or testimony of the probation department, the impact on public safety, the progress of the person in any court-ordered alcohol and drug driving safety education or treatment program, and any other information that may assist the court in promoting the person's compliance with the conditions of his or her probation.

(II) Any imprisonment imposed upon a person by the court pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (7) must be imposed in a manner that promotes the person's compliance with the conditions of his or her probation and not merely as a punitive measure.

(d) The prosecution, the person, the person's counsel, or the person's probation officer may petition the court at any time for an early termination of the period of probation, which the court may grant upon a finding of the court that:

(I) The person has successfully completed a level II alcohol and drug driving safety education or treatment program pursuant to subparagraph (I) of paragraph (b) of this subsection (7);

(II) The person has otherwise complied with the terms and conditions of his or her probation; and

(III) Early termination of the period of probation will not endanger public safety.

(8) **Ignition interlock devices.** In sentencing a person pursuant to this section, courts are encouraged to require the person to use an approved ignition interlock device as a condition of bond, probation, and participation in programs pursuant to section 18-1.3-106, C.R.S.

(9) **Previous convictions.**

(a) For the purposes of subsections (5) and (6) of this section, a person is deemed to have a previous conviction for DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, vehicular homicide pursuant to section 18-3-106 (1)(b), C.R.S., vehicular assault pursuant to section 18-3-205 (1)(b), C.R.S., aggravated driving with a revoked license pursuant to section 42-2-206 (1)(b)(I)(A) or (1)(b)(I)(B), as that crime existed before August 5, 2015, or driving while the person's driver's license was under restraint pursuant to section 42-2-138 (1)(d), if the person has been convicted under the laws of this state or under the laws of any other state, the United States, or any territory subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, of an act that, if committed within this state, would constitute the offense of DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, vehicular homicide pursuant to section 18-3-106 (1)(b), C.R.S., vehicular assault pursuant to section 18-3-205 (1)(b), C.R.S., aggravated driving with a revoked license pursuant to section 42-2-206 (1)(b)(I)(A) or (1)(b)(I)(B), as that crime existed

before August 5, 2015, or driving while the person's driver's license was under restraint pursuant to section 42-2-138 (1)(d).

(b) (I) For sentencing purposes concerning convictions for second and subsequent offenses, prima facie proof of a person's previous convictions shall be established when:

(A) The prosecuting attorney and the person stipulate to the existence of the prior conviction or convictions;

(B) The prosecuting attorney presents to the court a copy of the person's driving record provided by the department of revenue or by a similar agency in another state, which record contains a reference to the previous conviction or convictions; or

(C) The prosecuting attorney presents an authenticated copy of the record of the previous conviction or judgment from a court of record of this state or from a court of any other state, the United States, or any territory subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(II) The court shall not proceed to immediate sentencing if the prosecuting attorney and the person have not stipulated to previous convictions or if the prosecution has requested an opportunity to obtain a driving record or a copy of a court record. The prosecuting attorney shall not be required to plead or prove any previous convictions at trial.

(10) **Additional costs and surcharges.** In addition to the penalties prescribed in this section:

(a) Persons convicted of DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, and UDD are subject to the costs imposed by section 24-4.1-119 (1)(c), C.R.S., relating to the crime victim compensation fund;

(b) Persons convicted of DUI, DUI per se, and DWAI are subject to a surcharge of at least one hundred dollars but no more than five hundred dollars to fund programs to reduce the number of persistent drunk drivers. The surcharge shall be mandatory, and the court shall not have discretion to suspend or waive the surcharge; except that the court may suspend or waive the surcharge if the court determines that a person is indigent. Moneys collected for the surcharge shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the amount collected to the persistent drunk driver cash fund created in section 42-3-303.

(c) Persons convicted of DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, and UDD are subject to a surcharge of twenty-five dollars to be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall deposit money collected for the surcharge in the Colorado brain injury trust fund created pursuant to section 26-1-309;

(d) (I) Persons convicted of DUI, DUI per se, and DWAI are subject to a surcharge of at least one dollar but no more than ten dollars for programs to fund efforts to address alcohol and substance abuse problems among persons in rural areas. The surcharge shall be mandatory, and the court shall not have discretion to suspend or waive the surcharge; except that the court may suspend or waive the surcharge if the court determines that a person is indigent. Any moneys

collected for the surcharge shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the rural alcohol and substance abuse cash fund created in section 27-80-117 (3), C.R.S.

(II) This subsection (10)(d) is repealed, effective September 1, 2030, unless the general assembly extends the repeal of the rural alcohol and substance abuse prevention and treatment program created in section 27-80-117.

(e) Persons convicted of DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, vehicular assault as described in section 18-3-205 (1)(b), or vehicular homicide as described in section 18-3-106 (1)(b) shall pay a data-analysis surcharge of two dollars to be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall deposit money collected for the surcharge in the substance-affected driving data-analysis cash fund created in section 24-33.5-520. Except in the case of an indigent defendant, the court has no discretion to waive this surcharge.

(10.5) (a) The costs and surcharges described in subsection (10) of this section do not apply to a person under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, as defined in section 19-1-103; a juvenile; or the person's or juvenile's parent, guardian, or legal custodian. A court or the state shall not enforce or collect a court-levied cost or surcharge assessed by the court on or after July 6, 2021, that is outstanding against a person under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, as defined in section 19-1-103; a juvenile; or the person's or juvenile's parent, guardian, or legal custodian.

(b) As used in this subsection (10.5), "juvenile" means a person who is under eighteen years old when the crime is committed.

(11) **Restitution.** As a condition of any sentence imposed pursuant to this section, the sentenced person shall be required to make restitution in accordance with the provisions of section 18-1.3-205, C.R.S.

(12) **Victim impact panels.**

(a) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, the court may sentence a person convicted of DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD to attend in person and pay for one appearance at a victim impact panel approved by the court, for which the fee assessed to the person shall not exceed fifty dollars.

(b) On July 1, 2017, and on each July 1 thereafter, the maximum fee established in paragraph (a) of this subsection (12) is adjusted by the annual percentage change in the United States department of labor, bureau of labor statistics, consumer price index for Denver-Boulder, all items, all urban consumers, or its successor index.

(13) **Alcohol and drug evaluation and supervision costs.**

(a) In addition to any fines, fees, or costs levied against a person convicted of DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD, the judge shall assess each such person for the cost of the presentence or postsentence alcohol and drug evaluation and supervision services.

(b) A person required to submit to continuous alcohol monitoring shall pay the costs of monitoring unless the court determines that the person is unable to pay the costs. If the court determines that the person is unable to pay the costs of continuous alcohol monitoring, the judicial district's probation department shall pay the costs of monitoring. The court shall presume that a person represented by court-appointed counsel is unable to pay for monitoring services.

(14) **Public service penalty.** In addition to any other penalties prescribed in this part 13, the court shall assess an amount, not to exceed one hundred twenty dollars, upon a person required to perform useful public service.

(15) If a defendant is convicted of aggravated driving with a revoked license based upon the commission of DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI pursuant to section 42-2-206 (1)(b)(I)(A) or (1)(b)(I)(B), as that crime existed before August 5, 2015:

(a) The court shall convict and sentence the offender for each offense separately;

(b) The court shall impose all of the penalties for the alcohol-related driving offense, as such penalties are described in this section;

(c) The provisions of section 18-1-408, C.R.S., shall not apply to the sentences imposed for either conviction;

(d) Any probation imposed for a conviction under section 42-2-206 may run concurrently with any probation required by this section; and

(e) The department shall reflect both convictions on the defendant's driving record.

**Source: L. 2010:** Entire section added, (HB 10-1347), ch. 258, p. 1149, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2011:** (1)(b), (3)(a)(I), (3)(a)(II), (4)(a)(I), (4)(a)(II), (5)(a)(II), (6)(a)(II), (7)(b)(II), and (11) amended, (HB 11-1268), ch. 267, p. 1218, § 2, effective June 2. **L. 2012:** (5)(a)(IV) and (6)(a)(IV) amended, (HB 12-1310), ch. 268, p. 1401, § 21, effective June 7; (7)(b)(V) and (8) amended, (HB 12-1168), ch. 278, p. 1484, § 8, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** IP(3)(a), IP(5)(a), IP(5)(b), IP(6)(a), (9)(a), (10)(a) to (10)(c), (10)(d)(I), (12), and (13) amended, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1885, § 15, effective May 28. **L. 2015:** (2), IP(5)(a), IP(5)(b), IP(6)(a), (7)(a), (7)(b)(V), (7)(c), (8), (9)(a), and IP(15) amended and (6)(c) added, (HB 15-1043), ch. 262, p. 992, § 2, effective August 5. **L. 2016:** IP(6)(c) amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 798, § 122, effective June 6; (12) amended, (HB 16-1017), ch. 41, p. 101, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** IP(5)(a), (5)(a)(I), IP(6)(a), and IP(6)(a)(I) amended and (5)(c) and (6)(b) repealed, (HB 17-1015), ch. 71, p. 226, § 11, effective August 9; (6.5) added, (HB 17-1288), ch. 387, p. 2003, § 1, effective August 9; (10)(e) added, (HB 17-1315), ch. 280, p. 1529, § 3, effective August 9. **L. 2019:** (10)(c) amended, (HB 19-1147), ch. 178, p. 2033, § 15, effective August 2; (10)(d)(II) amended, (SB 19-241), ch. 390, p. 3478, § 59, effective August 2. **L. 2021:** (10.5) added, (HB

21-1315), ch. 461, p. 3113, § 16, effective July 6; (5)(a)(I), IP(6)(a)(I), (6)(a)(I)(A), (6.5)(b)(I), and (6.5)(b)(II) amended and (6)(a)(I.5), (6)(d), and (6.7) added, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3306, § 733, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (2)(a.7) added and (6.5)(c)(II), IP(7), (7)(b)(VI), and (13) amended, (SB 22-055), ch. 467, p. 3320, § 2, effective August 10. **L. 2025:** (10)(d)(II) amended, (SB 25-195), ch. 243, p. 1230, § 4, effective August 6. **L. 2026:** (10.5) amended, (HB 26-1232), ch. 98, p. 391, § 10, effective May 4.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in HB 21-1315, see section 1 of chapter 461, Session Laws of Colorado 2021. For the legislative declaration in HB 26-1232, see section 1 of chapter 98, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** For annotations relating to penalties for traffic offenses involving alcohol and drugs, formerly found in § 42-4-1301 (7) prior to the 2010 repeal of that subsection and now found in this section, see the annotations for § 42-4-1301.

**The plain language of subsection (5)(a) imposes second-offense penalties when a defendant has a relevant prior conviction;** it does not require that conduct underlying a second-offense sentence occur after conduct underlying the first-offense sentence. In subsection (5)(a), "prior" modifies "conviction", and nowhere does the plain language contemplate the timing of the underlying conduct. Other subsections of the statute do contemplate the timing of the underlying conduct, but with notably different language. *People v. Woodside*, 2023 CO 25, 529 P.3d 1233.

**The felony driving under the influence statute, specifically subsection (6), does not violate the equal protection clause.** The misdemeanor, § 42-4-1301, and felony

driving under the influence statutes do not punish identical conduct. Each has elements that the other does not include. *People v. Tun*, 2021 COA 34, 486 P.3d 490.

**Probation under this section is intended to operate differently than general criminal probation under § 16-11-206.** *Martinez v. People*, 2020 CO 3, 455 P.3d 752.

**Under the definition of "conviction"** in subsection (2)(a), the reference to deferred adjudication does not overcome the prohibition against sealing the record of a "conviction" pursuant to § 24-72-308 (3)(a)(III). *In re Harte*, 2012 COA 183, 337 P.3d 1232.

**Where a defendant has been sentenced to prison on a felony, the court cannot impose a probationary sentence for DUI.** Subsection (15) is not an exception to subsection (6) but was enacted to prevent merger of convictions for DUI and aggravated driving after revocation



prohibited. *People v. Coleman*, 2018 COA 67, 422 P.3d 629.

**The maximum period of incarceration that a defendant may serve for probation violations related to multiple convictions for driving while ability impaired is 365 days.** *Martinez v. People*, 2020 CO 3, 455 P.3d 752.

At a second probation revocation hearing after defendant had already been incarcerated 355 days, the court could only impose a maximum 10-day jail sentence. *Martinez v. People*, 2020 CO 3, 455 P.3d 752.

**42-4-1308. Study of devices capable of assessing drug impairment of motorists - report - definition - repeal. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2022:** Entire section added, (HB 22-1321), ch. 458, p. 3264, § 1, effective June 8.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (5) provided for the repeal of this section, effective July 1, 2024. (See L. 2022, p. 3264.)

## PART 14

### OTHER OFFENSES

**Cross references:** For penalties for class 1 and class 2 misdemeanor traffic offenses and class A and class B traffic infractions, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a).

#### **42-4-1401. Reckless driving - penalty.**

(1) A person who drives a motor vehicle, bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or low-power scooter in such a manner as to indicate either a wanton or a willful disregard for the safety of persons or property is guilty of reckless driving. A person convicted of reckless driving of a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter is not subject to section 42-2-127.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense. Upon a second or subsequent conviction, such person shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in the

county jail for not less than ten days nor more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2392, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2009:** (1) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1279, § 57, effective October 1. **L. 2019:** (1) amended, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2561, § 11, effective May 23.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1203 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1401 was relocated to § 42-4-1601.

**Cross references:** For operating a vehicle in a reckless manner while eluding a peace officer, see § 18-9-116.5; for provision that the operation of vehicles and the movement of pedestrians pursuant to this section apply upon streets and highways and elsewhere throughout the state, see § 42-4-103 (2)(b).

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "One Year Review of Constitutional and Administrative Law", see 38 Dicta 154 (1961).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1401 is similar to § 42-4-1203 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**A finding of knowing or wilful conduct is sufficient** to establish the culpable mental state of recklessness. *People v. Yanaga*, 635 P.2d 925 (Colo. App. 1981).

**One may be said to be guilty of wanton behavior when,** although the defendant may not have deliberately intended to injure anyone, he consciously chooses a dangerous course of action which to a reasonable mind

creates a strong probability that injury to others will result. *Martin v. People*, 179 Colo. 237, 499 P.2d 606 (1972).

**Wanton and wilful disregard not equivalent of wilful or intentional injury.** An allegation in a complaint that defendant was guilty of negligence consisting of wanton and wilful disregard of the rights and safety of others is not equivalent to an allegation of wilful or intentional injury. *Healy v. Hewitt*, 101 Colo. 92, 71 P.2d 63 (1937).

**One who commits reckless driving necessarily has been guilty of careless driving,** for the greater degree of negligence includes the lesser. *People v. Chapman*, 192 Colo. 322, 557 P.2d 1211 (1977).

Both reckless and careless driving offenses consist of two elements: (1) The act of driving a motor vehicle; and (2) the state of mind in "disregard" of or "without due regard" for safety. *People v. Chapman*, 192 Colo. 322, 557 P.2d 1211 (1977).

In both reckless and careless driving statutes the essence of the mental element is disregard of safety in driving. In both it is the absence of care which renders the driving criminal. *People v. Chapman*, 192 Colo. 322, 557 P.2d 1211 (1977).

The two offenses differ only in that the degree of negligence required is far more culpable in reckless driving than in careless driving, although it falls short of intentional wrongdoing. *People v. Chapman*, 192 Colo. 322, 557 P.2d 1211 (1977).

**Reckless driving is a lesser included offense of vehicular eluding.** *People v. Pena*, 962 P.2d 285 (Colo. App. 1997); *People v. Esparza-Treto*, 282 P.3d 471 (Colo. App. 2011).

"Wanton or willful disregard" for safety under this section is essentially the same element as the "reckless" state of mind specified in §18-9-116.5. *People v. Pena*, 962 P.2d 285 (Colo. App. 1997).

**Reckless driving is not a lesser included offense of vehicular homicide or vehicular**

assault. *People v. Clary*, 950 P.2d 654 (Colo. App. 1997).

**Jury question in civil case.** Whether or not either of the drivers or both were negligent in violating this section and whether said negligence was the proximate cause of this accident, or whether it was caused by the joint and concurrent negligence of both, were questions of fact for the jury to determine. *Amos v. Remington Arms Co.*, 117 Colo. 399, 188 P.2d 896 (1948).

**This section preempts municipal ordinances.** Cities and towns not organized as home-rule cities may not enact or enforce any ordinance or regulation relating to motor vehicles which supersedes or attempts to nullify a comparable state statute on reckless driving. This statute makes complete provision for this offense, leaving nothing to supplement. The state having preempted the field, the ordinance must fall. *Vanatta v. Town of Steamboat Springs*, 146 Colo. 356, 361 P.2d 441 (1961).

**Applied** in *People v. Kreiser*, 41 Colo. App. 210, 585 P.2d 301 (1978); *State, Motor Vehicle Div. v. Dayhoff*, 199 Colo. 363, 609 P.2d 119 (1980); *People v. Mascarenas*, 632 P.2d 1028 (Colo. 1981); *People v. Roybal*, 655 P.2d 410 (Colo. 1982).

#### **42-4-1402. Careless driving - penalty.**

(1) A person who drives a motor vehicle, bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or low-power scooter in a careless and imprudent manner, without due regard for the width, grade, curves, corners, traffic, and use of the streets and highways and all other attendant

circumstances, is guilty of careless driving. A person convicted of careless driving of a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter is not subject to section 42-2-127.

(2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (2)(b) and (2)(c) of this section, a person who violates this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(b) If the person's actions are the proximate cause of bodily injury to an individual, the person commits a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(c) (I) If the person's actions are the proximate cause of serious bodily injury, as defined in section 18-1-901, or death to an individual, the person commits a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(II) If the person's actions are the proximate cause of serious bodily injury, as defined in section 18-1-901, or death to more than one individual, each individual injured or killed is a separate violation of this section.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2392, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2009:** (1) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1280, § 58, effective October 1. **L. 2010:** (2) amended, (SB 10-204), ch. 243, p. 1080, § 2, effective May 21. **L. 2019:** (1) amended, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2561, § 12, effective May 23. **L. 2025:** (2) amended, (SB 25-281), ch. 346, p. 1871, § 1, effective June 2.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1204 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1402 was relocated to § 42-4-1602.

**Cross references:** For provision that the operation of vehicles and the movement of pedestrians pursuant to this section apply upon streets and highways and elsewhere throughout the state, see § 42-4-103 (2)(b); for the penalties for class 1 and class 2 misdemeanor traffic offenses generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II); for further penalties and surcharges, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(N).

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "One Year Review of Constitutional and Administrative Law", see 38 Dicta 154 (1961). For note,

"The Careless Driver: His Wrong and His Rights", see 38 U. Colo. L. Rev. 584 (1966).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1402 is similar to § 42-4-1204 as it existed prior to

the 1994 amendments to title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**This section is applicable and may be enforced in connection with acts of careless driving committed on private property** used as a shopping center parking lot. *Clark v. Bunnell*, 172 Colo. 32, 470 P.2d 42 (1970); *People v. Millican*, 172 Colo. 561, 474 P.2d 789 (1970); *People v. Erb*, 173 Colo. 15, 475 P.2d 330 (1970).

**This section preempts ordinance.** In prosecution for violation of traffic ordinance, where this section makes complete provision for the offenses involved, leaving nothing to supplement, the ordinance must fall, the state having preempted the field. *City of Aurora v. Mitchell*, 144 Colo. 526, 357 P.2d 923 (1960).

**One who commits reckless driving necessarily has been guilty of careless driving**, for the greater degree of negligence includes the lesser. *People v. Chapman*, 192 Colo. 322, 557 P.2d 1211 (1977).

Both reckless and careless driving offenses consist of two elements: (1) The act of driving a motor vehicle; and (2) the state of mind in "disregard" of or "without due regard" for safety. *People v. Chapman*, 192 Colo. 322, 557 P.2d 1211 (1977).

In both reckless and careless driving statutes, the essence of the mental element is disregard of safety in driving. In both it is the absence of care which renders the

driving criminal. *People v. Chapman*, 192 Colo. 322, 557 P.2d 1211 (1977).

The two offenses differ only in that the degree of negligence required is far more culpable in reckless driving than in careless driving, although it falls short of intentional wrongdoing. *People v. Chapman*, 192 Colo. 322, 557 P.2d 1211 (1977).

The actions of a defendant convicted of criminally negligent homicide may be the same as a person convicted under this section. The enactment by the general assembly of a specific criminal statute does not preclude prosecution under a general criminal statute unless a legislative intent to limit prosecution to the specific statute is shown. Here no such intent is found. *People v. Tow*, 992 P.2d 665 (Colo. App. 1999).

**Reckless manslaughter pursuant to § 18-3-104 and careless driving resulting in death** are both lesser included offenses of reckless vehicular homicide pursuant to § 18-3-106. *People v. Kirby*, 2024 COA 20, 549 P.3d 1055.

**Careless driving is not a lesser included offense of vehicular assault (reckless).** *People v. Zwegardt*, 2012 COA 119, 298 P.3d 1018.

**A child who is in utero at the time of the careless driving offense** who is subsequently born alive and dies from injuries sustained due to the offense can be a victim by virtue of the plain meaning of the statute. *People v. Lage*, 232 P.3d 138 (Colo. App. 2009).

**Victim's truck accelerating and entering intersection was not an**

**independent intervening cause** when several different expert witnesses testified defendant's car was traveling between 22 and 52 miles per hour over the posted speed limit when it collided with victim's truck, and the jury made a specific finding that defendant was traveling at least 25 miles per hour over the speed limit. *People v. Claycomb*, 2025 COA 36, 569 P.3d 1233.

**District court erred by declining to merge defendant's two careless driving convictions** because the unit of prosecution under this section is the act of driving in the manner described and not the number of victims harmed or killed by the conduct. *People v. Tanner*, 2023 COA 97, 542 P.3d 263.

**The phrase "without due regard" is not so technical or mysterious** as to require providing a definition in the jury instructions. *People v. Claycomb*, 2025 COA 36, 569 P.3d 1233.

**A trial court must provide a definition of "proximate cause" if the jury asks for the definition during its deliberations.** The trial court committed harmless error when it referred the jury back to the jury instructions

that used "proximate cause" several times but did not define the term. *People v. Claycomb*, 2025 COA 36, 569 P.3d 1233.

**Relationship of this section to probationary license regulation.** Since the language of a department of revenue regulation concerning careless driving as an aggravating factor in the denial of a probationary license tracks the language of this section, a conviction under this section necessarily qualifies as an aggravating factor under the regulation. *Edwards v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 42 Colo. App. 52, 592 P.2d 1345 (1978).

**Violation of this section held to be negligence per se.** *Pyles-Knutzen v. Bd. of County Comm'rs*, 781 P.2d 164 (Colo. App. 1989).

**Applied** in *People v. Dickinson*, 197 Colo. 338, 592 P.2d 807 (1979); *State Motor Veh. Div. v. Dayhoff*, 199 Colo. 363, 609 P.2d 119 (1980); *Heninger v. Charnes*, 200 Colo. 194, 613 P.2d 884 (1980); *Smith v. Charnes*, 649 P.2d 1089 (Colo. 1982); *Sonoda v. State*, 664 P.2d 259 (Colo. App. 1983).

#### **42-4-1402.5. Vulnerable road user - prohibition - violations and penalties - definition.**

(1) **Definition.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "vulnerable road user" means:

- (a) A pedestrian;
- (b) A person engaged in work upon a roadway or upon utility facilities along a roadway;
- (c) A person providing emergency services within a right-of-way;

(d) A peace officer who is outside a motor vehicle and performing the peace officer's duties in a right-of-way;

(e) A person riding or leading an animal; or

(f) A person lawfully using any of the following on a public right-of-way, crosswalk, or shoulder of the roadway:

(I) A bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, tricycle, or other pedal-powered vehicle;

(II) A farm tractor or similar vehicle designed primarily for farm use;

(III) A skateboard;

(IV) Roller skates;

(V) In-line skates;

(VI) A scooter;

(VII) A moped;

(VIII) A motorcycle;

(IX) An off-highway vehicle;

(X) An animal-drawn, wheeled vehicle;

(XI) Farm equipment;

(XII) A sled;

(XIII) An electric personal assistive mobility device;

(XIV) A wheelchair;

(XV) A baby stroller;

(XVI) A nonmotorized pull wagon; or

(XVII) An autocycle.

(2) **Prohibition.** A person who drives a motor vehicle in violation of section 42-4-1402 and whose actions are the proximate cause of serious bodily injury, as defined in section 42-4-1601 (4)(b), to a vulnerable road user commits infliction of serious bodily injury to a vulnerable road user.

(3) **Violations and penalties.**

(a) Infliction of serious bodily injury to a vulnerable road user is a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(b) In addition to the penalties imposed in subsections (3)(a) and (3)(c) of this section, the court may order the violator to:

- (I) Attend a driver improvement course in accordance with section 42-4-1717; and
- (II) Perform useful public service for a number of hours, which must not exceed three hundred twenty hours, to be determined by the court in accordance with section 18-1.3-507.

(c) In addition to the penalties imposed in subsections (3)(a) and (3)(b) of this section, a person who is convicted of violating this section is subject to:

- (I) License suspension in accordance with section 42-2-127; and
- (II) An order of restitution under part 6 of article 1.3 of title 18.

**Source: L. 2019:** Entire section added, (SB 19-175), ch. 331, p. 3070, § 2, effective May 29. **L. 2022:** (1)(f)(XV) and (1)(f)(XVI) amended and (1)(f)(XVII) added, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2587, § 24, effective January 1, 2023. **L. 2026:** (3)(a) amended, (HB 26-1297), ch. 123, p. 536, § 10, effective August 12.

#### **42-4-1403. Following fire apparatus prohibited.**

The driver of any vehicle other than one on official business shall not follow any fire apparatus traveling in response to a fire alarm closer than five hundred feet or drive into or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2392, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1205 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1403 was relocated to § 42-4-1603.

#### **42-4-1404. Crossing fire hose.**

No vehicle shall be driven over any unprotected hose of a fire department used at any fire, alarm of fire, or practice runs or laid down on any street, private driveway, or highway without the consent of the fire department official in command. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.



**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2392, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1206 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1404 was relocated to § 42-4-1604.

## ANNOTATION

**Applied** in *People v. Helm*, 633 P.2d 1071 (Colo. 1981).

### **42-4-1405. Riding in trailers.**

No person shall occupy a trailer while it is being moved upon a public highway. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2393, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-113 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1405 was relocated to § 42-4-1605.

### **42-4-1406. Foreign matter on highway prohibited - penalty - definitions.**

(1) (a) No person shall throw or deposit upon or along any highway any glass bottle, glass, stones, nails, tacks, wire, cans, container of human waste, or other substance likely to injure any person, animal, or vehicle upon or along such highway.

(b) No person shall throw, drop, or otherwise expel a lighted cigarette, cigar, match, or other burning material from a motor vehicle upon any highway.

(2) Any person who drops, or permits to be dropped or thrown, upon any highway or structure any destructive or injurious material or lighted or burning substance shall immediately remove the same or cause it to be removed.

(3) Any person removing a wrecked or damaged vehicle from a highway shall remove any glass or other injurious substance dropped upon the highway from such vehicle.

(4) No person shall excavate a ditch or other aqueduct, or construct any flume or pipeline or any steam, electric, or other railway, or construct any approach to a public highway without written consent of the authority responsible for the maintenance of that highway.

(5) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (5), any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(b) (I) Any person who violates subsection (1)(b) of this section commits a petty offense and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-503.

(II) Any person who violates paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section by throwing or depositing a container of human waste upon or along any highway shall be punished by a fine of five hundred dollars in lieu of the penalty and surcharge prescribed in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(N).

(6) As used in this section:

(a) "Container" includes, but is not limited to, a bottle, a can, a box, or a diaper.

(b) "Human waste" means urine or feces produced by a human.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2393, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2002, 3rd Ex. Sess.:** Entire section amended, p. 52, § 1, effective July 18. **L. 2005:** (1)(a) and (5)(b) amended and (6) added, p. 137, § 1, effective April 5. **L. 2006:** (5)(b)(I) amended, p. 1512, § 74, effective June 1. **L. 2021:** (5)(b)(I) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3308, § 734, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1207 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1406 was relocated to § 42-4-1606.

**42-4-1407. Spilling loads on highways prohibited - prevention of spilling of aggregate, trash, or recyclables.**

(1) No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any highway unless such vehicle is constructed or loaded or the load thereof securely covered to prevent any of its load from blowing, dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping therefrom; except that material may be dropped for the purpose of securing traction or water or other substance may be sprinkled on a roadway in cleaning or maintaining such roadway.

(2) (Deleted by amendment, L. 99, p. 295, § 1, effective July 1, 1999.)

(2.4) (a) A vehicle shall not be driven or moved on a highway if the vehicle is transporting trash or recyclables unless at least one of the following conditions is met:

(I) The load is covered by a tarp or other cover in a manner that prevents the load from blowing, dropping, shifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping from the vehicle;

(II) The vehicle utilizes other technology that prevents the load from blowing, dropping, shifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping from the vehicle;

(III) The load is required to be secured under and complies with 49 CFR parts 392 and 393; or

(IV) The vehicle is loaded in such a manner or the load itself has physical characteristics such that the contents will not escape from the vehicle. Such a load may include, but is not limited to, heavy scrap metal or hydraulically compressed scrap recyclables.

(b) Paragraph (a) of this subsection (2.4) shall not apply to a motor vehicle in the process of collecting trash or recyclables within a one-mile radius of the motor vehicle's last collection point.

(2.5) (a) No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any highway for a distance of more than two miles if the vehicle is transporting aggregate material with a diameter of one inch or less unless:

(I) The load is covered by a tarp or other cover in a manner that prevents the aggregate material from blowing, dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping from the vehicle; or

(II) The vehicle utilizes other technology that prevents the aggregate material from blowing, dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping from the vehicle.

(b) Nothing in this subsection (2.5) shall apply to a vehicle:

(I) Operating entirely within a marked construction zone;

(II) Involved in maintenance of public roads during snow or ice removal operations; or

(III) Involved in emergency operations when requested by a law enforcement agency or an emergency response authority designated in or pursuant to section 29-22-102, C.R.S.

(2.7) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Aggregate material" means any rock, clay, silts, gravel, limestone, dimension stone, marble, and shale; except that "aggregate material" does not include hot asphalt, including asphalt patching material, wet concrete, or other materials not susceptible to blowing.

(b) "Recyclables" means material or objects that can be reused, reprocessed, remanufactured, reclaimed, or recycled.

(c) "Trash" means material or objects that have been or are in the process of being discarded or transported.

(3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) or (c) of this subsection (3), any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(b) Any person who violates any provision of this section while driving or moving a car or pickup truck without causing bodily injury to another person commits a class A traffic infraction.

(c) Any person who violates any provision of this section while driving or moving a car or pickup truck and thereby proximately causes bodily injury to another person commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2393, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** Entire section amended, p. 1101, § 22, effective June 1; entire section amended, p. 4252, § 2, effective June 4. **L. 99:** Entire section amended, p. 295, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (3) amended, p. 241, § 1, effective July 1; (2.4) added and (2.7) amended, p. 412, § 1, effective August 4. **L. 2005:** (2.4)(a) amended, p. 104, § 1, effective April 5.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-1208 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1407 was relocated to § 42-4-1607.

(2) Subsection (2.5) was originally numbered as (2) in House Bill 98-1001, but has been renumbered on revision for ease of location.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 1998 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 312, Session Laws of Colorado 1998.

#### **42-4-1407.5. Splash guards - when required - definition.**

(1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Splash guards" means mud flaps, rubber, plastic or fabric aprons, or other devices directly behind the rear-most wheels, designed to minimize the spray of water and other substances to the rear.

(b) "Splash guards" must, at a minimum, be wide enough to cover the full tread of the tire or tires being protected, hang perpendicular from the vehicle not more than ten inches above the

surface of the street or highway when the vehicle is empty, and generally maintain their perpendicular relationship under normal driving conditions.

(2) Except as otherwise permitted in this section, no vehicle or motor vehicle shall be driven or moved on any street or highway unless the vehicle or motor vehicle is equipped with splash guards. However, vehicles and motor vehicles with splash guards that violate this section shall be allowed to remain in service for the time necessary to continue to a place where the deficient splash guards will be replaced. Such replacement shall occur at the first reasonable opportunity.

(3) This section does not apply to:

- (a) Passenger-carrying motor vehicles registered pursuant to section 42-3-306 (2);
  - (b) Trucks and truck tractors registered pursuant to section 42-3-306 (4) or (5) having an empty weight of ten thousand pounds or less;
  - (c) Trailers equipped with fenders or utility pole trailers;
  - (d) Vehicles while involved in chip and seal or paving operations or road widening equipment;
  - (e) Truck tractors or converter dollies when used in combination with other vehicles;
  - (f) Vehicles drawn by animals; or
  - (g) Bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, or electric scooters.
- (4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source:** L. 99: Entire section added, p. 296, § 2, effective July 1. L. 2006: (3)(a) and (3)(b) amended, p. 1512, § 75, effective June 1. L. 2009: (2) amended, (SB 09-014), ch. 136, p. 592, § 1, effective August 5; (3)(g) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1280, § 59, effective October 1. L. 2010: (3)(a) and (3)(b) amended, (SB 10-212), ch. 412, p. 2039, § 19, effective July 1. L. 2019: (3)(g) amended, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2562, § 13, effective May 23.

#### **42-4-1408. Operation of motor vehicles on property under control of or owned by parks and recreation districts.**

(1) Any metropolitan recreation district, any park and recreation district organized pursuant to article 1 of title 32, C.R.S., or any recreation district organized pursuant to the provisions of part 7 of article 20 of title 30, C.R.S., referred to in this section as a "district", shall have the authority to designate areas on property owned or controlled by the district in which the

operation of motor vehicles shall be prohibited. Areas in which it shall be prohibited to operate motor vehicles shall be clearly posted by a district.

(2) It is unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in an area owned or under the control of a district if the district has declared the operation of motor vehicles to be prohibited in such area, as provided in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2393, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1212 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1408 was relocated to § 42-4-1608.

**42-4-1409. Compulsory insurance - penalty - legislative intent.**

(1) No owner of a motor vehicle or low-power scooter required to be registered in this state shall operate the vehicle or permit it to be operated on the public highways of this state when the owner has failed to have a complying policy or certificate of self-insurance in full force and effect as required by law.

(2) No person shall operate a motor vehicle or low-power scooter on the public highways of this state without a complying policy or certificate of self-insurance in full force and effect as required by law.

(3) (a) When a crash occurs, or when requested to do so following any lawful traffic contact or during any traffic investigation by a peace officer, an owner or operator of a motor vehicle or low-power scooter shall present to the requesting officer immediate evidence of a complying policy or certificate of self-insurance in full force and effect as required by law.

(b) As used in this section, "evidence of a complying policy or certificate of self-insurance in full force and effect" includes the presentation of such a policy or certificate upon a cell phone or other electronic device.

(4) (a) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section commits a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense. The minimum fine imposed by section 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II)(A) shall be mandatory, and the defendant shall be punished by a minimum mandatory fine of not less than five hundred dollars. The court may suspend up to one half of the fine upon a showing that appropriate insurance as required pursuant to section 10-4-619 or 10-4-624,

C.R.S., has been obtained. Nothing in this paragraph (a) shall be construed to prevent the court from imposing a fine greater than the minimum mandatory fine.

(b) Upon a second or subsequent conviction under this section within a period of five years following a prior conviction under this section, in addition to any imprisonment imposed pursuant to section 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II)(A), the defendant shall be punished by a minimum mandatory fine of not less than one thousand dollars, and the court shall not suspend such minimum fine. The court or the court collections' investigator may establish a payment schedule for a person convicted of the provisions of subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section, and the provisions of section 16-11-101.6, C.R.S., shall apply. The court may suspend up to one half of the fine upon a showing that appropriate insurance as required pursuant to section 10-4-619 or 10-4-624, C.R.S., has been obtained.

(c) In addition to the penalties prescribed in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection (4), any person convicted pursuant to this section may, at the discretion of the court, be sentenced to perform not less than forty hours of community service, subject to the provisions of section 18-1.3-507, C.R.S.

(5) Testimony of the failure of any owner or operator of a motor vehicle or low-power scooter to present immediate evidence of a complying policy or certificate of self-insurance in full force and effect as required by law, when requested to do so by a peace officer, shall constitute prima facie evidence, at a trial concerning a violation charged under subsection (1) or (2) of this section, that such owner or operator of a motor vehicle violated subsection (1) or (2) of this section.

(6) A person charged with violating subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section shall not be convicted if the person produces in court a bona fide complying policy or certificate of self-insurance that was in full force and effect as required by law at the time of the alleged violation. The court clerk's office may dismiss the charge if it verifies that the person had a valid policy in effect at the time of the alleged violation using the uninsured motorist identification database created in section 42-7-602.

(7) Repealed.

(8) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2003, p. 2648, § 7, effective July 1, 2003.)

(8.5) If an operator of a motor vehicle or low-power scooter uses a cell phone or other electronic device to present evidence of a complying policy or certificate of self-insurance in full force and effect, as described in paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of this section:

(a) The law enforcement officer to whom the operator presents the device shall not explore the contents of the cell phone or other electronic device other than to examine the operator's policy or certificate of self-insurance; and

(b) The law enforcement officer to whom the operator presents the device and any law enforcement agency that employs the officer are immune from any civil damages resulting from the officer dropping or otherwise unintentionally damaging the cell phone or other electronic device.

(9) It is the intent of the general assembly that the money collected as fines imposed pursuant to subsections (4)(a) and (4)(b) of this section are to be used for the supervision of the public highways. The general assembly determines that law enforcement agencies that patrol and maintain the public safety on public highways are supervising the public highways. The general assembly further determines that an authorized agent is supervising the public highways through his or her enforcement of the requirements for demonstration of proof of motor vehicle insurance pursuant to section 42-3-105 (1)(d). Therefore, of the money collected from fines pursuant to subsections (4)(a) and (4)(b) of this section, fifty percent shall be transferred to the law enforcement agency that issued the ticket for a violation of this section. The remaining fifty percent of the money collected from fines for violations of subsection (4)(a) or (4)(b) of this section shall be transmitted to the authorized agent for the county in which the violation occurred.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2394, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (4)(c) amended, p. 315, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 97:** (8) added by revision, p. 1452, § 8. **L. 2001:** (8) amended, p. 525, § 12, effective May 22. **L. 2002:** (4)(c) amended, p. 1562, § 369, effective October 1. **L. 2003:** (4)(a) and (4)(b) amended, p. 1885, § 2, effective May 22; (1), (2), (3), (4)(a), (4)(b), (5), and (6) amended, p. 1575, § 16, effective July 1; (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (8) amended, p. 2648, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (4)(a) and (4)(b) amended and (9) added, p. 793, § 3, effective January 1, 2005. **L. 2005:** (7) amended, p. 1177, § 18, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (9) amended, p. 1512, § 76, effective June 1. **L. 2009:** (1), (2), (3), (5), and (7) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1280, § 60, effective July 1, 2010. **L. 2013:** (3) amended and (8.5) added, (HB 13-1159), ch. 101, p. 321, § 1, effective August 7; (6) amended, (HB 13-1022), ch. 139, p. 453, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2014:** (7) repealed, (SB 14-131), ch. 388, p. 1943, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** (9) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 372, § 22, effective August 9. **L. 2026:** (3)(a) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 481, § 57, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-1213 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1409 was relocated to § 42-4-1609.

(2) Amendments to subsections (1), (2), (3), (5), and (6) by House Bill 03-1188 and Senate Bill 03-239 were harmonized.



(3) Amendments to subsections (4)(a) and (4)(b) by House Bill 03-1188, House Bill 03-1223, and Senate Bill 03-239 were harmonized.

(4) Section 137 of Senate Bill 09-292 changed the effective date of subsections (1), (2), (3), (5), and (7) from October 1, 2009, to July 1, 2010.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsection (4)(c), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

### ANNOTATION

**While the legislature has clearly not barred the holder of legal title from maintaining liability coverage,** it has nevertheless compelled a conditional vendee with an immediate right of possession to provide the statutorily required coverage and subjected the vendee to personal liability and criminal sanctions for failing to do so. *Sachtjen v. Am. Family Mut. Ins. Co.*, 49 P.3d 1146 (Colo. 2002).

**It is not the prosecution's burden to prove,** as an element of the offense, that an officer requested proof of insurance before an offender may be convicted under subsection (2). Rather, the prosecution's burden is to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the offender was driving and that he or she had no insurance. *People v. Martinez*, 179 P.3d 23 (Colo. App. 2007).

Because subsection (6) enacts a safeguard to protect drivers who have insurance but who are unable to produce evidence of it when stopped by an officer, and since the defendant never asserted or suggested

during trial that he had insurance, the evidence was sufficient to support the conclusion that defendant was guilty under subsection (2). *People v. Martinez*, 179 P.3d 23 (Colo. App. 2007).

**Even though peace officer did not explicitly ask for proof of insurance, there was prima facie evidence of lack of insurance** when defendant did not produce proof of insurance and such documentation was not found during a search of the vehicle. *People v. Espinoza*, 195 P.3d 1122 (Colo. App. 2008).

**Under this section, the only circumstance in which a court may suspend half of the mandatory minimum fine** is when a defendant shows that he or she has obtained qualifying insurance. Nothing in the plain language of the statute provides an exception where a defendant represents that he or she has relinquished ownership of his or her car or is currently not driving. *People v. Hard*, 2014 COA 132, 342 P.3d 572.

**42-4-1410. Proof of financial responsibility required - suspension of license.**

(1) Any person convicted of violating section 42-4-1409 (1) shall file and maintain proof of financial responsibility for the future as prescribed in sections 42-7-408 to 42-7-412. Said proof of insurance shall be maintained for a period of three years from the date of conviction.

(2) The clerk of a court or the judge of a court which has no clerk shall forward to the executive director of the department of revenue a certified record of any conviction under section 42-4-1409 (1). Upon receipt of any such certified record, the director shall give written notice to the person convicted that such person shall be required to provide proof of financial responsibility for the future for a period of three years from the date of conviction and advising such person of the manner in which proof is to be provided. If no proof as required is provided to the director within a period of twenty days from the time notice is given or if at any time when proof is required to be maintained it is not so maintained or becomes invalid, the director shall suspend the driver's license of the person from whom proof is required and shall not reinstate the license of such person until proof of financial responsibility is provided.

(3) Repealed.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2395, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 96: Entire section amended, p. 1207, § 2, effective July 1. L. 97: (3) added by revision, p. 1452, § 8. L. 2001: (3) amended, p. 525, § 13, effective May 22. L. 2003: (3) amended, p. 2649, § 8, effective July 1. L. 2006: (3) repealed, p. 1011, § 4, effective July 1.

**ANNOTATION**

**Law reviews.** For article, "There Must Be Fifty Ways to Lose Your (Driver's) License", see 22 Colo. Law. 2385 (1993).

**42-4-1410.5. Providing false evidence of proof of motor vehicle insurance - penalty.**

(1) It is unlawful for any person to offer, use, or attempt to offer or use any means, manner, type of paper, document, card, digital image, or any other proof of motor vehicle liability insurance required by state law to a law enforcement officer, judge, magistrate, prosecutor, or employee of a court clerk's office with the intent to mislead that official regarding the status of any motor vehicle liability insurance policy in the course of an official investigation, or for purposes of dismissing any charge under section 42-4-1409 or reducing any penalty imposed under section 42-4-1409, where such means, manner, type, or kind of proof of insurance offered

or used, or that is attempted to be offered or used, is known or should be known by the person to be false, fraudulent, or incorrect in any material manner or way, or which is known or should be known by the person to be altered, forged, defaced, or changed in any material respect, unless such changes are required or authorized by law.

(2) Violation of this section is a class B traffic infraction, punishable by a fine of up to five hundred dollars.

(3) A person who is convicted of, who admits liability for, or against whom a judgment is entered for a violation of this section shall be deemed, but only for purposes of section 18-1-408, C.R.S., to have been convicted of a criminal offense.

**Source: L. 2013:** Entire section added, (HB 13-1022), ch. 139, p. 453, § 2, effective August 7.

#### **42-4-1411. Use of earphones while driving.**

(1) (a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle while wearing earphones.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (1), "earphones" includes any headset, radio, tape player, or other similar device which provides the listener with radio programs, music, or other recorded information through a device attached to the head and which covers all of or a portion of the ears. "Earphones" does not include speakers or other listening devices that are built into protective headgear or a device or portion of a device that only covers all or a portion of one ear and that is connected to a wireless, handheld telephone.

(2) Any person who violates this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(3) Nothing in this section authorizes the holder of a commercial driver's license issued pursuant to part 4 of article 2 of this title to act in violation of any federal law or regulation relating to driving a commercial vehicle.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2395, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2015:** (1)(b) amended and (3) added, (HB 15-1207), ch. 47, p. 115, § 1, effective March 26.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-237 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1411 was relocated to § 42-4-1611.

**42-4-1412. Operation of bicycles, electric scooters, and other human-powered vehicles.**

(1) A person riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter has all of the rights and duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle under this article 4, except as to special regulations in this article 4, except as provided in section 42-4-1412.5, and except as to those provisions that by their nature can have no application. Bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter riders shall comply with the rules set forth in this section and section 42-4-221, and, when using streets and highways within incorporated cities and towns, are subject to local ordinances regulating the operation of bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, and electric scooters as provided in section 42-4-111. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in this article 4, when a county or municipality has adopted an ordinance or resolution that regulates the operation of bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, and electric scooters at controlled intersections, as defined in section 42-4-1412.5 (4)(a), and that does not conflict with section 42-4-1412.5, riders are subject to the local ordinance or resolution.

(2) It is the intent of the general assembly that nothing contained in House Bill No. 1246, enacted at the second regular session of the fifty-sixth general assembly, shall in any way be construed to modify or increase the duty of the department of transportation or any political subdivision to sign or maintain highways or sidewalks or to affect or increase the liability of the state of Colorado or any political subdivision under the "Colorado Governmental Immunity Act", article 10 of title 24, C.R.S.

(3) A bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter shall not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed or equipped.

(4) A person riding upon a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter shall not attach the vehicle or the rider to any motor vehicle upon a roadway.

(5) (a) Any person operating a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter upon a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic shall ride in the right-hand lane, subject to the following conditions:

(I) If the right-hand lane then available for traffic is wide enough to be safely shared with overtaking vehicles, a bicyclist shall ride far enough to the right as judged safe by the bicyclist to facilitate the movement of such overtaking vehicles unless other conditions make it unsafe to do so.

(II) A bicyclist may use a lane other than the right-hand lane when:

(A) Preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private roadway or driveway;

(B) Overtaking a slower vehicle; or

(C) Taking reasonably necessary precautions to avoid hazards or road conditions.

(III) Upon approaching an intersection where right turns are permitted and there is a dedicated right-turn lane, a bicyclist may ride on the left-hand portion of the dedicated right-turn lane even if the bicyclist does not intend to turn right.

(b) A bicyclist shall not be expected or required to:

(I) Ride over or through hazards at the edge of a roadway, including but not limited to fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or narrow lanes; or

(II) Ride without a reasonable safety margin on the right-hand side of the roadway.

(c) A person operating a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter upon a one-way roadway with two or more marked traffic lanes may ride as near to the left-hand curb or edge of the roadway as judged safe by the rider, subject to the following conditions:

(I) If the left-hand lane then available for traffic is wide enough to be safely shared with overtaking vehicles, a bicyclist shall ride far enough to the left as judged safe by the bicyclist to facilitate the movement of such overtaking vehicles unless other conditions make it unsafe to do so.

(II) A bicyclist shall not be expected or required to:

(A) Ride over or through hazards at the edge of a roadway, including but not limited to fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or narrow lanes; or

(B) Ride without a reasonable safety margin on the left-hand side of the roadway.

(6) (a) Persons riding bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, or electric scooters upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles and electric scooters.

(b) Persons riding bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, or electric scooters two abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane.

(7) A person operating a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter shall keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times.

(8) (a) A person riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter intending to turn left shall follow a course described in sections 42-4-901 (1), 42-4-903, and 42-4-1007 or may make a left turn in the manner prescribed in subsection (8)(b) of this section.

(b) A person riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter intending to turn left shall approach the turn as closely as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the

roadway. After proceeding across the intersecting roadway to the far corner of the curb or intersection of the roadway edges, the rider shall stop, as much as practicable, out of the way of traffic. After stopping, the rider shall yield to any traffic proceeding in either direction along the roadway that the rider had been using. After yielding and complying with any official traffic control device or police officer regulating traffic on the highway along which the rider intends to proceed, the rider may proceed in the new direction.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection (8), the transportation commission and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may cause official traffic control devices to be placed on roadways and thereby require and direct that a specific course be traveled.

(9) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (9), every person riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter shall signal the intention to turn or stop in accordance with section 42-4-903; except that a person riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter may signal a right turn with the right arm extended horizontally.

(b) A signal of intention to turn right or left when required shall be given continuously during not less than the last one hundred feet traveled by the bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter before turning and shall be given while the bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter is stopped waiting to turn. A signal by hand and arm need not be given continuously if the hand is needed in the control or operation of the bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter.

(10) (a) A person riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter upon and along a sidewalk or pathway or across a roadway upon and along a crosswalk shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing the pedestrian. A person riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter in a crosswalk shall do so in a manner that is safe for pedestrians.

(b) A person shall not ride a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter upon and along a sidewalk or pathway or across a roadway upon and along a crosswalk where the use of bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, or electric scooters is prohibited by official traffic control devices or local ordinances. A person riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter shall dismount before entering any crosswalk where required by official traffic control devices or local ordinances.

(c) A person riding or walking a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter upon and along a sidewalk or pathway or across a roadway upon and along a crosswalk has all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances, including the rights and duties granted and required by section 42-4-802.

(d) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2005, p. 1353, § 1, effective July 1, 2005.)

(11) (a) A person may park a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter on a sidewalk unless prohibited or restricted by an official traffic control device or local ordinance.

(b) A bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter parked on a sidewalk must not impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrian or other traffic.

(c) A bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter may be parked on the road at any angle to the curb or edge of the road at any location where parking is allowed.

(d) A bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter may be parked on the road abreast of one or more bicycles or electric scooters near the side of the road or any location where parking is allowed in such a manner as does not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic.

(e) In all other respects, bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, or electric scooters parked anywhere on a highway must conform to the provisions of part 12 of this article 4 regulating the parking of vehicles.

(12) (a) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense; except that section 42-2-127 shall not apply.

(b) If any person riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter violates any provision of this article 4 other than this section that is applicable to such a vehicle and for which a penalty is specified, the person is subject to the same specified penalty as any other vehicle; except that section 42-2-127 does not apply.

(13) Upon request, the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction shall complete a report concerning an injury or death incident that involves a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter on the roadways of the state, even if the crash does not involve a motor vehicle.

(14) (a) (I) A person may ride a class 1 or class 2 electrical assisted bicycle on a bike or pedestrian path where bicycles are authorized to travel.

(II) A local authority may prohibit the operation of a class 1 or class 2 electrical assisted bicycle on a bike or pedestrian path under its jurisdiction.

(b) A person shall not ride a class 3 electrical assisted bicycle on a bike or pedestrian path unless:

(I) The path is within a street or highway; or

(II) The local authority permits the operation of a class 3 electrical assisted bicycle on a path under its jurisdiction.

(15) (a) A person under sixteen years of age shall not ride a class 3 electrical assisted bicycle upon any street, highway, or bike or pedestrian path; except that a person under sixteen years of

age may ride as a passenger on a class 3 electrical assisted bicycle that is designed to accommodate passengers.

(b) A person shall not operate or ride as a passenger on a class 3 electrical assisted bicycle unless:

(I) Each person under eighteen years of age is wearing a protective helmet of a type and design manufactured for use by operators of bicycles;

(II) The protective helmet conforms to the design and specifications set forth by the United States consumer product safety commission or the American Society for Testing and Materials; and

(III) The protective helmet is secured properly on the person's head with a chin strap while the class 3 electrical assisted bicycle is in motion.

(c) A violation of subsection (15)(b) of this section does not constitute negligence or negligence per se in the context of any civil personal injury claim or lawsuit seeking damages.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2395, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2005:** (6)(a)(I), (9)(a), and (10) amended and (13) added, p. 1353, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (5) and (6) R&RE, (SB 09-148), ch. 239, p. 1089, § 6, effective August 5; (1), (3), (4), IP(5), (5)(a), IP(6)(a), (6)(a)(II), (7), (8)(a), (8)(b), (9), (10)(a), (10)(b), (10)(c), (11), (12)(b), and (13) amended and (14) added, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1281, §§ 62, 61, effective October 1; IP(5)(a), IP(5)(c), and (6) amended, (SB 09-292), ch. 369, p. 1987, § 139, effective October 1. **L. 2017:** (14) amended and (15) added, (HB 17-1151), ch. 98, p. 297, § 5, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** (1) amended, (SB 18-144), ch. 193, p. 1280, § 2, effective May 3. **L. 2019:** (1), (3), (4), IP(5)(a), IP(5)(c), (6), (7), (8)(a), (8)(b), (9), (10)(a), (10)(b), (10)(c), (11), (12)(b), and (13) amended, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2562, § 14, effective May 23. **L. 2022:** (1) amended, (HB 22-1028), ch. 96, p. 456, § 1, effective April 13. **L. 2026:** (13) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 482, § 58, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-106.5 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Subsection (2) refers to House Bill No. 1246, enacted at the second regular session of the fifty-sixth general assembly. That bill can be found in chapter 299, Session Laws of Colorado 1988.

(3) Amendments to the introductory portion to subsection (5), subsection (5)(a), the introductory portion to subsection (6), and subsection (6)(a)(II) by House Bill 09-1026 were superseded by Senate Bill 09-148.



**42-4-1412.5. Statewide regulation of certain persons approaching intersections who are not operating motor vehicles - status of existing local ordinance or resolution - legislative declaration - definitions.**

(1) The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) The regulation of persons approaching controlled intersections is a matter of mixed state and local concern; and

(b) It is necessary, appropriate, and in the best interest of the state to reduce injuries, fatalities, and property damage resulting from collisions at controlled intersections between motor vehicles and persons who are not operating motor vehicles by allowing most persons approaching controlled intersections who are fifteen years of age or older or who are under fifteen years of age and accompanied by an adult and who are not operating motor vehicles to approach controlled intersections in the manner set forth in this section.

(2) (a) (I) A pedestrian or a person who is fifteen years of age or older or who is under fifteen years of age and accompanied by an adult and who is operating a low-speed conveyance and approaching a controlled intersection with a stop sign shall slow down and, if required for safety, stop before entering the intersection. If a stop is not required for safety, the pedestrian or person operating a low-speed conveyance shall slow to a reasonable speed and yield the right-of-way to any traffic or pedestrian in or approaching the intersection. After the pedestrian or person operating a low-speed conveyance has slowed to a reasonable speed and yielded the right-of-way if required, the pedestrian or person operating a low-speed conveyance may cautiously make a turn or proceed through the intersection without stopping.

(II) For purposes of this subsection (2)(a), a reasonable speed is ten miles per hour or less. A municipality, by ordinance, or a county, by resolution, may raise the maximum reasonable speed to twenty miles per hour if the municipality or county also posts signs at the intersection stating that higher speed limitation.

(b) A person who is fifteen years of age or older or who is under fifteen years of age and is accompanied by an adult and who is operating a low-speed conveyance and approaching a controlled intersection with an illuminated red traffic control signal shall stop before entering the intersection and shall yield to all other traffic and pedestrians. Once the person operating a low-speed conveyance has yielded, the person operating a low-speed conveyance may cautiously proceed in the same direction through the intersection or make a right-hand turn. When a red traffic control signal is illuminated, a person operating a low-speed conveyance shall not proceed through the intersection or turn right if an oncoming vehicle is turning or preparing to turn left in front of the person operating a low-speed conveyance.

(c) A person who is fifteen years of age or older or who is under fifteen years of age and is accompanied by an adult and who is operating a low-speed conveyance approaching an intersection of a roadway with an illuminated red traffic control signal may make a left-hand turn only if turning onto a one-way street and only after stopping and yielding to other traffic and pedestrians. However, a person operating a low-speed conveyance shall not turn left if an oncoming vehicle is turning or preparing to turn right.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection (2), if a county or municipality has placed a traffic sign or a traffic control signal at a controlled intersection and the traffic sign or traffic control signal provides instructions only to one or more specified types of low-speed conveyances, the operator of a low-speed conveyance to which the traffic sign or traffic control signal is directed shall obey the instructions provided by the sign or traffic control signal.

(e) If a county or municipality adopted a valid ordinance or resolution that regulates bicycles or electrical assisted bicycles substantially as described in subsections (2)(a.5), (2)(b.5), and (2)(c.5) of this section prior to May 3, 2018, that ordinance or resolution remains valid to the extent that it applies to the operation of bicycles or electrical assisted bicycles by persons who are under fifteen years of age and who are not accompanied by an adult.

(2.5) This section supersedes any conflicting ordinance that a municipality, county, or city and county adopts, but nothing in this section affects the validity of any ordinance or resolution adopted by a municipality, county, or city and county that regulates the conduct of persons approaching controlled intersections and does not conflict with this section.

(3) This section does not diminish or alter the authority of the department of transportation or the state transportation commission, as those entities are defined in section 43-1-102, regarding the department's or commission's authority to regulate motor vehicle traffic on any portion of the state highway system as defined in section 43-2-101 (1).

(3.5) This section does not create any right for a pedestrian or the operator of a low-speed conveyance to travel on any portion of a roadway where travel is otherwise prohibited by state law or by an ordinance or resolution adopted by a municipality, county, or city and county.

(4) As used in this section:

(a) "Controlled intersection" means an intersection of a roadway that is controlled by either a stop sign or a traffic control signal.

(b) "Low-speed conveyance" means:

(I) A vehicle, as defined in section 42-1-102 (112), that is not a motor vehicle, as defined in section 42-1-102 (58), a low-power scooter as defined in section 42-1-102 (48.5), or a low-speed electric vehicle, as defined in section 42-1-102 (48.6);

(II) A toy vehicle, as defined in section 42-1-102 (103.5), that is exclusively human-powered; or

(III) An electric personal assistance mobility device or EPAMD, as defined in section 42-1-102 (28.7), or a device that would be an electric personal assistance mobility device or EPAMD but for the fact that it has fewer or more than two wheels or has tandem wheels.

**Source:** **L. 2018:** Entire section added, (SB 18-144), ch. 193, p. 1279, § 1, effective May 3. **L. 2019:** (1)(a), (1)(c), and (1)(d) amended and (2.5) added, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2564, § 15, effective May 23. **L. 2022:** Entire section amended, (HB 22-1028), ch. 96, p. 456, § 2, effective April 13.

#### **42-4-1413. Eluding or attempting to elude a police officer.**

Any operator of a motor vehicle who the officer has reasonable grounds to believe has violated a state law or municipal ordinance, who has received a visual or audible signal such as a red light or a siren from a police officer driving a marked vehicle showing the same to be an official police, sheriff, or Colorado state patrol car directing the operator to bring the operator's vehicle to a stop, and who willfully increases his or her speed or extinguishes his or her lights in an attempt to elude such police officer, or willfully attempts in any other manner to elude the police officer, or does elude such police officer commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2398, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1512 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For provision that the operation of vehicles and the movement of pedestrians pursuant to this section apply upon streets and highways and elsewhere throughout the state, see § 42-4-103 (2)(b).

#### **ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1413 is similar to § 42-4-1512 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by

SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included in the annotations to this section.

**A defendant may be charged with multiple offenses of eluding a police officer arising from a single criminal episode** when he or she has performed discrete acts of eluding one or more police officers, each constituting a new volitional departure in defendant's course of conduct. *People v. McMinn*, 2013 COA 94, 412 P.3d 551.

**Under double jeopardy principles**, defendant's four convictions for vehicular eluding do not merge with one another, and defendant's four convictions for eluding a police officer do not merge with one another because each officer was eluded during separate times at separate locations. *People v. McMinn*, 2013 COA 94, 412 P.3d 551.

**A construction of this statute that permits a jury to consider factors such as the length of time or distance driven does not render it unconstitutionally vague.** *People v. Sims*, 2020 COA 78, 474 P.3d 189.

**Elude may simply be defined as "avoid", "escape", or "to not be caught".** *People v. Sims*, 2020 COA 78, 474 P.3d 189.

**Fleeing on foot is included in the phrase "any other manner" of eluding**, and the maxim ejusdem generis does not limit eluding to only those situations in which the operator uses the motor vehicle to elude the police officer, particularly given that § 18-9-116.5 criminalizes vehicular eluding while recklessly operating a motor vehicle. *People v. Espinoza*, 195 P.3d 1122 (Colo. App. 2008).

**Eluding a police officer does not require a trick or evasive action.** A court

may properly convict a defendant who drives a motor vehicle normally but refuses to stop. *People v. Sims*, 2020 COA 78, 474 P.3d 189.

Although defendant did not attempt to deceive the police officer, the jury could reasonably conclude that defendant was attempting to elude the officer. *People v. Sims*, 2020 COA 78, 474 P.3d 189.

**Section does not require immediate compliance.** The evidence was insufficient to sustain a conviction for violating this section when defendant did not accelerate and drove only two blocks before turning into a school parking lot, driving over a six-inch curb, stopping, and following the officer's directions to get out of the vehicle. *People v. Procasky*, 2019 COA 181, 467 P.3d 1252.

**Crime of eluding a police officer is not a lesser included offense of vehicular eluding**, as defined in § 18-9-116.5. *People v. Fury*, 872 P.2d 1280 (Colo. App. 1993); *People v. Pena*, 962 P.2d 285 (Colo. App. 1997); *People v. Esparza-Treto*, 282 P.3d 471 (Colo. App. 2011).

**If the basis of a conviction is eluding a police officer, this section merges with aggravated driving with a revoked license.** Eluding a police officer is a lesser included offense. *People v. Sims*, 2020 COA 78, 474 P.3d 189.

**Applied** in *Brutcher v. District Court*, 195 Colo. 579, 580 P.2d 396 (1978); *People v. Mascarenas*, 632 P.2d 1028 (Colo. 1981).

**42-4-1414. Use of dyed fuel on highways prohibited.**

(1) No person shall operate a motor vehicle upon any highway of the state using diesel fuel dyed to show that no taxes have been collected on the fuel.

(2) (a) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

(b) Any person who commits a second violation of subsection (1) of this section within a twelve-month period shall be subject to an increased penalty pursuant to section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(N).

(c) Any person who commits a third or subsequent violation of subsection (1) of this section within a twelve-month period shall be subject to an increased penalty pursuant to section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(N).

(3) Any person violating any provision of this section shall be subject to audit by the department regarding payment of motor fuel tax.

**Source: L. 99:** Entire section added, p. 665, § 2, effective May 18.

**42-4-1415. Radar jamming devices prohibited - penalty.**

(1) (a) No person shall use, possess, or sell a radar jamming device.

(b) No person shall operate a motor vehicle with a radar jamming device in the motor vehicle.

(2) (a) For purposes of this section, "radar jamming device" means any active or passive device, instrument, mechanism, or equipment that is designed or intended to interfere with, disrupt, or scramble the radar or laser that is used by law enforcement agencies and peace officers to measure the speed of motor vehicles. "Radar jamming device" includes but is not limited to devices commonly referred to as "jammers" or "scramblers".

(b) For purposes of this section, "radar jamming device" shall not include equipment that is legal under FCC regulations, such as a citizens' band radio, ham radio, or any other similar electronic equipment.

(3) Radar jamming devices are subject to seizure by any peace officer and may be confiscated and destroyed by order of the court in which a violation of this section is charged.

(4) A violation of subsection (1) of this section is a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense, punishable as provided in section 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II)(A).

(5) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to peace officers acting in their official capacity.

**Source: L. 2005:** Entire section added, p. 340, § 1, effective July 1.

**42-4-1416. Failure to present a valid transit pass or coupon - fare inspector authorization - definitions.**

(1) A person commits failure to present a valid transit pass or coupon if the person occupies, rides in, or uses a public transportation vehicle without paying the applicable fare or providing a valid transit pass or coupon.

(2) A person shall not occupy, ride in, or use a public transportation vehicle without possession of proof of prior fare payment. A person shall present proof of prior fare payment upon demand of a fare inspector appointed or employed pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, a peace officer, or any other employee or agent of a public transportation entity.

(3) A violation of this section is a class B traffic infraction and is punishable by a fine of seventy-five dollars. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, fines for a violation of subsection (1) of this section shall be retained by the clerk of the court in the city and county of Denver upon receipt by the clerk for a violation occurring within that jurisdiction, or transmitted to the state judicial department if the fine is receipted by the clerk of the court of any other county.

(4) (a) Public transportation entities may appoint or employ, with the power of removal, fare inspectors as necessary to enforce the provisions of this section. The employing public transportation entity shall determine the requirements for employment as a fare inspector.

(b) A fare inspector appointed or employed pursuant to this section is authorized to enforce the provisions of this section while acting within the scope of his or her authority and in the performance of his or her duties. A fare inspector is authorized to issue a citation to a person who commits failure to provide a valid transit pass or coupon in violation of this section. The fare inspector shall issue a citation on behalf of the county in which the person occupying, riding in, or using a public transportation vehicle without paying the applicable fare is located at the time the violation is discovered. The public transportation entity whose fare inspector issued the citation shall timely deliver the citation to the clerk of the county court for the jurisdiction in which the accused person is located at the time the violation is discovered.

- (5) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (a) "Proof of prior fare payment" means:
- (I) A transit pass valid for the day and time of use;
- (II) A receipt showing payment of the applicable fare for use of a public transportation vehicle during the day and time specified in the receipt; or
- (III) A prepaid ticket or series of tickets showing cancellation by a public transportation entity used within the day and time specified in the ticket.
- (b) "Public transportation entity" means a mass transit district, a mass transit authority, or any other public entity authorized under the laws of this state to provide mass transportation services to the general public.
- (c) "Public transportation vehicle" means a bus, a train, a light rail vehicle, or any other mode of transportation used by a public transportation entity to provide transportation services to the general public.
- (d) "Transit pass" means any pass, coupon, transfer, card, identification, token, ticket, or other document, whether issued by a public transportation entity or issued by an employer to employees pursuant to an agreement with a public transportation entity, used to obtain public transit.

**Source: L. 2012:** Entire section added, (SB 12-044), ch. 274, p. 1446, § 1, effective June 8.

## PART 15

### MOTORCYCLES

**Cross references:** For minimum safety standards for motorcycles, see § 42-4-232; for penalties for class A traffic infractions, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I).

#### **42-4-1501. Traffic laws apply to persons operating motorcycles and autocycles - special permits.**

(1) Every person operating a motorcycle or autocycle shall be granted all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle under this article 4, except as to special regulations in this article 4 and except as to those provisions of this article 4 that by their nature are not applicable.

(2) For the purposes of a prearranged, organized special event and upon a showing that safety will be reasonably maintained, the department of transportation may grant a special permit exempting the operation of a motorcycle or autocycle from any requirement of this part 15.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2398, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2022:** Entire section amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2587, § 25, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1301 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1501 was relocated to § 42-4-1701.

#### **42-4-1502. Motorcycles and autocycles - protective helmet.**

(1) A person driving a motorcycle or autocycle shall ride only upon the permanent and regular seat attached to the motorcycle or autocycle. The driver of a motorcycle or an autocycle shall not carry any other person, and another person shall not ride on a motorcycle or autocycle, unless the motorcycle or autocycle is designed to carry more than one person. If a motorcycle or autocycle is designed to carry more than one person, a passenger may ride upon the permanent seat if the permanent seat is designed for two persons or upon another seat firmly attached to the motorcycle or autocycle at the rear or side of the operator.

(2) A person shall ride upon a motorcycle only while sitting astride the seat, facing forward, with one leg on either side of the motorcycle.

(3) No person shall operate a motorcycle while carrying packages, bundles, or other articles which prevent the person from keeping both hands on the handlebars.

(4) A driver shall not carry any person, and another person shall not ride, in a position that will interfere with the operation or control of the motorcycle or autocycle or the view of the operator.

(4.5) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4.5)(c) of this section, a person shall not drive or ride as a passenger on a motorcycle, autocycle, or low-power scooter on a roadway unless:

(I) Each person under eighteen years of age is wearing a protective helmet of a type and design manufactured for use by operators of motorcycles;

(II) The protective helmet conforms to the design and specifications set forth in paragraph (b) of this subsection (4.5); and



(III) The protective helmet is secured properly on the person's head with a chin strap while the motorcycle, autocyce, or low-power scooter is in motion.

(b) A protective helmet required to be worn by this subsection (4.5) shall:

(I) Be designed to reduce injuries to the user resulting from head impacts and to protect the user by remaining on the user's head, deflecting blows, resisting penetration, and spreading the force of impact;

(II) Consist of lining, padding, and chin strap; and

(III) Meet or exceed the standards established in the United States department of transportation federal motor vehicle safety standard no. 218, 49 CFR 571.218, for motorcycle helmets.

(c) A person driving or riding an autocyce need not wear a helmet if the autocyce has:

(I) Three wheels;

(II) A maximum design speed of twenty-five miles per hour or less;

(III) A windshield; and

(IV) Seat belts.

(5) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2398, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2007:** (4.5) added, p. 1480, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** IP(4.5)(a) and (4.5)(a)(I) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1283, § 63, effective October 1. **L. 2015:** IP(4.5)(a) amended and (4.5)(c) added, (HB 15-1345), ch. 330, p. 1347, § 3, effective August 5. **L. 2022:** (1), (4), IP(4.5)(a), (4.5)(a)(III), and IP(4.5)(c) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2581, § 4, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1302 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1502 was relocated to § 42-4-1703.

**42-4-1503. Operating motorcycles and autocycles on roadways laned for traffic - report - repeal.**

(1) All motorcycles are entitled to full use of a traffic lane, and no motor vehicle shall be driven in such a manner as to deprive any motorcycle of the full use of a traffic lane. This subsection (1) shall not apply to motorcycles operated two abreast in a single lane.

(2) The driver of a motorcycle or autocycle shall not overtake or pass in the same lane occupied by the vehicle being overtaken.

(3) (a) A person shall not drive a motorcycle or autocycle between lanes of traffic or between adjacent lines or rows of vehicles.

(b) (I) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (3)(a) of this section, the driver of a two-wheeled motorcycle may overtake or pass another motor vehicle in the same lane as the motorcycle if:

(A) The overtaken or passed motor vehicle is stopped;

(B) The motor vehicles in the adjacent lanes, if the lanes are for the same direction of travel as the lane occupied by the two-wheeled motorcycle, are stopped;

(C) The driver of the two-wheeled motorcycle is on a road with lanes wide enough to pass safely;

(D) The passing motorcycle is driving at fifteen miles per hour or less; and

(E) Conditions permit prudent operation of the motorcycle while overtaking or passing.

(II) When the motor vehicles that are being overtaken or passed by the two-wheeled motorcycle begin moving, the driver of the motorcycle shall cease overtaking or passing a motor vehicle pursuant to subsection (3)(b)(I) of this section.

(III) A person overtaking or passing pursuant to this subsection (3)(b) shall not overtake or pass:

(A) On the right shoulder;

(B) To the right of a vehicle in the farthest right-hand lane if the highway is not limited access; or

(C) In a lane of traffic moving in the opposite direction.

(IV) This subsection (3)(b) is repealed, effective September 1, 2027.

(c) (I) The department of transportation shall analyze data on the safety effects of subsection (3)(b) of this section and issue a report to the general assembly by January 1, 2027. The data and report must include:

- (A) Motorcycle rear-end collisions before and after August 7, 2024;
  - (B) The severity of rear-end collisions in heavy traffic conditions before and after August 7, 2024; and
  - (C) Motorcycle side-swipe collisions while overtaking or passing at a rate of less than fifteen miles per hour before and after August 7, 2024.
- (II) This subsection (3)(c) is repealed, effective July 1, 2028.
- (4) Motorcycles shall not be operated more than two abreast in a single lane.
- (5) Subsections (2) and (3) of this section shall not apply to police officers in the performance of their official duties.
- (6) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2399, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2022:** (2) and (3) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2581, § 5, effective January 1, 2023. **L. 2024:** (2) and (3) amended, (SB 24-079), ch. 40, p. 143, § 2, effective August 7.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1303 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1503 was relocated to § 42-4-1704.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 24-079, see section 1 of chapter 40, Session Laws of Colorado 2024.

#### **42-4-1504. Clinging to other vehicles - penalty.**

A person riding upon a motorcycle or autocyte shall not attach himself, herself, or the motorcycle or autocyte to any other vehicle on a roadway. Any person who violates this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2399, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2022:** Entire section amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2587, § 26, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1304 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1504 was relocated to § 42-4-1705.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class A traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for motorcycle violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(O).

## PART 16

### CRASHES AND CRASH REPORTS

**Editor's note:** Section 42-4-103 (2)(b) provides that the provisions of this part 16 apply to the operation of vehicles and the movement of pedestrians upon streets and highways and elsewhere throughout the state.

**Cross references:** For penalties for class 1 and class 2 misdemeanor traffic offenses, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II).

#### **42-4-1601. Crashes involving death or personal injuries - duties.**

(1) The driver of any vehicle directly involved in a crash resulting in injury to, serious bodily injury to, or death of any person shall immediately stop such vehicle at the scene of such crash or as close to the scene as possible or shall immediately return to the scene of the crash. The driver shall then remain at the scene of the crash until the driver has fulfilled the requirements of section 42-4-1603 (1). Every such stop must be made without obstructing traffic more than is necessary.

(1.5) It is not an offense under this section if a driver, after fulfilling the requirements of subsection (1) of this section and of section 42-4-1603 (1), leaves the scene of the crash for the purpose of reporting the crash in accordance with the provisions of sections 42-4-1603 (2) and 42-4-1606.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits:

- (a) A class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense if the crash resulted in injury to any person;
- (b) A class 4 felony if the crash resulted in serious bodily injury to any person; or

(c) A class 3 felony if the crash resulted in the death of any person.

(3) The department shall revoke the driver's license of the person so convicted. A revocation pursuant to this subsection (3) runs concurrently with any suspension imposed pursuant to section 42-2-127.9, if imposed as a result of the same episode of driving.

(4) As used in this section and sections 42-4-1402.5, 42-4-1603, and 42-4-1606:

(a) "Injury" means physical pain, illness, or any impairment of physical or mental condition.

(b) "Serious bodily injury" means injury that involves, either at the time of the actual injury or at a later time, a substantial risk of death, a substantial risk of serious permanent disfigurement, or a substantial risk of protracted loss or impairment of the function of any part or organ of the body, or breaks, fractures, or burns of the second or third degree.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2399, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** (2)(b) amended, p. 1443, § 32, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (4)(b) amended, p. 709, § 44, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (1) amended and (1.5) added, p. 606, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (2)(c) amended, p. 850, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** (1) and (2)(b) amended, (HB 12-1084), ch. 261, p. 1354, § 1, effective August 8. **L. 2017:** (3) amended, (HB 17-1277), ch. 337, p. 1803, § 2, effective January 1, 2018. **L. 2019:** IP(4) amended, (SB 19-175), ch. 331, p. 3072, § 3, effective May 29. **L. 2026:** (1), (1.5), and (2) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 482, § 59, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1401 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1601 was relocated to § 42-4-1801.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1601 is similar to § 42-4-1401 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Sentencing under this section unconstitutional.** Sentencing a defendant under this section unconstitutionally denies him equal protection, because this section

and § 42-4-1403 set different penalties for the same conduct. *People v. Mumaugh*, 644 P.2d 299 (Colo. 1982) (decided prior to 1983 repeal of § 42-4-1403 (3)).

The distinction, if any, between "directly involved in an accident"(this section) and "involved in an accident" (§ 42-4-1403) is one without a sufficiently pragmatic difference to permit an intelligent and uniform application of the law. *People v.*

Mumaugh, 644 P.2d 299 (Colo. 1982) (decided prior to 1983 repeal of § 42-4-1403 (3)).

**No violation of equal protection.** This section does not violate equal protection of the laws because the conduct constituting a class 4 felony under this section (i.e., leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death) is distinguishable in type and degree from the conduct constituting a class 2 traffic offense under § 42-4-1406 (i.e., failing to report an accident). *People v. Rickstrew*, 775 P.2d 570 (Colo. 1989).

**This section and § 42-4-1402 cover accidents involving death, injuries, and property damage.** *City of Aurora v. Mitchell*, 144 Colo. 526, 357 P.2d 923 (1960).

**A county court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of offenses alleged to have been committed under this section.** *People v. Griffith*, 130 Colo. 475, 276 P.2d 559 (1954).

**Infractions of section are matters of general public concern and not purely local.** The investigation and apprehension of a violator of the requirements of this and § 42-4-1403 is not exclusively a local matter. Infractions of these provisions are of general public concern. Moreover, these requirements do not necessarily relate to traffic control, but provide certain necessary actions on the part of the motorist involved to be taken after an accident occurs to protect the life and property of the injured. When these offenses are charged they come under the general police power of the state and do not necessarily relate to regulation of

motor vehicle traffic of a "local or municipal" nature, although occurring in a municipality. *People v. Graham*, 107 Colo. 202, 110 P.2d 256 (1941).

**Fault and extent of damages are not issues.** This section and § 42-4-1403 do not contemplate that in a prosecution thereunder the court shall be concerned in determining where the fault lies. Nor may it be concerned about the extent of injuries to persons or damage to property resulting from an accident made the basis of such a prosecution. Those questions are referable to a prosecution under a different statute, or to a civil action for damages. It is not the accident, as such, therefore, that constitutes the offense. *Weiderspon v. People*, 118 Colo. 529, 198 P.2d 301 (1948).

**This section creates a strict liability offense** because the plain language does not require or imply a culpable mental state, the proscribed conduct does not necessarily involve a culpable mental state, and the fact that the offense is a felony is not determinative. Due process is not violated because the offense is against the public welfare. *People v. Manzo*, 144 P.3d 551 (Colo. 2006).

**This section and § 42-4-1603 require a driver of a vehicle involved in an accident to identify himself or herself as the driver.** Unless the fact is reasonably apparent from the circumstances, the driver has an affirmative duty to identify that he or she was the one driving the motor vehicle. *People v. Hernandez*, 250 P.3d 568 (Colo. 2010).

**The unit of prosecution for leaving the scene of an accident is the number of accident scenes, not the number of injured victims at those scenes;** consequently, where two people were injured at a single accident scene, defendant's conviction on two counts of leaving the scene of an accident violates the constitutional prohibition against double jeopardy. *People v. Arzabala*, 2012 COA 99,

317 P.3d 1196; *People v. Medrano-Bustamante*, 2013 COA 139, 412 P.3d 581, *aff'd in part, rev'd in part on other grounds sub nom. Reyna-Abarca v. People*, 2017 CO 15, 390 P.3d 816.

**Applied** in *People v. Reyes*, 42 Colo. App. 73, 589 P.2d 1385 (1979); *Lumbardy v. People*, 625 P.2d 1026 (Colo. 1981); *Stewart v. United States*, 716 F.2d 755 (10th Cir. 1982).

#### **42-4-1602. Crash involving damage - duty.**

(1) The driver of any vehicle directly involved in a crash resulting only in damage to a vehicle which is driven or attended by any person shall immediately stop such vehicle at the scene of such crash or as close thereto as possible but shall immediately return to and in every event shall remain at the scene of such crash, except in the circumstances provided in subsection (2) of this section, until the driver has fulfilled the requirements of section 42-4-1603. Every such stop must be made without obstructing traffic more than is necessary. Any person who violates any provision of this subsection (1) commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(2) When a crash occurs on the traveled portion, median, or ramp of a divided highway and each vehicle involved can be safely driven, each driver shall move such driver's vehicle as soon as practicable off the traveled portion, median, or ramp to a frontage road, the nearest suitable cross street, or other suitable location to fulfill the requirements of section 42-4-1603.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2400, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 482, § 60, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1402 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1602 was relocated to § 42-4-1802.

#### **ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1602 is similar to § 42-4-1402 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by

SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**This section and § 42-4-1401 cover accidents involving death, injuries, and property damage.** City of Aurora v. Mitchell, 144 Colo. 526, 357 P.2d 923 (1960).

**Section applies only to accidents involving damage to vehicle which is**

**driven or attended by another person.** Lumbardy v. People, 625 P.2d 1026 (Colo. 1981).

**Section cannot serve as basis of conviction** for leaving the scene of a single-car accident. Lumbardy v. People, 625 P.2d 1026 (Colo. 1981).

#### **42-4-1603. Duty to give notice, information, and aid.**

(1) The driver of any vehicle involved in a crash resulting in injury to, serious bodily injury to, or death of any person or damage to any vehicle which is driven or attended by any person shall give the driver's name, the driver's address, and the registration number of the vehicle the driver is driving and shall upon request exhibit their driver's license to the person struck or the driver or occupant of or person attending any vehicle collided with and where practical shall render to any person injured in such crash reasonable assistance, including the carrying, or the making of arrangements for the carrying, of such person to a physician, surgeon, or hospital for medical or surgical treatment if it is apparent that such treatment is necessary or if the carrying is requested by the injured person.

(2) In the event that none of the persons specified are in condition to receive the information to which they otherwise would be entitled under subsection (1) of this section and no police officer is present, the driver of any vehicle involved in such crash, after fulfilling all other requirements of subsection (1) of this section, insofar as possible on the driver's part to be performed, shall immediately report such crash to the nearest office of a duly authorized police authority as required in section 42-4-1606 and submit thereto the information specified in subsection (1) of this section.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2400, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 483, § 61, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1403 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1603 was relocated to § 42-4-1803.

#### **ANNOTATION**



**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1603 is similar to § 42-4-1403 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Same conduct covered by this section and § 42-4-1401.** Sentencing a defendant under § 42-4-1401 unconstitutionally denies him equal protection, because that section and this section set different penalties for the same conduct. *People v. Mumaugh*, 644 P.2d 299 (Colo. 1982) (decided prior to 1983 repeal of subsection (3)).

The distinction, if any, between "directly involved in an accident" (§ 42-4-1401) and "involved in an accident" (this section) is one without a sufficiently pragmatic difference to permit an intelligent and uniform application of the law. *People v. Mumaugh*, 644 P.2d 299 (Colo. 1982) (decided prior to 1983 repeal of subsection (3)).

**This section and § 42-4-1601 require a driver of a vehicle involved in an accident**

**to identify himself or herself as the driver.** Unless the fact is reasonably apparent from the circumstances, the driver has an affirmative duty to identify that he or she was the one driving the motor vehicle. *People v. Hernandez*, 250 P.3d 568 (Colo. 2010).

**Sufficient evidence to support defendant's conviction for leaving the scene of an accident.** Sufficient evidence was presented to allow the jury to conclude that defendant (1) was the driver of the vehicle involved in the accident; (2) did not affirmatively identify himself as the driver before leaving the scene of the accident; (3) did not render reasonable assistance to his passengers; and (4) did not report the accident to the police before law enforcement arrived. *People v. Medrano-Bustamante*, 2013 COA 139, 412 P.3d 581, *aff'd in part, rev'd in part on other grounds sub nom. Reyna-Abarca v. People*, 2017 CO 15, 390 P.3d 816.

**Applied in** *Lumbardy v. People*, 625 P.2d 1026 (Colo. 1981); *Stewart v. United States*, 716 F.2d 755 (10th Cir. 1982).

#### **42-4-1604. Duty upon striking unattended vehicle or other property.**

The driver of any vehicle which collides with or is involved in a crash with any vehicle or other property which is unattended resulting in any damage to such vehicle or other property shall immediately stop and either locate and notify the operator or owner of such vehicle or other property of such fact, the driver's name and address, and the registration number of the vehicle the driver is driving or attach securely in a conspicuous place in or on such vehicle or other property a written notice giving the driver's name and address and the registration number of the vehicle the driver is driving. The driver shall also make report of such crash when and as required in section 42-4-1606. Every stop must be made without obstructing traffic more than is necessary. This section does not apply to the striking of highway fixtures or traffic control

devices which is governed by the provisions of section 42-4-1605. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2401, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 483, § 62, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1404 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1604 was relocated to § 42-4-1804.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1604 is similar to § 42-4-1404 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that

provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Applied** in *Ruth v. County Court*, 198 Colo. 6, 595 P.2d 237 (1979).

#### **42-4-1605. Duty upon striking highway fixtures or traffic control devices.**

The driver of any vehicle involved in a crash resulting only in damage to fixtures or traffic control devices upon or adjacent to a highway shall notify the road authority in charge of such property of that fact and of the driver's name and address and of the registration number of the vehicle the driver is driving and shall make report of such crash when and as required in section 42-4-1606. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2401, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 484, § 63, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1405 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1605 was relocated to § 42-4-1805.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1605 is similar to § 42-4-1405 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Area preempted by state.** This section covers the subject matter of a driver's "duty upon striking highway fixtures", and this field has been preempted by the state. *City of Aurora v. Mitchell*, 144 Colo. 526, 357 P.2d 923 (1960).

#### **42-4-1606. Duty to report crashes - definition.**

(1) The driver of a vehicle involved in a traffic crash resulting in injury to, serious bodily injury to, or death of any person or any property damage shall, after fulfilling the requirements of sections 42-4-1602 and 42-4-1603 (1), give immediate notice of the location of such crash and such other information as is specified in section 42-4-1603 (2) to the nearest office of the duly authorized police authority and, if so directed by the police authority, shall immediately return to and remain at the scene of the crash until said police have arrived at the scene and completed their investigation thereat.

(2) Repealed.

(3) The department may require any driver of a vehicle involved in a crash of which report must be made as provided in this section to file supplemental reports whenever the original report is insufficient in the opinion of the department and may require witnesses of crashes to render reports to the department.

(4) (a) It is the duty of all law enforcement officers who receive notification of traffic crashes within their respective jurisdictions or who investigate traffic crashes either at the time of or at the scene of the crash or thereafter by interviewing participants or witnesses to submit reports of all crashes to the department on the form provided, including insurance information received from any driver, within five days after the time they receive the information or complete their investigation. If a participant in a crash dies within thirty days after the crash as a result of an injury sustained in the crash, the law enforcement officer who was notified of or investigated the crash shall submit an amended report to the department within five days after receiving notification of the death. The law enforcement officer shall indicate in the report whether the inflatable restraint system in the vehicle, if any, inflated and deployed in the crash. For the purposes of this section, "inflatable restraint system" has the meaning set forth in 49 CFR 571.208 S4.1.5.1 (b).

(b) The law enforcement officer is not required to complete an investigation or file a crash report:

(I) In the case of a traffic crash involving a motor vehicle, if the law enforcement officer has a reasonable basis to believe that damage to the property of any one person does not exceed one

thousand dollars and if the traffic crash does not involve injury to or death of any person; except that the officer shall complete an investigation and file a report if specifically requested to do so by one of the participants or if one of the participants cannot show proof of insurance; or

(II) In the case of a traffic accident or crash not involving a motor vehicle, if the traffic accident or crash does not involve serious bodily injury to or death of any person.

(5) The person in charge at any garage or repair shop to which is brought any motor vehicle which shows evidence of having been struck by any bullet shall report to the nearest office of the duly authorized police authority within twenty-four hours after such motor vehicle is received, giving the vehicle identification number, registration number, and, if known, the name and address of the owner and operator of such vehicle together with any other discernible information.

(6) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2401, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (2) and (4) amended, p. 1208, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 97:** (4)(a)(I) amended, p. 798, § 6, effective August 6. **L. 2004:** (2) and (4)(a)(II) repealed, p. 463, § 2, effective August 4. **L. 2026:** (1), (3), and (4) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 484, § 64, effective August 12; (4)(a)(I) amended, (HB 26-1127), ch. 93, p. 377, § 2, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** Amendments to subsection (4)(a)(I) by HB 26-1237 and HB 26-1127 were harmonized.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1606 is similar to § 42-4-1406 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**This section deals with reporting.** City of Aurora v. Mitchell, 144 Colo. 526, 357 P.2d 923 (1960).

**The conduct constituting a class 4 felony under § 42-4-1401 (i.e., leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death) is distinguishable in type and degree** from the conduct constituting a class 2 traffic offense under this section (i.e. failing to report an accident); therefore, there is no implication of equal protection. People v. Rickstrew, 775 P.2d 570 (Colo. 1989).

**This section requires** that, if the accident involves injury, death, or property damage in excess of \$100, the motorist file a written report with the department of revenue, and that law enforcement officers shall conduct an accident investigation and file a written report. *People v. Reyes*, 42 Colo. App. 73, 589 P.2d 1385 (1979).

**Operator's duties in one-car accident.** This section, rather than § 42-4-1402, defines the duties incumbent upon the operator of a vehicle involved in a one-car accident. *Lumbardy v. People*, 625 P.2d 1026 (Colo. 1981).

**Driver must immediately report accident and must receive permission to leave.** While this section initially grants authority to a driver to leave the scene of an accident, he must immediately report the accident to a proper authority and must receive specific permission from that authority before he is excused from any further presence at the scene of the accident. *Gammon v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 32 Colo. App. 437, 513 P.2d 748 (1973).

**But where no law enforcement officer is at automobile accident scene** before driver is taken to hospital, the driver is free to wait and give notice of the accident to the nearest office of a duly authorized police authority, to be followed by a written report within 10 days. *People v. Reyes*, 42 Colo. App. 73, 589 P.2d 1385 (1979).

**Officer who investigates accident is foreseeable plaintiff.** If a driver causes an accident, it is foreseeable that public safety officers will respond to the scene, and the driver has a duty to exercise due care toward the officer consistent with the laws of negligence as applied in this state. *Banyai v. Arruda*, 799 P.2d 441 (Colo. App. 1990).

**Violation of section included in term "leaving scene of accident".** The general assembly intended that a violation of this section be included within the meaning of the term "leaving scene of accident" as used in section 42-2-123. *Gammon v. State Dept. of Rev.*, 32 Colo. App. 437, 513 P.2d 748 (1973).

**Applied** in *Stewart v. United States*, 716 F.2d 755 (10th Cir. 1982).

#### **42-4-1607. When driver unable to give notice or make written report.**

(1) Whenever the driver of a vehicle is physically incapable of giving an immediate notice of a crash as required in section 42-4-1606 (1) and there was another occupant in the vehicle at the time of the crash capable of doing so, such occupant shall give or cause to be given the notice not given by the driver.

(2) Repealed.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2403, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2004:** (3) added, p. 606, § 2, effective July 1; (2) repealed, p. 463, § 3, effective August 4. **L. 2026:** (1) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 485, § 65, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1407 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1607 was relocated to § 42-4-1807.

#### **42-4-1608. Crash report forms.**

(1) The department shall prepare and upon request supply to police departments, coroners, sheriffs, and other suitable agencies or individuals forms for crash reports required under this article 4, which reports must call for sufficiently detailed information to disclose, with reference to a traffic crash, the contributing circumstances, the conditions then existing, and the persons and vehicles involved.

(2) Every required crash report must be made on a form approved by the department, where such form is available.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2403, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 485, § 66, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1408 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1608 was relocated to § 42-4-1808.

#### **42-4-1609. Coroners to report.**

Upon request by the department of transportation, every coroner or other official performing like functions shall electronically report all available toxicology results to the department of transportation by the final business day of each quarter of the calendar year for each deceased party who died during the quarter as the result of a crash involving a motor vehicle within the official's jurisdiction. If a coroner does not have access to necessary toxicology results on the final business day of the quarter, the report must be submitted in the next quarter of the calendar year when complete results are available. The report must include all available toxicology results for all deceased parties involved in a crash, including, but not limited to, the blood alcohol

concentrations; drug screening panels; and the date, time, and source of the sample collections. The department of transportation may only request personal identifying information about a deceased person pursuant to this section that is necessary to meet federal reporting requirements.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2403, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (HB 26-1127), ch. 93, p. 376, § 1, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1409 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1609 was relocated to § 42-4-1809.

### ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Scientific Findings on Death and Coroner's Inquest", see 20 Rocky Mt. L. Rev. 197 (1948).

#### **42-4-1610. Reports by interested parties confidential.**

All crash reports and supplemental reports required by law to be made by any driver, owner, or person involved in any crash are without prejudice to the individual so reporting and are for the confidential use of the department; except that the department may disclose the identity of a person involved in a crash when such identity is not otherwise known or when such person denies the person's presence at such crash. Except as provided in section 42-7-504 (2), no such report may be used as evidence in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of a crash; except that the department shall furnish, upon demand of any person who has, or claims to have, made such a report or upon demand of any court, a certificate showing that a specified crash report has or has not been made to the department solely to prove a compliance or failure to comply with the requirement that such a report be made to the department. This section shall not be construed to mean that reports of investigation or other reports made by sheriffs, police officers, coroners, or other peace officers are confidential, but the same are public records and are subject to the provisions of section 42-1-206.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2403, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 485, § 68, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1410 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1610 was relocated to § 42-4-1810.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1610 is similar to § 42-4-1410 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Reports confidential in order to encourage compliance.** The provisions of this section are based upon a declared public policy announced by the general assembly. Public policy requires that motorists be encouraged to make full and frank compliance with the requirement for filing the reports under the uniform motor vehicle statutes, and makes any information therein contained unavailable for use except by the department, and the limited exceptions embraced in this section. *Clark v. Reichman*, 130 Colo. 329, 275 P.2d 952 (1954).

**Distinction between confidential reports and police reports.** The

confidentiality provision of this section distinguishes between reports required to be made "by any driver, owner, or person involved in any accident", which are not admissible in evidence, and police investigation reports, which are public records and which are admissible. *People v. Reyes*, 42 Colo. App. 73, 589 P.2d 1385 (1979).

**Inculpatory statements not covered by this section.** Inculpatory statements made to police officers by a party are not part of either the notice or report requirements of § 42-4-1406, and are not protected by the confidentiality provision of this section, and law enforcement officers' testimony as to those statements are properly admissible at trial. *People v. Reyes*, 42 Colo. App. 73, 589 P.2d 1385 (1979).

#### **42-4-1611. Tabulation and analysis of reports.**

The department shall tabulate and may analyze all crash reports and shall publish annually or at more frequent intervals statistical information based thereon as to the number and circumstances of traffic crashes and in such a way that the information may be of value to the department of transportation in eliminating roadway hazards. The statistical information must be issued in accordance with the provisions of section 24-1-136.



**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2403, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2007:** Entire section amended, p. 31, § 7, effective August 3. **L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 486, § 69, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1411 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1611 was relocated to § 42-4-1811.

#### **42-4-1612. Crashes in state highway work areas - definition.**

(1) Repealed.

(2) For purposes of this section, "state highway work area" includes any area where an employee of the department of transportation is working at the time a fatal crash occurs.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the department of transportation or the Colorado state patrol to specifically identify by name any individual killed, injured, or otherwise involved in a crash.

**Source: L. 2010:** Entire section added, (HB 10-1014), ch. 24, p. 98, § 1, effective August 11. **L. 2017:** (1) repealed, (SB 17-231), ch. 174, p. 633, § 2, effective August 9. **L. 2026:** (2) and (3) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 486, § 70, effective August 12.

## **PART 17**

### **PENALTIES AND PROCEDURE**

#### **42-4-1701. Traffic offenses and infractions classified - penalties - penalty and surcharge schedule - repeal.**

(1) It is a traffic infraction for any person to violate any of the provisions of articles 1 to 3 of this title 42 and parts 1 to 3 and 5 to 19 of this article 4 unless such violation is, by articles 1 to 3 of this title 42 and parts 1 to 3 and 5 to 19 of this article 4 or by any other law of this state, declared to be a felony, misdemeanor, petty offense, civil infraction, or misdemeanor traffic offense. Such a traffic infraction constitutes a civil matter.

(2) (a) For the purposes of this part 17, "judge" shall include any county court magistrate who hears traffic infraction matters, but no person charged with a traffic violation other than a traffic infraction or class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense shall be taken before a county court magistrate.

(b) For the purposes of this part 17, "magistrate" shall include any county court judge who is acting as a county court magistrate in traffic infraction and class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense matters.

(3) (a) (I) Except as provided in subsections (4) and (5) of this section or the section creating the infraction, traffic infractions are divided into two classes which shall be subject to the following penalties which are authorized upon entry of judgment against the defendant:

| <b>Class</b> | <b>Minimum Penalty</b> | <b>Maximum Penalty</b> |
|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| A            | \$15 penalty           | \$100 penalty          |
| B            | \$15 penalty           | \$100 penalty          |

(II) (A) Except as otherwise provided in sub-subparagraph (B) of this subparagraph (II), subsections (4) and (5) of this section, and sections 42-4-1301.3, 42-4-1301.4, and 42-4-1307, or the section creating the offense, misdemeanor traffic offenses are divided into two classes that are distinguished from one another by the following penalties that are authorized upon conviction:

| <b>Class</b> | <b>Minimum Sentence</b>                             | <b>Maximum Sentence</b>                                |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1            | Ten days<br>imprisonment, or<br>\$300 fine, or both | One year<br>imprisonment, or<br>\$1,000 fine, or both  |
| 2            | Ten days<br>imprisonment, or<br>\$150 fine, or both | Ninety days<br>imprisonment,<br>or \$300 fine, or both |

(B) Any person convicted of a class 1 or class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense shall be required to pay restitution as required by article 18.5 of title 16, C.R.S., and may be sentenced to perform a certain number of hours of community or useful public service in addition to any other sentence provided by sub-subparagraph (A) of this subparagraph (II), subject to the conditions and restrictions of section 18-1.3-507, C.R.S.

(b) Any traffic infraction or misdemeanor traffic offense defined by law outside of articles 1 to 4 of this title shall be punishable as provided in the statute defining it or as otherwise provided by law.

(c) The department has no authority to assess any points under section 42-2-127 upon entry of judgment for any class B traffic infractions.

(4) (a) (I) Except as provided in subsection (5)(c) of this section, every person who is convicted of, who admits liability for, or against whom a judgment is entered for a violation of this title 42 to which subsection (5)(a) or (5)(b) of this section applies shall be fined or penalized and have a surcharge levied in accordance with sections 24-4.1-119 (1)(f) and 24-4.2-104 (1)(b)(I), in accordance with the penalty and surcharge schedule set forth in subsections (4)(a)(I)(A) to (4)(a)(I)(S) of this section; or, if no penalty or surcharge is specified in the schedule, the penalty for class A and class B traffic infractions is fifteen dollars, and the surcharge is four dollars. These penalties and surcharges apply whether the defendant acknowledges the defendant's guilt or liability in accordance with the procedure set forth by subsection (5)(a) of this section, is found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction, or has judgment entered against the defendant by a county court magistrate. Penalties and surcharges for violating specific sections are as follows:

| <b>Section Violated</b>                 | <b>Penalty</b> | <b>Surcharge</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>(A) Driver's license violations:</b> |                |                  |
| 42-2-101                                | \$ 35.00       | \$ 10.00         |
| 42-2-101 (2), (3), or (5)               | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-2-103                                | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-2-105                                | 70.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-2-105.5 (4)                          | 65.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-2-106                                | 70.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-2-115                                | 35.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-2-116 (6)(a)                         | 30.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-2-119                                | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-2-134                                | 35.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-2-136                                | 35.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-2-138                                | 100.00         | 15.00            |

| <b>Section Violated</b> | <b>Penalty</b> | <b>Surcharge</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 42-2-139                | 35.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-2-140                | 35.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-2-141                | 35.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-2-204                | 70.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-2-404                | 100.00         | 15.00            |

**(B) Registration and taxation violations:**

|                                     |          |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| 42-3-103                            | \$ 50.00 | \$ 16.00 |
| 42-3-113                            | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-3-202                            | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-3-116                            | 50.00    | 16.00    |
| 42-3-121 (1)(a)                     | 75.00    | 24.00    |
| 42-3-121 (1)(c)                     | 35.00    | 10.00    |
| 42-3-121 (1)(f), (1)(g), and (1)(h) | 75.00    | 24.00    |
| 42-3-304 to 42-3-306                | 50.00    | 16.00    |
| 42-3-308                            | 50.00    | 16.00    |

**(C) Traffic regulation generally:**

|                  |          |         |
|------------------|----------|---------|
| 42-4-1412        | \$ 15.00 | \$ 6.00 |
| 42-4-109 (13)(a) | 15.00    | 6.00    |
| 42-4-109 (13)(b) | 100.00   | 15.00   |
| 42-4-1211        | 30.00    | 6.00    |
| 42-4-1405        | 15.00    | 6.00    |

| Section Violated | Penalty | Surcharge |
|------------------|---------|-----------|
|------------------|---------|-----------|

**(D) Equipment violations:**

|              |          |          |
|--------------|----------|----------|
| 42-4-201     | \$ 35.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| 42-4-202     | 35.00    | 10.00    |
| 42-4-204     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-205     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-206     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-207     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-208     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-209     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-210     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-211     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-212     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-213     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-214     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-215     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-216     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-217     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-218     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-219     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-220     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-221     | 15.00    | 6.00     |
| 42-4-222 (1) | 15.00    | 6.00     |

| <b>Section Violated</b>             | <b>Penalty</b> | <b>Surcharge</b> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 42-4-223                            | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-224                            | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-225 (1)                        | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-226                            | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-227                            | 50.00          | 16.00            |
| 42-4-228 (1), (2), (3), (5), or (6) | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-229                            | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-230                            | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-231                            | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-232                            | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-233                            | 75.00          | 24.00            |
| 42-4-234                            | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-235                            | 50.00          | 16.00            |
| 42-4-236                            | 65.00          | 16.00            |
| 42-4-237                            | 65.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-239 (4)(a)(I)                  | 75.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-4-239 (4)(a)(II)                 | 150.00         | 10.00            |
| 42-4-239 (4)(a)(III)                | 250.00         | 10.00            |
| 42-4-241                            | 65.00          | 16.00            |
| 42-4-1411                           | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-1412                           | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-1901                           | 35.00          | 10.00            |

| <b>Section Violated</b>                       | <b>Penalty</b> | <b>Surcharge</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>(E) Emissions inspections:</b>             |                |                  |
| 42-4-313 (3)(c)                               | \$ 100.00      | \$ 15.00         |
| 42-4-313 (3)(d)                               | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| <b>(E.5) Diesel inspections:</b>              |                |                  |
| 42-4-412                                      | \$ 50.00       | \$ 16.00         |
| <b>(F) Size, weight, and load violations:</b> |                |                  |
| 42-4-502                                      | \$ 75.00       | \$ 24.00         |
| 42-4-503                                      | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-504                                      | 75.00          | 24.00            |
| 42-4-505                                      | 75.00          | 24.00            |
| 42-4-506                                      | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-509                                      | 50.00          | 16.00            |
| 42-4-510 (12)(a)                              | 35.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-4-106 (1), (3), (4), (6), or (7)           | 35.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-4-106 (4.5)(b)(I)                          | 1,000.00       | 156.00           |
| 42-4-106 (4.5)(b)(II)                         | 1,500.00       | 156.00           |
| 42-4-106 (5)(a)(I)                            | 100.00         | 32.00            |
| 42-4-106 (5)(a)(II)                           | 500.00         | 156.00           |
| 42-4-106 (5)(a)(III)                          | 500.00         | 78.00            |
| 42-4-106 (5)(a)(IV)                           | 1,000.00       | 156.00           |
| 42-4-512                                      | 75.00          | 24.00            |

| <b>Section Violated</b> | <b>Penalty</b> | <b>Surcharge</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 42-8-105 (1) to (5)     | 50.00          | 16.00            |
| 42-8-106                | 50.00          | 16.00            |

**(G) Signals, signs, and markings violations:**

|                 |           |          |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| 42-4-603        | \$ 100.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| 42-4-604        | 100.00    | 10.00    |
| 42-4-605        | 70.00     | 10.00    |
| 42-4-606        | 15.00     | 6.00     |
| 42-4-607 (1)    | 50.00     | 16.00    |
| 42-4-607 (2)(a) | 100.00    | 32.00    |
| 42-4-608 (1)    | 70.00     | 6.00     |
| 42-4-608 (2)    | 15.00     | 6.00     |
| 42-4-609        | 15.00     | 6.00     |
| 42-4-610        | 15.00     | 6.00     |
| 42-4-611        | 100.00    | 15.00    |
| 42-4-612        | 70.00     | 10.00    |
| 42-4-613        | 35.00     | 10.00    |

**(H) Rights-of-way violations:**

|          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 42-4-701 | \$ 70.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| 42-4-702 | 70.00    | 10.00    |
| 42-4-703 | 70.00    | 10.00    |
| 42-4-704 | 70.00    | 10.00    |



| <b>Section Violated</b> | <b>Penalty</b> | <b>Surcharge</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 42-4-705                | 70.00          | 16.00            |
| 42-4-706                | 70.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-4-707                | 70.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-4-708                | 35.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-4-709                | 70.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-4-710                | 70.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-4-711                | 100.00         | 10.00            |
| 42-4-712                | 70.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-4-714                | 70.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-4-715                | 70.00          | 11.00            |

**(I) Pedestrian violations:**

|              |          |         |
|--------------|----------|---------|
| 42-4-801     | \$ 15.00 | \$ 6.00 |
| 42-4-802 (1) | 30.00    | 6.00    |
| 42-4-802 (3) | 15.00    | 6.00    |
| 42-4-802 (4) | 30.00    | 6.00    |
| 42-4-802 (5) | 30.00    | 6.00    |
| 42-4-803     | 15.00    | 6.00    |
| 42-4-805     | 15.00    | 6.00    |
| 42-4-806     | 70.00    | 10.00   |
| 42-4-807     | 70.00    | 10.00   |
| 42-4-808     | 70.00    | 10.00   |

| Section Violated | Penalty | Surcharge |
|------------------|---------|-----------|
|------------------|---------|-----------|

**(J) Turning and stopping violations:**

|          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 42-4-901 | \$ 70.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| 42-4-902 | 70.00    | 10.00    |
| 42-4-903 | 70.00    | 10.00    |

**(K) Driving, overtaking, and passing violations:**

|                  |          |          |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| 42-4-1001        | \$ 70.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| 42-4-1002        | 100.00   | 10.00    |
| 42-4-1003        | 100.00   | 10.00    |
| 42-4-1004        | 100.00   | 10.00    |
| 42-4-1005        | 100.00   | 10.00    |
| 42-4-1006        | 70.00    | 10.00    |
| 42-4-1007        | 100.00   | 10.00    |
| 42-4-1008        | 100.00   | 10.00    |
| 42-4-1009        | 70.00    | 10.00    |
| 42-4-1010        | 70.00    | 10.00    |
| 42-4-1011        | 200.00   | 32.00    |
| 42-4-1012 (3)(a) | 65.00    | (NONE)   |
| 42-4-1012 (3)(b) | 125.00   | (NONE)   |
| 42-4-1013        | 100.00   | (NONE)   |

**(L) Speeding violations:**

|                                                         |          |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| 42-4-1101 (1) or (8)(b) (1 to 4 miles per hour over the | \$ 30.00 | \$ 6.00 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------|

| <b>Section Violated</b>                                                                                                                             | <b>Penalty</b> | <b>Surcharge</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| reasonable and prudent speed or over the maximum lawful speed limit of 75 miles per hour)                                                           |                |                  |
| 42-4-1101 (1) or (8)(b) (5 to 9 miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed or over the maximum lawful speed limit of 75 miles per hour)   | 70.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-4-1101 (1) or (8)(b) (10 to 19 miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed or over the maximum lawful speed limit of 75 miles per hour) | 135.00         | 16.00            |
| 42-4-1101 (1) or (8)(b) (20 to 24 miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed or over the maximum lawful speed limit of 75 miles per hour) | 200.00         | 32.00            |
| 42-4-1101 (8)(g) (1 to 4 miles per hour over the maximum lawful speed limit of 40 miles per hour driving a low-power scooter)                       | 50.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-1101 (8)(g) (5 to 9 miles per hour over the maximum lawful speed limit of 40 miles per hour driving a low-power scooter)                       | 75.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-4-1101 (8)(g) (greater than 9 miles per hour over                                                                                                | 100.00         | 16.00            |

| <b>Section Violated</b>                                                                   | <b>Penalty</b> | <b>Surcharge</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| the maximum lawful speed<br>limit of 40 miles per hour<br>driving a low-power<br>scooter) |                |                  |
| 42-4-1101 (3)                                                                             | 100.00         | 10.00            |
| 42-4-1103                                                                                 | 50.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-1104                                                                                 | 30.00          | 6.00             |

**(M) Parking violations:**

|           |          |         |
|-----------|----------|---------|
| 42-4-1201 | \$ 30.00 | \$ 6.00 |
| 42-4-1202 | 30.00    | 6.00    |
| 42-4-1204 | 15.00    | 6.00    |
| 42-4-1205 | 15.00    | 6.00    |
| 42-4-1206 | 15.00    | 6.00    |
| 42-4-1207 | 15.00    | 6.00    |
| 42-4-1208 | 150.00   | 32.00   |
| 42-4-1210 | 50.00    | 10.00   |
| 42-4-1213 | 150.00   | 32.00   |

**(N) Other offenses:**

|                  |           |          |
|------------------|-----------|----------|
| 42-4-1301 (2)(d) | \$ 100.00 | \$ 16.00 |
| 42-4-1305        | 50.00     | 16.00    |
| 42-4-1305.5 (2)  | 50.00     | 7.80     |
| 42-4-1402        | 150.00    | 16.00    |

| <b>Section Violated</b> | <b>Penalty</b> | <b>Surcharge</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 42-4-1403               | 30.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-1404               | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-1406               | 35.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-4-1407 (3)(a)        | 35.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-4-1407 (3)(b)        | 100.00         | 30.00            |
| 42-4-1407 (3)(c)        | 500.00         | 200.00           |
| 42-4-314 (1) and (2)    | 35.00          | 10.00            |
| 42-4-314 (6)(a)         | 100.00         | 10.00            |
| 42-4-1408               | 15.00          | 6.00             |
| 42-4-1414 (2)(a)        | 500.00         | 156.00           |
| 42-4-1414 (2)(b)        | 1,000.00       | 312.00           |
| 42-4-1414 (2)(c)        | 5,000.00       | 1,560.00         |
| 42-4-1416 (3)           | 75.00          | 4.00             |
| 42-20-109 (2)           | 250.00         | 66.00            |

**(O) Motorcycle violations:**

|                                 |          |         |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------|
| 42-4-1502 (1), (2), (3), or (4) | \$ 30.00 | \$ 6.00 |
| 42-4-1502 (4.5)                 | 100.00   | 15.00   |
| 42-4-1503                       | 30.00    | 6.00    |
| 42-4-1504                       | 30.00    | 6.00    |

**(P) Offenses by persons controlling vehicles:**

|           |          |         |
|-----------|----------|---------|
| 42-4-1704 | \$ 15.00 | \$ 6.00 |
|-----------|----------|---------|

| Section Violated | Penalty | Surcharge |
|------------------|---------|-----------|
|------------------|---------|-----------|

**(Q) Certificates of title:**

|          |           |          |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| 42-6-110 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 15.00 |
| 42-6-112 | 100.00    | 15.00    |

**(R) Proof of financial responsibility:**

|          |           |          |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| 42-7-422 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 15.00 |
| 42-7-506 | 50.00     | 15.00    |
| 42-7-507 | 100.00    | 15.00    |
| 42-7-510 | 100.00    | 15.00    |

**(S) Uninsured motorist identification database protection:**

|          |           |          |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| 42-7-606 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 15.00 |
|----------|-----------|----------|

(II) (A) A person convicted of violating section 42-4-507 or 42-4-508 shall be fined pursuant to this sub-subparagraph (A), whether the defendant acknowledges the defendant's guilt pursuant to the procedure set forth in paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of this section or is found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction. A person who violates section 42-4-507 or 42-4-508 shall be punished by the following fine plus a surcharge of sixteen percent of the fine:

| Excess Weight - Pounds | Penalty                                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 - 1,000              | \$ 20.00                                                   |
| 1,001 - 3,000          | 25.00                                                      |
| 3,001 - 5,000          | 0.03 per pound overweight<br>rounded to the nearest dollar |
| 5,001 - 7,000          | 0.05 per pound overweight                                  |

|                 |                                                            |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
|                 | rounded to the nearest dollar                              |
| 7,001 - 10,000  | 0.07 per pound overweight<br>rounded to the nearest dollar |
| 10,001 - 15,000 | 0.10 per pound overweight<br>rounded to the nearest dollar |
| 15,001 - 19,750 | 0.15 per pound rounded<br>to the nearest dollar            |
| Over 19,750     | 0.25 per pound rounded<br>to the nearest dollar            |

(B) The state, county, city, or city and county issuing a citation that results in the assessment of the penalties in subsection (4)(a)(II)(A) of this section may retain and distribute the following amount of the penalty according to the law of the jurisdiction that assesses the penalty, but before July 1, 2027, the remainder of the penalty shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the money to the commercial vehicle enterprise tax fund created in section 42-1-225, and on or after July 1, 2027, to the general fund:

| <b>Excess Weight - Pounds</b> | <b>Penalty Retained</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - 3,000                     | \$ 15.00                |
| 3,001 - 4,250                 | 25.00                   |
| 4,251 - 4,500                 | 50.00                   |
| 4,501 - 4,750                 | 55.00                   |
| 4,751 - 5,000                 | 60.00                   |
| 5,001 - 5,250                 | 65.00                   |
| 5,251 - 5,500                 | 75.00                   |
| 5,501 - 5,750                 | 85.00                   |
| 5,751 - 6,000                 | 95.00                   |
| 6,001 - 6,250                 | 105.00                  |

|                 |                                                                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6,251 - 6,500   | 125.00                                                                |
| 6,501 - 6,750   | 145.00                                                                |
| 6,751 - 7,000   | 165.00                                                                |
| 7,001 - 7,250   | 185.00                                                                |
| 7,251 - 7,500   | 215.00                                                                |
| 7,501 - 7,750   | 245.00                                                                |
| 7,751 - 8,000   | 275.00                                                                |
| 8,001 - 8,250   | 305.00                                                                |
| 8,251 - 8,500   | 345.00                                                                |
| 8,501 - 8,750   | 385.00                                                                |
| 8,751 - 9,000   | 425.00                                                                |
| 9,001 - 9,250   | 465.00                                                                |
| 9,251 - 9,500   | 515.00                                                                |
| 9,501 - 9,750   | 565.00                                                                |
| 9,751 - 10,000  | 615.00                                                                |
| 10,001 - 10,250 | 665.00                                                                |
| Over 10,250     | 30.00 for each 250 pounds<br>additional overweight, plus \$<br>665.00 |

(III) Any person convicted of violating any of the rules promulgated pursuant to section 42-4-510, except section 42-4-510 (2)(b)(IV), shall be fined as follows, whether the violator acknowledges the violator's guilt pursuant to the procedure set forth in paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of this section or is found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction:

(A) Except as provided in sub-subparagraph (D) of this subparagraph (III), any person who violates the maximum permitted weight on an axle or on gross weight shall be punished by the following fine plus a surcharge of sixteen percent of the fine:

**Excess Weight Above Maximum**

**Penalty**



**Permitted Weight - Pounds**

|                |                                                                          |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 - 2,500      | \$ 50.00                                                                 |
| 2,501 - 5,000  | 100.00                                                                   |
| 5,001 - 7,500  | 200.00                                                                   |
| 7,501 - 10,000 | 400.00                                                                   |
| Over 10,000    | 150.00 for each 1,000<br>pounds additional overweight,<br>plus \$ 400.00 |

(B) Any person who violates any of the requirements of the rules and regulations pertaining to transport permits for the movement of overweight or oversize vehicles or loads, other than those violations specified in sub-subparagraph (A) or (C) of this subparagraph (III), shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars.

(C) Any person who fails to have an escort vehicle when such vehicle is required by the rules and regulations pertaining to transport permits for the movement of overweight or oversize vehicles or loads or who fails to reduce speed when such speed reduction is required by said rules and regulations shall be punished by a fine of two hundred fifty dollars.

(D) The fines for a person who violates the maximum permitted weight on an axle or on gross weight under a permit issued pursuant to section 42-4-510 (1)(b)(II) shall be doubled.

(IV) (A) Any person convicted of violating section 42-3-114 who has not been convicted of a violation of section 42-3-114 in the twelve months preceding such conviction shall be fined as follows, whether the defendant acknowledges the defendant's guilt pursuant to the procedure set forth in paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of this section or is found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction:

**Number of days  
beyond  
renewal period that  
registration has been  
expired**

**Penalty**

**Surcharge**

|             |          |         |
|-------------|----------|---------|
| 1 - 29      | \$ 35.00 | \$ 8.00 |
| 30 - 59     | 50.00    | 12.00   |
| 60 and over | 75.00    | 18.00   |

(B) Any person convicted of violating section 42-3-114 who has been convicted of violating said section within the twelve months preceding such conviction shall be fined pursuant to subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of this section.

(V) Any person convicted of violating section 42-20-204 (2) shall be fined twenty-five dollars, whether the violator acknowledges guilt pursuant to the procedure set forth in paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of this section or is found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(VI) (A) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of this section, every person who is convicted of, who admits liability for, or against whom a judgment is entered for a violation of any provision of this title to which the provisions of paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (5) of this section apply, shall, in addition to any other fine or penalty or surcharge, be assessed a surcharge of one dollar, which amount shall be transmitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the family-friendly court program cash fund created in section 13-3-113 (6), C.R.S. This surcharge shall apply whether the defendant acknowledges the defendant's guilt or liability in accordance with the procedure set forth by paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of this section or is found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction or has judgment entered against the defendant by a county court magistrate.

(B) Repealed.

(VII) The penalties and surcharges for a second or subsequent violation of section 42-20-109 (2) within twelve months shall be doubled.

(VIII) A person who violates section 42-3-204 (7)(f)(II) or section 42-4-1208 (3)(a), (3)(a.5), or (4) commits a class A traffic infraction and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a surcharge of thirty-two dollars under sections 24-4.1-119 (1)(f) and 24-4.2-104 (1)(b)(I), and:

(A) A fine of not less than three hundred fifty dollars but not more than one thousand dollars for the first offense;

(B) A fine of not less than six hundred dollars but not more than one thousand dollars for a second offense; and

(C) A fine of not less than one thousand dollars but not more than five thousand dollars, in addition to not more than ten hours of community service, for a third or subsequent offense.

(IX) A person who violates section 42-4-1208 (3) by parking a vehicle owned by a commercial carrier commits a class A traffic infraction.

(X) (A) A person who violates section 42-4-1208 (5) commits a class A traffic infraction.

(B) A person who willfully receives remuneration for violating section 42-4-1208 (5) commits a class A traffic infraction.

(b) (I) The schedule in subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) shall not apply when the provisions of paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of this section prohibit the issuance of a penalty assessment notice for a violation of the aforesaid traffic violation.

(II) The schedules in subparagraphs (II) and (III) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) shall apply whether the violator is issued a penalty assessment notice or a summons and complaint.

(c) (I) The penalties and surcharges imposed for speeding violations under subsection (4)(a)(I)(L) of this section shall be doubled if a speeding violation occurs within a maintenance, repair, or construction zone that is designated by the department of transportation pursuant to section 42-4-614 (1)(a); except that the penalty for violating section 42-4-1101 (1) or (8)(b) by twenty to twenty-four miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed or over the maximum lawful speed limit of seventy-five miles per hour shall be five hundred forty dollars.

(II) (A) The penalties and surcharges imposed for violations under sub-subparagraphs (C), (G), (H), (I), (J), (K), (N), and (O) of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) shall be doubled if a violation occurs within a maintenance, repair, or construction zone that is designated by the department of transportation pursuant to section 42-4-614 (1)(a); except that the fines for violating sections 42-4-314, 42-4-610, 42-4-613, 42-4-706, 42-4-707, 42-4-708, 42-4-709, 42-4-710, 42-4-1011, 42-4-1012, 42-4-1404, 42-4-1408, and 42-4-1414 shall not be doubled under this subparagraph (II).

(B) There is hereby created, within the highway users tax fund, the highway construction workers' safety account.

(C) If a fine is doubled under subparagraph (I) or (II) of this paragraph (c), one-half of the fine allocated to the state by sections 42-1-217 and 43-4-205, C.R.S., shall be transferred to the state treasurer, who shall deposit it in the highway construction workers' safety account within the highway users tax fund to be continuously appropriated to the department of transportation for work zone safety equipment, signs, and law enforcement.

(D) This subparagraph (II) is effective July 1, 2006.

(III) The penalties and surcharges imposed for speeding violations under sub-subparagraph (L) of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) shall be doubled if a speeding violation occurs within a maintenance, repair, or construction zone that is designated by a public entity pursuant to section 42-4-614 (1)(b).

(IV) The penalties and surcharges imposed for violations under sub-subparagraphs (C), (G), (H), (I), (J), (K), (N), and (O) of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) shall be doubled if a violation occurs within a maintenance, repair, or construction zone that is designated by a public entity pursuant to section 42-4-614 (1)(b); except that the fines for violating sections 42-4-314, 42-4-610, 42-4-613, 42-4-706, 42-4-707, 42-4-708, 42-4-709, 42-4-710, 42-4-1011, 42-4-1012, 42-4-1404, 42-4-1408, and 42-4-1414 shall not be doubled under this subparagraph (IV).

(d) The penalty and surcharge imposed for any moving traffic violation under subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) are doubled if the violation occurs within a school zone pursuant to section 42-4-615.

(d.5) (I) The penalty and surcharge imposed for any moving traffic violation under subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) are doubled if the violation occurs within a wildlife crossing zone pursuant to section 42-4-616.

(II) (A) There is hereby created, within the highway users tax fund, the wildlife crossing zones safety account.

(B) If a penalty and surcharge are doubled pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (d.5), one-half of the penalty and surcharge allocated to the state by sections 42-1-217 and 43-4-205, C.R.S., shall be transferred to the state treasurer, who shall deposit the moneys in the wildlife crossing zones safety account within the highway users tax fund to be continuously appropriated to the department of transportation for wildlife crossing zones signs and law enforcement.

(d.7) (I) The penalty and surcharge imposed for a violation under subsection (4)(a)(I)(L) of this section is doubled if the violation is committed by a driver of a commercial motor vehicle within an area of a state highway that the department of transportation has designated as a steep downhill grade zone pursuant to section 42-4-617.

(II) (A) There is created, within the highway users tax fund, the mountain highways commercial motor vehicle safety account, referred to within this subsection (4)(d.7) as the "account".

(B) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for each fine collected pursuant to section 42-4-617 (4) and subsection (4)(d.7)(I) of this section, the state treasurer shall credit one-half of the amount of the fine to the account. All money credited to the account is continuously appropriated to the department of transportation and to the office of freight mobility and safety created within the transportation development division of the department of transportation pursuant to section 43-1-117 to pay costs associated with the provision of educational outreach and public information about runaway truck events, the purchase and implementation of equipment for the purpose of reducing the frequency of runaway truck events, and the

completion of studies of means by which the state may reduce the frequency of runaway truck events and improve overall commercial motor vehicle safety on state highways that pass through the mountains of the state.

(d.9) (I) The penalty and surcharge imposed for a violation under subsection (4)(a)(I)(L) of this section is doubled if the violation is committed by a driver of a commercial motor vehicle within an area of a state highway that the department of transportation has designated as a heightened speed limit enforcement zone pursuant to section 42-4-618; except that the fine is not doubled when the driver of a commercial motor vehicle commits the violation within a highway maintenance, repair, or construction zone and is already subject to an increased penalty and surcharge for the violation pursuant to section 42-4-614.

(II) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for each fine collected pursuant to section 42-4-618 (4) and subsection (4)(d.9)(I) of this section, the state treasurer shall credit all of the amount of the fine to the mountain highways commercial motor vehicle safety account, created in subsection (4)(d.7)(II) of this section.

(e) (I) An additional twenty dollars shall be assessed for speeding violations pursuant to subsection (4)(a)(I)(L) of this section in addition to the penalties and surcharge stated in subsection (4)(a)(I)(L) of this section. Money collected pursuant to this subsection (4)(e) must be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall deposit such money in the Colorado brain injury trust fund created pursuant to section 26-1-309 within fourteen days after the end of each quarter, to be used for the purposes set forth in part 3 of article 1 of title 26.

(II) If the surcharge is collected by a county, the surcharge shall be twenty-two dollars, of which two dollars shall be retained by the county and the remaining twenty dollars must be transmitted to the state treasurer and credited to the Colorado brain injury trust fund created pursuant to section 26-1-309 within fourteen days after the end of each quarter, to be used for the purposes set forth in part 3 of article 1 of title 26.

(III) An additional twenty dollars is assessed for a violation of a traffic regulation pursuant to subsection (4)(a)(I)(C) of this section for a violation of section 42-4-109 (13)(b), in addition to the penalties stated in subsection (4)(a)(I)(C) of this section. An additional twenty dollars must be assessed for a motorcycle or autocycle violation pursuant to subsection (4)(a)(I)(O) of this section for a violation of section 42-4-1502 (4.5), in addition to the penalties stated in subsection (4)(a)(I)(O) of this section. Money collected pursuant to this subsection (4)(e)(III) must be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall deposit the money in the Colorado brain injury trust fund created pursuant to section 26-1-309, to be used for the purposes set forth in part 3 of article 1 of title 26.

(f) (I) In addition to the surcharge specified in sub-subparagraph (N) of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4), the court shall assess a surcharge of five dollars for a violation of section 42-4-1301 (2)(d). Moneys collected pursuant to this paragraph (f) must be

transmitted to the state treasurer who shall deposit such moneys in the rural alcohol and substance abuse cash fund created in section 27-80-117 (3), C.R.S., within fourteen days after the end of each quarter, to be used for the purposes set forth in section 27-80-117, C.R.S.

(II) If the additional surcharge is collected by a county court, the additional surcharge shall be six dollars of which one dollar shall be retained by the county and the remaining five dollars shall be transmitted to the state treasurer and credited to the rural alcohol and substance abuse cash fund created in section 27-80-117 (3), C.R.S., within fourteen days after the end of each quarter, to be used for the purposes set forth in section 27-80-117, C.R.S.

(III) This subsection (4)(f) is repealed, effective September 1, 2030, unless the general assembly extends the repeal of the rural alcohol and substance abuse prevention and treatment program created in section 27-80-117.

(5) (a) (I) At the time that any person is arrested for the commission of any misdemeanors, petty offenses, or misdemeanor traffic offenses set forth in subsection (4) of this section, the arresting officer may, except when the provisions of paragraph (c) of this subsection (5) prohibit it, offer to give a penalty assessment notice to the defendant. At any time that a person is charged with the commission of any traffic infraction, the peace officer shall, except when the provisions of paragraph (c) of this subsection (5) prohibit it, give a penalty assessment notice to the defendant. Such penalty assessment notice shall contain all the information required by section 42-4-1707 (3) or by section 42-4-1709, whichever is applicable. The fine or penalty specified in subsection (4) of this section for the violation charged and the surcharge thereon may be paid at the office of the department of revenue, either in person or by postmarking such payment within twenty days from the date the penalty assessment notice is served upon the defendant; except that the fine or penalty charged and the surcharge thereon shall be paid to the county if it relates to a traffic offense authorized by county ordinance. The department of revenue shall accept late payment of any penalty assessment up to twenty days after such payment becomes due. Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (a), in the case of an offense other than a traffic infraction, a defendant who otherwise would be eligible to be issued a penalty assessment notice but who does not furnish satisfactory evidence of identity or who the officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe will disregard the summons portion of such notice may be issued a penalty assessment notice if the defendant consents to be taken by the officer to the nearest mailbox and to mail the amount of the fine or penalty and surcharge thereon to the department. The peace officer shall advise the person arrested or cited of the points to be assessed in accordance with section 42-2-127. Except as otherwise provided in section 42-4-1710 (1)(b), acceptance of a penalty assessment notice and payment of the prescribed fine or penalty and surcharge thereon to the department shall be deemed a complete satisfaction for the violation, and the defendant shall be given a receipt which so states when such fine or penalty and surcharge thereon is paid in currency or other form of legal tender. Checks tendered by the

defendant to and accepted by the department and on which payment is received by the department shall be deemed sufficient receipt.

(II) In the case of an offense other than a traffic infraction that involves a minor under the age of eighteen years, the officer shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of section 42-4-1706 (2) or 42-4-1707 (1)(b) or (3)(a.5). In no case may an officer issue a penalty assessment notice to a minor under the age of eighteen years and require or offer that the minor consent to be taken by the officer to the nearest mailbox to mail the amount of the fine or penalty and surcharge thereon to the department.

(b) In the case of an offense other than a traffic infraction, should the defendant refuse to accept service of the penalty assessment notice when such notice is tendered, the peace officer shall proceed in accordance with section 42-4-1705 or 42-4-1707. Should the defendant charged with an offense other than a traffic infraction accept service of the penalty assessment notice but fail to post the prescribed penalty and surcharge thereon within twenty days thereafter, the notice shall be construed to be a summons and complaint unless payment for such penalty assessment has been accepted by the department of revenue as evidenced by receipt. Should the defendant charged with a traffic infraction accept the notice but fail to post the prescribed penalty and surcharge thereon within twenty days thereafter, and should the department of revenue not accept payment for such penalty and surcharge as evidenced by receipt, the defendant shall be allowed to pay such penalty and surcharge thereon and the docket fee in the amount set forth in section 42-4-1710 (4) to the clerk of the court referred to in the summons portion of the penalty assessment notice during the two business days prior to the time for appearance as specified in the notice. If the penalty for a misdemeanor, misdemeanor traffic offense, or a petty offense and surcharge thereon is not timely paid, the case shall thereafter be heard in the court of competent jurisdiction prescribed on the penalty assessment notice in the same manner as is provided by law for prosecutions of the misdemeanors not specified in subsection (4) of this section. If the penalty for a traffic infraction and surcharge thereon is not timely paid, the case shall thereafter be heard in the court of competent jurisdiction prescribed on the penalty assessment notice in the manner provided for in this article for the prosecution of traffic infractions. In either case, the maximum penalty that may be imposed shall not exceed the penalty set forth in the applicable penalty and surcharge schedule in subsection (4) of this section.

(b.5) The provisions of section 42-4-1710 (1)(b) shall govern any case described in paragraph (b) of this subsection (5) in which a minor under the age of eighteen years submits timely payment for an infraction or offense in a penalty assessment notice but such payment is not accompanied by the penalty assessment notice signed and notarized in the manner required by section 42-4-1707 (3)(a.5) or 42-4-1709 (1.5).

(c) (I) The penalty and surcharge schedules of subsection (4) of this section and the penalty assessment notice provisions of subsections (5)(a) and (5)(b) of this section do not apply to violations constituting misdemeanors, petty offenses, or misdemeanor traffic offenses not

specified in subsection (4) of this section and do not apply to the violations constituting misdemeanors, petty offenses, misdemeanor traffic offenses, or traffic infractions specified in subsection (4) of this section when it appears that:

(A) (Deleted by amendment, L. 96, p. 580, § 4, effective May 25, 1996.)

(B) In a violation of section 42-4-1101 (1) or (8)(b), the defendant exceeded the reasonable and prudent speed or the maximum lawful speed of seventy-five miles per hour by more than twenty-four miles per hour;

(C) The alleged violation has caused, or contributed to the cause of, a crash resulting in appreciable damage to property of another or in injury or death to any person;

(D) The defendant has, in the course of the same transaction, violated one of the provisions of this title specified in the penalty and surcharge schedules in subsection (4) of this section and has also violated one or more provisions of this title not so specified, and the peace officer charges such defendant with two or more violations, any one of which is not specified in the penalty and surcharge schedules in subsection (4) of this section; or

(E) The defendant is subject to the penalties set forth in section 42-4-1101 (13) for driving twenty miles per hour or more in excess of the reasonable and prudent speed or driving in excess of the maximum lawful speed of seventy-five miles per hour more than once in a twelve-month period, more than twice in a twenty-four-month period, or more than four times in a five-year period.

(II) In all cases where this paragraph (c) prohibits the issuance of a penalty assessment notice, the penalty and surcharge schedule contained in subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of this section shall be inapplicable; except that the penalty and surcharge provided in the schedule contained in sub-subparagraph (B) of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of this section for any violation of section 42-3-121 (1)(a) shall always apply to such a violation. In all cases where the penalty and surcharge schedule contained in subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of this section is inapplicable, the provisions of subsection (3) of this section shall apply.

(d) In addition to any other cases governed by this section, the penalty and surcharge schedule contained in subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of this section shall apply in the following cases:

(I) In all cases in which a peace officer was authorized by the provisions of this subsection (5) to offer a penalty assessment notice for the commission of a misdemeanor, petty offense, or misdemeanor traffic offense but such peace officer chose not to offer such penalty assessment notice;



(II) In all cases involving the commission of a misdemeanor, petty offense, or misdemeanor traffic offense in which a penalty assessment notice was offered by a peace officer but such penalty assessment notice was refused by the defendant.

(6) An officer coming upon an unattended vehicle that is in apparent violation of any provision of the state motor vehicle law may place upon the vehicle a penalty assessment notice indicating the offense or infraction and directing the owner or operator of the vehicle to remit the penalty assessment provided for by subsection (4) of this section and the surcharges thereon pursuant to sections 24-4.1-119 (1)(f) and 24-4.2-104 (1), C.R.S., to the Colorado department of revenue within ten days. If the penalty assessment and surcharge thereon is not paid within ten days of the issuance of the notice, the department shall mail a notice to the registered owner of the vehicle, setting forth the offense or infraction and the time and place where it occurred and directing the payment of the penalty assessment and surcharge thereon within twenty days from the issuance of the notice. If the penalty assessment and surcharge thereon is not paid within the twenty days from the date of mailing of such notice, the department shall request the police officer who issued the original penalty assessment notice to file a complaint with a court having jurisdiction and issue and serve upon the registered owner of the vehicle a summons to appear in court at a time and place specified therein as in the case of other offenses or infractions.

(7) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of this section, receipt of payment by mail by the department or postmarking such payment on or prior to the twentieth day after the receipt of the penalty assessment notice by the defendant shall be deemed to constitute receipt on or before the date the payment was due.

(8) The surcharges described in subsections (4) to (6) of this section are separate and distinct from a surcharge levied pursuant to section 24-33.5-415.6, C.R.S.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2406, § 1, effective January 1, 1995; (3)(a)(I), (4)(a)(I), and (4)(a)(IV)(A) amended, p. 683, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1), (4)(a)(I)(A), (4)(a)(I)(D), and (4)(a)(I)(M) amended, p. 958, § 18, effective May 25. **L. 96:** (4)(a)(I)(F) amended, p. 278, § 2, effective April 11; (4)(a)(I)(F) amended, p. 385, § 2, effective April 17; (4)(a)(I)(I) amended, p. 565, § 30, effective April 24; (5)(a) and (6) amended, p. 638, § 4, effective May 1; (4)(a)(I)(L), (5)(c)(I)(A), and (5)(c)(I)(B) amended, p. 580, § 4, effective May 25; (4)(a)(I)(D) amended, p. 959, § 6, effective July 1; (4)(a)(I)(K) amended, p. 1358, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 97:** (4)(a)(I)(N) amended, p. 1468, § 14, effective July 1; (4)(c) added, p. 1386, § 6, effective July 1; (4)(a)(I)(G) amended, p. 498, § 3, effective August 6; (4)(a)(I)(B) amended, p. 1074, § 6, effective January 1, 1998. **L. 98:** (4)(a)(I)(B) amended, p. 1019, § 4, effective May 27; (4)(d) added, p. 589, § 2, effective July 1; (4)(a)(I)(K) amended, p. 1206, § 2, effective August 5. **L. 99:** (4)(a)(I)(N) amended, p. 666, § 3, effective May 18; (4)(a)(I)(A) amended, p. 1381, § 6, effective July 1; (4)(a)(I)(M) amended, p. 712, § 4, effective July 1;

(4)(a)(I)(B) amended, p. 631, § 48, effective August 4; (5)(a) amended, p. 368, § 5, effective August 4. **L. 2000:** (5)(a), (5)(b), and (6) amended, p. 1643, § 31, effective June 1; (4)(a)(I)(D) amended, p. 1100, § 2, effective August 2; (3)(a)(II)(B) amended, p. 1051, § 22, effective September 1. **L. 2002:** IP(3)(a)(II)(A) amended, p. 1923, § 21, effective July 1; (4)(a)(VI) added, p. 631, § 3, effective July 1; (3)(a)(II)(B) amended, p. 1562, § 370, effective October 1; (4)(e) added, p. 1610, § 5, effective January 1, 2004. **L. 2003:** (4)(a)(I), (4)(a)(II), and (4)(a)(III)(A) amended, p. 1545, § 8, effective May 1. **L. 2004:** (4)(a)(I)(N) amended, p. 241, § 2, effective July 1; (5)(a) amended and (5)(b.5) added, p. 1331, § 2, effective July 1, 2005. **L. 2005:** (4)(a)(VI)(B) repealed, p. 1004, § 3, effective June 2; (4)(a)(I)(N) amended, p. 1188, § 2, effective July 1; (4)(a)(I)(B), (4)(a)(IV), and (5)(c)(II) amended, p. 1177, § 19, effective August 8; (4)(a)(I)(D) amended, p. 268, § 3, effective August 8; (4)(c) amended, p. 1221, § 3, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (4)(a)(I)(G) amended, p. 1712, § 2, effective June 6; (4)(a)(I)(A) amended, p. 439, § 4, effective July 1; (4)(a)(I)(N) amended and (4)(a)(VII) added, p. 1064, § 4, effective July 1; (4)(a)(I)(A) amended, p. 1370 § 10, effective January 1, 2007. **L. 2007:** (4)(a)(I), (4)(a)(II), (4)(a)(III)(A), (4)(a)(IV)(A), and (6) amended, p. 1114, § 5, effective July 1; (4)(a)(I)(C) and (4)(a)(I)(O) amended and (4)(e)(III) added, pp. 1481, 1482, §§ 3, 4, effective July 1; (4)(a)(I)(F) amended, p. 1333, § 3, effective August 3. **L. 2008:** IP(4)(a)(III) and (4)(a)(III)(A) amended and (4)(a)(III)(D) added, p. 2094, § 3, effective June 3; (4)(c) amended, p. 2079, § 3, effective June 3; (3)(a)(II)(A) amended, p. 252, § 20, effective July 1; (3)(a)(II)(A), (4)(a)(I)(A), (4)(a)(I)(C), (4)(a)(I)(D) and (4)(a)(I)(G) to (4)(a)(I)(O) amended, p. 2087, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (8) added, (SB 09-241), ch. 295, p. 1579, § 6, effective July 1; (4)(e) amended, (SB 09-133), ch. 392, p. 2120, § 3, effective August 5; (4)(a)(I)(L) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1283, § 64, effective October 1; (4)(a)(I)(P) amended, (HB 09-1094), ch. 375, p. 2045, § 2, effective December 1; (4)(f) added, (HB 09-1119), ch. 397, p. 2146, § 4, effective January 1, 2010. **L. 2010:** (4)(f) amended, (SB 10-175), ch. 188, p. 809, § 88, effective April 29; (4)(a)(II) amended, (HB 10-1285), ch. 423, p. 2188, § 3, effective July 1; (4)(d.5) added, (HB 10-1238), ch. 393, p. 1869, § 3, effective September 1; (3)(a)(I), (3)(a)(II)(A), IP(4)(a)(I), and (4)(a)(I)(M) amended, (HB 10-1019), ch. 400, pp. 1931, 1930, §§ 8, 5, effective January 1, 2011. **L. 2011:** (3)(a)(II)(A) amended, (HB 11-1268), ch. 267, p. 1220, § 4, effective June 2; IP(3)(a)(II)(A) amended, (HB 11-1303), ch. 264, p. 1183, § 113, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** (4)(a)(I)(N) amended, (SB 12-044), ch. 274, p. 1447, § 2, effective June 8. **L. 2014:** (4)(a)(I)(N) amended, (HB 14-1363), ch. 302, p. 1276, § 48, effective May 31; IP(4)(a)(I) and (4)(a)(I)(M) amended and (4)(a)(VIII), (4)(a)(IX), and (4)(a)(X) added, (HB 14-1029), ch. 252, p. 1005, § 5, effective July 1; IP(4)(a)(I) and (4)(a)(I)(F) amended, (HB 14-1021), ch. 188, p. 703, § 2, effective August 6. **L. 2015:** (4)(a)(I)(N) and (4)(f)(I) amended, (HB 15-1043), ch. 262, p. 997, § 7, effective August 5; (4)(a)(X)(B) amended, (SB 15-264), ch. 259, p. 969, § 96, effective August 5. **L. 2016:** (4)(a)(II)(A) and (4)(a)(III)(A) amended, (SB 16-030), ch. 298, p. 1210, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2017:** IP(4)(a)(I), (4)(a)(I)(N), and (4)(f)(III) amended, (SB 17-294), ch. 264, p. 1415, § 112, effective May 25; IP(4)(a)(I) and (4)(a)(I)(P) amended, (SB 17-027), ch. 279, p. 1524, § 3, effective June 1; IP(4)(a)(I) and (4)(a)(I)(N) amended, (SB 17-278), ch. 323, p.

1743, § 2, effective June 5; (4)(e) amended, (SB 17-234), ch. 154, p. 525, § 20, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** IP(4)(a)(VIII) amended, (HB 18-1285), ch. 265, p. 1630, § 5, effective January 1, 2019. **L. 2019:** (4)(a)(I)(M) amended, (HB 19-1298), ch. 384, p. 3440, § 4, effective August 2; (4)(e) amended, (HB 19-1147), ch. 178, p. 2034, § 16, effective August 2. **L. 2020:** (4)(a)(I)(H) amended, (SB 20-061), ch. 30, p. 102, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2021:** (4)(a)(I), IP(4)(a)(VIII), (4)(a)(IX), and (4)(a)(X) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3309, §§ 736, 735, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (1) amended, (HB 22-1229), ch. 68, p. 348, § 38, effective March 1; (4)(e)(III) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2587, § 27, effective January 1, 2023. **L. 2023:** (4)(a)(I)(A) amended, (SB 23-028), ch. 391, p. 2346, § 2, effective June 6; (4)(a)(I)(H) amended, (HB 23-1014), ch. 31, p. 109, § 2, effective October 1; (4)(d.7) added, (HB 23-1267), ch. 382, p. 2296, § 3, effective January 1, 2024. **L. 2024:** (4)(a)(I)(D) and (4)(a)(I)(P) amended, (SB 24-065), ch. 431, p. 3022, § 4, effective August 7; (4)(d.9) added, (SB 24-100), ch. 207, p. 1277, § 4, effective August 7. **L. 2025:** (4)(f)(III) amended, (SB 25-195), ch. 243, p. 1230, § 5, effective August 6. **L. 2026:** (4)(a)(II)(B) amended, (HB 26-1289), ch. 364, p. 2220, § 37, effective June 3; (4)(d.7)(II)(B) amended, (HB 26-1076), ch. 265, p. 1470, § 10, effective August 12; IP(5)(c)(I) and (5)(c)(I)(D) amended and (5)(c)(I)(E) added, (SB 26-035), ch. 178, p. 1023, § 5, effective August 12; IP(5)(c)(I) and (5)(c)(I)(C) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 486, § 71, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-1501 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Subsections (3)(a)(I), (4)(a)(I), and (4)(a)(IV)(A) were originally numbered as § 42-4-1501 (2)(a)(I), (3)(a)(I.1), and (3)(a)(IV)(A), and the amendments to them in Senate Bill 94-017 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

(3) Amendments to subsection (4)(a)(I)(F) by Senate Bill 96-084 and House Bill 96-1055 were harmonized.

(4) Amendments to subsection (4)(a)(I)(A) by House Bill 06-1171 and House Bill 06-1162 were harmonized.

(5) Amendments to subsection (4)(a)(I) by Senate Bill 07-055, House Bill 07-1117, and House Bill 07-1229 were harmonized.

(6) Amendments to subsection (3)(a)(II)(A) by House Bill 08-1010 and House Bill 08-1166 were harmonized.

(7) Amendments to subsection IP(4)(a)(I) by HB 14-1021 and HB 14-1363 were harmonized.

(8) In subsection (4)(a)(I)(M), changed "42-4-1208 (9), (15), or (16)" to "42-4-1208 (3)(b), (3)(c), and (3)(d)" to accurately reflect the changes adopted in HB 14-1029 that were

inadvertently misprinted in the 2015 and 2016 Colorado Revised Statutes. (See L. 2014, p. 1005.)

(9) (a) Amendments to subsection IP(4)(a)(I) by SB 17-027, SB 17-278, and SB 17-294 were harmonized.

(b) Amendments to subsection (4)(a)(I)(N) by SB 17-278 and SB 17-294 were harmonized.

(10) Section 47 of chapter 68 (HB 22-1229), Session Laws of Colorado 2022, provides that the act changing this section is effective March 1, 2022, but the governor did not approve the act until April 7, 2022.

(11) Amendments to the introductory portion to subsection (5)(c)(I) by SB 26-035 and HB 26-1237 were harmonized.

(12) Section 8(2) of chapter 178 (SB 26-035), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to traffic infractions committed on or after August 12, 2026.

**Cross references:** (1) For community or useful public service for persons convicted of misdemeanors, see § 18-1.3-507; for community service for juvenile offenders, see § 19-2-308; for useful public service for persons convicted of alcohol- or drug-related traffic offenses, see §§ 42-4-1301 and 42-4-1301.4; for surcharges levied on criminal actions and traffic offenses, see § 24-4.2-104.

(2) For the legislative declaration contained in the 1999 act amending subsection (4)(a)(I)(A), see section 1 of chapter 334, Session Laws of Colorado 1999. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsection (3)(a)(II)(B), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

(3) In 2005, subsection (4)(c) was amended by the "Lopez-Forrester Act". For the short title and the legislative declaration, see sections 1 and 2 of chapter 276, Session Laws of Colorado 2005.

(4) For the short title ("Charles Mather Highway Safety Act") in HB 08-1036, see section 1 of chapter 412, Session Laws of Colorado 2008. For the short title ("The Chris Hinds Act") in HB 18-1285, see section 1 of chapter 265, Session Laws of Colorado 2018.

(5) For the legislative declaration in HB 23-1267, see section 1 of chapter 382, Session Laws of Colorado 2023. For the legislative declaration in HB 26-1289, see section 1 of chapter 364, Session Laws of Colorado 2026. For the legislative declaration in SB 26-035, see section 1 of chapter 178, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1701 is similar to § 42-4-1501 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**The simplified procedures of the penalty assessment statute do not impermissibly offend the due process clauses** of either the constitution of the state or the constitution of the United States. Since the penalty assessment statute does not deprive an offender accused of a traffic violation of his right to a trial, on the contrary, the statute not only expressly preserves the accused's right to a trial but also affords him an alternative procedure which he may accept or reject, and therefore the statute does not violate any constitutional rights. *Cave v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 31 Colo. App. 185, 501 P.2d 479 (1972).

Section 42-2-123 and this section give a licensee notice of the ramifications of his failure to appear and the forfeiture of his bond for traffic violation charge and due process requirements are satisfied. *Lopez v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 189 Colo. 133, 538 P.2d 446 (1975).

**Due process standard for using penalty assessment as conviction.** Through the provisions of § 42-2-121 (3), the general assembly has mandated a minimum standard of due process which must be followed before payment of a penalty assessment under this section may be used as a conviction for purposes of suspension or

revocation of a driver's license pursuant to § 42-2-123 (1)(a). *Stortz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 195 Colo. 325, 578 P.2d 229 (1978).

**Speeding classifications constitutional.** Decision to treat higher rates of speeding as more serious making them criminal acts is within legislature's discretion and does not create a suspect class or infringe on a fundamental right. Drawing a distinction based on speed is rationally related to legislative purpose of safety and fuel conservation. *People v. Lewis*, 745 P.2d 668 (Colo. 1987).

**Traffic violations not decriminalized.** The general assembly did not intend to decriminalize minor traffic violations by denominating them "misdemeanor traffic offenses" and prescribing a fine-only penalty scheme for certain grades of these offenses. *City of Greenwood Vill. v. Fleming*, 643 P.2d 511 (Colo. 1982) (decided prior to 1982 amendments).

**Jurisdiction of county courts includes offenses reclassified as "misdemeanor traffic offenses"** under this section. *Phillips v. County Court*, 42 Colo. App. 187, 591 P.2d 600 (1979).

**When points not assessable.** If a traffic violation does not appear on the summons, to be issued under the notice provisions of subsection (4)(a), and the offender is not advised by the arresting officer in reference to the points chargeable for the traffic violation, points cannot be assessed against him for that offense. *Stortz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 195 Colo. 325, 578 P.2d 229 (1978).

**Payment of ticket, and subsequent lack of protest, precludes challenge of conviction.** Where a party pays a traffic ticket without a court judgment or a signed acknowledgment of guilt, but does not challenge the validity of the conviction and affirms the accuracy of his driving record at a departmental hearing, the party may not then challenge the conviction. *Martinez v. Dolan*, 41 Colo. App. 513, 591 P.2d 588 (1978).

**Failure of penalty assessment to contain points for traffic violation** in no way invalidates the penalty assessment, or a guilty plea entered thereon. *Stortz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 195 Colo. 325, 578 P.2d 229 (1978).

**Section furthers policy against custodial arrests.** The modern policy against custodial arrests and favoring the issuance of citations and summonses is given effect by requiring the issuance of a penalty assessment notice or summons in ordinary traffic violations. *People v. Clyne*, 189 Colo. 412, 541 P.2d 71 (1975), overruled in *People v. Meredith*, 763 P.2d 562 (Colo. 1988).

**Police have authority to make custodial arrest for driving without a license under this section and § 42-2-101.** *People v. Meredith*, 763 P.2d 562 (Colo. 1988) (overruling *People v. Clyne*, 189 Colo. 412, 541 P.2d 71 (1975) and *People v. Stark*, 682 P.2d 1240 (Colo. App. 1984)).

**Presumption of correctness of records held insufficient for suspending driving**

**privileges.** Presumption of the correctness of department of revenue records indicating that a motorist charged with driving 41 miles per hour in a 30 mile per hour zone in a city had paid \$15 to the municipal court clerk was insufficient for purposes of suspending the motorist's driving privileges where the evidence at the hearing established that there was neither a specific court judgment nor a signed acknowledgment of guilt as prescribed by subsection (4)(a) of this section and § 42-4-1505 (2)(a). *Troutman v. Dept. of Rev.*, 38 Colo. App. 417, 571 P.2d 726 (1976); *Martinez v. Dolan*, 41 Colo. App. 513, 591 P.2d 588 (1978).

**Statute as basis for jurisdiction.** See *Harrington v. District Court*, 192 Colo. 351, 559 P.2d 225 (1977).

**Search of an automobile incident to an arrest for driving without a license under this section and § 42-2-101 is lawful.** *People v. Meredith*, 763 P.2d 562 (Colo. 1988).

**Distinction between arrest and notice.** *Hart v. Herzig*, 131 Colo. 458, 283 P.2d 177 (1955); *People v. Griffith*, 130 Colo. 475, 276 P.2d 559 (1954); *Solt v. People*, 130 Colo. 1, 272 P.2d 638 (1954).

**Applied** in *Purcell v. Tomasi*, 43 Colo. App. 540, 608 P.2d 844 (1980); *Olinyk v. People*, 642 P.2d 490 (Colo. 1982); *People v. Mumaugh*, 644 P.2d 299 (Colo. 1982); *Corr v. District Court*, 661 P.2d 668 (Colo. 1983).

**42-4-1702. Alcohol- or drug-related traffic offenses - collateral attack.**

(1) No person against whom a judgment has been entered for DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD shall collaterally attack the validity of that judgment unless such attack is commenced within six months after the date of entry of the judgment.

(2) In recognition of the difficulties attending the litigation of stale claims and the potential for frustrating various statutory provisions directed at repeat offenders, former offenders, and habitual offenders, the only exceptions to the time limitations specified in subsection (1)(a) of this section are:

(a) A case in which the court entering judgment did not have jurisdiction over the subject matter of the alleged infraction;

(b) A case in which the court entering judgment did not have jurisdiction over the person of the violator;

(c) Where the court hearing the collateral attack finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the failure to seek relief within the applicable time period was caused by an adjudication of incompetence or by commitment or certification of the violator to an institution for treatment as a person with a mental health disorder; or

(d) Where the court hearing the collateral attack finds that the failure to seek relief within the applicable time period was the result of circumstances amounting to justifiable excuse or excusable neglect.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2417, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2006:** (2)(c) amended, p. 1409, § 80, effective August 7. **L. 2008:** (1) amended, p. 253, § 21, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** (1) amended, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1886, § 16, effective May 28. **L. 2017:** IP(2) and (2)(c) amended, (SB 17-242), ch. 263, p. 1381, § 307, effective May 25.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1501.5 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1702 was relocated to § 43-5-502.

**Cross references:** (1) For provisions concerning limitation for collateral attack upon trial judgment, see § 16-5-402.

(2) For the legislative declaration in SB 17-242, see section 1 of chapter 263, Session Laws of Colorado 2017.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "The New Colorado Per Se DUI Law", see 12 Colo. Law. 1451 (1983).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1702 is similar to § 42-4-1501.5 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Judicially created grace period for collateral attacks on judgments pursuant**

**to § 16-5-402 did not provide notice that the same grace period would apply to this section.** People v. Trimble, 839 P.2d 1168 (Colo. 1992).

**Defendant's collateral attacks against prior DWAI convictions untimely because convicting court retains subject matter jurisdiction** despite alleged violation of defendant's constitutional right to counsel. People v. Burdette, 2024 COA 38, 552 P.3d 1108.

### **42-4-1703. Parties to a crime.**

Every person who commits, conspires to commit, or aids or abets in the commission of any act declared in this article and part 1 of article 2 of this title to be a crime or traffic infraction, whether individually or in connection with one or more other persons or as principal, agent, or accessory, is guilty of such offense or liable for such infraction, and every person who falsely, fraudulently, forcibly, or willfully induces, causes, coerces, requires, permits, or directs another to violate any provision of this article is likewise guilty of such offense or liable for such infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2418, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1502 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1703 was relocated to § 43-5-503.

### **42-4-1704. Offenses by persons controlling vehicles.**

It is unlawful for the owner or any other person employing or otherwise directing the driver of any vehicle to require or knowingly to permit the operation of such vehicle upon a highway in any manner contrary to law. Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.



**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2418, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1503 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1704 was relocated to § 43-5-504.

**Cross references:** For penalties for class 2 misdemeanor traffic offenses, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II).

#### ANNOTATION

**Because defendant specifically requested and received an instruction** that authorized the jury to find him guilty of permitting a vehicle to be operated in an unlawful manner, in addition to any of the other charged counts, defendant may not

complain on appeal that he was so convicted. Any error was invited. *People v. Medrano-Bustamante*, 2013 COA 139, 412 P.3d 581, *aff'd in part, rev'd in part* on other grounds *sub nom. Reyna-Abarca v. People*, 2017 CO 15, 390 P.3d 816.

#### **42-4-1705. Person arrested to be taken before the proper court.**

(1) Whenever a person is arrested for any violation of this article 4 punishable as a misdemeanor, the arrested person must be taken without unnecessary delay before a county judge who has jurisdiction of such offense as provided by law, in any of the following cases:

(a) When a person arrested demands an appearance without unnecessary delay before a judge;

(b) When the person is arrested and charged with an offense under this article 4 causing or contributing to a crash resulting in injury or death to any person;

(c) When the person is arrested and charged with DUI, DUI per se, or UDD;

(d) When the person is arrested upon a charge of failure to stop in the event of a crash causing death, personal injuries, or damage to property;

(e) In any other event when the provisions of section 42-4-1701 (5)(b) and (5)(c) apply.

(2) Whenever any person is arrested by a police officer for any violation of this article 4 punishable as a misdemeanor and is not required to be taken before a county judge as provided in subsection (1) of this section, the arrested person must, in the discretion of the officer, either be given a written notice or summons to appear in court as provided in section 42-4-1707 or be

taken without unnecessary delay before a county judge who has jurisdiction of such offense when the arrested person does not furnish satisfactory evidence of identity or when the officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe the person will not appear in court. The court shall provide a bail bond schedule and available personnel to accept adequate security for such bail bonds.

(2.5) In any case in which the arrested person who is taken before a county judge pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) of this section is a child, as defined in section 19-1-103, section 42-4-1706 (2) applies.

(3) Any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, a police officer may place a person who has been arrested and charged with DUI, DUI per se, or UDD and who has been given a written notice or summons to appear in court as provided in section 42-4-1707 in a state-approved treatment facility for alcohol use disorders even though entry or other record of such arrest and charge has been made. Placement is governed by article 81 of title 27, except where in conflict with this section.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2418, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2004:** (2.5) added, p. 1332, § 3, effective July 1, 2005. **L. 2008:** (1)(c) and (3) amended, p. 253, § 22, effective July 1. **L. 2010:** (3) amended, (SB 10-175), ch. 188, p. 809, § 89, effective April 29. **L. 2013:** (1)(c) amended, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1887, § 17, effective May 28. **L. 2018:** (3) amended, (SB 18-091), ch. 35, p. 390, § 36, effective August 8. **L. 2021:** (2.5) amended, (SB 21-059), ch. 136, p. 752, § 140, effective October 1. **L. 2022:** IP(1), (1)(e), and (2) amended, (HB 22-1150), ch. 53, p. 250, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2026:** (1)(b) and (1)(d) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 487, § 72, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1504 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-4-1705 was relocated to § 43-5-505.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 18-091, see section 1 of chapter 35, Session Laws of Colorado 2018.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1705 is similar to § 42-4-1504 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by

SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Appearance required relative to criminal prosecution.** The requirement in this section for an appearance before the county court is a postarrest requirement relative to the criminal prosecution for driving under the influence and has no

bearing upon a civil proceeding under the implied consent statute. *Ayala v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 43 Colo. App. 357, 603 P.2d 979 (1979).

**Applied** in *Stortz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 195 Colo. 325, 578 P.2d 229 (1978).

**42-4-1706. Juveniles - convicted - arrested and incarcerated - provisions for confinement.**

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a child, as defined in section 19-1-103, convicted of a misdemeanor traffic offense pursuant to this article 4, violating the conditions of probation imposed pursuant to this article 4, or found in contempt of court in connection with a violation or alleged violation pursuant to this article 4 must not be confined in a jail, lockup, or other place used for the confinement of adult offenders if the court with jurisdiction is located in a county in which there is a juvenile detention facility operated by or under contract with the department of human services that receives and provides care for children or if the jail is located within forty miles of such facility. The court imposing penalties pursuant to this section may confine a child for a determinate period of time in a juvenile detention facility operated by or under contract with the department of human services. If a juvenile detention facility operated by or under contract with the department of human services is not located within the county or within forty miles of the jail, a child may be confined for up to forty-eight hours in a jail pursuant to section 19-2.5-305 (4).

(2) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a child, as defined in section 19-1-103, arrested and incarcerated for an alleged misdemeanor traffic offense pursuant to this article 4, and not released on bond, must be taken before a county judge who has jurisdiction of such offense within forty-eight hours for fixing of bail and conditions of bond pursuant to section 19-2.5-305 (4)(e). The child must not be confined in a jail, lockup, or other place used for the confinement of adult offenders for longer than seventy-two hours, after which the child may be further detained only in a juvenile detention facility operated by or under contract with the department of human services. In calculating time pursuant to this subsection (2), Saturdays, Sundays, and court holidays are included.

(b) In any case in which a child is taken before a county judge pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (2), the child's parent or legal guardian shall immediately be notified by the court in which the county judge sits. Any person so notified by the court under this paragraph (b) shall comply with the provisions of section 42-4-1716 (4).

**Source: L. 94:** Entire section amended, p. 2720, § 309, effective July 1; entire title amended with relocations, p. 2419, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (1) amended, p. 1698, § 46, effective January 1, 1997. **L. 98:** (2) amended, p. 830, § 56, effective August 5. **L. 2004:** (2) amended, p. 1333, § 4, effective July 1, 2005. **L. 2019:** (2)(a) amended, (SB 19-108), ch. 294, p. 2730, § 30, effective July 1. **L. 2021:** (1) and (2)(a) amended, (SB 21-059), ch. 136, p. 752, § 141, effective October 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-1504.5 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Amendments to this section by House Bill 94-1029 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

**42-4-1707. Summons and complaint or penalty assessment notice for misdemeanors, petty offenses, and misdemeanor traffic offenses - release - registration.**

(1) (a) Whenever a person commits a violation of this title punishable as a misdemeanor, petty offense, or misdemeanor traffic offense, other than a violation for which a penalty assessment notice may be issued in accordance with the provisions of section 42-4-1701 (5)(a), and such person is not required by the provisions of section 42-4-1705 to be arrested and taken without unnecessary delay before a county judge, the peace officer may issue and serve upon the defendant a summons and complaint which must contain the name and address of the defendant, the license number of the vehicle involved, if any, the number of the defendant's driver's license, if any, a citation of the statute alleged to have been violated, a brief description of the offense, the date and approximate location thereof, and the date the summons and complaint is served on the defendant; direct the defendant to appear in a specified county court at a specified time and place; and be signed by the peace officer. The summons and complaint submitted to the department of revenue and the county court before which appearance is required, either by paper or electronic submission, must contain the name and address of the defendant, the license of the vehicle involved, if any, and the number of the defendant's driver's license, if any.

(b) A summons and complaint issued and served pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) on a minor under the age of eighteen years shall also contain or be accompanied by a document containing an advisement to the minor that the minor's parent or legal guardian, if known, shall be notified by the court from which the summons is issued and be required to appear with the minor at the minor's court hearing or hearings.

(2) If a peace officer issues and serves a summons and complaint to appear in any court upon the defendant as described in subsection (1) of this section, any defect in form in such summons and complaint regarding the name and address of the defendant, the license number of the vehicle involved, if any, the number of the defendant's driver's license, if any, the date and

approximate location thereof, and the date the summons and complaint is served on the defendant may be cured by amendment at any time prior to trial or any time before verdict or findings upon an oral motion by the prosecuting attorney after notice to the defendant and an opportunity for a hearing. No such amendment shall be permitted if substantial rights of the defendant are prejudiced. No summons and complaint shall be considered defective so as to be cause for dismissal solely because of a defect in form in such summons and complaint as described in this subsection (2).

(3) (a) Whenever a penalty assessment notice for a misdemeanor, petty offense, or misdemeanor traffic offense is issued pursuant to section 42-4-1701 (5)(a), the penalty assessment notice that the peace officer serves upon the defendant must contain the name and address of the defendant, the license number of the vehicle involved, if any, the number of the defendant's driver's license, if any, a citation of the statute alleged to have been violated, a brief description of the offense, the date and approximate location of the offense, the amount of the penalty prescribed for the offense, the amount of the surcharges pursuant to sections 24-4.1-119 (1)(f), 24-4.2-104 (1), and 24-33.5-415.6, the number of points, if any, prescribed for the offense pursuant to section 42-2-127, and the date the penalty assessment notice is served on the defendant; must direct the defendant to appear in a specified county court at a specified time and place in the event the penalty and surcharges are not paid; must be signed by the peace officer; and must contain other information as may be required by law to constitute the penalty assessment notice to be a summons and complaint if the prescribed penalty and surcharges are not paid within the time allowed in section 42-4-1701.

(a.5) A penalty assessment notice issued and served pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (3) on a minor under the age of eighteen years shall also contain or be accompanied by a document containing:

(I) A preprinted declaration stating that the minor's parent or legal guardian has reviewed the contents of the penalty assessment notice with the minor;

(II) Preprinted signature lines following the declaration on which the reviewing person described in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a.5) shall affix his or her signature and for a notary public to duly acknowledge the reviewing person's signature; and

(III) An advisement to the minor that:

(A) The minor shall, within seventy-two hours after service of the penalty assessment notice, inform his or her parent or legal guardian that the minor has received a penalty assessment notice;

(B) The parent or legal guardian of the minor is required by law to review and sign the penalty assessment notice and to have his or her signature duly acknowledged by a notary public; and

(C) Noncompliance with the requirement set forth in sub-subparagraph (B) of this subparagraph (III) shall result in the minor and the parent or legal guardian of the minor being required to appear in court pursuant to sections 42-4-1710 (1)(b), 42-4-1710 (1.5), and 42-4-1716 (4).

(b) One copy of said penalty assessment notice shall be served upon the defendant by the peace officer and one copy sent to the supervisor within the department and such other copies sent as may be required by rule of the department to govern the internal administration of this article between the department and the Colorado state patrol.

(4) (a) The time specified in the summons portion of said summons and complaint must be at least twenty days after the date such summons and complaint is served, unless the defendant shall demand an earlier court appearance date.

(b) The time specified in the summons portion of said penalty assessment notice shall be at least thirty days but not more than ninety days after the date such penalty assessment notice is served, unless the defendant shall demand an earlier court appearance date.

(5) The place specified in the summons portion of said summons and complaint or of the penalty assessment notice must be a county court within the county in which the offense is alleged to have been committed.

(6) If the defendant is otherwise eligible to be issued a summons and complaint or a penalty assessment notice for a violation of this title 42 punishable as a misdemeanor, petty offense, or misdemeanor traffic offense and if the defendant does not possess a valid Colorado driver's license, the defendant, in order to secure release, must receive information on the penalty assessment notice or summons and complaint that directs the defendant to appear at a specified county court at a specified time and place in the event the penalty and surcharges are not paid, and other information that may be required by law to constitute the penalty assessment to be a summons and complaint if the prescribed penalty and surcharges are not paid within the time allowed in section 42-4-1701. If the defendant does possess a valid Colorado driver's license, the defendant must not be required to execute a promise to appear on the penalty assessment notice or on the summons and complaint. The peace officer shall not require any person who is eligible to be issued a summons and complaint or a penalty assessment notice for a violation of this title 42 to produce or divulge such person's social security number.

(7) Any officer violating any of the provisions of this section is guilty of misconduct in office and shall be subject to removal from office.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2420, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (3)(b) amended, p. 1645, § 32, effective June 1. **L. 2001:** (6) amended, p. 942, § 10, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (1) amended and (3)(a.5) added, pp. 1333, 1334, §§ 5, 6, effective July

1, 2005. **L. 2007:** (3)(a) amended, p. 1121, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (3)(a) and (6) amended, (SB 09-241), ch. 295, p. 1579, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2016:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 16-1032), ch. 37, p. 93, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2022:** (3)(a) and (6) amended, (HB 22-1150), ch. 53, p. 251, § 2, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1505 as it existed prior to 1994.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Review of New Legislation Relating to Criminal Law", see 11 Colo. Law. 2148 (1982).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1707 is similar to § 42-4-1505 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Section 42-4-1507 does not allow noncompliance with the mandate of § 42-4-1505;** rather, § 42-4-1507 relates to other procedures concerning arrest. *People v. Overlee*, 174 Colo. 202, 483 P.2d 222 (1971).

**Failure of notice to advise that signature and payment of fine constitute guilty plea.** Where there was no statement in the penalty assessment notices advising defendant that his signature and payment of the fine constituted a plea of guilty or an acknowledgment of guilt, the notices did not comply with the mandatory requirements of this section, and defendant's acceptance of the notices in the form tendered and his payment of the fines stated therein may not be considered a conviction for which points may be assessed. *Cave v. Colo. Dept. of*

*Rev.*, 31 Colo. App. 185, 501 P.2d 479 (1972).

**Presumption of correctness of records held insufficient for suspending driving privileges.** Presumption of the correctness of department of revenue records indicating that a motorist charged with driving 41 miles per hour in a 30 mile per hour zone in a city had paid \$15 to the municipal court clerk was insufficient for purposes of suspending the motorist's driving privileges where the evidence at the hearing established that there was neither a specific court judgment nor a signed acknowledgment of guilt as prescribed by section 42-4-1501 (4)(a) and subsection (2)(a) of this section. *Troutman v. Dept. of Rev.*, 38 Colo. App. 417, 571 P.2d 726 (1976); *Martinez v. Dolan*, 41 Colo. App. 513, 591 P.2d 588 (1978).

**Payment of ticket, and subsequent lack of protest, precludes challenge of conviction.** Where a party pays a traffic ticket without a court judgment or a signed acknowledgment of guilt, but does not challenge the validity of the conviction and affirms the accuracy of his driving record at a departmental hearing, the party may not

then challenge the conviction. *Martinez v. Dolan*, 41 Colo. App. 513, 591 P.2d 588 (1978).

**Applied** in *Stortz v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 195 Colo. 325, 578 P.2d 229 (1978).

**42-4-1708. Traffic infractions - proper court for hearing, burden of proof - appeal - collateral attack.**

(1) Every hearing in county court for the adjudication of a traffic infraction, as provided by this article, shall be held before a county court magistrate appointed pursuant to part 5 of article 6 of title 13, C.R.S., or before a county judge acting as a magistrate; except that, whenever a crime and a class A or class B traffic infraction or a crime and both such class A and class B traffic infractions are charged in the same summons and complaint, all charges shall be made returnable before a judge or magistrate having jurisdiction over the crime and the rules of criminal procedure shall apply. Nothing in this part 17 or in part 5 of article 6 of title 13, C.R.S., shall be construed to prevent a court having jurisdiction over a criminal charge relating to traffic law violations from lawfully entering a judgment on a case dealing with a class A or class B traffic infraction.

(2) When a court of competent jurisdiction determines that a person charged with a class 1 or class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense is guilty of a lesser-included offense which is a class A or class B traffic infraction, the court may enter a judgment as to such lesser charge.

(3) The burden of proof shall be upon the people, and the traffic magistrate shall enter judgment in favor of the defendant unless the people prove the liability of the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt. The district attorney or the district attorney's deputy may, in the district attorney's discretion, enter traffic infraction cases for the purpose of attempting a negotiated plea or a stipulation to deferred prosecution or deferred judgment and sentence but shall not be required to so enter by any person, court, or law, nor shall the district attorney represent the state at hearings conducted by a magistrate or a county judge acting as a magistrate on class A or class B traffic infraction matters. The magistrate or county judge acting as a magistrate shall be permitted to call and question any witness and shall also act as the fact finder at hearings on traffic infraction matters.

(4) Appeal from final judgment on a traffic infraction matter shall be taken to the district court for the county in which the magistrate or judge acting as magistrate is located.

(5) (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (5), no person against whom a judgment has been entered for a traffic infraction as defined in section 42-4-1701 (3)(a) shall collaterally attack the validity of that judgment unless such attack is commenced within six months after the date of entry of the judgment.



(b) In recognition of the difficulties attending the litigation of stale claims and the potential for frustrating various statutory provisions directed at repeat offenders, former offenders, and habitual offenders, the only exceptions to the time limitations specified in subsection (5)(a) of this section are:

(I) A case in which the court entering judgment did not have jurisdiction over the subject matter of the alleged infraction;

(II) A case in which the court entering judgment did not have jurisdiction over the person of the violator;

(III) Where the court hearing the collateral attack finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the failure to seek relief within the applicable time period was caused by an adjudication of incompetence or by commitment or certification of the violator to an institution for treatment as a person with a mental health disorder; or

(IV) Where the court hearing the collateral attack finds that the failure to seek relief within the applicable time period was the result of circumstances amounting to justifiable excuse or excusable neglect.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2421, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2006:** (5)(b)(III) amended, p. 1409, § 81, effective August 7. **L. 2017:** IP(5)(b) and (5)(b)(III) amended, (SB 17-242), ch. 263, p. 1381, § 308, effective May 25.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1505.3 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For provisions concerning limitation for collateral attack upon trial judgment, see § 16-5-402; for penalties for class A and class B traffic infractions and class 1 and class 2 misdemeanor traffic offenses, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a).

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1708 is similar to § 42-4-1505.3 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**This section requires traffic infractions and criminal offenses to be made returnable to a court having jurisdiction over the criminal offense** when all charges are contained in the same summons and complaint. When a summons and complaint

charging a traffic infraction are made returnable to a referee, the district attorney is precluded from participating in the

proceeding. *Williamsen v. People*, 735 P.2d 176 (Colo. 1987).

**42-4-1708.5. Civil infractions - proper court for hearing, burden of proof - appeal - collateral attack. (Repealed)**

**Source:** L. 2021: Entire section added (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3315, § 737, effective March 1, 2022. L. 2022: Entire section repealed, (HB 22-1229), ch. 68, p. 349, § 39, effective March 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) Section 47 of chapter 68 (HB 22-1229), Session Laws of Colorado 2022, provides that the act repealing this section is effective March 1, 2022, but the governor did not approve the act until April 7, 2022.

(2) Section 47 of chapter 68 (HB 22-1229), Session Laws of Colorado 2022, provides that the act repealing this section applies to offenses committed on or after March 1, 2022.

**42-4-1709. Penalty assessment notice for traffic infractions - violations of provisions by officer - driver's license - definition.**

(1) Whenever a penalty assessment notice for a traffic infraction is issued pursuant to section 42-4-1701 (5)(a), the penalty assessment notice that the peace officer serves upon the defendant must contain the name and address of the defendant, the license number of the vehicle involved, if any, the number of the defendant's driver's license, if any, a citation of the statute alleged to have been violated, a brief description of the traffic infraction, the date and approximate location of the offense, the amount of the penalty prescribed for the traffic infraction, the amount of the surcharges pursuant to sections 24-4.1-119 (1)(f), 24-4.2-104 (1), and 24-33.5-415.6, the number of points, if any, prescribed for the traffic infraction pursuant to section 42-2-127, and the date the penalty assessment notice is served on the defendant; must direct the defendant to appear in a specified county court at a specified time and place in the event the penalty and surcharges are not paid; must be signed by the peace officer; and must contain other information as may be required by law to constitute the penalty assessment notice to be a summons and complaint if the prescribed penalty and surcharges are not paid within the time allowed in section 42-4-1701.

(1.5) A penalty assessment notice issued and served pursuant to subsection (1) of this section on a minor under the age of eighteen years shall also contain or be accompanied by a document containing:

(a) A preprinted declaration stating that the minor's parent or legal guardian has reviewed the contents of the penalty assessment notice with the minor;

(b) Preprinted signature lines following the declaration on which the reviewing person described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1.5) shall affix his or her signature and for a notary public to duly acknowledge the reviewing person's signature; and

(c) An advisement to the minor that:

(I) The minor shall, within seventy-two hours after service of the penalty assessment notice, inform his or her parent or legal guardian that the minor has received a penalty assessment notice;

(II) The parent or legal guardian of the minor is required by law to review and sign the penalty assessment notice and to have his or her signature duly acknowledged by a notary public; and

(III) Noncompliance with the requirement set forth in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (c) shall result in the minor and the parent or legal guardian of the minor being required to appear in court pursuant to sections 42-4-1710 (1)(b), 42-4-1710 (1.5), and 42-4-1716 (4).

(2) One copy of said penalty assessment notice shall be served upon the defendant by the peace officer and one copy sent to the supervisor within the department and such other copies sent as may be required by rule of the department to govern the internal administration of this article between the department and the Colorado state patrol.

(3) The time specified in the summons portion of said penalty assessment notice must be at least thirty days but not more than ninety days after the date such penalty assessment notice is served, unless the defendant shall demand an earlier hearing.

(4) The place specified in the summons portion of said penalty assessment notice must be a county court within the county in which the traffic infraction is alleged to have been committed.

(5) Whenever the defendant refuses to accept service of the penalty assessment notice, tender of such notice by the peace officer to the defendant shall constitute service thereof upon the defendant.

(6) Any officer violating any of the provisions of this section is guilty of misconduct in office and shall be subject to removal from office.

(7) (a) A person is not allowed or permitted to obtain or renew a permanent driver's, minor driver's, or probationary license if such person has, at the time of making application for obtaining or renewing such driver's license:

(I) to (V) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2021.)

(VI) Issued a check or order to the department to pay a penalty assessment, a driver's license fee, a license reinstatement fee, or a motor vehicle record fee and such check or order is returned for insufficient funds or a closed account and remains unpaid. For the purposes of this subsection (7), the term "insufficient funds" means having an insufficient balance on account with a bank or other drawee for the payment of a check or order when the check or order is presented for payment within thirty days after issue.

(VII) Repealed.

(VIII) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2021.)

(b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2021.)

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2423, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (7)(a) amended, p. 1004, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 96:** IP(7)(a) amended, p. 1205, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 97:** (7)(a)(VI) added, p. 1386, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (2) amended, p. 1645, § 33, effective June 1; IP(7)(a) amended, p. 1359, § 39, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2003:** (7)(a)(VII) added, p. 1388, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2004:** (1.5) added, p. 1334, § 7, effective July 1, 2005. **L. 2005:** (7)(a)(VII) repealed, p. 838, § 3, June 1. **L. 2007:** (1) amended, p. 1121, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (1) amended, (SB 09-241), ch. 295, p. 1580, § 8, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** IP(7)(a) amended and (7)(a)(VIII) added, (SB 12-044), ch. 274, p. 1448, § 3, effective June 8. **L. 2021:** (7) amended, (HB 21-1314), ch. 460, p. 3098, § 7, effective January 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (1) amended, (HB 22-1150), ch. 53, p. 251, § 3, effective August 10.

**42-4-1710. Failure to pay penalty for traffic infractions - failure of parent or guardian to sign penalty assessment notice - procedures - repeal.**

(1) (a) Unless a person who has been cited for a traffic infraction pays the penalty assessment as provided in this article and surcharge thereon pursuant to sections 24-4.1-119 (1)(f) and 24-4.2-104 (1), C.R.S., the person shall appear at a hearing on the date and time specified in the citation and answer the complaint against such person.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) and section 42-4-1701 (5), a minor under the age of eighteen years shall be required to appear at a hearing on the date and time specified in the citation and answer the complaint if the penalty assessment was timely paid but not signed and notarized in the manner required by section 42-4-1707 (3)(a.5) or 42-4-1709 (1.5).

(1.5) If a minor under the age of eighteen years is required to appear at a hearing pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the minor shall so inform his or her parent or legal guardian, and the parent or legal guardian shall also be required to appear at the hearing.

(2) If the violator answers that he or she is guilty or if the violator fails to appear for the hearing, judgment shall be entered against the violator.

(3) If the violator denies the allegations in the complaint, a final hearing on the complaint shall be held subject to the provisions regarding a speedy trial which are contained in section 18-1-405, C.R.S. If the violator is found guilty or liable at such final hearing or if the violator fails to appear for a final hearing, judgment shall be entered against the violator.

(4) (a) (I) (A) If judgment is entered against a violator, the violator shall be assessed an appropriate penalty and surcharge thereon, a docket fee of sixteen dollars, and other applicable costs authorized by section 13-16-122 (1), C.R.S. If the violator had been cited by a penalty assessment notice, the penalty shall be assessed pursuant to section 42-4-1701 (4)(a). If a penalty assessment notice is prohibited by section 42-4-1701 (5)(c), the penalty shall be assessed pursuant to section 42-4-1701 (3)(a).

(B) On and after July 1, 2008, all docket fees collected under this subparagraph (I) shall be transmitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the judicial stabilization cash fund created in section 13-32-101 (6), C.R.S.

(II) On and after June 6, 2003, the docket fee assessed in subsection (4)(a)(I) of this section is increased by three dollars. The additional revenue generated by the docket fee shall be transmitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the state commission on judicial performance cash fund created in section 13-5.5-115.

(a.5) (I) (A) Pursuant to section 13-1-204 (1)(b), a five-dollar surcharge, in addition to the original surcharge described in subsection (4)(a) of this section, shall be assessed and collected on each docket fee that is described in subsection (4)(a) of this section.

(B) This subsection (4)(a.5)(I) is repealed, effective June 30, 2027.

(II) Beginning July 1, 2027, the court shall collect, on behalf of the court security authority, the court security surcharge described in section 13-1-505 on each docket fee specified in subsection (4)(a) of this section in the amount of ten dollars. The court shall transmit the court security surcharge in the manner specified in section 13-1-505 (2).

(b) In no event shall a bench warrant be issued for the arrest of any person who fails to appear for a hearing pursuant to subsection (1.5) or (2) of this section or for a final hearing pursuant to subsection (3) of this section. Except as otherwise provided in section 42-4-1716, entry of judgment and assessment of the penalty and surcharge pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) and any penalties imposed pursuant to section 42-2-127 shall constitute the sole penalties for failure to appear for either the hearing or the final hearing.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2424, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** (4) amended, p. 1433, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2003:** (4)(a) amended, p. 2671, § 2, effective June 6. **L. 2004:** (1) and (4)(b) amended and (1.5) added, p. 1335, § 8, effective July 1, 2005. **L. 2007:** (4)(a.5) added, p. 1269, § 8, effective May 25; (4)(a)(I) amended, p. 1539, § 33, effective May 31; (1)(a) amended, p. 1122, § 8, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (4)(a)(I)(B) amended, p. 2148, § 26, effective June 4. **L. 2017:** (4)(a)(II) amended, (HB 17-1303), ch. 331, p. 1780, § 5, effective August 9. **L. 2026:** (4)(a.5) amended, (HB 26-1422), ch. 331, p. 1960, § 25, effective June 2.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1505.7 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2008 act amending subsection (4)(a)(I)(B), see section 1 of chapter 417, Session Laws of Colorado 2008.

#### **42-4-1711. Compliance with appearance.**

A defendant may comply with a requirement to appear in court through an appearance by counsel.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2425, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2022:** Entire section amended, (HB 22-1150), ch. 53, p. 252, § 4, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1506 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-4-1712. Procedure prescribed not exclusive.**

The foregoing provisions of this article shall govern all police officers in making arrests without a warrant or issuing citations for violations of this article, for offenses or infractions committed in their presence, but the procedure prescribed in this article shall not otherwise be exclusive of any other method prescribed by law for the arrest and prosecution of a person for an offense or infraction of like grade.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2425, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1507 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For arrests generally, see article 3 of title 16.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1712 is similar to § 42-4-1507 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Section relates to other procedures concerning arrest.** Section 42-4-1507 does not allow noncompliance with the mandate of § 42-4-1505; rather, § 42-4-1507 relates

to other procedures concerning arrest. *People v. Overlee*, 174 Colo. 202, 483 P.2d 222 (1971).

**The inclusion of the word "otherwise" in this section was not meant to give exclusive jurisdiction to a county judge** in those cases where the alleged offense was committed in the presence of the arresting officer. *People v. Griffith*, 130 Colo. 475, 276 P.2d 559 (1954).

#### **42-4-1713. Conviction record inadmissible in civil action.**

Except as provided in sections 42-2-201 to 42-2-208, no record of the conviction of any person for any violation of this article shall be admissible as evidence in any court in any civil action.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2425, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1508 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Plea of Guilty as an Admission", see 33 *Dicta* 188 (1956).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1713 is similar to § 42-4-1508 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by

SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**This section prohibits the admission in evidence of the record of conviction of**

**any person**, for violation of the state traffic laws, in a civil action. *Ripple v. Brack*, 132 Colo. 125, 286 P.2d 625 (1955).

This section prevents the admission of evidence of conviction for failure to yield in violation of § 42-4-703 (3). That evidence may not be introduced at trial or during summary judgment and may not serve as the basis for issue preclusion on the question of violation of a statute. *Bullock v. Wayne*, 623 F. Supp. 2d 1247 (D. Colo. 2009).

**Evidence of convictions under this article are only permissible in a habitual traffic offender proceeding.** *Alhilo v. Kliem*, 2016 COA 142, 412 P.3d 902.

**Unless §§ 42-2-201 to 42-2-208 are implicated, evidence of a driver's prior traffic convictions is not admissible in a civil action**, even if such convictions caused the driver's license to be suspended at the time of the accident that is the subject of the civil action. Absent an adjudication by the department of revenue that the driver was an habitual offender, the convictions are inadmissible for any purpose, including to show that the prior convictions giving rise to the suspension indicated a habit, practice, and pattern of disregard for traffic regulations. *Lawrence v. Taylor*, 8 P.3d 607 (Colo. App. 2000).

**Highly speculative assertion in personal injury action that plaintiff's decedent would have been convicted of driving under suspension had he survived, and**

**thus qualify as an habitual offender under §§ 42-2-201 to 42-2-208, does not meet the exception in this section.** Thus, the decedent's prior traffic convictions were properly excluded at trial. *Lawrence v. Taylor*, 8 P.3d 607 (Colo. App. 2000).

**Section prohibits admission of evidence of charge of violation.** By this section, the general assembly obviously intended, by prohibiting the admission in evidence in a civil action of the record of conviction of any person for violation of the traffic laws, to prohibit also the asking questions as to whether or not the plaintiff had been charged in justice's court with a violation of the state traffic laws. *Ripple v. Brack*, 132 Colo. 125, 286 P.2d 625 (1955).

**No prejudice to defendant.** The medical witness stated: "An auto hit him in the back and he got a ticket for reckless driving." The statement is ambiguous; for that reason it was proper to clarify since the plaintiff did not receive a ticket, and the defendant's counsel did not move to strike the statement. The facts do not bring the motion for mistrial within the ambit of the proscription of the statute, since the statement made no mention of a "conviction", nor was any effort made to introduce a "record of the conviction of any person". There was no prejudice to the defendant. *Thompson v. Tartler*, 166 Colo. 247, 443 P.2d 365 (1968).

**Applied** in *McCormick v. United States*, 539 F. Supp. 1179 (D. Colo. 1982).



**42-4-1714. Traffic violation not to affect credibility of witness.**

The conviction of a person upon a charge of violating any provision of this article or other traffic regulation less than a felony shall not affect or impair the credibility of such person as a witness in any civil or criminal proceeding.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2425, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1509 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-4-1715. Convictions, judgments, and charges recorded - public inspection.**

(1) (a) Every judge of a court not of record and every clerk of a court of record shall keep a full record of every case in which a person is charged with any violation of this article or any other law regulating the operation of vehicles on highways.

(b) (I) Upon application by a person, the court shall expunge all records concerning a conviction of the person for UDD with a BAC of at least 0.02 but not more than 0.05 if:

(A) Such person presents a request for expungement to the court and provides all information required by the court to process such request;

(B) Such person is over twenty-one years of age and the court action regarding the offense has been concluded;

(C) The person has not been convicted for any other offense under section 42-4-1301 that was committed while such person was under twenty-one years of age;

(D) Such person pays the fine and surcharge for such conviction and completes any other requirements of the court with regard to such conviction, including, but not limited to, any order to pay restitution to any party;

(E) Such person has never held a commercial driver's license as defined in section 42-2-402; and

(F) Such person was not operating a commercial motor vehicle as defined in section 42-2-402.

(II) Upon receiving a request for expungement, the court may delay consideration of such request until sufficient time has elapsed to ensure that the person is not convicted for any additional offense of DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD committed while the person was under twenty-one years of age.

(2) (a) Subject to paragraph (b) of this subsection (2), within ten days after the entry of a judgment, conviction, or forfeiture of bail of a person upon a charge of violating this article or other law regulating the operation of vehicles on highways, the judge or clerk of the court in which the entry of a judgment was made, the conviction was had, or bail was forfeited shall prepare and forward to the department an abstract of the record of the court covering every case in which the person had a judgment entered against him or her, was convicted, or forfeited bail, which abstract shall be certified by the preparer to be true and correct.

(b) For the holder of a commercial driver's license as defined in section 42-2-402 or an offense committed by a person operating a commercial motor vehicle as defined in section 42-2-402, within five days after conviction of a person upon a charge of violating this article or other law regulating the operation of vehicles on highways, the judge or clerk of the court in which the person was convicted shall prepare and forward to the department an abstract of the record of the court covering every case in which the person was convicted, which abstract shall be certified by the preparer to be true and correct.

(3) Said abstract must be made upon a form furnished by the department and shall include the name, address, and driver's license number of the party charged, the registration number of the vehicle involved, the nature of the offense, the date of hearing, the plea, the judgment or whether bail forfeited, and the amount of the fine or forfeiture.

(4) (a) Every court of record shall also forward a like report to the department:

(I) Upon the conviction of any person of vehicular homicide or any other felony in the commission of which a vehicle was used; and

(II) Upon the dismissal of a charge for DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD or if the original charge was for DUI, DUI per se, DWAI, or UDD and the conviction was for a nonalcohol- or nondrug-related traffic offense.

(b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2008, p. 475, § 6, effective July 1, 2008.)

(5) The department shall keep all abstracts received under this section, as well as a record of penalty assessments received, at the main office, and the same shall be public records and subject to the provisions of section 42-1-206.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2425, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (1) amended, p. 1469, § 15, effective July 1. **L. 98:** IP(1)(b)(I) amended, p. 176, § 7, effective April 6. **L. 2008:** IP(1)(b)(I), (1)(b)(II), and (4)(a)(II) amended, p. 253, § 23, effective July 1; (1)(b)(I)(E) and (1)(b)(I)(F) added and (2) and (4)(b) amended, pp. 474, 475, §§ 5, 6, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** (1)(b)(II) and (4)(a)(II) amended, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1887, § 18, effective May 28.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1510 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For vehicular homicide, see § 18-3-106.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1715 is similar to § 42-4-1510 as it existed prior to the 1994 of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**"[E]xpunge all records concerning a conviction of the person for UDD", as that phrase is used in subsection (1)(b)(I), means to strike out, obliterate, or mark for deletion all references to petitioner's arrest for UDD, the institution and prosecution of UDD charges against the petitioner, and the petitioner's conviction therefor.** People v. Connors, 230 P.3d 1265 (Colo. App. 2010).

**Subsection (1)(b)(I) does not provide for the expungement of non-UDD charges, even if such charges were brought at the same time or in the same document as the UDD charge.** People v. Connors, 230 P.3d 1265 (Colo. App. 2010).

"Expunge", as used in subsection (1)(b)(I), does not require expungement of records concerning non-UDD charges when such charges are brought along with the UDD charge. Thus, it was error for magistrate to expunge pursuant to subsection (1)(b)(I) two charges for possession of a controlled substance. People v. Connors, 230 P.3d 1265 (Colo. App. 2010).

**Department's driving records are presumed correct.** The mere absence of any notation on traffic tickets concerning their disposition does not overcome the presumption of correctness of the department's driving records. A driving record is prima facie proof of its contents, including convictions, without the necessity of looking behind the records to the underlying tickets. People v. Anadale, 674 P.2d 372 (Colo. 1984).

#### **42-4-1716. Notice to appear or pay fine - failure to appear - penalty - definition.**

(1) For the purposes of this part 17, tender by an arresting officer of the summons or penalty assessment notice shall constitute notice to the violator to appear in court at the time specified on such summons or to pay the required fine and surcharge thereon.

(2) A person commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense if the person fails to appear to answer any offense other than a traffic infraction charged under this part 17.

(3) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2004, p. 1335, § 9, effective July 1, 2005.)

(4) (a) (I) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (a), a person who is a parent or legal guardian of a minor under the age of eighteen years and who is required to appear in court with the minor pursuant to the provisions of this part 17 including but not limited to section 42-4-1706 (2)(b), 42-4-1707 (1)(b), or 42-4-1710 (1.5), shall appear in court at the location and on the date stated in the penalty assessment notice or in the summons and complaint or as instructed by the court.

(II) The provisions of subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a) concerning the appearance of a parent or legal guardian shall not apply in a case where the minor under the age of eighteen years or the parent of the minor demonstrates to the court by clear and convincing evidence that the minor is an emancipated minor.

(III) For purposes of this subsection (4), "emancipated minor" means a minor under the age of eighteen years who has no legal guardian and whose parents have entirely surrendered the right to the care, custody, and earnings of the minor, no longer are under any duty to support or maintain the minor, and have made no provision for the support of the minor.

(b) Repealed.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2426, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2004: (2) and (3) amended and (4) added, p. 1335, § 9, effective July 1, 2005. L. 2021: (2) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3316, § 738, effective March 1, 2022; (4)(b)(II) added by revision, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, pp. 3316, 3331, §§ 738, 803.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-1511 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Subsection (4)(b)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (4)(b), effective March 1, 2022. (See L. 2021, pp. 3316, 3331.)

**Cross references:** For penalties for class 2 misdemeanor traffic offenses, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II).

## ANNOTATION

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**Law reviews.** For article, "Review of New Legislation Relating to Criminal Law", see 11 Colo. Law. 2148 (1982).

**42-4-1717. Conviction - attendance at driver improvement school - rules.**

(1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, if a person has been convicted of violating this article 4 or any other law regulating the operation of motor vehicles other than a violation of section 42-4-1301, the court may require the defendant, at the defendant's expense, to attend and satisfactorily complete a course of instruction at any designated driver improvement school providing instruction in: The traffic laws of this state, recognition of hazardous traffic situations, and traffic crash prevention. Upon completion of the course, the court may suspend all or a portion of the fine or sentence of imprisonment. Unless otherwise provided by law, the school must be approved by the court.

(2) Whenever a minor under eighteen years of age has been convicted of violating any provision of this article 4 or other law regulating the operation of vehicles on highways, other than a traffic infraction, the court shall require the minor to attend and satisfactorily complete a course of instruction at any designated driver improvement school providing instruction in the traffic laws of this state, instruction in recognition of hazardous traffic situations, and instruction in traffic crash prevention. The court shall impose the driver improvement school requirement in addition to the penalty provided for the violation or as a condition of either the probation or the suspension of all or any portion of any fine or sentence of imprisonment for the violation. The minor, or the minor's parent or parents who appear in court with the minor in accordance with section 42-4-1716 (4), shall pay the cost of attending the designated driver improvement school. The courts shall make available information on scholarships and other financial assistance available to help minors or their parents offset the costs of driver improvement school. Unless otherwise provided by law, such school must be approved by the court.

(3) Repealed.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2426, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2006:** Entire section amended, p. 425, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (1) amended and (3) added, (HB 09-1246), ch. 346, p. 1812, § 2, effective August 5. **L. 2014:** (1) amended and (3) repealed, (HB 14-1228), ch. 337, p. 1502, § 2, effective June 5. **L. 2026:** (1) and (2) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 487, § 73, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1513 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-4-1718. Electronic transmission of data - standards.**

(1) The department, the judicial department, and the department of public safety shall jointly develop standards for the electronic transmission of any penalty assessment notice or summons and complaint issued pursuant to the provisions of this article or issued pursuant to any county ordinance adopted under section 30-15-401 (1)(h), C.R.S. Such agencies shall consult with county sheriffs, municipal police departments, municipal courts, and the office of transportation safety in the department of transportation in developing such standards. Such standards shall be consistent with requirements of the department for reporting convictions under the provisions of this article and with the requirements of the department of public safety for reporting criminal information under article 21 of title 16, C.R.S. The provisions of this section shall not be interpreted to require any municipality, county, or other government entity to transmit traffic data electronically.

(2) A municipal court, county court, district court, or any court with jurisdiction over violations of traffic rules and laws shall not dismiss any charges or refuse to enforce any traffic law or rule solely because a penalty assessment notice or summons and complaint issued pursuant to the standards established in this section is in electronic form or contains an electronic signature.

**Source:** L. 96: Entire section added, p. 328, § 3, effective May 1. L. 2003: Entire section amended, p. 2440, § 1, effective June 5.

**42-4-1719. Violations - commercial driver's license - compliance with federal regulation.**

As to a holder of a commercial driver's license as defined in section 42-2-402 or the operator of a commercial motor vehicle as defined in section 42-2-402, a court shall not defer imposition of judgment or allow a person to enter into a diversion program that would prevent a driver's conviction for any violation, in any type of motor vehicle, of a traffic control law from appearing on the driver's record.

**Source:** L. 2008: Entire section added, p. 475, § 7, effective July 1.

**42-4-1720. Registration violations - dismissal upon compliance - notice required.**

(1) A court may dismiss a violation for failing to register a vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or motor vehicle in violation of section 42-3-103 (1) or (4), 42-3-114, 42-3-115, or 42-6-140 or of the rules of the department implementing section 42-3-102 if:

(a) The vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or motor vehicle was unregistered for no more than four months at the time of the violation;

(b) The owner registered the vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or motor vehicle before the owner's first court date as listed on the citation or summons; and

(c) The owner pays to the court a thirty-dollar administrative dismissal fee if the court is a municipal court.

(2) A peace officer who charges a person for a violation described in the introductory portion of subsection (1) of this section must notify the defendant of the opportunity to have the charge dismissed by the court, if the registration that led to the citation or summons is expired for four months or less at the time of the violation and if registration is renewed prior to the first court date listed on the citation or summons, by either:

(a) Oral means if notification by electronic means on the citation is not implemented; or

(b) Electronic means on the citation if implemented.

**Source: L. 2025:** Entire section added, (HB 25-1112), ch. 348, p. 1878, § 3, effective August 6.

## PART 18

### VEHICLES ABANDONED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

**Editor's note:** This title was amended with relocations in 1994, and this part 18 was subsequently amended with relocations in 2002, resulting in the addition, relocation, and elimination of sections as well as subject matter. For amendments to this part 18 prior to 2002, consult the Colorado statutory research explanatory note beginning on page vii in the front of this volume and the editor's note following the title heading. Former C.R.S. section numbers are shown in editor's notes following those sections that were relocated in 2002.

**Cross references:** For provisions concerning vehicles abandoned on private property, see part 21 of this article.

#### **42-4-1801. Legislative declaration.**

The general assembly hereby declares that the purpose of this part 18 is to provide procedures for the removal, storage, and disposal of motor vehicles that are abandoned on public property.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part amended with relocations, p. 468, § 1, effective July 1.

#### **42-4-1802. Definitions.**

As used in this part 18, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Abandoned motor vehicle" means:

(a) Any motor vehicle left unattended on public property, including any portion of a highway right-of-way, outside the limits of any incorporated town or city for a period of forty-eight hours or longer;

(b) Any motor vehicle left unattended on public property, including any portion of a highway right-of-way, within the limits of any incorporated town or city for a period longer than any limit prescribed by any local ordinance concerning the abandonment of motor vehicles or, if there is no such ordinance, for a period of forty-eight hours or longer;

(c) Any motor vehicle stored in an impound lot at the request of a law enforcement agency and not removed from the impound lot within seventy-two hours after the time the law enforcement agency notifies the owner or agent that the vehicle is available for release upon payment of any applicable charges or fees;

(d) A motor vehicle fitted with an immobilization device that is on public property and deemed to be abandoned pursuant to section 42-4-1105 (7)(c); or

(e) Any motor vehicle left unattended at a regional transportation district parking facility, as defined in section 32-9-119.9 (6), C.R.S., that is deemed to be abandoned pursuant to section 32-9-119.9 (4)(b), C.R.S.

(2) "Agency employee" means any employee of the department of transportation or other municipal, county, or city and county agency responsible for highway safety and maintenance.

(3) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (HB 09-1279), ch. 170, p. 763, § 1, effective August 5, 2009.)

(4) "Appraisal" means a bona fide estimate of reasonable market value made by any motor vehicle dealer licensed in this state or by any employee of the Colorado state patrol or of any



sheriff's or police department whose appointment for such purpose has been reported by the head of the appointing agency to the executive director of the department.

(5) "Disabled motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle that is stopped or parked, either attended or unattended, upon a public right-of-way and that is, due to any mechanical failure or any inoperability because of a collision, a fire, or any other such injury, temporarily inoperable under its own power.

(6) "Impound lot" means a parcel of real property that is owned or leased by a government or operator at which motor vehicles are stored under appropriate protection.

(7) "Operator" means a person or a firm licensed by the public utilities commission as a towing carrier.

(8) "Public property" means any real property having its title, ownership, use, or possession held by the federal government; this state; or any county, municipality, as defined in section 31-1-101 (6), C.R.S., or other governmental entity of this state.

(9) "Responsible law enforcement agency" means the law enforcement agency authorizing the original tow of an abandoned motor vehicle, whether or not the vehicle is towed to another law enforcement agency's jurisdiction.

**Source:** **L. 2002:** Entire part amended with relocations, p. 468, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2006:** (1)(d) added, p. 172, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2007:** (1)(e) added, p. 1002, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (3) and (7) amended, (HB 09-1279), ch. 170, p. 763, § 1, effective August 5.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1802 is similar to § 42-4-1802 as it existed prior to the 2002 amendment to part 18 of article 4 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, relevant cases decided under former provisions similar to that section have been included in the annotations to this section.

**"Disabled" vehicle under former subsection (2).** Where the lights on a vehicle fail at a point on the highway where the shoulder of the road is not wide enough

to permit the parking of the vehicle off of the pavement and under circumstances rendering it dangerous to move the vehicle, the vehicle was disabled within the meaning of former subsection (2). *Anderson v. Hudspeth Pine, Inc.*, 299 F.2d 874 (10th Cir. 1962).

**Vehicle not "disabled".** Where motorists stopped automobile partially on paved highway for purpose of removing frost which had entirely covered windshield, the automobile was not "disabled" within

meaning of former subsection (2). *Dillon v. Sterling Rendering Works*, 106 Colo. 407, 106 P.2d 358 (1940).

**42-4-1803. Abandonment of motor vehicles - public property.**

(1) (a) No person shall abandon any motor vehicle upon public property. Any sheriff, undersheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer, marshal, Colorado state patrol officer, or agent of the Colorado bureau of investigation who finds a motor vehicle that such officer has reasonable grounds to believe has been abandoned shall require such motor vehicle to be removed or cause the same to be removed and placed in storage in any impound lot designated or maintained by the law enforcement agency employing such officer.

(b) If an operator is used by the responsible law enforcement agency to tow or impound the motor vehicle pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (1), the operator shall be provided with written authorization to possess the motor vehicle on a document that includes, without limitation, the year, make, model, vehicle identification number, and storage location.

(2) Whenever any sheriff, undersheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer, marshal, Colorado state patrol officer, agent of the Colorado bureau of investigation, or agency employee finds a motor vehicle, vehicle, cargo, or debris, attended or unattended, standing upon any portion of a highway right-of-way in such a manner as to constitute an obstruction or impediment to traffic or proper highway maintenance or operations, such officer or agency employee is authorized to cause the motor vehicle, vehicle, cargo, or debris to be moved to eliminate any such obstruction or impediment; and neither the officer, the agency employee, nor anyone acting under the direction of such officer or employee is liable for any damage to such motor vehicle, vehicle, cargo, or debris occasioned by such removal. The removal process is intended to clear the obstruction or impediment, but such activity should create as little damage as possible to the vehicle, or cargo, or both. An agency employee shall not cause any motor vehicle to be moved unless such employee has obtained approval from a local law enforcement agency of a municipality, county, or city and county, the Colorado bureau of investigation, or the Colorado state patrol.

(3) The operator shall be responsible for removing the motor vehicle and the motor vehicle debris from the site pursuant to this section, but shall not be required to remove or clean up any hazardous or commercial cargo the motor vehicle carried. The commercial carrier shall be responsible for removal or clean-up of the hazardous or commercial cargo.

**Source:** **L. 2002:** Entire part amended with relocations, p. 470, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (1) amended and (3) added, (HB 09-1279), ch. 170, p. 763, § 2, effective August 5. **L. 2026:** (2) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 462, § 3, effective August 12.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1803 is similar to § 42-4-1803 as it existed prior to the 2002 amendment to part 18 of article 4 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, relevant cases decided under former provisions similar to that section have been included in the annotations to this section.

**These sections prevail over general abandonment provision in § 38-20-116.** The removal and storage of abandoned vehicles is specifically provided for in former §§ 42-4-1101 to 42-4-1109 and these special sections will prevail over the more general abandonment provision in § 38-20-116. *Calabrese v. Hall*, 42 Colo. App. 347, 593 P.2d 1387 (1979).

**Negligence in case involving violation of this section.** A driver who stops his truck entirely on the highway pavement for emergency repairs when there is ample room on the shoulder outside of the traveled lane for his vehicle — no good reason appearing why he could not have safely driven out on the shoulder — is guilty of negligence in case another car collides with his truck while it is standing in the parked position.

*Calnon v. Sorel*, 108 Colo. 467, 119 P.2d 615 (1941).

**Evidence showing violation.** *Alden v. Watson*, 106 Colo. 103, 102 P.2d 479 (1940).

**This section prohibits** a party parking, stopping or leaving standing any vehicle upon the main traveled part of the highway, when it is practical to stop, park or leave the vehicle off such part of the highway. *Anderson v. Munoz*, 159 Colo. 229, 411 P.2d 4 (1966).

**Policeman's act under section nondiscretionary.** A police officer ordering the impoundment of what appears to be an abandoned vehicle under this section is performing a nondiscretionary act. *Cooper v. Hollis*, 42 Colo. App. 505, 600 P.2d 109 (1979).

**Applied in** *Healy v. Hewitt*, 101 Colo. 92, 71 P.2d 63 (1937); *Ackley v. Watson Bros. Transp. Co.*, 123 F. Supp. 649 (D. Colo. 1954); *Calabrese v. Hall*, 42 Colo. App. 347, 593 P.2d 1387 (1979); *Martinez v. Steinbaum*, 623 P.2d 49 (Colo. 1981).

### **42-4-1804. Report of abandoned motor vehicles - owner's opportunity to request hearing.**

(1) (a) Upon having an abandoned motor vehicle towed, the responsible law enforcement agency shall ascertain, if possible, whether or not the motor vehicle has been reported stolen, and, if so reported, such agency shall recover and secure the motor vehicle and notify its rightful owner and terminate the abandonment proceedings under this part 18. The responsible law enforcement agency and the towing carrier shall have the right to recover from the owner their

reasonable costs and fees for recovering and securing the motor vehicle. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize fees for services that were not provided or that were provided by another person or entity.

(b) As soon as possible, but in no event later than ten working days after having an abandoned motor vehicle towed, the responsible law enforcement agency shall report the same to the department by first-class or certified mail, by personal delivery, or by internet communication. The report shall be on a form prescribed and supplied by the department.

(c) The report shall contain the following information:

(I) The fact of possession, including the date possession was taken, the location of storage of the abandoned motor vehicle and the location from which it was towed, the identity of the responsible law enforcement agency, and the business address, telephone number, and name and signature of a representative from the responsible law enforcement agency;

(II) If applicable, the identity of the operator possessing the abandoned motor vehicle, together with the operator's business address and telephone number and the carrier number assigned by the public utilities commission; and

(III) A description of the abandoned motor vehicle, including the make, model, color, and year, the number, issuing state, and expiration date of the license plate, and the vehicle identification number.

(2) (a) Upon receipt of a report made under subsection (1) or (6) of this section, the department shall search its records to ascertain the last-known owner of record for the abandoned motor vehicle and any lienholder as those persons are represented in department records.

(b) If the vehicle is not registered with the department, the department shall conduct a title search with an entity that:

(I) Has a national database;

(II) May retrieve records based on both the vehicle identification number and vehicle registration number (license plate number); and

(III) Provides the following information: The vehicle identification number, the vehicle registration number, the owner's name and contact information, and the lienholder's name and contact information.

(c) Within ten working days after receipt of a report made under subsection (1) or (6) of this section, the department shall complete its search and shall transmit the report, together with all relevant information, to the responsible law enforcement agency or tow operator.

(3) The responsible law enforcement agency, upon its receipt of the report required under subsection (2) of this section, shall determine, from all available information and after reasonable

inquiry, whether the abandoned motor vehicle has been reported stolen, and, if so reported, such agency shall recover and secure the motor vehicle and notify its rightful owner and terminate the abandonment proceedings under this part 18. The responsible law enforcement agency and the operator shall have the right to recover from the owner their reasonable costs to recover and secure the motor vehicle.

(4) (a) If the responsible law enforcement agency does not use an operator to store the motor vehicle, the responsible law enforcement agency, within ten working days after the receipt of the report from the department required in subsection (2) of this section, shall notify by certified mail the owner of record, if ascertained, and any lienholder, if ascertained, of the fact of such report and the claim of any lien under section 42-4-1806. The notice shall contain information that the identified motor vehicle has been reported abandoned to the department, the location of the motor vehicle and the location from where it was towed, and that, unless claimed within thirty calendar days after the date the notice was sent as determined from the postmark on the notice, the motor vehicle is subject to sale.

(b) If the responsible law enforcement agency uses an operator to store the motor vehicle, the responsible law enforcement agency, within ten working days after the receipt of the report from the department required in subsection (2) of this section, shall notify by first-class mail the owner of record, if ascertained, and any lienholder, if ascertained, of the fact of the report and the claim of any lien under section 42-4-1806. The notice shall contain information that the identified motor vehicle has been reported abandoned to the department, the location of the motor vehicle and the location from where it was towed, and that, unless claimed within thirty calendar days after the date the notice was sent as determined from the postmark on the notice, the motor vehicle is subject to sale.

(c) The responsible law enforcement agency shall include in the notices sent pursuant to either paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection (4) a statement informing the owner of record of the opportunity to request a hearing concerning the legality of the towing of the abandoned motor vehicle, and the responsible law enforcement agency to contact for that purpose.

(d) If an owner or lienholder requests a hearing, the owner or lienholder shall make the request in writing to the responsible law enforcement agency within ten days after the notice was sent, as determined by the postmark. Such hearing, if requested, shall be conducted pursuant to section 24-4-105, C.R.S., if the responsible law enforcement agency is the Colorado state patrol. If a local political subdivision is the responsible law enforcement agency, such hearing shall be conducted pursuant to local hearing procedures. If it is determined at the hearing that the motor vehicle was illegally towed upon request from a law enforcement agency, all towing charges and storage fees assessed against the vehicle shall be paid by such law enforcement agency.

(5) The department shall maintain department-approved notice forms satisfying the requirements of subsection (4) of this section and shall make them available for use by local law enforcement agencies.

(6) (a) (I) Except as provided in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (a), an operator or its agent shall, no less than two days, but no more than ten days after a motor vehicle has been towed, determine who the owner is and if there is a lienholder and send a notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last address of the owner and any lienholder as determined from records of the department or from a national search performed by the department.

(II) If the department conducts a national title search in accordance with paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of this section, each day elapsing between the department being notified and the department returning information on the motor vehicle as a result of the search does not count against the tow operator's ten-day deadline to contact the motor vehicle's owner or any lienholder. This subparagraph (II) does not affect daily storage fees.

(III) The cost of complying with this paragraph (a) is a cost of towing; except that the total of all costs of complying with this section shall not exceed one hundred fifty dollars. To comply with this subsection (6), the notice to the owner and lienholder must be sent within five days after the operator receives the information from the department and must contain the following information:

(A) The fact of possession, including the date possession was taken, the location of storage of the motor vehicle, and the location from which it was towed;

(B) The identity of the operator possessing the abandoned motor vehicle, together with the operator's business address and telephone number and the carrier number assigned by the public utilities commission; and

(C) A description of the motor vehicle, including the make, model, color, and year and the number, issuing state, and expiration date of the license plate, or any other indicia of the motor vehicle's state of origin.

(b) The operator shall not be entitled to recover any daily storage fees from the day the vehicle is towed until the day the owner and lienholder are notified, unless the operator reasonably attempts to notify the owner and lienholder by the date specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection (6). Sending a notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the owner and the lienholder as represented in department records shall be deemed a reasonable attempt to notify the owner and the lienholder. Failure to notify the owner and the lienholder due to the receipt of erroneous information from the department or a failure of the law enforcement agency to comply with this section shall not cause the loss of such storage fees accrued from the date the vehicle is towed until the owner and the lienholder receive such notice.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part amended with relocations, p. 470, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (2), (3), IP(6)(a), and (6)(b) amended, (HB 09-1279), ch. 170, p. 764, § 3, effective August 5. **L. 2010:** (4) amended, (HB 10-1340), ch. 202, p. 877, § 1, effective May 5. **L. 2016:** (2) and IP(6)(a) amended, (HB 16-1056), ch. 325, p. 1319, § 1, effective August 10; (6)(a) amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 799, § 127, effective August 10.

#### **42-4-1805. Appraisal of abandoned motor vehicles - sale.**

(1) (a) Abandoned motor vehicles or motor vehicles abandoned in an impound lot subsequent to a tow from public property shall be appraised by a law enforcement officer or an independent motor vehicle dealer and sold by the responsible law enforcement agency at a public or private sale held not less than thirty days nor more than sixty days after the date the notice required by section 42-4-1804 (4) was mailed.

(b) Subject to section 42-4-1804, the operator may continue to charge for daily storage fees until the responsible law enforcement agency complies with this section.

(2) If the appraised value of an abandoned motor vehicle sold pursuant to this section is three hundred fifty dollars or less, the sale shall be made only for the purpose of junking, scrapping, or dismantling such motor vehicle, and the purchaser thereof shall not, under any circumstances, be entitled to a Colorado certificate of title. The responsible law enforcement agency making the sale shall cause to be executed and delivered a bill of sale, together with a copy of the report described in section 42-4-1804 (2), to the person purchasing such motor vehicle. The bill of sale shall state that the purchaser acquires no right to a certificate of title for such vehicle. The responsible law enforcement agency making the sale shall promptly submit a report of sale, with a copy of the bill of sale, to the department and shall deliver a copy of such report of sale to the purchaser of the motor vehicle. Upon receipt of any report of sale with supporting documents on any sale made pursuant to this subsection (2), the department shall purge the records for such vehicle as provided in section 42-4-1810 (1)(b) and shall not issue a new certificate of title for such vehicle. Any certificate of title issued in violation of this subsection (2) shall be void.

(3) If the appraised value of an abandoned motor vehicle sold pursuant to this section is more than three hundred fifty dollars, the sale may be made for any intended use by the purchaser. The responsible law enforcement agency making the sale shall cause to be executed and delivered a bill of sale, together with a copy of the report described in section 42-4-1804 (2), and an application for a Colorado certificate of title signed by a legally authorized representative of the responsible law enforcement agency conducting the sale, to the person purchasing such motor vehicle. The purchaser of the abandoned motor vehicle shall be entitled to a Colorado certificate of title upon application and proof of compliance with the applicable provisions of the "Certificate of Title Act", part 1 of article 6 of this title, within fourteen days after the sale; except that, if such vehicle is less than five years old, including the current year model, and if the

department does not provide the name of an owner of record to the law enforcement agency, the purchaser shall apply for a bonded title and the department shall issue such bonded title upon the applicant meeting the qualifications for such title pursuant to rules promulgated by the department.

(4) (a) Transferring the title of a motor vehicle to an operator to satisfy a debt created pursuant to this part 18 shall not be deemed to be the sale of a motor vehicle.

(b) Nothing in this section requires an operator to be licensed pursuant to part 1 of article 20 of title 44 for purposes of conducting activities under this part 18.

**Source:** **L. 2002:** Entire part amended with relocations, p. 473, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2003:** (3) amended, p. 555, § 1, effective March 7. **L. 2004:** (1) amended, p. 612, § 3, effective January 1, 2005. **L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (HB 09-1279), ch. 170, p. 765, § 4, effective August 5. **L. 2017:** (4)(b) amended, (SB 17-240), ch. 395, p. 2066, § 54, effective July 1. **L. 2018:** (4)(b) amended, (SB 18-030), ch. 7, p. 142, § 20, effective October 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1806 as it existed prior to 2002, and the former § 42-4-1805 was relocated to § 42-4-2103.

#### **42-4-1806. Liens upon towed motor vehicles.**

(1) Whenever an operator who is registered with the department in accordance with subsection (2) of this section recovers, removes, or stores a motor vehicle upon instructions from any duly authorized law enforcement agency or peace officer who has determined that such motor vehicle is an abandoned motor vehicle, such operator shall have a possessory lien, subject to the provisions of section 42-4-1804 (6), upon such motor vehicle and its attached accessories or equipment for all fees for recovering, towing, and storage as authorized in section 42-4-1809 (2)(a). Such lien shall be a first and prior lien on the motor vehicle, and such lien shall be satisfied before all other charges against such motor vehicle.

(2) (a) No operator shall have a possessory lien upon a motor vehicle described in subsection (1) of this section unless said operator is registered with the department. Such registration shall include the following information:

- (I) The location of the operator's tow business;
- (II) The hours of operation of the operator's tow business;



(III) The location of the impound lot where vehicles may be claimed by the owner of record; and

(IV) Any information relating to a violation of any provision contained in this part 18 or of any other state law or rule relating to the operation, theft, or transfer of motor vehicles.

(b) The executive director of the department may cancel the registration of any operator if an administrative law judge finds, after affording the operator due notice and an opportunity to be heard, that the operator has violated any of the provisions set forth in this part 18.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part amended with relocations, p. 473, § 1, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1807 as it existed prior to 2002, and the former § 42-4-1806 was relocated to § 42-4-1805.

#### **42-4-1807. Perfection of lien.**

The lien provided for in section 42-4-1806 shall be perfected by taking physical possession of the motor vehicle and its attached accessories or equipment and by sending to the department within ten working days after the time possession was taken a notice containing the information required in the report to be made under the provisions of section 42-4-1804. In addition, such report shall contain a declaration by the operator that a possessory lien is claimed for all past, present, and future charges, up to the date of redemption, and that the lien is enforceable and may be foreclosed pursuant to the provisions of this part 18.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part amended with relocations, p. 474, § 1, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1808 as it existed prior to 2002, and the former § 42-4-1807 was relocated to § 42-4-1806.

#### **42-4-1808. Foreclosure of lien.**

Any motor vehicle and its attached accessories and equipment or personal property within or attached to such vehicle that are not redeemed by the last-known owner of record or lienholder

after such owner or lienholder has been sent notice of such lien by the operator or responsible law enforcement agency shall be sold in accordance with the provisions of section 42-4-1805.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part amended with relocations, p. 474, § 1, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1809 as it existed prior to 2002, and the former § 42-4-1808 was relocated to § 42-4-1807.

**42-4-1809. Proceeds of sale.**

(1) If the sale of any motor vehicle, personal property, and its attached accessories or equipment under the provisions of section 42-4-1805 produces an amount less than or equal to the sum of all charges of the operator who has perfected his or her lien, then the operator shall have a valid claim against the owner for the full amount of such charges, less the amount received upon the sale of such motor vehicle. Failure to register such vehicle in accordance with this title shall constitute a waiver of such owner's right to be notified pursuant to this part 18 for the purposes of foreclosure of the lien pursuant to section 42-4-1808. Such charges shall be assessed in the manner provided for in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of this section.

(2) If the sale of any motor vehicle and its attached accessories or equipment under section 42-4-1805 produces an amount greater than the sum of all charges of the operator who has perfected his or her lien:

(a) The entity receiving the proceeds shall first satisfy the operator's reasonable fee arising from the sale of the motor vehicle and the cost and fees of towing and storing the abandoned motor vehicle, subject to a maximum charge specified in rules promulgated by the public utilities commission that govern nonconsensual tows by towing carriers.

(b) Any balance remaining after payment pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) shall be paid to the responsible law enforcement agency to satisfy the cost of mailing notices, having an appraisal made, advertising and selling the motor vehicle, and any other costs of the responsible law enforcement agency including administrative costs, taxes, fines, and penalties due.

(b.5) In the case of the sale of an abandoned motor vehicle described in section 42-4-1802 (1)(d), any balance remaining after payment pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (2) shall be paid to the law enforcement agency that is owed a fee for the court-ordered placement of an immobilization device on the motor vehicle pursuant to section 42-4-1105.

(c) Any balance remaining after payment pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (b.5) of this subsection (2) shall be forwarded to the department, and the department may recover from such balance any taxes, fees, and penalties due and payable to it with respect to such motor vehicle.

(d) Any balance remaining after payment pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection (2) shall be paid by the department: First, to any lienholder of record as the lienholder's interest may appear upon the records of the department; second, to any owner of record as the owner's interest may so appear; and then to any person submitting proof of such person's interest in such motor vehicle upon the application of such lienholder, owner, or person. If such payments are not requested and made within one hundred twenty days after the sale of the abandoned motor vehicle, the balance shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the highway users tax fund for allocation and expenditure as specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5)(e), C.R.S.

(3) The provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (2) of this section shall not apply to a responsible law enforcement agency operating under a towing contract.

**Source:** L. 2002: Entire part amended with relocations, p. 474, § 1, effective July 1. L. 2005: (2)(d) amended, p. 150, § 28, effective April 5. L. 2006: (2)(b.5) added and (2)(c) amended, p. 172, § 3, effective July 1. L. 2014: IP(2) and (2)(a) amended, (HB 14-1031), ch. 14, p. 126, § 2, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1810 as it existed prior to 2002, and the former § 42-4-1809 was relocated to § 42-4-1808.

#### **42-4-1810. Transfer and purge of certificates of title.**

(1) Whenever any motor vehicle is abandoned and removed and sold in accordance with the procedures set forth in this part 18, the department shall transfer the certificate of title or issue a new certificate of title or shall purge such certificate of title in either of the following cases:

(a) Upon a person's submission to the department of the necessary documents indicating the abandonment, removal, and subsequent sale or transfer of a motor vehicle, the department shall transfer the certificate of title or issue a new certificate of title for such abandoned motor vehicle.

(b) Upon a person's submission of documents indicating the abandonment, removal, and subsequent wrecking or dismantling of a motor vehicle, including all sales of abandoned motor vehicles with an appraised value under three hundred fifty dollars that are conducted pursuant to section 42-4-1805 (2), the department shall keep the records for one year and then purge the

records for such abandoned motor vehicle; except that the department shall not be required to wait before purging the records if the purchaser is a licensed motor vehicle dealer.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part amended with relocations, p. 475, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2006:** (1)(b) amended, p. 204, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (1)(b) amended, (HB 09-1279), ch. 170, p. 766, § 5, effective August 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1811 as it existed prior to 2002, and the former § 42-4-1810 was relocated to § 42-4-1809.

#### **42-4-1811. Penalty.**

Unless otherwise specified in this part 18, any person who knowingly violates any of the provisions of this part 18 commits a petty offense and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-503.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part amended with relocations, p. 476, § 1, effective July 1; entire section amended, p. 1562, § 371, effective October 1. **L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3316, § 739, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-4-1812 as it existed prior to 2002, and the former § 42-4-1811 was relocated to § 42-4-1810.

(2) The amendments to this section in House Bill 02-1046 were harmonized with this section as it appeared in Senate Bill 02-132.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

#### **42-4-1812. Exemptions.**

(1) Nothing in this part 18 shall be construed to include or apply to the driver of any disabled motor vehicle who temporarily leaves such vehicle on the paved or improved and main-traveled

portion of a highway, subject, when applicable, to the emergency lighting requirements set forth in section 42-4-230.

(2) Nothing in this part 18 shall be construed to include or apply to authorized emergency motor vehicles while such vehicles are actually and directly engaged in, coming from, or going to an emergency.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part amended with relocations, p. 476, § 1, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1813 as it existed prior to 2002, and the former § 42-4-1812 was relocated to § 42-4-1811.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1812 is similar to § 42-4-1813 as it existed prior to the 2002 amendment to part 18 of article 4 of title 42, which resulted in the relocation of provisions, relevant cases decided under former provisions similar to that section have been included in the annotations to this section.

**Section limited to situations where a motor vehicle is parked on a highway.** It cannot always be extended to cover situations where a stop is necessitated because traffic in one's own lane has

stopped, obstructing the flow of traffic. Thus, violation of this statute may not constitute negligence per se. *Parker v. Couch*, 145 Colo. 209, 358 P.2d 609 (1960).

**Circumstances under which section does not apply.** Where the condition of the traffic was such that the truck driver had the right to slow down, and even to stop, prior to making the left-hand turn, provided he gave the statutory signals, this section, relating to parking outside of a business or residence does not apply. *Hinkle v. Union Transf. Co.*, 229 F.2d 403 (10th Cir. 1955).

### **42-4-1813. Local regulations.**

(1) The state or any county, municipality as defined in section 31-1-101 (6), C.R.S., or other governmental entity of the state may execute a contract or contracts for the removal, storage, or disposal of abandoned motor vehicles within the area of its authority to effectuate the provisions of this part 18.

(2) The provisions of this part 18 may be superseded by ordinance or resolution of a municipality, as defined in section 31-1-101, C.R.S., or any county that sets forth procedures for

the removal, storage, and disposal of abandoned or illegally parked motor vehicles on public property; except that such ordinance or resolution shall not deprive an operator of a lien attached and perfected under this part 18.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part amended with relocations, p. 476, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (2) amended, (HB 09-1279), ch. 170, p. 766, § 6, effective August 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1814 as it existed prior to 2002, and the former § 42-4-1813 was relocated to § 42-4-1812.

**42-4-1814. Violation of motor vehicle registration or inspection laws - separate statutory provision.**

Owners of motor vehicles impounded by the Colorado state patrol for violation of motor vehicle registration or inspection laws shall receive notice and the opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the provisions of section 42-13-106. If such a motor vehicle is found to be abandoned in accordance with the provisions of said section 42-13-106, the notice and hearing provisions to owners of motor vehicles under other sections of this part 18 shall be deemed to have been met for purposes of proper disposition of the motor vehicle under the terms of this part 18. Nevertheless, the notice and hearing provisions of the other sections of this part 18 as to lienholders are applicable and shall not be deemed to have been met by the provisions of section 42-13-106 or this section.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part amended with relocations, p. 476, § 1, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1815 as it existed prior to 2002, and the former § 42-4-1814 was relocated to § 42-4-1813.

## PART 19

### SCHOOL BUS REQUIREMENTS

#### **42-4-1901. School buses - equipped with supplementary brake retarders - mountainous terrain - definition.**

(1) (a) On and after July 1, 1991, except as provided in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of this section, passengers of any school bus being used on mountainous terrain by any school district of the state shall not occupy the front row of seats and any seats located next to the emergency doors of such school bus during the period of such use.

(b) For purposes of this section, mountainous terrain shall include, but shall not be limited to, any road or street which the department of transportation has designated as being located on mountainous terrain.

(2) (a) The provisions of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to:

(I) Passengers of any school bus which is equipped with retarders of appropriate capacity for purposes of supplementing any service brake systems of such school bus; or

(II) Any passenger who is adequately restrained in a fixed position pursuant to federal and state standards.

(b) The general assembly encourages school districts to consider installing state-of-the-art retarders for purposes of supplementing service brake systems of school buses when such retarders are acquired on or after April 17, 1991. The general assembly also encourages school districts to consider purchasing only those new school buses that are equipped with external public address systems and retarders of appropriate capacity for purposes of supplementing any service brake systems of such school buses.

(3) For purposes of this section and section 42-4-1902:

(a) "Mountainous terrain" means that condition where longitudinal and transverse changes in the elevation of the ground with respect to a road or street are abrupt and where benching and sidehill excavation are frequently required to obtain acceptable horizontal and vertical alignment.

(b) Repealed.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2435, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1)(b) amended, p. 960, § 19, effective May 25. **L. 2010:** (3)(b) repealed, (HB 10-1232), ch. 163, p. 573, § 14, effective April 28. **L. 2025:** (2)(b) amended, (HB 25-1320), ch. 236, p. 1176, § 27, effective May 23.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-238 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in HB 25-1320, see section 1 of chapter 236, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

**42-4-1902. School vehicle drivers - special training required.**

On and after July 1, 1992, the driver of a school vehicle as defined in section 42-1-102 (88.5) owned or operated by or for a school district in this state shall have successfully completed training concerning driving on mountainous terrain, as defined in section 42-4-1901 (3)(a), and driving in adverse weather conditions.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2436, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2010:** Entire section amended, (HB 10-1232), ch. 163, p. 573, § 15, effective April 28.  
**L. 2025:** Entire section amended, (HB 25-1320), ch. 236, p. 1177, § 28, effective May 23.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-239 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in HB 25-1320, see section 1 of chapter 236, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

**42-4-1903. School buses - stops - signs - passing - penalty - definition.**

(1) (a) The driver of a motor vehicle upon any highway, road, or street, upon meeting or overtaking from either direction any school bus that has stopped, shall stop the vehicle at least twenty feet before reaching the school bus if visual signal lights as specified in subsection (2) of this section have been actuated on the school bus. The driver shall not proceed until the visual signal lights are no longer being actuated.

(b) (I) A driver of any school bus who observes a violation of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) shall notify the driver's school district transportation dispatcher. The school bus driver shall provide the school district transportation dispatcher with the color, basic description, and license plate number of the vehicle involved in the violation, information pertaining to the



identity of the alleged violator, and the time and the approximate location at which the violation occurred. Any school district transportation dispatcher who has received information by a school bus driver concerning a violation of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) shall provide such information to the appropriate law enforcement agency or agencies.

(II) A law enforcement agency may issue a citation on the basis of the information supplied to it pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b) to the driver of the vehicle involved in the violation.

(2) (a) Every school bus as defined in section 42-1-102 (88), other than a small passenger-type vehicle having a seating capacity of not more than twelve, used for the transportation of schoolchildren must:

(I) Bear upon the front and rear of such school bus plainly visible and legible signs containing the words "SCHOOL BUS" in letters not less than eight inches in height; and

(II) Display eight visual signal lights meeting the requirements of 49 CFR 571.108 or its successor regulation.

(a.5) Every multifunction school activity bus as defined in section 42-1-102 (60.1) must bear on the front and rear of the bus the words "ACTIVITY BUS" in black letters not less than eight inches in height.

(b) (I) The red visual signal lights shall be actuated by the driver of the school bus whenever the school bus is stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging schoolchildren, is stopped because it is behind another school bus that is receiving or discharging passengers, or, except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, is stopped because it has met a school bus traveling in a different direction that is receiving or discharging passengers and at no other time; but such lights need not be actuated when a school bus is stopped at locations where the local traffic regulatory authority has by prior written designation declared such actuation unnecessary.

(II) A school bus shall be exempt from the provisions of subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b) when stopped for the purpose of discharging or loading passengers who require the assistance of a lift device only when no passenger is required to cross the roadway. Such buses shall stop as far to the right off the roadway as possible to reduce obstruction to traffic.

(c) The alternating flashing yellow lights shall be actuated at least two hundred feet prior to the point where the bus is to be stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging schoolchildren, and the red lights shall be actuated only at the time the bus is actually stopped.

(3) Every school bus used for the transportation of schoolchildren, except those small passenger-type vehicles described in subsection (1) of this section and multifunction school activity buses, must be equipped with school bus pedestrian safety devices that comply with 49 CFR 571.131 or its successor regulation.

(4) The driver of a vehicle upon a highway with separate roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing a school bus that is on a different roadway. As used in this section, "highway with separate roadways" means a highway that is divided into two or more roadways by a depressed or raised median, physical barriers, or other intervening space serving as a clearly indicated section or island that physically divides the roadways.

(5) Every school bus shall stop as far to the right of the roadway as possible before discharging or loading passengers; except that the school bus may block the lane of traffic when a passenger being received or discharged is required to cross the roadway. When possible, a school bus shall not stop where the visibility is obscured for a distance of two hundred feet either way from the bus. The driver of a school bus that has stopped shall allow time for any vehicles that have stopped behind the school bus to pass the school bus, if such passing is legally permissible where the school bus is stopped, after the visual signal lights, if any, are no longer being displayed or actuated and after all children who have embarked or disembarked from the bus are safe from traffic.

(6) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (6), any person who violates any provision of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(b) Any person who violates the provisions of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section commits a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense if such person has been convicted within the previous five years of a violation of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section.

(7) The provisions of this section shall not apply in the case of public transportation programs for pupil transportation under section 22-51-104 (1)(c), C.R.S.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2436, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1)(a), (2)(b)(II), and (5) amended, p. 960, § 20, effective May 25. **L. 97:** (2)(a), (2)(b)(I), (2)(c), (3), and (5) amended, p. 1387, § 8, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (2)(b)(I) and (5) amended, p. 100, § 1, effective March 23. **L. 2008:** (2)(a)(II) and (3) amended, p. 373, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2009:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 09-1236), ch. 86, p. 312, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2025:** (1)(a), IP(2)(a), and (3) amended and (2)(a.5) added, (HB 25-1320), ch. 236, p. 1177, § 29, effective May 23; (4) amended, (HB 25-1230), ch. 249, p. 1249, § 2, effective May 24.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-612 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** (1) For penalties for class 1 and class 2 misdemeanor traffic offenses, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II).

(2) For the legislative declaration in HB 25-1320, see section 1 of chapter 236, Session Laws of Colorado 2025.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-4-1903 is similar to § 42-4-612 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Section not applicable to parties in collision of two automobiles.** Where two automobiles were involved in a collision at an intersection, none of the parties to an action arising out of the collision are within the purview of this section; for the intent of the enactment was neither exclusively, nor in part, to protect any interest of either of them. Any violation of it did not constitute a breach of any statutory duty owed, either to the violator or to the other party. Its provisions, therefore, are not determinative of any action between them. *Hamilton v. Gravinsky*, 174 Colo. 206, 483 P.2d 385 (1971).

**Presence of school bus not determinative of negligence as matter of law.** The presence of the school bus at the

intersection was a factor the jury could properly consider when making its determinations on the questions of the negligence of the respective parties to this case, under ordinary negligence principles; but its presence, and the existence of the statute regulating it, was not determinative, as a matter of law, of the issue of negligence. *Hamilton v. Gravinsky*, 28 Colo. App. 408, 474 P.2d 185 (1970), *aff'd in part, rev'd in part on other grounds*, 174 Colo. 206, 483 P.2d 385 (1971).

**Violation only makes one liable to person in class protected by section.** A statute or ordinance may, because of its title, preamble, history or otherwise, be construed as intended to protect only the interests of a particular class of individuals. If so, a violation of the enactment can make the actor liable only to a person of that class. *Hamilton v. Gravinsky*, 28 Colo. App. 408, 474 P.2d 185 (1970), *aff'd in part, rev'd in part on other grounds*, 174 Colo. 206, 483 P.2d 385 (1971).

### **42-4-1904. Regulations for school buses - regulations on discharge of passengers - penalty - exception - definition.**

(1) The state board of education, by and with the advice of the executive director of the department, shall adopt and enforce regulations not inconsistent with this article to govern the operation of all school buses used for the transportation of schoolchildren and to govern the discharge of passengers from such school buses. Such regulations shall prohibit the driver of any school bus used for the transportation of schoolchildren from discharging any passenger from the

school bus which will result in the passenger's immediately crossing a major thoroughfare, except for two-lane highways when such crossing can be done in a safe manner, as determined by the local school board in consultation with the local traffic regulatory authority, and shall prohibit the discharging or loading of passengers from the school bus onto the side of any major thoroughfare whenever access to the destination of the passenger is possible by the use of a road or street which is adjacent to the major thoroughfare. For the purposes of this section, a "major thoroughfare" means a freeway, any U.S. highway outside any incorporated limit, interstate highway, or highway with four or more lanes, or a highway or road with a median separating multiple lanes of traffic. Every person operating a school bus or responsible for or in control of the operation of school buses shall be subject to said regulations.

(2) Any person operating a school bus under contract with a school district who fails to comply with any of said regulations is guilty of breach of contract, and such contract shall be canceled after notice and hearing by the responsible officers of such district.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a petty offense.

(4) The provisions of this section shall not apply in the case of public transportation programs for pupil transportation under section 22-51-104 (1)(c), C.R.S.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2438, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2021:** (3) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3317, § 740, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-613 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For penalties for petty offenses, see § 18-1.3-503.

## PART 20

### HOURS OF SERVICE

#### **42-4-2001. Maximum hours of service - ready-mix concrete truck operators.**

(1) Any person who operates a commercial motor vehicle solely in intrastate commerce for the purpose of transporting wet, ready-mix concrete need not comply with 49 CFR 395.3 (b). No such person shall drive for any period after:

(a) Having been on duty seventy hours in any seven consecutive days if the employing motor carrier does not operate every day in the week; or

(b) Having been on duty eighty hours in any period of eight consecutive days if the employing motor carrier operates motor vehicles every day of the week.

(2) Within a seven-day workweek all hours of service after sixty hours are voluntary starting the next scheduled workday.

(3) Twenty-four consecutive hours off duty shall constitute the end of any seven or eight consecutive-day period.

(4) Any commercial motor vehicle that transports hazardous materials shall be exempt from this section and shall be subject to the federal hours-of-service limitations in 49 CFR 395 and 350.

**Source: L. 97:** Entire part added, p. 311, § 1, effective April 8; entire section amended, p. 1034, § 72, effective August 6.

## PART 21

### VEHICLES ABANDONED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

**Editor's note:** This part 21 was added with relocations in 2002. Former C.R.S. section numbers are shown in editor's notes following those sections that were relocated.

**Cross references:** For provisions concerning vehicles abandoned on public property, see part 18 of this article.

#### **42-4-2101. Legislative declaration.**

The general assembly hereby declares that the purpose of this part 21 is to provide procedures for the removal, storage, and disposal of motor vehicles that are abandoned on private property.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part added with relocated provisions, p. 477, § 2, effective July 1.

#### **42-4-2102. Definitions.**

As used in this part 21, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Abandoned motor vehicle", except as otherwise defined in section 38-20-116 (2.5)(b)(I), C.R.S., for purposes of section 38-20-116 (2.5), C.R.S., means:

(a) Any motor vehicle left unattended on private property for a period of twenty-four hours or longer or for such other period as may be established by local ordinance without the consent of the owner or lessee of such property or the owner's or lessee's legally authorized agent;

(b) Any motor vehicle stored in an impound lot at the request of its owner or the owner's agent and not removed from the impound lot according to the agreement with the owner or agent;

(c) Any motor vehicle that is left on private property without the property owner's consent, towed at the request of the property owner, and not removed from the impound lot by the vehicle owner within forty-eight hours; or

(d) A motor vehicle fitted with an immobilization device that is on private property and deemed to be abandoned pursuant to section 42-4-1105 (7)(c).

(2) "Appraisal" means a bona fide estimate of reasonable market value made by any motor vehicle dealer licensed in this state or by any employee of the Colorado state patrol or of any sheriff's or police department whose appointment for such purpose has been reported by the head of the appointing agency to the executive director of the department.

(3) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (HB 09-1279), ch. 170, p. 766, § 7, effective August 5, 2009.)

(4) "Impound lot" means a parcel of real property that is owned or leased by an operator at which motor vehicles are stored under appropriate protection.

(5) "Operator" means a person or a firm licensed by the public utilities commission as a towing carrier.

(6) "Private property" means any real property that is not public property.

(7) "Public property" means any real property having its title, ownership, use, or possession held by the federal government; this state; or any county, municipality, as defined in section 31-1-101 (6), C.R.S., or other governmental entity of this state.

(8) "Responsible law enforcement agency" means the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the private property where the motor vehicle becomes abandoned.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part added with relocated provisions, p. 477, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** IP(1) amended, p. 608, § 1, effective January 1, 2005. **L. 2006:** (1)(d) added, p. 172, § 4,

effective July 1. **L. 2008:** IP(1) amended, p. 545, § 3, effective January 1, 2009. **L. 2009:** (3) and (5) amended, (HB 09-1279), ch. 170, p. 766, § 7, effective August 5.

**42-4-2103. Abandonment and nonconsensual towing of motor vehicles - private property - rules.**

(1) (a) Motor vehicles abandoned at repair shops shall be removed as set forth in section 38-20-116 (2.5), C.R.S.

(b) No person shall abandon any motor vehicle upon private property other than his or her own. Any owner or lessee, or the owner's or lessee's agent authorized in writing, may have an abandoned motor vehicle removed from his or her property by having it towed and impounded by an operator. Motor vehicles abandoned upon the property of a motor vehicle recycler may be recycled in accordance with part 22 of this article if the vehicle's appraisal value is less than three hundred fifty dollars.

(2) (a) (I) Any operator possessing a motor vehicle that was abandoned on private property shall notify, within thirty minutes, the department, the sheriff, or the sheriff's designee, of the county in which the motor vehicle is located or the chief of police, or the chief's designee, of the municipality in which the motor vehicle is located. The notice must include:

(A) The name of the operator;

(B) The location of the storage facility where the vehicle is located; and

(C) A description of the abandoned motor vehicle, including the make, model, color, and year; the number, issuing state, and expiration date of the license plate; and the vehicle identification number.

(II) An operator is deemed to have complied with subsection (2)(a)(I) of this section if:

(A) The operator gave the location of the storage facility to the law enforcement agency when obtaining authorization for the tow; or

(B) The operator made two or more attempts, within the thirty minutes required in subsection (2)(a)(I) of this section, to notify the responsible law enforcement agency but was unsuccessful for reasons beyond the control of the operator.

(b) Upon receiving the notice required in subsection (2)(a) of this section, the law enforcement agency that receives the notice shall:

(I) Assign the vehicle a tow report number immediately;

(II) Enter the vehicle and the fact that it has been towed in the Colorado crime information center computer system; and

(III) Ascertain, if possible, whether the vehicle has been reported stolen, and, if so, the agency shall:

- (A) Recover and secure the motor vehicle;
- (B) Notify its rightful owner; and
- (C) Terminate the abandonment proceedings under this part 21.

(c) Upon the release of the vehicle to the owner or lienholder, the operator shall notify the responsible law enforcement agent, who shall adjust or delete the entry in the Colorado crime information center computer system. The responsible law enforcement agency and operator have the right to recover from the owner their reasonable fees for recovering and securing the vehicle. Nothing in this section authorizes fees for services that were not provided or that were provided by another person or entity.

(3) (a) Not more than ten days after a motor vehicle has been towed, an operator shall report the motor vehicle tow to the department by first-class or certified mail, by personal delivery, or by internet communication. The report must be on a form prescribed and supplied by the department.

(b) The report shall contain the following information:

(I) The fact of possession, including the date possession was taken, the location of storage of the abandoned motor vehicle and the location from which it was towed, the tow report number, and the identity of the law enforcement agency determining that the vehicle was not reported stolen;

(II) The identity of the operator possessing the abandoned motor vehicle, together with the operator's business address and telephone number and the carrier number assigned by the public utilities commission; and

(III) A description of the abandoned motor vehicle, including the make, model, color, and year, the number, issuing state, and expiration date of the license plate, or any other indicia of the motor vehicle's state of origin, and the vehicle identification number.

(c) (I) (A) Not more than ten days after a motor vehicle has been towed, an operator or its agent shall determine who the owner is and whether there is a lienholder and notify the owner and any lienholder by sending a notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address of the owner and any lienholder as determined from records of the department or from the national search performed by the department in accordance with subsection (3)(c)(IV) of this section. An operator should wait twenty-four hours after the tow to notify the owner and any lienholder and send the notice as soon as reasonably practical after the twenty-four hours. An operator shall not charge more than seventy-five dollars to send the notice.



(B) If the department conducts a national title search in accordance with subparagraph (IV) of this paragraph (c), each day elapsing between the department being notified and the department returning information on the motor vehicle as a result of the search does not count against the tow operator's ten-day deadline to contact the motor vehicle's owner or any lienholder. This sub-subparagraph (B) does not affect daily storage fees.

(C) The notice must include the information required by the report set forth in paragraph (b) of this subsection (3).

(D) The cost of complying with this subsection (3)(c) is a cost of towing. The tow operator shall send the notice to the owner and lienholder within five days after receiving the information from the department in accordance with subsection (3)(c)(I)(A) of this section.

(II) The operator is not entitled to recover any daily storage fees from the day the vehicle is towed until the day the operator sends the owner and any lienholder the notice required in subsection (3)(c)(I) of this section; except that the operator may charge for the first twenty-four hours of storage in accordance with section 40-10.1-405 (1)(c)(I).

(III) The department shall implement an electronic system whereby an operator registered under section 42-4-1806 (2) or the agent of such operator shall have access to correct information relating to any owner and lienholder of a vehicle towed by the operator as represented in the department records. The department shall ensure that the information available to an operator or its agent is correct and is limited solely to that information necessary to contact the owner and lienholder of such vehicle.

(IV) If the tow operator determines in accordance with this subsection (3) that the department does not have a current record for a motor vehicle, the tow operator shall notify the department in writing, including electronically. Upon receiving the notice, the department shall conduct a title search with an entity that:

(A) Has a national database;

(B) May retrieve records based on both the vehicle identification number and vehicle registration number on the license plate; and

(C) Provides the following information: The vehicle identification number, the vehicle registration number, the owner's name and contact information, and the lienholder's name and contact information.

(V) Within ten working days after receiving the written notice that no record exists under subparagraph (IV) of this paragraph (c), the department shall complete its search and shall transmit all relevant information to the responsible law enforcement agency or tow operator. This ten-day period does not decrease the number of days a tow operator has to notify the owner or lienholder in accordance with this paragraph (c).

(VI) The department may charge the tow operator a fee in an amount not to exceed the lesser of five dollars or the direct and indirect costs of implementing this paragraph (c).

(4) Within three days after the receipt of the records set forth in subsection (3)(c) of this section from the department, the operator shall notify by certified mail the owner of record, including an out-of-state owner of record. The operator shall make a reasonable effort to ascertain the address of the owner of record. The notice must contain the following information:

- (a) That the identified motor vehicle has been reported abandoned to the department;
- (b) Repealed.
- (c) The location of the motor vehicle and the location from which it was towed; and
- (d) That, unless claimed within thirty calendar days after the date the notice was sent, as determined from the postmark on the notice, the motor vehicle is subject to sale.

(5) The department shall maintain department-approved notice forms satisfying the requirements of subsection (4) of this section and shall make them available for use by operators and local law enforcement agencies.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part added with relocated provisions, p. 478, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (1) amended, p. 545, § 4, effective January 1, 2009. **L. 2009:** (1)(b), (3)(a), (3)(c)(I), and IP(4) amended, (HB 09-1279), ch. 170, p. 767, § 8, effective August 5. **L. 2016:** (3)(c)(I) amended and (3)(c)(IV), (3)(c)(V), and (3)(c)(VI) added, (HB 16-1056), ch. 325, p. 1320, § 2, effective August 10. **L. 2017:** IP(4) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 373, § 25, effective August 9. **L. 2022:** (2), (3)(a), (3)(c)(I)(A), (3)(c)(I)(D), and (3)(c)(II) amended and (4)(b) repealed, (HB 22-1314), ch. 416, p. 2930, § 1, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1805 as it existed prior to 2002.

#### **42-4-2104. Appraisal of abandoned motor vehicles - sale.**

(1) (a) To sell a motor vehicle that was abandoned on private property, the operator must sell the motor vehicle in a commercially reasonable manner at a public or private sale held not less than thirty days nor more than sixty days after the postmarked date the notice was mailed pursuant to section 42-4-2103 (4) or the date the operator receives notice that no record exists for such vehicle. The operator must make the sale to a licensed motor vehicle dealer or wholesaler, or wholesale motor vehicle auction dealer, or through a classified newspaper advertisement

published in Colorado. The appraisal must be performed by an independent third person. For purposes of this section, a sale is not commercially reasonable if:

(I) The vehicle's appraisal value is more than three hundred fifty dollars and the vehicle is sold to an officer or partner of the operator that has possession of the vehicle or to any other person with a proprietary interest in the operator; or

(II) The operator fails to set the sale price at the time of sale, list the fair market price at the time of sale, or report the sale; or report the sale price to the department within five business days after the sale.

(b) Nothing in this section requires that an operator must be a licensed dealer pursuant to part 1 of article 20 of title 44 for purposes of selling a motor vehicle pursuant to this part 21.

(c) Subject to section 42-4-2103 and if an operator conducts a commercially reasonable sale but fails to sell the motor vehicle, the operator may continue to collect daily storage fees for such vehicle actually accrued for up to one hundred twenty days.

(2) If the appraised value of an abandoned motor vehicle sold pursuant to this section is three hundred fifty dollars or less, the sale shall be made only for the purpose of junking, scrapping, or dismantling such motor vehicle, and the purchaser thereof shall not, under any circumstances, be entitled to a Colorado certificate of title. The operator making the sale shall cause to be executed and delivered a bill of sale, together with a copy of the report described in section 42-4-2103 (3), to the person purchasing such motor vehicle. The bill of sale shall state that the purchaser acquires no right to a certificate of title for such vehicle. The operator making the sale shall promptly submit a report of sale, with a copy of the bill of sale, to the department and shall deliver a copy of such report of sale to the purchaser of the motor vehicle. Upon receipt of any report of sale with supporting documents on any sale made pursuant to this subsection (2), the department shall purge the records for such vehicle as provided in section 42-4-2109 (1)(b) and shall not issue a new certificate of title for such vehicle. Any certificate of title issued in violation of this subsection (2) shall be void.

(3) If the appraised value of an abandoned motor vehicle sold pursuant to this section is more than three hundred fifty dollars, the sale may be made for any intended use by the purchaser. The operator making the sale shall cause to be executed and delivered a bill of sale, together with a copy of the report described in section 42-4-2103 (3), and an application for a Colorado certificate of title signed by a legally authorized representative of the operator conducting the sale, to the person purchasing such motor vehicle. The purchaser of the abandoned motor vehicle shall be entitled to a Colorado certificate of title upon application and proof of compliance with the applicable provisions of the "Certificate of Title Act", part 1 of article 6 of this title; except that, if such vehicle is less than five years old, including the current year models, and if the department does not provide the name of an owner of record to the operator, the buyer shall

apply for a bonded title and the department shall issue such bonded title upon the applicant meeting the qualifications for such title pursuant to rules promulgated by the department.

(4) Transferring the title of a motor vehicle to an operator to satisfy a debt incurred in towing an abandoned vehicle is not deemed to be the sale of a motor vehicle.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part added with relocated provisions, p. 480, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (1)(a) amended, p. 612, § 4, effective January 1, 2005. **L. 2009:** (1)(a), (2), and (3) amended and (1)(c) and (4) added, (HB 09-1279), ch. 170, pp. 767, 769, §§ 9, 11, effective August 5. **L. 2017:** (1)(b) amended, (SB 17-240), ch. 395, p. 2067, § 55, effective July 1. **L. 2018:** (1)(b) amended, (SB 18-030), ch. 7, p. 142, § 21, effective October 1. **L. 2022:** (1)(a) and (4) amended, (HB 22-1314), ch. 416, p. 2932, § 2, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-1806 (2) as it existed prior to 2002.

#### **42-4-2104.5. Abandonment of motor vehicles of limited value at repair shops - legislative declaration - definitions. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2004:** Entire section added, p. 608, § 2, effective January 1, 2005. **L. 2008:** Entire section repealed, p. 542, § 2, effective January 1, 2009.

#### **42-4-2105. Liens upon towed motor vehicles.**

(1) (a) In accordance with the attachment schedule in subsection (1)(b) of this section, an operator who is registered with the department in accordance with subsection (2) of this section recovers, removes, or stores a motor vehicle upon instructions from the owner of record or any other legally authorized person in control of the motor vehicle, or from the owner or lessee of real property upon which a motor vehicle is illegally parked or abandoned or the owner's or lessee's agent authorized in writing, the operator has a possessory lien, subject to the provisions of section 42-4-2103 (3), upon the motor vehicle for all the costs and fees for recovering, towing, and storage as authorized in section 42-4-2108. The lien is a first and prior lien on the motor vehicle, and is satisfied before all other charges against the motor vehicle.

(b) The lien granted in subsection (1)(a) of this section attaches to the motor vehicle in accordance with the following schedule:

(I) If the operator recovered, removed, or stored the motor vehicle upon instructions from the owner of record or any other legally authorized person in control of the motor vehicle, the lien attaches to the motor vehicle when the operator takes possession of the motor vehicle; or

(II) If the operator recovered, removed, or stored the motor vehicle upon instructions of the owner or lessee of real property upon which a motor vehicle was illegally parked or abandoned or upon the owner's or lessee's agent authorized in writing, the lien attaches to the motor vehicle thirty days after the postmarked date the notice was mailed in accordance with section 42-4-2103 (4) or the date the operator received notice that no record exists for the motor vehicle.

(2) (a) No operator shall have a possessory lien upon a motor vehicle described in subsection (1) of this section unless said operator is registered with the department. Such registration shall include the following information:

(I) The location of the operator's tow business;

(II) The hours of operation of the operator's tow business;

(III) The location of the impound lot where vehicles may be claimed by the owner of record; and

(IV) Any information relating to a violation of any provision contained in this part 21 or of any other state law or rule relating to the operation, theft, or transfer of motor vehicles.

(b) The executive director of the department may cancel the registration of any operator if an administrative law judge finds, after affording the operator due notice and an opportunity to be heard, that the operator has violated any of the provisions set forth in this part 21.

(3) If the operator obtains personal property from an abandoned vehicle that has been towed pursuant to this part 21 and if the serial or identification number of such property has been visibly altered or removed, the operator shall destroy or discard such property within five days after disposing of the vehicle pursuant to sections 42-4-2104 and 42-4-2107.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part added with relocated provisions, p. 481, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2022:** (1) and (3) amended, (HB 22-1314), ch. 416, p. 2933, § 3, effective August 10.

#### **42-4-2106. Perfection of lien.**

The lien provided for in section 42-4-2105 is perfected by taking physical possession of the motor vehicle and by sending to the department, within ten working days after the time possession was taken, a notice containing the information required in the report to be made under section 42-4-2103. The lien is not perfected until the lien attaches in accordance with the

schedule described in section 42-4-2105 (1)(b). The report must contain a declaration by the operator that a possessory lien is claimed for all past, present, and future charges, up to the date of redemption, and that the lien is enforceable and may be foreclosed pursuant to the provisions of this part 21.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part added with relocated provisions, p. 482, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2022:** Entire section amended, (HB 22-1314), ch. 416, p. 2934, § 4, effective August 10.

#### **42-4-2107. Sale of abandoned vehicle.**

(1) An operator may sell any motor vehicle and its attached accessories and equipment or personal property within or attached to the vehicle that are not redeemed by the last-known owner of record or lienholder after the notice was sent in accordance with section 42-4-2104 (1).

(2) At least five days before a vehicle is sold in accordance with subsection (1) of this section, the operator shall send a notice to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the operator. The notice must contain a list of personal property found within the abandoned vehicle that has an intact serial or identification number and each serial or identification number. The operator shall deliver the notice by certified mail, facsimile machine, or personal delivery.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part added with relocated provisions, p. 483, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2022:** Entire section amended, (HB 22-1314), ch. 416, p. 2934, § 5, effective August 10.

#### **42-4-2108. Proceeds of sale.**

(1) (a) If the sale of any motor vehicle, personal property, and attached accessories or equipment under the provisions of section 42-4-2104 produces an amount less than or equal to the sum of all charges of the operator, then the operator has a valid claim against the owner for the full amount of the charges, less the amount received upon the sale of such motor vehicle. An operator does not have a valid claim if the operator has violated section 40-10.1-405.

(b) Failure to register a vehicle in accordance with this title 42 is deemed a waiver of the owner's right to be notified pursuant to this part 21. Charges specified in subsection (1)(a) of this section are assessed in accordance with subsection (2)(a) of this section.

(2) If the sale of any motor vehicle and its attached accessories or equipment under the provisions of section 42-4-2104 produces an amount greater than the sum of all charges of the operator who has perfected the operator's lien:

(a) The proceeds shall first satisfy the operator's reasonable costs and fees arising from the sale of the motor vehicle pursuant to section 42-4-2104 and the cost and fees of towing and storing the abandoned motor vehicle with a maximum charge that is specified in rules promulgated by the public utilities commission that govern nonconsensual tows by towing carriers.

(a.5) In the case of the sale of an abandoned motor vehicle described in section 42-4-2102 (1)(d), any balance remaining after payment pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) shall be paid to the law enforcement agency that is owed a fee for the court-ordered placement of an immobilization device on the motor vehicle pursuant to section 42-4-1105.

(b) Repealed.

(c) (I) The operator shall pay any balance remaining after making the payment required in subsection (2)(a.5) of this section in accordance with the following:

(A) First, to any lienholder of record as the lienholder's interest may appear upon the records of the department;

(B) Second, to any owner of record as the owner's interest may so appear; and

(C) Third, to any person submitting proof of the person's interest in the motor vehicle upon the application of the lienholder, owner, or person.

(II) One hundred twenty days after the sale of the abandoned motor vehicle, the operator shall transfer the balance, after making the payment required under subsections (2)(a) to (2)(c)(I) of this section, to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the unclaimed property trust fund, created in section 38-13-801, and disposed of in accordance with article 13 of title 38.

**Source: L. 2002:** Entire part added with relocated provisions, p. 483, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (2)(c) amended, p. 150, § 29, effective April 5. **L. 2006:** (2)(a.5) added and (2)(b) amended, p. 172, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (2)(b) amended, (HB 09-1279), ch. 170, p. 769, § 12, effective August 5. **L. 2022:** (1), IP(2), and (2)(c) amended and (2)(b) repealed, (HB 22-1314), ch. 416, p. 2934, § 6, effective August 10.

#### **42-4-2109. Transfer and purge of certificates of title.**

(1) Whenever any motor vehicle is abandoned and removed and sold in accordance with the procedures set forth in this part 21, the department shall transfer the certificate of title or issue a new certificate of title or shall purge such certificate of title in either of the following cases:

(a) Upon a person's submission to the department of the necessary documents indicating the abandonment, removal, and subsequent sale or transfer of a motor vehicle with an appraised value of more than two hundred dollars, the department shall transfer the certificate of title or issue a new certificate of title for such abandoned motor vehicle.

(b) Upon a person's submission of documents indicating the abandonment, removal, and subsequent wrecking or dismantling of a motor vehicle, including all sales of abandoned motor vehicles with an appraised value of three hundred fifty dollars or less that are conducted pursuant to section 42-4-2104 (2) and all sales of abandoned motor vehicles, as defined in section 38-20-116 (2.5)(b)(I), C.R.S., with a retail fair market value of three hundred fifty dollars or less that are conducted pursuant to section 38-20-116 (2.5)(d)(I), C.R.S., the department shall keep the records for one year and then purge the records for such abandoned motor vehicle; except that the department shall not be required to wait before purging the records if the purchaser is a licensed motor vehicle dealer.

**Source:** **L. 2002:** Entire part added with relocated provisions, p. 484, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** Entire section amended, p. 613, § 5, effective January 1, 2005. **L. 2006:** (1)(b) amended, p. 204, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (1)(a) and (1)(b) amended, p. 546, § 5, effective January 1, 2009. **L. 2009:** (1)(b) amended, (HB 09-1279), ch. 170, p. 768, § 10, effective August 5.

#### **42-4-2110. Penalty.**

Unless otherwise specified in this part 21, any person who knowingly violates any of the provisions of this part 21 commits a petty offense and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-503.

**Source:** **L. 2002:** Entire part added with relocated provisions, p. 484, § 2, effective July 1; entire section amended, p. 1566, § 390, effective October 1. **L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3317, § 741, effective March 1, 2022.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.



## PART 22

### RECYCLING MOTOR VEHICLES

#### **42-4-2201. Definitions.**

As used in this part 22, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Auto parts recycler" means any person that purchases motor vehicles for the purpose of dismantling and selling the components thereof and that complies with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
- (2) "Licensed motor vehicle dealer" means a motor vehicle dealer that is licensed pursuant to part 1 of article 20 of title 44.
- (3) "Operator" means a person or a firm licensed by the public utilities commission as a towing carrier.
- (4) "Recycling" means:
  - (a) Crushing or shredding a motor vehicle to produce scrap metal that may be used to produce new products; or
  - (b) Dismantling a motor vehicle to remove reusable parts prior to recycling the remainder of the vehicle.
- (5) "System" means the Colorado motor vehicle verification system created in section 42-4-2203.

**Source:** **L. 2006:** Entire part added, p. 205, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2007:** Entire part amended, p. 1626, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (HB 09-1298), ch. 417, p. 2317, § 4, effective June 4. **L. 2018:** (2) amended, (SB 18-030), ch. 7, p. 142, § 22, effective October 1.

#### **42-4-2202. Transfer for recycling.**

- (1) No person who is not a licensed motor vehicle dealer shall purchase or otherwise receive a motor vehicle to recycle the vehicle, unless:
  - (a) The seller or transferor is the owner on the certificate of title, an operator, or a licensed motor vehicle dealer;
  - (b) The seller or transferor provides a completed bill of sale on a form prescribed by the department of revenue; or

(c) The receiver or purchaser complies with subsection (2) of this section.

(2) (a) A person other than a licensed motor vehicle dealer who purchases or otherwise receives a motor vehicle for the purpose of recycling the vehicle shall keep the vehicle for seven business days before recycling unless the seller or transferor:

(I) Is the owner on the certificate of title, an operator, or a licensed motor vehicle dealer; or

(II) If the purchaser or transferee is an operator selling an abandoned motor vehicle pursuant to part 18 or 21 of this article or a licensed motor vehicle dealer or used motor vehicle dealer, provides a completed bill of sale on a form prescribed by the department of revenue.

(b) During the seven-day waiting period:

(I) The motor vehicle, the bill of sale, a copy of the system inquiry results, and, if applicable, the daily record required pursuant to section 42-5-105 shall be open at all times during regular business hours to inspection by the department of revenue or any peace officer; and

(II) The receiver or purchaser shall submit the vehicle identification number to the system.

(3) Any person who violates this section commits a petty offense.

**Source:** L. 2006: Entire part added, p. 205, § 3, effective July 1. L. 2007: Entire part amended, p. 1627, § 1, effective July 1. L. 2021: (3) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3317, § 742, effective March 1, 2022.

**Cross references:** For penalties for petty offenses, see § 18-1.3-503.

#### ANNOTATION

**Statute is not impermissibly vague in all of its applications.** Metal Mgmt. W., Inc. v. State, 251 P.3d 1164 (Colo. App. 2010).

**Definition of motor vehicle in § 42-1-102 (58) is controlling** and the alternative definition in § 42-5-101 (5) is not. Metal Mgmt. W., Inc. v. State, 251 P.3d 1164 (Colo. App. 2010).

**In the context of the motor vehicle recycling statutes, the definition of a motor vehicle contained in § 42-1-102 (58) connotes any motor vehicle that is or was self-propelled.** Metal Mgmt. W., Inc. v. State, 251 P.3d 1164 (Colo. App. 2010).

**42-4-2203. Vehicle verification system - fees - rules.**

(1) The Colorado motor vehicle verification system is hereby created within the Colorado bureau of investigation. The system shall be a database system that uses a motor vehicle's vehicle identification number to ascertain whether the motor vehicle has been stolen. The system shall be accessible through the internet by motor vehicle dealers, motor vehicle recyclers, automobile repair shops, licensed tow operators, the department of revenue and its authorized agents, and the general public.

(2) The system shall use the latest information that the department of public safety possesses on stolen motor vehicles.

(3) Users of the system shall pay a fee as established by the department of public safety in an amount necessary to fund the direct and indirect costs of administering the system; except that neither the department of revenue nor its authorized agent shall pay a fee for the use of the system.

(4) The department of public safety may register the persons who use the system and promulgate any rules reasonably necessary to implement the system.

**Source:** L. 2007: Entire part amended, p. 1627, § 1, effective July 1. L. 2008: (1) and (3) amended, p. 1025, § 2, effective August 5.

**42-4-2204. Theft discovered - duties - liability.**

(1) If a motor vehicle is identified as stolen by the system, the person submitting the inquiry shall report the incident to the nearest law enforcement agency with jurisdiction within one business day.

(2) A person who, acting in good faith, recycles a motor vehicle or reports an incident to a law enforcement agency shall be immune from civil liability and criminal prosecution for such acts if made in reliance on the system. The department of public safety shall not be subject to civil liability for failing to identify a stolen vehicle.

(3) A person who fails to comply with subsection (1) of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished in accordance with section 18-1.3-501.

**Source:** L. 2007: Entire part amended, p. 1628, § 1, effective July 1. L. 2021: (3) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3317, § 743, effective March 1, 2022.

## PART 23

### EDUCATION REGARDING USE OF NONMOTORIZED WHEELED TRANSPORTATION BY MINORS

#### **42-4-2301. Comprehensive education.**

(1) The department of transportation, in collaboration with the departments of education and public safety and appropriate nonprofit organizations and advocacy groups, shall notify schools of the availability of and make available to schools existing educational curriculum for individuals under eighteen years of age regarding the safe use of public streets and premises open to the public by users of nonmotorized wheeled transportation and pedestrians. The curriculum shall focus on, at a minimum, instruction regarding:

- (a) The safe use of bicycles;
- (b) High risk traffic situations;
- (c) Bicycle and traffic handling skills;
- (d) On-bike training;
- (e) Proper use of bicycle helmets;
- (f) Traffic laws and regulations;
- (g) The use of hiking and bicycling trails;
- (h) Safe pedestrian practices; and
- (i) Legal requirements and safe practices for approaching controlled intersections as a pedestrian or while operating a low-speed conveyance, as defined in section 42-4-1412.5 (4)(b).

**Source: L. 2010:** Entire part added, (HB 10-1147), ch. 422, p. 2186, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2022:** (1)(g) and (1)(h) amended and (1)(i) added, (HB 22-1028), ch. 96, p. 459, § 3, effective April 13.

## PART 24

### EVENT DATA RECORDERS

**Editor's note:** This part 24 was added with relocations in 2018. Former C.R.S. section numbers are shown in editor's notes following those sections that were relocated. For a detailed comparison of this part 24, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

#### **42-4-2401. Definitions.**

As used in this part 24, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Event data" means records of one or more of the following categories of information concerning a motor vehicle, which records are captured by an event data recorder:

- (a) Whether the vehicle's airbag deployed;
- (b) Vehicle speed;
- (c) Vehicle direction;
- (d) Vehicle location;
- (e) Vehicle steering performance or use;
- (f) Vehicle brake performance or use; or
- (g) Vehicle seatbelt status or use.

(2) "Event data recorder" means a device or feature that is installed by the manufacturer of a motor vehicle for the purpose of capturing or transmitting retrievable event data.

(3) "Owner" means:

(a) A person having all the incidents of ownership of a motor vehicle, including legal title to the motor vehicle, regardless of whether the person lends, rents, or creates a security interest in the vehicle;

(b) A person entitled to possession of a motor vehicle as the purchaser under a security agreement; or

(c) A person entitled to possession of a vehicle as lessee under a written lease agreement if the lease agreement is intended to last for more than three months at its inception.

(4) "Owner's agent" means a natural person authorized by the owner within the last thirty days or the owner's representative as defined by section 13-20-702 (3).

**Source:** L. 2018: Entire part added with relocations, (SB 18-030), ch. 7, p. 136, § 3, effective October 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 12-6-401 as it existed prior to 2018.

#### **42-4-2402. Event data recorders.**

(1) A manufacturer of a motor vehicle that is sold or leased in Colorado with an event data recorder shall in bold-faced type disclose, in the owner's manual, that the vehicle is so equipped and, if so, the type of data recorded. A disclosure made by means of an insert into the owner's manual shall be deemed a disclosure in the owner's manual.

(2) Event data that is recorded on an event data recorder is the personal information of the motor vehicle's owner, and therefore the information shall not be retrieved by a person who is not the owner of the motor vehicle, except in the following circumstances:

(a) The owner of the motor vehicle or the owner's agent has consented to the retrieval of the data within the last thirty days;

(b) The data is retrieved by a motor vehicle dealer or by an automotive technician to diagnose, service, or repair the motor vehicle at the request of the owner or the owner's agent;

(c) The data is subject to discovery pursuant to the rules of civil procedure in a claim arising out of a motor vehicle crash;

(d) A court or administrative agency having jurisdiction orders the data to be retrieved;

(e) The event data recorder is installed after the manufacturer or motor vehicle dealer sells the motor vehicle; or

(f) A peace officer retrieves the data pursuant to a court order as part of an investigation of a suspected violation of a law that has caused, or contributed to the cause of, a crash resulting in damage of property or injury to a person.

(3) (a) No person shall release event data unless authorized by subsection (3)(b) of this section.

(b) A person authorized to download or retrieve data from an event data recorder may release the data in the following circumstances:

(I) The owner of the motor vehicle or the owner's agent has consented to the release of the data within the last thirty days;

(II) The data is subject to discovery pursuant to the rules of civil procedure in a claim arising out of a motor vehicle crash;

(III) The data is released pursuant to a court order as part of an investigation of a suspected violation of a law that has caused, or contributed to the cause of, a crash resulting in appreciable damage of property or injury to a person;

(IV) If the identity of the owner or driver is not disclosed, the data is released to a motor vehicle safety and medical research entity in order to advance motor vehicle safety, security, or traffic management; or

(V) The data is released to a data processor solely for the purposes permitted by this section if the identity of the owner or driver is not disclosed.

(4) (a) If a motor vehicle is equipped with an event data recorder that is capable of recording or transmitting event data that is part of a subscription service, the fact that the data may be recorded or transmitted and instructions for discontinuing the subscription service or for disabling the event data recorder by a trained service technician shall be prominently disclosed in the subscription service agreement. A disclosure made by means of an insert into the service agreement shall be deemed a disclosure in the service agreement.

(b) Subsections (2) and (3) of this section shall not apply to subscription services meeting the requirements of subsection (4)(a) of this section.

(5) A person who violates subsection (2) or (3) of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501.

**Source:** L. 2018: Entire part added with relocations, (SB 18-030), ch. 7, p. 137, § 3, effective October 1. L. 2021: (5) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3317, § 744, effective March 1, 2022. L. 2026: (2)(c), (2)(f), (3)(b)(II), and (3)(b)(III) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 488, § 74, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 12-6-402 as it existed prior to 2018.

#### **42-4-2403. Applicability.**

This part 24 applies to motor vehicles manufactured on or after May 1, 2007.

**Source: L. 2018:** Entire part added with relocations, (SB 18-030), ch. 7, p. 138, § 3, effective October 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 12-6-403 as it existed prior to 2018.

## PART 25

### EDUCATION REGARDING APPROACHING CONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS WHILE NOT DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE

#### **42-4-2501. Educational materials - updating of driving manual.**

(1) The department of transportation, in collaboration with the departments of education and public safety and appropriate nonprofit organizations and advocacy groups, shall produce for the general public educational materials concerning legal requirements and safe practices for approaching controlled intersections as a pedestrian or while operating a low-speed conveyance, as defined in section 42-4-1412.5 (4)(b).

(2) The division of motor vehicles in the department shall include in updates to the "Colorado Driver Handbook" updated information regarding legal requirements and safe practices for approaching controlled intersections that reflects changes to prior law made by House Bill 22-1028, enacted in 2022.

**Source: L. 2022:** Entire part added, (HB 22-1028), ch. 96, p. 459, § 4, effective April 13.

## AUTOMOBILE THEFT LAW

### ARTICLE 5

#### **Automobile Theft Law - Inspection of Motor Vehicle Identification Numbers**

##### PART 1 AUTOMOBILE THEFT

parts - possession.  
(Repealed)

42-5-101. Definitions.

42-5-103.

Tampering with a motor  
vehicle - repeal.  
(Repealed)

42-5-102. Stolen motor vehicle parts -  
buying, selling - removed  
or altered motor vehicle



|           |                                                                                             |           |                                                                                                |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 42-5-104. | Theft of motor vehicle parts - theft of license plates.                                     | 42-5-113. | Colorado auto theft prevention cash fund - audit.                                              |
| 42-5-105. | Daily record.                                                                               |           |                                                                                                |
| 42-5-106. | Duties of dealers - assembled motor vehicles.                                               |           | PART 2<br>VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER INSPECTION                                             |
| 42-5-107. | Seizure of motor vehicles or component parts by peace officers.                             | 42-5-201. | Definitions.                                                                                   |
| 42-5-108. | Penalty.                                                                                    | 42-5-202. | Vehicle identification number inspection.                                                      |
| 42-5-109. | Report of stored or parked motor vehicles - when.                                           | 42-5-203. | Inspections - street rod vehicles. (Repealed)                                                  |
| 42-5-110. | Possession of removed, defaced, altered, or destroyed motor vehicle identification numbers. | 42-5-204. | Inspection fees - vehicle number inspection fund - definition.                                 |
| 42-5-111. | Proof of authorized possession.                                                             | 42-5-205. | Assignment of a special vehicle identification number by the department of revenue. (Repealed) |
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## PART 1

### AUTOMOBILE THEFT

#### **42-5-101. Definitions.**

As used in this part 1, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Calendar year" means the twelve calendar months beginning January first and ending December thirty-first of any year.

(2) "Dealer" means all persons, firms, partnerships, associations, or corporations engaged in the business or vocation of manufacturing, buying, selling, trading, dealing in, destroying, disposing of, or salvaging motor vehicles or in secondhand or used motor vehicle parts, equipment, attachments, accessories, or appurtenances common to or a part of motor vehicles.

- (3) "Driver" means the person operating or driving a motor vehicle.
- (4) "Garage" means any public building or place of business for the storage or repair of motor vehicles.
- (5) "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle of whatever description propelled by any power other than muscular except a vehicle running on rails.
- (6) "Officer" means any duly constituted peace officer of this state, or of any town, city, county, or city and county in this state.
- (7) "Owner" means any person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation.
- (8) "Peace officer" means every officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of traffic regulations.
- (9) "Person" includes a partnership, company, corporation, or association.
- (10) "Public highway" means any public street, thoroughfare, roadway, alley, lane, or bridge in any county or city and county in the state.
- (11) "Vehicle identification number" means any identifying number, serial number, engine number, or other distinguishing number or mark, including letters, if any, that is unique to the identity of a given vehicle or component part thereof that was placed on a vehicle or engine by its manufacturer or by authority of the department of revenue pursuant to section 42-12-202 or in accordance with the laws of another state or country.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2439, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (11) amended, p. 1645, § 34, effective June 1. **L. 2011:** (11) amended, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 247, § 14, effective August 10.

**42-5-102. Stolen motor vehicle parts - buying, selling - removed or altered motor vehicle parts - possession. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2440, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2002:** Entire section amended, p. 1562, § 372, effective October 1. **L. 2014:** Entire section repealed, (SB 14-176), ch. 392, p. 1983, § 2, effective August 6.

**42-5-103. Tampering with a motor vehicle - repeal. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2440, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** (2)(a) and (2)(b) amended, p. 799, § 16, effective July 1; (2)(a) and (2)(b) amended, p. 1441, § 22, effective July 1. **L. 2007:** (2) amended, p. 1697, § 16, effective July 1. **L. 2021:** (3) added by revision, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, pp. 3317, 3331, §§ 745, 803.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (3) provided for the repeal of this section, effective March 1, 2022. (See L. 2021, pp. 3317, 3331.)

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2007 act amending subsection (2), see section 1 of chapter 384, Session Laws of Colorado 2007.

**42-5-104. Theft of motor vehicle parts - theft of license plates.**

(1) to (3) Repealed.

(4) (a) Any person who knowingly and with criminal intent removes, detaches, or takes from a motor vehicle that is the property of another a license plate or who aids, abets, or assists in the commission of such an act or acts is guilty of theft of a license plate.

(b) Theft of a license plate is a class 2 misdemeanor.

(5) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2441, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** (2)(a) and (2)(b) amended, p. 1441, § 23, effective July 1; (2)(a), (2)(b), and (3) amended, p. 799, § 17, effective July 1. **L. 2003:** (4) added, p. 2649, § 9, effective July 1. **L. 2007:** (2) and (3) amended, p. 1697, § 17, effective July 1. **L. 2021:** (4) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3318, § 746, effective March 1, 2022; (5) added by revision, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, pp. 3318, 3331, §§ 746, 803.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (5) provided for the repeal of subsections (1), (2), (3), and (5), effective March 1, 2022. (See L. 2021, pp. 3318, 3331.)

**Cross references:** (1) For penalties for class 2 misdemeanors, see § 18-1.3-501.

(2) For the legislative declaration contained in the 2007 act amending subsections (2) and (3), see section 1 of chapter 384, Session Laws of Colorado 2007.

#### ANNOTATION

**This section makes a valid classification** of theft of auto parts, as distinct from general theft, and its unconstitutionality has not been demonstrated beyond a reasonable doubt. *People v. Czajkowski*, 193 Colo. 352, 568 P.2d 23 (1977).

When the general assembly concludes that certain factual situations justify the harsher penalty for automobile parts theft, the classification does not of itself violate equal protection of the laws. *People v. Czajkowski*, 193 Colo. 352, 568 P.2d 23 (1977).

**The general assembly did not proscribe the same conduct in this section and § 18-4-401.** This section requires that the thing

stolen be a part of, or contained in, an automobile, and there is no such requirement under section 18-4-401. *People v. Czajkowski*, 193 Colo. 352, 568 P.2d 23 (1977).

**Knowledge required to sustain conviction as accessory.** Knowledge that a theft has occurred is knowledge sufficient to sustain a conviction of accessory to theft of auto parts. *Barreras v. People*, 636 P.2d 686 (Colo. 1981).

**Statute as basis for jurisdiction.** See *People v. Davis*, 194 Colo. 466, 573 P.2d 543 (1978).

**Applied** in *People v. Sequin*, 199 Colo. 381, 609 P.2d 622 (1980).

#### **42-5-105. Daily record.**

(1) (a) It is the duty of every dealer, and of the proprietor of every garage, to keep and maintain in such person's place of business an easily accessible and permanent daily record of all secondhand or used motor vehicle equipment, attachments, accessories, and appurtenances bought, sold, traded, exchanged, dealt in, repaired, or received or disposed of in any manner or way by or through the dealer or proprietor. The record may be created, recorded, stored, or reproduced physically or electronically.

(b) The record shall be kept in a good businesslike manner in the form of invoices or in a book by the dealer or proprietor and shall contain the following:

(I) A description of any and all such articles of property of every class or kind sufficient for the ready identification thereof by a peace officer;

- (II) The name and address, legibly written, of the owner, vendor, and vendee;
  - (III) The time and date of such transactions;
  - (IV) The name, address, and a copy of the identification document of the driver and the owner of a motor vehicle received for any purpose; except that a licensed motor vehicle dealer or used motor vehicle dealer is not required to obtain or retain a copy of an identification document if the dealer complies with part 1 of article 20 of title 44;
  - (V) The model year, make and style, and engine or vehicle identification number and state registration license number of such motor vehicle if registered; and
  - (VI) The purpose the motor vehicle was received and the disposition made thereof.
- (c) The record shall be open and the motor vehicle shall be available at all times during regular business hours to the inspection by the department of revenue or any peace officer and available for use as evidence.
- (2) It is the duty of every person offering to a dealer, or to the proprietor of a garage, for any purpose, a motor vehicle or secondhand or used motor vehicle equipment, attachment, accessory, or appurtenance to:
- (a) Write or register, as legibly as possible, the full and true name and address of the person and the name and address of the owner in the record kept by such dealer or proprietor of a garage as provided for in this section; and
  - (b) Present a valid identification document verifiable by federal or state law enforcement. The following documents, without limitation, shall be deemed to comply with this paragraph (b):
    - (I) An identification document issued by the state of Colorado;
    - (II) An identification document issued by any other state;
    - (III) An identification document issued by the United States government;
    - (IV) A passport issued by the United States government or another jurisdiction.
- (3) It is the duty of every driver, upon taking a motor vehicle to any dealer's place of business or to any garage for storage, repair, sale, trade, or any other purpose, to write or register, as legibly as possible, with ink or indelible pencil, the full and true name and address of the driver and the name and address of the owner of such motor vehicle in the record provided for in this section. Such driver shall not be required, however, to so register the same motor vehicle more than once in the same garage in any calendar year when the driver is personally known to the dealer or the proprietor of the garage to be in the rightful and lawful possession of such motor vehicle. Such driver, on request or demand of such dealer or proprietor of a garage, or his or her

agent, shall produce for examination the motor vehicle state registration license certificate issued to such driver or to the owner of such motor vehicle.

(4) Any person violating any provision of this section commits a civil infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2441, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2007:** (1) and (2) amended, p. 1628, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** (1)(b)(IV) amended, (SB 17-240), ch. 395, p. 2067, § 56, effective July 1. **L. 2018:** (1)(b)(IV) amended, (SB 18-030), ch. 7, p. 143, § 23, effective October 1. **L. 2021:** (4) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3319, § 747, effective March 1, 2022.

**Cross references:** For penalties for civil infractions, see § 18-1.3-503.

#### ANNOTATION

|                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A dealer or garage is not required to record the vehicle identification number of motor vehicle parts.</b> The statute requires | this only for motor vehicles, as defined in § 42-5-101 (5). <i>Metal Mgmt. W., Inc. v. State</i> , 251 P.3d 1164 (Colo. App. 2010). |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

#### **42-5-106. Duties of dealers - assembled motor vehicles.**

It is the duty of every dealer and of every proprietor of a garage to examine, without charge, the engine or vehicle identification number of every motor vehicle bought, taken in trade, repaired, or stored by them. Such dealer shall not be required to examine the engine or vehicle identification number of the same motor vehicle more than once in the same calendar year when such dealer knows that the person in possession of such motor vehicle is the lawful owner thereof. It is the further duty of the dealer, proprietor of a garage, or the dealer or proprietor's agent, promptly and without delay, to report to or notify in person, or by telephone or telegraph, or by special messenger the nearest police station or peace officer if the engine or vehicle identification number of said motor vehicle has been altered, changed, or so obliterated as to make the number indecipherable or if the engine or vehicle identification number or the state registration license number of said motor vehicle does not correspond with the engine or vehicle identification number of the motor vehicle state registration certificate of the driver of said motor vehicle. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section commits a petty offense and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-503.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2442, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2002:** Entire section amended, p. 1563, § 373, effective October 1. **L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3319, § 748, effective March 1, 2022.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

**42-5-107. Seizure of motor vehicles or component parts by peace officers.**

All peace officers are authorized to take and hold possession of any motor vehicle or component part if its engine number, vehicle identification number, or manufacturer's serial number has been altered, changed, or obliterated or if such officer has good and sufficient reason to believe that the motor vehicle or component part is not in the rightful possession of the driver or person in charge thereof.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2442, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**ANNOTATION**

**The term "good and sufficient reason" interpreted to mean reasonable suspicion** that criminal activity had occurred or was about to occur. *People v. Litchfield*, 918 P.2d 1099 (Colo. 1996).

**Police had reasonable suspicion to believe criminal activity occurred** where the driver of a rental vehicle in Colorado produced two unsigned rental agreements for the vehicle, one of which was for the wrong vehicle, where the rental agreement prohibited driving outside of Arizona or Nevada, and where the driver offered conflicting reasons for being in the state. *People v. Litchfield*, 918 P.2d 1099 (Colo. 1996).

**Temporary detention of a vehicle pursuant to this section did not constitute an impoundment** justifying an administrative inventory search of the vehicle's trunk. *People v. Litchfield*, 918 P.2d 1099 (Colo. 1996).

**Right to arrest without warrant.** In view of this section, an officer, who has been instructed that the woman he is to look for is driving a stolen car, that she has been placed under arrest, and has escaped from the deputy sheriff, may under these circumstances arrest even without warrant. *People ex rel. Little v. Hutchinson*, 9 F. 2d 275 (8th Cir. 1925).

**42-5-108. Penalty.**

Any person violating any of the provisions of this part 1, unless otherwise specifically provided for in this part 1, commits a petty offense and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-503.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2443, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2002:** Entire section amended, p. 1563, § 374, effective October 1. **L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3319, § 749, effective March 1, 2022.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

**42-5-109. Report of stored or parked motor vehicles - when.**

Whenever any motor vehicle of a type subject to registration in this state has been stored, parked, or left in a garage, a trailer park, or any type of storage or parking lot for a period of over thirty days, the owner of such garage, trailer park, or lot shall report the make, engine number, vehicle identification number, and serial number of such motor vehicle in writing to the Colorado state patrol auto theft section, Denver, Colorado, and the sheriff of the county in which the garage, trailer park, or lot is located. Nothing in this section shall apply where arrangements have been made for continuous storage or parking by the owner of the motor vehicle so parked or stored and where the owner of said motor vehicle so parked or stored is personally known to the owner or operator of such garage, trailer park, or storage or parking lot. Any person who fails to submit the report required under this section at the end of thirty days forfeits all claims for storage of such motor vehicles; and commits a civil infraction; and each day's failure to make such a report as required under this section shall constitute a separate offense.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2443, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3319, § 750, effective March 1, 2022.

**Cross references:** For penalties for civil infractions, see § 18-1.3-503.

**ANNOTATION**



**42-5-110. Possession of removed, defaced, altered, or destroyed motor vehicle identification numbers.**

(1) No person shall knowingly buy, sell, offer for sale, receive, or possess any motor vehicle or component part thereof from which the vehicle identification number or any number placed on said vehicle or component part for its identification by the manufacturer has been removed, defaced, altered, or destroyed unless such vehicle or component part has attached thereto a special identification number assigned or approved by the department in lieu of the manufacturer's number.

(2) Whenever such motor vehicle or component part comes into the custody of a peace officer, it shall be destroyed, sold, or otherwise disposed of under the conditions provided in an order by the court having jurisdiction. No court order providing for disposition shall be issued unless the person from whom the property was seized and all claimants to the property whose interest or title is on the records in the department of revenue are provided a postseizure hearing by the court having jurisdiction within a reasonable period after the seizure. This postseizure hearing shall be held on those motor vehicles or component parts for which true ownership is in doubt, including, but not limited to, those motor vehicles or component parts that are altered to the extent that they cannot be identified, those motor vehicles or component parts that are composed of parts belonging to several different claimants, and those motor vehicles or component parts for which there are two or more existing titles. This subsection (2) shall not apply with respect to such motor vehicle or component part used as evidence in any criminal action or proceeding. Nothing in this section shall, however, preclude the return of such motor vehicle or component part to the owner by the seizing agency following presentation of satisfactory evidence of ownership and, if it is determined to be necessary, upon assignment of an identification number to the vehicle or component part by the department of revenue. There shall be no special identification number issued for a component part unless it is a component part of a complete motor vehicle.

(3) Whenever such motor vehicle or component part comes into the custody of a peace officer, the person from whom the property was seized and all claimants to the property whose interest or title is noted on the records of the department of revenue shall be notified within ninety days of seizure of the seizing agency's intent to commence a postseizure hearing as described in subsection (2) of this section. Such notice shall contain the following information:

(a) The name and address of the person or persons from whom the motor vehicle or component part was seized;

(b) A statement that the motor vehicle or component part has been seized for investigation as provided in this section and that the property will be released upon a determination that the identification number has not been removed, defaced, altered, or destroyed or upon the presentation of satisfactory evidence of the ownership of such motor vehicle or component part if no other person claims an interest in the property within thirty days of the date the notice is mailed; otherwise, a hearing regarding the disposition of such motor vehicle or component part shall take place in the court having jurisdiction;

(c) A statement that the person from whom the property was seized and all claimants to the motor vehicle or component part whose interest or title is on the records in the department of revenue will have notification of the seizing agency's intention to commence a postseizure hearing, and such notice shall be sent to the last-known address by registered mail within ninety days of the date of seizure;

(d) The name and address of the law enforcement agency where the evidence of ownership of such motor vehicle or component part may be presented;

(e) A statement or copy of the text contained in this section.

(4) (a) A hearing on the disposition of the motor vehicle or component part shall be held by the court having jurisdiction within a reasonable time after the seizure. The hearing shall be before the court without a jury.

(b) If the evidence reveals either that the identification number has not been removed, altered, or destroyed or that the identification has been removed, altered, or destroyed but satisfactory evidence of ownership has been presented, then the motor vehicle or component part shall be released to the person entitled thereto. Nothing in this section shall preclude the return of such motor vehicle or component part to a good faith purchaser following the presentation of satisfactory evidence of ownership thereof, and, if necessary, said good faith purchaser may be required to obtain an assigned identification number from the motor vehicle group.

(c) If the evidence reveals that the identification number of the motor vehicle or the component part has been removed, altered, or destroyed and satisfactory evidence of ownership has not been presented, then the property shall be destroyed, sold, or converted to the use of the seizing agency or otherwise disposed of as provided by court order.

(d) At the hearing, the seizing agency shall have the burden of establishing that the identification number of the motor vehicle or the component part has been removed, defaced, altered, or destroyed.

(e) At the hearing, any claimant to the property shall have the burden of providing satisfactory evidence of ownership.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2443, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2000:** (1), (2), IP(3), (3)(c), and (4)(b) amended, p. 1646, § 35, effective June 1.

#### ANNOTATION

**Mandatory hearing pursuant to subsection (4) complies with due process requirements of Article II, Section 25 of the Colorado Constitution.** *Denver v. Desert Truck Sales, Inc.*, 837 P.2d 759 (Colo. 1992).

#### **42-5-111. Proof of authorized possession.**

(1) Whenever any motor vehicle or major component part of a motor vehicle is transported, shipped, towed, or hauled by any means in this state, said vehicle or component part shall be accompanied by proper authorization of possession from the legal owner or a law enforcement agency. Such authorization may include, but need not be limited to, bills of lading, shipment invoices, towing requests, or other specific authorization which readily identifies the rightful owner and conveys said owner's authorization of possession to the person transporting the motor vehicle or component part.

(2) A person who violates this section commits a civil infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2445, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3320, § 751, effective March 1, 2022.

**Cross references:** For penalties for civil infractions, see § 18-1.3-503.

#### **42-5-112. Automobile theft prevention authority - board - creation - duties - rules - fund - repeal.**

(1) There is hereby created in the department of public safety the automobile theft prevention authority, referred to in this section as the "authority". Under the authority, a law enforcement agency or other qualified applicant may apply for grants to assist in improving and supporting automobile theft prevention programs or programs for the enforcement or prosecution of automobile theft crimes through statewide planning and coordination.

(2) (a) There is hereby created the automobile theft prevention board, referred to in this section as the "board", which shall consist of eleven members as follows:

(I) The executive director of the department of public safety, or the executive director's designee;

(II) The executive director of the department of revenue, or the executive director's designee; and

(III) Nine members appointed by the governor as follows:

(A) Five representatives of insurance companies who are authorized to issue motor vehicle insurance policies pursuant to part 6 of article 4 of title 10, C.R.S.;

(B) Two representatives of law enforcement;

(C) A representative of a statewide association of district attorneys; and

(D) A representative of the public who may also be a representative of a consumer group.

(b) The appointed members of the board shall serve terms of six years; except that the terms shall be staggered so that no more than three members' terms expire in the same year. No appointed member shall serve more than two consecutive six-year terms.

(b.5) Repealed.

(c) The members of the board shall serve without compensation; except that the members of the board shall be reimbursed from moneys in the fund created in subsection (4) of this section for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this section.

(3) (a) The board shall solicit and review applications for grants pursuant to this section. The board may award grants for one to three years. The board shall give priority to applications representing multijurisdictional programs. Each application, at a minimum, shall describe the type of theft prevention, enforcement, prosecution, offender rehabilitation program, victim support program, or technology enhancement program to be implemented. Such programs may include, but need not be limited to:

(I) Multi-agency law enforcement and national insurance crime bureau task force programs using proactive investigative methods to reduce the incidents of motor vehicle theft and related crimes and to increase the apprehension of motor vehicle thieves and persons who attempt to defraud insurance companies in order to:

(A) Direct proactive investigative and enforcement efforts toward the reduction of motor vehicle thefts;

(B) Increase recoveries of stolen motor vehicles, including farm and construction equipment; and

(C) Increase the arrests of perpetrators;

(II) Programs that engage in crime prevention efforts, activities, and public awareness campaigns that are intended to reduce the public's victimization by motor vehicle theft, fraud, and related crimes;

(III) Programs that provide or develop specialized training for motor vehicle theft investigations personnel, including but not limited to law enforcement personnel, county title and registration clerks, division of revenue title clerks, and port-of-entry officials, in order to enhance knowledge, skills, procedures, and systems to detect, prevent, and combat motor vehicle theft and fraud and related crimes;

(IV) Programs to provide for the support and maintenance of one or more dedicated prosecutors who have the specific mission and expertise to provide legal guidance and prosecutorial continuity to complex criminal cases arising from the activities of a multi-agency law enforcement program;

(V) Programs to prevent future criminal behavior by first time offenders who have been charged, convicted, or adjudicated for motor vehicle theft;

(VI) Programs to support victims of automobile theft; and

(VII) Programs to support technology enhancement.

(b) Subject to available moneys, the board shall approve grants pursuant to this section. In selecting grant recipients, the board, to the extent possible, shall ensure that grants are awarded to law enforcement agencies or other qualified applicants in a variety of geographic areas of the state. The board shall not require as a condition of receipt of a grant that an agency, political subdivision, or other qualified applicant provide any additional moneys to operate an automobile theft prevention program or a program for the enforcement or prosecution of automobile theft crimes.

(c) Subject to available moneys, the board may appoint a director for the authority who may employ such staff as may be necessary to operate and administer the authority.

(d) No more than eight percent of the moneys in the fund created pursuant to subsection (4) of this section may be used for operational or administrative expenses of the authority.

(e) The FTE authorization for any staff necessary to support the authority shall be eliminated should sufficient moneys from gifts, grants, or donations no longer be available for the authority.

(f) The executive director of the department of public safety shall promulgate rules for the administration of this section, including but not limited to:

(I) Requirements for an entity other than a law enforcement agency to be a qualified applicant;

(II) Application procedures by which law enforcement agencies or other qualified applicants may apply for grants pursuant to this section;

(III) The criteria for selecting those agencies or other qualified applicants that shall receive grants and the criteria for determining the amount to be granted to the selected agencies or applicants and the duration of the grants; and

(IV) Procedures for reviewing the success of the programs that receive grants pursuant to this section.

(g) On or before December 1, 2006, any law enforcement agency or other qualified applicant that receives a grant pursuant to this section shall submit a report to the board concerning the implementation of the program funded through the grant.

(h) On or before February 1, 2007, the board shall report to the judiciary committees of the senate and the house of representatives on the implementation of the programs receiving grants pursuant to this section and the authority. The report shall include but need not be limited to:

(I) The number and geographic jurisdiction of law enforcement agencies or other qualified applicants that received grants under the authority and the amount and duration of the grants;

(II) The effect that the programs that received grants had on the number of automobile thefts in areas of the state; and

(III) Recommendations for legislative changes to assist in the prevention, enforcement, and prosecution of automobile-theft-related criminal activities.

(4) (a) The department of public safety is authorized to accept gifts, grants, or donations from private or public sources for the purposes of this section. All private and public money received through gifts, grants, or donations shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the money to the Colorado auto theft prevention cash fund, which fund is hereby created and referred to in this section as the "fund". The fund consists of any money that the general assembly may appropriate or transfer to the fund; any money received through gifts, grants, and donations; and any money deposited in the fund pursuant to section 10-4-617. The money in the fund is subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly for the direct and indirect costs associated with the implementation of this section. Any money in the fund not expended for the purpose of this section may be invested by the state treasurer as provided in section 24-36-113. All interest and income derived from the investment and deposit of money in the fund shall be credited to the fund. Any unexpended and unencumbered money remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall remain in the fund and shall not be credited or transferred to the general fund or any other fund.

(b) It is the intent of the general assembly that the department of public safety not be required to solicit gifts, grants, or donations from any source for the purposes of this section.

(c) On July 1, 2023, the state treasurer shall transfer five million dollars from the general fund to the fund to be used for the following purposes:

(I) Implementation of a statewide education and outreach program to increase awareness of automobile theft victimization;

(II) Implementation of programs to support victims of automobile theft;

(III) Additional overtime for law enforcement agencies;

(IV) Implementation of a dedicated automobile theft prosecution program;

(V) Enhancing and upgrading the automobile theft tracking and reporting system; or

(VI) Any other direct or indirect costs associated with the implementation of this section.

(5) (a) The state treasurer shall notify the governor and the executive directors of the departments of public safety and revenue the first time that the moneys in the fund reach or exceed the sum of three hundred thousand dollars.

(b) If by June 1, 2008, moneys in the fund have never reached or exceeded three hundred thousand dollars, the state treasurer shall return from the fund to the grantee or donee the amount of all gifts, grants, or donations. If gifts, grants, and donations are returned pursuant to this paragraph (b), on July 1, 2008, the treasurer shall transfer to the general fund any interest or income earned on moneys in the fund.

(6) (a) This section is repealed, effective September 1, 2029.

(b) Prior to said repeal, the authority created pursuant to subsection (1) of this section and the board created pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall be reviewed as provided for in section 24-34-104, C.R.S.

**Source:** **L. 2003:** Entire section added, p. 1326, § 1, effective April 22. **L. 2004:** (2)(a)(III)(A) amended, p. 906, § 35, effective May 21. **L. 2008:** IP(2)(a), IP(2)(a)(III), (2)(a)(III)(A), (4)(a), and (6) amended and (2)(b.5) added, p. 2097, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2018:** (6)(a) amended, (HB 18-1240), ch. 209, p. 1341, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2022:** (2)(b) amended and (2)(b.5) repealed, (SB 22-013), ch. 2, p. 88, § 118, effective February 25. **L. 2023:** IP(3)(a), (3)(a)(IV), (3)(a)(V), and (4) amended and (3)(a)(VI) and (3)(a)(VII) added, (SB 23-257), ch. 310, p. 1890, § 1, effective June 2.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2008 act amending the introductory portions to subsections (2)(a) and (2)(a)(III) and subsections (2)(a)(III)(A), (4)(a),

and (6) and enacting subsection (2)(b.5), see section 1 of chapter 415, Session Laws of Colorado 2008.

**42-5-113. Colorado auto theft prevention cash fund - audit.**

Beginning in the 2008-09 fiscal year, and every five years thereafter, the state auditor shall cause an audit to be made of the Colorado auto theft prevention cash fund created in section 42-5-112 (4) to include procedures to test distributions from the fund for compliance with program requirements and guidelines. The state auditor shall review a sample of distributions and expenditures from the Colorado auto theft prevention cash fund for the purposes described in section 42-5-112. The state auditor shall prepare a report of each audit conducted and file the report with the audit committee of the general assembly. Following the release of the audit report, the state auditor shall file the audit report with the judiciary committees of the house of representatives and the senate, or any successor committees.

**Source:** **L. 2008:** Entire section added, p. 2098, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-129), ch. 284, p. 1493, § 5, effective May 24. **L. 2017:** (1)(b)(IV) amended, (SB 17-240), ch.395, p. 2067, § 56, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** Entire section amended, (SB 17-294), ch. 264, p. 1416, § 113, effective May 25.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2008 act enacting this section, see section 1 of chapter 415, Session Laws of Colorado 2008.

## PART 2

### VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER INSPECTION

**42-5-201. Definitions.**

As used in this part 2, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Bonded title vehicle" means a vehicle the owner of which has posted a bond for title pursuant to the provisions of section 42-6-115.
- (2) "Commercial vehicle" means any trailer as defined in section 42-1-102 (105), truck as defined in section 42-1-102 (108), or truck tractor as defined in section 42-1-102 (109).
- (3) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2000, p. 1647, § 36, effective June 1, 2000.)



(4) "Homemade vehicle" means a vehicle which is constructed by a manufacturer not licensed by the state of Colorado and which is not recognizable as a commercially manufactured vehicle.

(5) "Inspector" means a duly constituted peace officer of a law enforcement agency or other individual who has been certified pursuant to section 42-5-206 to inspect vehicle identification numbers.

(6) "Law enforcement agency" means the Colorado state patrol or the agency of a local government authorized to enforce the laws of the state of Colorado.

(7) "Local government" means a town, a city, a county, or a city and county.

(8) "Rebuilt vehicle" means a vehicle which has been assembled from parts of two or more commercially manufactured vehicles or which has been altered in such a manner that it is not readily recognizable as a commercially manufactured vehicle of a given year. "Rebuilt vehicle" includes a street rod vehicle.

(9) "Reconstructed vehicle" means a vehicle constructed from two or more commercially manufactured vehicles of the same type and year which has not been altered and which is recognizable as a commercially manufactured vehicle of a given year.

(10) "State" includes the territories and the federal districts of the United States.

(11) "Street rod vehicle" means a vehicle with a body design manufactured in 1948 or earlier or with a reproduction component that resembles a 1948 or earlier model which has been modified for safe road use, including, but not limited to, modifications of the drive train, suspension, and brake systems, modifications to the body through the use of materials such as steel or fiber glass, and other safety or comfort features.

(12) "Vehicle" means a motor vehicle subject to the certificate of title provisions of part 1 of article 6 of this title but does not include commercial vehicles as defined in subsection (2) of this section.

(13) "Vehicle identification number" means any identifying number, serial number, engine number, or other distinguishing number or mark, including letters, if any, that is unique to the identity of a given vehicle or commercial vehicle or component part thereof that was placed on a vehicle, commercial vehicle, or engine by its manufacturer or by authority of the department of revenue under section 42-12-202 or in accordance with the laws of another state or country.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2445, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (3) and (13) amended, p. 1647, § 36, effective June 1. **L. 2010:** (5) amended, (HB 10-

1096), ch. 240, p. 1051, § 1, effective August 11. **L. 2011: (13)** amended, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 247, § 15, effective August 10.

#### **42-5-202. Vehicle identification number inspection.**

(1) No bonded title vehicle, homemade vehicle, rebuilt vehicle, reconstructed vehicle, or vehicle assembled from a kit shall be sold in the state of Colorado or issued a Colorado certificate of title unless the seller or owner of such vehicle has had its vehicle identification number inspected and recorded by an inspector on the inspection form approved by the department of revenue.

(2) No bonded title commercial vehicle, homemade commercial vehicle, rebuilt commercial vehicle, reconstructed commercial vehicle, or commercial vehicle assembled from a kit shall be issued a Colorado certificate of title unless an inspector inspects the vehicle identification number and records the number on the inspection form approved by the department of revenue.

(2.5) The department is authorized to perform a vehicle identification number inspection on any motor vehicle subject to this article that the department determines is necessary or convenient in carrying out its duties pursuant to this article and to charge and receive an inspection fee pursuant to section 42-5-204 for such inspection.

(3) The inspections required by this section include a physical inspection of the vehicle or commercial vehicle and a computer check of the state and national compilations of wanted and stolen vehicles or commercial vehicles. If the inspector determines that the vehicle identification number has not been removed, changed, altered, or obliterated and that it is not the identification number of a wanted or stolen vehicle or commercial vehicle, the inspection form shall be transmitted to the executive director of the department of revenue, who shall then act upon the application for a Colorado certificate of title for such vehicle or commercial vehicle.

(4) If the inspector determines that the vehicle identification number has been removed, changed, altered, or obliterated or if the inspector has good and sufficient reason to believe that the vehicle or commercial vehicle is wanted or was stolen in the state of Colorado or another state, the inspector shall proceed according to the provisions of part 1 of this article.

(5) ***[Editor's note: Subsection (5) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of this subsection (5) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]*** The department of revenue, the agents of the department of revenue, the Colorado state patrol, the agents of the Colorado state patrol, or a person that has contracted with the department of revenue or the Colorado state patrol shall not require a vehicle to have an inspection because it is a kei vehicle, as defined in section 42-1-102 (45.3), or has the design or manufacturing parameters of a kei vehicle, as defined in section 42-1-102 (45.3). This subsection (5) applies for the purposes of both article 6 of this title 42 and part 3 of article 4 of this title 42.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2446, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2001:** (2.5) added, p. 591, § 2, effective May 30. **L. 2025:** (5) added, (HB 25-1281), ch. 176, p. 737, § 7, effective July 1, 2027.

**Editor's note:** Section 13(2) of chapter 176 (HB 25-1281), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to applications submitted or offenses committed on or after January 1, 2028.

#### **42-5-203. Inspections - street rod vehicles. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2447, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1647, § 37, effective June 1. **L. 2011:** Entire section repealed, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 249, § 22, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section was relocated to § 42-12-201 in 2011.

#### **42-5-204. Inspection fees - vehicle number inspection fund - definition.**

(1) (a) (I) To have an inspection performed under this part 2, the requester must pay a fee of fifty dollars for each inspection performed. Upon payment of the fee, the inspector shall issue to the owner of the inspected vehicle or commercial vehicle a receipt as evidence of payment.

(II) (A) On or before July 1, 2020, and each July 1 thereafter, the executive director of the department of revenue shall calculate the amount of the fee imposed under subsection (1)(a)(I) of this section for the next year using the rate of inflation for the prior year. The executive director shall round the fee to the nearest dollar increment. On or before July 1 of each year, the executive director shall certify the amount of the fee for the next year and publish the amount.

(B) As used in this subsection (1)(a)(II), "inflation" means the annual percentage change in the United States department of labor, bureau of labor statistics, consumer price index for Denver-Aurora-Lakewood for all items and all urban consumers, or its successor index.

(b) Notwithstanding the amount specified for the fee in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1), the executive director of the department of revenue by rule or as otherwise provided by law may reduce the amount of the fee if necessary pursuant to section 24-75-402 (3), C.R.S., to reduce the

uncommitted reserves of the fund to which all or any portion of the fee is credited. After the uncommitted reserves of the fund are sufficiently reduced, the executive director of the department of revenue by rule or as otherwise provided by law may increase the amount of the fee as provided in section 24-75-402 (4), C.R.S.

(2) (a) All inspection fees collected by the Colorado state patrol shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the vehicle identification number inspection fund, which fund is hereby created. The moneys in the fund shall be subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly for the administration and enforcement of this article, including the direct and indirect costs of the Colorado state patrol in performing inspections pursuant to this part 2. The moneys in the fund shall not be transferred or credited to the general fund or to any other fund; except that, at the end of each fiscal year, any unexpended and unencumbered moneys remaining in the fund shall be credited to the general fund.

(b) All inspection fees collected by a law enforcement agency of a local government shall be credited to a special fund in the office of the treasurer of the local government. Such fund shall be separate and apart from the general fund of the local government and shall be made available for use by the law enforcement agency for the administration and enforcement of this part 2, including the training and certification of inspectors; except that the governing body of the local government, acting by resolution or ordinance, may order that the inspection fees be paid into the general fund of the local government.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2447, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** (1) amended, p. 1359, § 114, effective June 1. **L. 2019:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 19-1300), ch. 280, p. 2624, § 1, effective August 2.

**42-5-205. Assignment of a special vehicle identification number by the department of revenue. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2447, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1647, § 38, effective June 1. **L. 2011:** Entire section repealed, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 249, § 22, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section was relocated to § 42-12-202 in 2011.

#### **42-5-206. Certification of inspectors.**

(1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, no peace officer shall be an inspector of vehicle identification numbers unless the peace officer has been certified by the peace officers standards and training board pursuant to section 24-31-303 (1)(e), C.R.S. In order to be certified, the peace officer must satisfactorily complete a vehicle identification number inspection training course approved by said board and pay a certification fee to the board not to exceed twenty-five dollars. The cost of the training course shall include all necessary and actual expenses but shall not exceed fifty dollars per peace officer.

(2) In lieu of the requirement for certification in subsection (1) of this section, any peace officer shall be certified as an inspector of vehicle identification numbers if the peace officer is able to demonstrate to the peace officers standards and training board that the peace officer has had sixteen hours or more of vehicle identification number inspection training which is acceptable to the board and which was received between January 1, 1986, and January 1, 1988.

(3) The sheriff of any county and the police chief of any municipality may certify individuals in addition to peace officers to serve as inspectors in accordance with the provisions of this part 2. Such individuals shall be employees or bona fide representatives of a county or municipality and shall satisfactorily complete fingerprint and background checks. Such individuals must satisfactorily complete a vehicle identification number inspection training course approved by the peace officers standards and training board and pay a fee to the board for the cost of the certification not to exceed twenty-five dollars. The cost of the training course shall include all necessary and actual expenses but shall not exceed fifty dollars per individual.

(4) A certification to perform vehicle identification number inspections expires three years after it is issued unless the certificate holder applies to have the certification renewed.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2448, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1) amended, p. 961, § 21, effective May 25. **L. 2010:** (3) added, (HB 10-1096), ch. 240, p. 1051, § 2, effective August 11. **L. 2019:** (4) added, (HB 19-1300), ch. 280, p. 2624, § 2, effective August 2.

#### **42-5-207. Rules.**

The executive director of the department of revenue may adopt rules necessary to implement this part 2.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2448, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1648, § 39, effective June 1.

## **CERTIFICATES OF TITLE**

### **ARTICLE 6**

#### **Certificates of Title - Used Motor Vehicle Sales**

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## PART 1

### CERTIFICATES OF TITLE

**Cross references:** For certificates of title to mobile homes, see the "Titles to Manufactured Homes Act", article 29 of title 38.

#### **42-6-101. Short title.**

This part 1 shall be known and may be cited as the "Certificate of Title Act".

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2448, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

### ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Certificate of Title Law Effective August 1st", see 26 Dicta 175 (1949). For article, "The New Colorado Chattel Mortgage Act", see 38 Dicta 231 (1961). For article, "Impact of the Uniform Commercial Code on Colorado Law", see 42 Den. L. Ctr. J. 67 (1965). For article, "Oil and Gas Financing Under the Uniform Commercial Code as Enacted in Colorado", see 43 Den. L.J. 129 (1966).

**The object of the "certificates of title act"** is to make transfer of title easier and less vulnerable from the attendant risks of stolen cars and secret liens. Loya v. Denver United States Nat'l Bank, 341 F.2d 402 (10th

Cir. 1965); Doenges-Glass, Inc. v. GMAC, 175 Colo. 518, 488 P.2d 879 (1971).

**Provisions mandatory and strict compliance required.** These provisions are more than merely administrative, they are mandatory. Unless strict compliance with the statute is made, no interest or any right of any kind can be transferred. Rabtoay Gen. Tire Co. v. Colo. Kenworth Corp., 135 Colo. 110, 309 P.2d 616 (1957); Amarillo Auto Auction, Inc. v. Hutchinson, 135 Colo. 320, 310 P.2d 715 (1957).

**Applied in** In re Tanke, 4 B.R. 339 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1980).

#### **42-6-102. Definitions.**

As used in this part 1, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "All-terrain vehicle" means a three- or four-wheeled vehicle that travels on low-pressure tires with a seat that is straddled by the rider and with handlebars for steering control.



(1.5) "Authorized agent" has the same meaning as set forth in section 42-1-102 (5).

(1.7) "Brand" means a permanent designation or marking on a motor vehicle's title, associated with the vehicle identification number, that conveys information about the value of the vehicle or indicates that the vehicle:

- (a) Is a salvage vehicle;
- (b) Is rebuilt from salvage;
- (c) Is nonrepairable;
- (d) Is flood damaged;
- (e) Has had its odometer tampered with;
- (f) Has a designation placed on the title by another jurisdiction; or
- (g) Is a lemon law buyback vehicle, as defined in section 42-10-101 (1.5).

(2) "Dealer" means any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or association licensed under the laws of this state to engage in the business of buying, selling, exchanging, or otherwise trading in motor vehicles.

(3) "Department" means the department of revenue acting directly or through a duly authorized officer, agent, or third-party provider.

(4) "Director" means the executive director of the department of revenue.

(5) (a) "Electronic record" means a record generated, created, communicated, received, sent, or stored by electronic means.

(b) Repealed.

(5.5) "Electronic signature" has the same meaning as set forth in section 24-71-101.

(6) "File" means the creation of or addition to an electronic record maintained for a certificate of title by the director or an authorized agent.

(6.1) "Flood damaged" means a motor vehicle was submerged in water to the point that rising water has reached over the doorsill and entered the passenger compartment and damaged electrical, computer, or mechanical components.

(6.3) "Historical military vehicle" means a vehicle of any size or weight that is valued for historical purposes, that was manufactured for use by any nation's armed forces, and that is maintained in a condition that represents its military design and markings.

(6.4) "Junk" means a vehicle that is incapable of operating on roads and is no longer a vehicle because it has been destroyed, dismantled, or changed. These vehicles may not be issued

a certificate of title, and any title secured in the purchase of such a vehicle is to be surrendered to the department, which shall cancel the vehicle identification number and remove the vehicle from the motor vehicle system.

(6.5) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (6.5) is effective until July 1, 2027.]*** "Kit vehicle" means a passenger-type motor vehicle assembled, by other than a licensed manufacturer, from a manufactured kit that includes a prefabricated body and chassis and is accompanied by a manufacturer's statement of origin.

(6.5) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (6.5) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of this subsection (6.5) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]*** "Kei vehicle" has the meaning set forth in section 42-1-102.

(6.6) ***[Editor's note: Subsection (6.6) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of this subsection (6.6) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]*** "Kei off-road vehicle" means a vehicle that:

- (a) Is powered by an internal combustion engine with a displacement of one thousand cubic centimeters or less or an electrical motor of fifty-six thousand watts or less;
- (b) Is sixty-seven inches or less in width;
- (c) Is one hundred forty inches or less in length;
- (d) Travels on four or more tires in contact with the ground;
- (e) Has an enclosed passenger cab;
- (f) Was imported into the United States; and
- (g) Does not meet the requirements of section 42-1-102 (45.3)(h).

(6.7) ***[Editor's note: Subsection (6.7) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of this subsection (6.7) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]*** "Kit vehicle" means a passenger-type motor vehicle assembled, by other than a licensed manufacturer, from a manufactured kit that includes a prefabricated body and chassis and is accompanied by a manufacturer's statement of origin.

(7) "Lien" means a security interest in a motor vehicle under article 9 of title 4, C.R.S., and this article.

(8) "Manufacturer" means a person, firm, partnership, corporation, or association engaged in the manufacture of new motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers.

(9) "Mortgage" or "chattel mortgage" means a security agreement as defined in section 4-9-102 (76), C.R.S.

(10) ***[Editor's note: This version of the introductory portion to subsection (10) is effective until July 1, 2027.]*** "Motor vehicle" means any self-propelled vehicle that is designed primarily for travel on the public highways and is generally and commonly used to transport persons and property over the public highways, including autocycles, trailers, semitrailers, and trailer coaches, without motive power. "Motor vehicle" does not include the following:

(10) ***[Editor's note: This version of the introductory portion to subsection (10) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of this introductory portion to subsection (10) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]*** "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle that is designed primarily for travel on the public highways and is generally and commonly used to transport persons and property over the public highways, including autocycles, kei vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, and trailer coaches, without motive power. "Motor vehicle" does not include the following:

- (a) A low-power scooter or an electric scooter, as both terms are defined in section 42-1-102;
- (b) A vehicle that operates only upon rails or tracks laid in place on the ground or that travels through the air or that derives its motive power from overhead electric lines;
- (c) A farm tractor, farm trailer, and any other machines and tools used in the production, harvesting, and care of farm products; or
- (d) Special mobile machinery or industrial machinery not designed primarily for highway transportation.

(11) "New vehicle" means a motor vehicle being transferred for the first time from a manufacturer or importer, or dealer or agent of a manufacturer or importer, to the end user or customer. A motor vehicle that has been used by a dealer for the purpose of demonstration to prospective customers shall be considered a "new vehicle" unless such demonstration use has been for more than one thousand five hundred miles. Motor vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating of sixteen thousand pounds or more shall be exempt from this definition.

(11.2) "Nonrepairable" means a motor vehicle that:

- (a) Is incapable of safe operation on the road and that has no resale value except as scrap or as a source of parts; or
- (b) The owner has designated as scrap or as a source of parts.

(11.3) "Nonrepairable title" means a title document issued by the director or authorized agent to indicate ownership of a nonrepairable vehicle.

(11.5) (a) "Off-highway vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle that is:

- (I) Designed to travel on wheels or tracks in contact with the ground;

(II) Designed primarily for use off of the public highways; and

(III) Generally and commonly used to transport persons for recreational purposes.

(b) (I) ***[Editor's note: This version of the introductory portion to subsection (11.5)(b)(I) is effective until July 1, 2027.]*** Except as described in subsection (11.5)(b)(II) of this section, "off-highway vehicle" includes vehicles commonly known as all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, and surplus military vehicles but does not include:

(b) (I) ***[Editor's note: This version of the introductory portion to subsection (11.5)(b)(I) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of this introductory portion to subsection (11.5)(b)(I) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]*** Except as described in subsection (11.5)(b)(II) of this section, "off-highway vehicle" includes all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, kei off-road vehicles, and surplus military vehicles but does not include:

(A) Toy vehicles;

(B) Vehicles designed and used primarily for travel on, over, or in the water;

(C) Historical military vehicles;

(D) Golf carts or golf cars;

(E) Vehicles designed and used to carry persons with disabilities;

(F) Vehicles designed and used specifically for agricultural, logging, or mining purposes; or

(G) Motor vehicles.

(II) "Off-highway vehicle" does not include a surplus military vehicle that is owned or leased by a municipality, county, or fire protection district, as defined in section 32-1-103 (7), for the purpose of assisting with firefighting efforts, including mitigating the risk of wildfires.

(11.7) "Off-highway vehicle dealer" means both of the following as defined in section 44-20-402:

(a) A powersports vehicle dealer; and

(b) A used powersports vehicle dealer.

(12) "Owner" means a person or firm in whose name the title to a motor vehicle is registered.

(13) "Person" means natural persons, associations of persons, firms, limited liability companies, partnerships, or corporations.

(14) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in a perceivable form.

(15) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (15) is effective until July 1, 2027.]*** "Roadworthy" means a condition in which a motor vehicle has sufficient power and is fit to operate on the roads and highways of this state after visual inspection by appropriate law enforcement authorities. In order to be roadworthy, such vehicle, in accord with its design and use, shall have all major parts and systems permanently attached and functioning and shall not be repaired in such a manner as to make the vehicle unsafe. For purposes of this subsection (15), "major parts and systems" shall include, but not be limited to, the body of a motor vehicle with related component parts, engine, transmission, tires, wheels, seats, exhaust, brakes, and all other equipment required by Colorado law for the particular vehicle.

(15) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (15) is effective July 1, 2027. For the applicability of this subsection (15) on or after January 1, 2028, see the editor's note following this section.]***

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

(b) In order to be roadworthy, a vehicle, in accord with its design and use, must have all major parts and systems permanently attached and functioning and must not be repaired in such a manner as to make the vehicle unsafe.

(c) As used in this subsection (15):

(I) "In accord with its design and use" precludes a kei vehicle from being declared to be not roadworthy based on its design or manufacturing parameters.

(II) "Major parts and systems" includes the body of a motor vehicle with related component parts, engine, transmission, tires, wheels, seats, exhaust, and brakes and all other equipment required by Colorado law for the particular vehicle.

(15.5) (a) "Rolling chassis" means that:

(I) For a motorcycle, the motorcycle has a frame, a motor, front forks, a transmission, and wheels;

(II) For a motor vehicle that is not a motorcycle, the motor vehicle has a frame, a body, a suspension, an axle, a steering mechanism, and wheels.

(b) Nothing in this subsection (15.5) shall be construed to require any listed parts to be operable, in working order, or roadworthy.

(16) "Salvage certificate of title" means a document issued under the authority of the director to indicate ownership of a salvage vehicle.

(17) (a) (I) "Salvage vehicle" means:

(A) A flood-damaged vehicle;

(B) A vehicle branded as a salvage vehicle by another state; or

(C) A vehicle that is damaged by collision, fire, flood, accident, trespass, or other occurrence, excluding hail damage or theft, to the extent that the vehicle is determined to be a total loss by the insurer or other person acting on behalf of the owner or that the cost of repairing the vehicle to a roadworthy condition and for legal operation on the highways exceeds the vehicle's retail fair market value immediately prior to the damage, as determined by the person who owns the vehicle at the time of the occurrence or by the insurer or other person acting on behalf of the owner.

(II) "Salvage vehicle" does not include an off-highway vehicle.

(b) In assessing whether a vehicle is a "salvage vehicle" under this section, the retail fair market value shall be determined by reference to sources generally accepted within the insurance industry including price guide books, dealer quotations, computerized valuation services, newspaper advertisements, and certified appraisals, taking into account the condition of the vehicle prior to the damage. When assessing the repairs, the assessor shall consider the actual retail cost of the needed parts and the reasonable and customary labor rates for needed labor.

(c) "Salvage vehicle" does not include a vehicle that qualifies as a collector's item, horseless carriage, or street rod vehicle under article 12 of this title at the time of damage.

(18) (a) "Signature" means either a written signature or an electronic signature.

(b) "Electronic signature" has the same meaning as set forth in section 24-71-101.

(18.5) "Snowmobile" means a self-propelled vehicle primarily designed or altered for travel on snow or ice off of the public highways and supported by skis, belts, or cleats. "Snowmobile" does not include machinery used for the grooming of snowmobile trails or ski slopes.

(19) "State" includes the territories and the federal districts of the United States.

(20) "Street rod vehicle" means a vehicle manufactured in 1948 or earlier with a body design that has been modified for safe road use, including, but not limited to, modifications of the drive train, suspension, and brake systems, modifications to the body through the use of materials such as steel or fiberglass, and modifications to any other safety or comfort features.

(20.5) "Surplus military vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle that was:

(a) Purchased for nonmilitary use; and

(b) Built for the United States armed forces.

(21) "Transfer by inheritance" means the transfer of ownership after the death of an owner by means of a will, a written statement, a list as described in section 15-11-513, C.R.S., or upon lawful descent and distribution upon the death intestate of the owner of the vehicle.

(22) "Used vehicle" means a motor vehicle that has been sold, bargained, exchanged, or given away, or has had the title transferred from the person who first took title from the manufacturer or importer, dealer, or agent of the manufacturer or importer, or has been so used as to have become what is commonly known as a secondhand motor vehicle. A motor vehicle that has been used by a dealer for the purpose of demonstration to prospective customers shall be considered a "used vehicle" if such demonstration use has been for more than one thousand five hundred miles.

(23) "Vehicle" means any motor vehicle as defined in subsection (10) of this section.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2448, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (8) and (16) amended, p. 557, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2000:** (4.2), (4.4), (10.5), and (13.5) added, p. 1656, § 1, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (1) amended, p. 272, § 25, effective November 15. **L. 2003:** (1) amended, p. 565, § 11, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (13) amended, p. 932, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 806, § 1, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (15.5) added, p. 952, § 2, effective August 7; (6.5) added, p. 1412, § 3, effective July 1, 2007. **L. 2009:** (10) amended, (HB 09-1026), ch. 281, p. 1285, § 65, effective October 1. **L. 2010:** (10)(d) amended, (HB 10-1172), ch. 320, p. 1493, § 17, effective October 1. **L. 2013:** (1) and (17)(a) amended and (1.5), (11.5), and (18.5) added, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2378, § 3, effective June 5. **L. 2014:** (17)(c) amended, (HB 14-1299), ch. 136, p. 467, § 1, effective April 25; (1.7), (6.1), (6.4), (11.2), and (11.3) added and (17)(a)(I) amended, (HB 14-1100), ch. 122, p. 432, § 1, effective August 6. **L. 2016:** (11.7) added, (SB 16-010), ch. 69, p. 175, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2017:** (1.5) and (6) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, pp. 373, 376, §§ 23, 34, effective August 9; (17)(a)(I)(C) amended, (HB 17-1205), ch. 162, p. 600, § 1, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** (5)(b) repealed and (18) amended, (SB 18-255), ch. 405, p. 2386, § 1, effective August 8; IP(11.7) amended, (SB 18-030), ch. 7, p. 143, § 24, effective October 1; (3) amended, (5)(b) repealed, and (5.5) added, (HB 18-1299), ch. 297, p. 1812, § 7, effective July 1, 2019. **L. 2019:** (10)(a) amended, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2565, § 16, effective May 23; (6.3) and (20.5) added and IP(11.5)(b) and (11.5)(b)(III) amended, (SB 19-054), ch. 364, p. 3357, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2020:** (11.5)(b) amended, (SB 20-056), ch. 285, p. 1387, § 1, effective July 13. **L. 2022:** IP(10) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2588, § 28, effective January 1, 2023. **L. 2024:** (1.7)(e) and (1.7)(f) amended and (1.7)(g) added, (SB 24-192), ch. 450, p. 3134, § 7, effective August 7. **L. 2025:** (6.5), IP(10), IP(11.5)(b)(I), and (15) amended and (6.6) and (6.7) added, (HB 25-1281), ch. 176, p. 738, § 8, effective July 1, 2027.

**Editor's note:** (1) Subsection (5)(b) was relocated to § 42-6-109 (4) in 2018 and also to § 42-1-235 in 2019.

(2) Section 13(2) of chapter 176 (HB 25-1281), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to applications submitted or offenses committed on or after January 1, 2028.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "Heads: Lex Loci Delicti; Tails: Lex Loci Domicile — The Conflict of Laws Coin on Edge — First National Bank v. Rostek", see 51 Den. L.J. 567 (1974). For article, "A Positive but Uncertain Step Forward for Choice Law Problems in Colorado: The Rostek Decision", see 51 Den. L.J. 587 (1974). For article, "Oil and Gas Financing Under the Uniform Commercial Code as Enacted in Colorado", see 43 Den. L.J. 129 (1966).

**This section defines a conditional sales contract as a chattel mortgage.** First Sec.

Bank v. Crouse, 374 F.2d 17 (10th Cir. 1967).

**Subsection (10) includes in the definition of "motor vehicles" trailers and trailer coaches.** State ex rel. Dept. of Rev. v. Modern Trailer Sales, Inc., 175 Colo. 296, 486 P.2d 1064 (1971) (decided under former law).

**Applied** in First Nat'l Bank v. Chuck Lowen, Inc., 128 Colo. 104, 261 P.2d 158 (1953).

### 42-6-103. Application.

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, this part 1 applies to motor vehicles and off-highway vehicles.

(2) This part 1 does not apply to an off-highway vehicle that:

(a) Was first sold or transferred before July 1, 2014, until the off-highway vehicle is sold or transferred to a powersports vehicle dealer after July 1, 2014; or

(b) Is used exclusively for agricultural purposes on private land.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2450, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2379, § 4, effective June 5.



**42-6-104. Administration - rules.**

The director is charged with the duty of administering this part 1. For that purpose the director is vested with the power to make such reasonable rules and require the use of such forms and procedures as are reasonably necessary for the efficient administration of this part 1.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2450, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 809, § 2, effective August 8.

**Cross references:** For rule-making procedures, see article 4 of title 24.

**ANNOTATION**

**Applied** in Colorado Auto & Truck  
Wreckers Ass'n v. Dept. of Rev., 618 P.2d  
646 (Colo. 1980).

**42-6-105. Authorized agents. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2451, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2001:** Entire section amended, p. 272, § 26, effective November 15. **L. 2003:** Entire section amended, p. 566, § 12, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 809, § 3, effective August 8. **L. 2017:** Entire section repealed, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 373, § 24, effective August 9.

**42-6-106. Certificates of registration - plates.**

(1) No certificate of registration or license plates shall be issued for a motor vehicle by the director or an authorized agent except in the following cases:

(a) The applicant exhibits to the director or the authorized agent, or the director or the authorized agent has on file, an official Colorado certificate of title for such vehicle in which it appears that the applicant is the owner of the vehicle sought to be registered and licensed.

(b) The applicant submits satisfactory evidence to the director or the authorized agent that an official Colorado certificate of title to such motor vehicle has been issued or is on file or from

which it otherwise appears that the applicant is the owner of the vehicle sought to be registered and licensed. Any evidence submitted to the director or the authorized agent may be maintained in a paper or electronic version.

(c) The applicant applies for an official certificate of title for such motor vehicle pursuant to section 42-6-116.

(d) A member of the armed forces of the United States has purchased a vehicle in a foreign country and registered such vehicle in accordance with the directives of the department of defense of the United States government and is unable to supply proof of ownership in the form customarily required by this state and evidence of ownership is supplied by submitting an executed document prescribed by the secretary of defense concerning the vehicle and authenticated by an officer of the armed forces who has authority to administer oaths under 10 U.S.C. sec. 936.

(e) (I) The vehicle is a commercial vehicle that is registered as part of a fleet based in Colorado and is leased from the owner of such vehicle;

(II) The owner of the commercial vehicle is not a resident of Colorado; and

(III) The applicant applies for apportioned registration pursuant to article 3 of this title and provides the following to the director or authorized agent:

(A) A copy of a current registration or a copy of a current title for such vehicle from a foreign jurisdiction; and

(B) A copy of a lease agreement between the owner and the applicant.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2451, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (1)(a) and (1)(b) amended, p. 1656, § 2, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2002:** (1)(e) added, p. 3, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 809, § 4, effective August 8.

## ANNOTATION

**Applied** in *Jack Kent Cadillac, Inc. v. District Court*, 198 Colo. 403, 601 P.2d 626 (1979).

#### **42-6-107. Certificates of title - contents - rules.**

(1) (a) (I) The department or authorized agent shall mail or deliver certificates of title to motor or off-highway vehicles issued under this part 1 to the applicant, except as provided in section 42-6-124, and the director shall retain and appropriately index and file information appearing and concerning the issuance of the certificates of title. The certificates may be electronic records in compliance with rules adopted by the director.

(II) In addition to other information that the director may by rule require, the certificates of title must contain the make and model of the motor or off-highway vehicle described in the record, if the information is available, together with the motor and any other serial number of the vehicle, and a description of any other marks or symbols placed upon the vehicle by the vehicle manufacturer for identification purposes.

(III) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (1)(a)(III) is effective until July 1, 2027.]* If a vehicle shows a brand in the vehicle's title history, or if the vehicle is subject to a brand, the department shall place the appropriate brand on the certificate of title. If the vehicle has multiple brands, the department shall place the most recent brand on the certificate of title and the notice "other brands exist". If the brand is from a certificate of title issued in another jurisdiction, the brand must be carried forward to the Colorado certificate of title along with the name of the jurisdiction originating the brand. On and after January 1, 2027, the appropriate brand is "Lemon Law Buyback" if a motor vehicle is a lemon law buyback vehicle, as defined in section 42-10-101 (1.5).

(III) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (1)(a)(III) is effective July 1, 2027.]* If a vehicle shows a brand in the vehicle's title history, or if the vehicle is subject to a brand, the department shall place the appropriate brand on the certificate of title. If the vehicle has multiple brands, the department shall place the most recent brand on the certificate of title and the notice "other brands exist". If the brand is from a certificate of title issued in another jurisdiction, the brand must be carried forward to the Colorado certificate of title along with the name of the jurisdiction originating the brand. On and after January 1, 2027, the appropriate brand is "Lemon Law Buyback" if a motor vehicle is a lemon law buyback vehicle, as defined in section 42-10-101 (1.5). If the brand is "REBUILT FROM SALVAGE" as described in section 42-6-136.5, the department shall include a statement of salvage disclosure on the title. The statement of salvage disclosure must:

(A) Include the reason the vehicle is a salvage vehicle, as listed in section 42-6-102 (17)(a)(I);

(B) Contain a statement from the owner stating the nature of the damage that resulted in the determination that the vehicle is a salvage vehicle; and

(C) Contain the signature of the seller and buyer to sell the salvage vehicle.

(IV) The year listed on the certificate of title of a kit vehicle is the year of manufacture of the kit from which the vehicle was assembled, as indicated in the manufacturer's statement of origin.

(b) (I) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (1)(b)(II) of this section, the department may require those vehicle-related entities specified by regulation to verify information concerning a vehicle through the physical inspection of the vehicle. The information required to be verified by a physical inspection must include the vehicle identification number or numbers, the make of vehicle, the vehicle model, the type of vehicle, the year of manufacture of the vehicle, the type of fuel used by the vehicle, and other information as may be required by the department. For the purposes of this subsection (1)(b), "vehicle-related entity" means an authorized agent or designated employee of the agent, a Colorado law enforcement officer, a licensed Colorado dealer, a licensed inspection and readjustment station, or a licensed diesel inspection station.

(II) The department shall not require a physical inspection as a condition for issuance of a certificate of title for a vehicle if:

(A) The applicant for a certificate of title for the vehicle presents either a copy of a manufacturer's certificate of origin or a purchase receipt from the dealer or the out-of-state seller from whom the applicant purchased the vehicle and either document indicates that the applicant purchased the vehicle as new; or

(B) At the time of application, the vehicle is currently titled in another county of the state.

(2) The department or authorized agent shall include in the electronic record of the certificate or the paper version of the certificate a description of every lien on the motor or off-highway vehicle that appears in the application for the certificate of title or is unreleased upon a prior certificate of title for the vehicle, including the date of the lien, the original amount secured by the vehicle, the named lienee, and the county in which the lien appears of record if it is of public record. The department or authorized agent shall number certificates and electronic records consecutively by counties, beginning with number one. The certificate of title filed with the authorized agent is prima facie evidence of the contents of the record and that the person in whose name the certificate is registered is the lawful owner of the vehicle. Except as provided in section 42-6-118, the certificate remains effective after filing until the vehicle described in the record is sold or ownership is otherwise transferred.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2451, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (1)(a) and (2) amended, p. 1657, § 3, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (1)(b) amended, p. 591, § 4, effective May 30. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 810, § 5, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (1)(a) amended, p. 1412, § 4, effective July 1, 2007. **L. 2013:** (1)(a) and (2) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2380, § 5, effective June 5. **L. 2014:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 14-1100), ch.

122, p. 433, § 3, effective August 6. **L. 2017:** (1)(b) amended, (HB 17-1105), ch. 44, p. 129, § 2, effective March 16. **L. 2018:** (1)(b)(I) amended, (SB 18-102), ch. 77, p. 661, § 3, effective August 8. **L. 2024:** (1)(a)(III) amended, (SB 24-192), ch. 450, p. 3134, § 8, effective August 7. **L. 2025:** (1)(a)(III) amended, (HB 25-1189), ch. 395, p. 2227, § 4, effective July 1, 2027.

**Editor's note:** Section 7(2) of chapter 395 (HB 25-1189), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to titles issued and fees incurred on or after July 1, 2027.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 18-102, see section 1 of chapter 77, Session Laws of Colorado 2018.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For note, "The Effect of Certificate of Title acts on Foreign Auto Liens", see 29 Rocky Mt. L. Rev. 384 (1957). For comment on *Federico v. Universal C.I.T. Credit Corp.*, 140 Colo. 145, 343 P.2d 830 (1959), appearing below, see 32 Rocky Mt. L. Rev. 89 (1959).

**The certificate of title shall be prima facie evidence of the matters contained therein** (e.g. liens) and that the person in whose name the certificate is registered is the lawful owner. *Doenges-Glass, Inc. v. GMAC*, 175 Colo. 518, 488 P.2d 879 (1971).

This part is a recording act by which prior interests can be ascertained and protected. Nevertheless, the certificate of title is only prima facie evidence of all matters therein contained. *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

**A certificate of title shall be prima facie evidence of the matters contained therein;**

**a certificate of registration is presumptive evidence of ownership of an automobile, but the presumption is rebuttable.** A certificate of title does not represent conclusive proof of ownership. To overcome this presumption, a debtor must demonstrate that title alone does not determine ownership. *Hill v. Koching*, 338 B.R. 463 (Bankr. D. Colo. 2005); *In re Smith*, 535 B.R. 374 (Bankr. D. Colo. 2015).

**Issuance of the title certificate to a reposessor involves no deprivation of due process** as contemplated by the fourteenth amendment or state constitution. *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

**Regulation of possible abuse is legislative matter.** It may be that repossession of automobiles or any other property sold on time payment with an express agreement permitting such repossession without notice may be resulting in great abuses, and controls are needed. If

so, the regulation of this abuse is a matter for the general assembly, not the courts. *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

**Activity of the director of revenue in the issuance of a new title to a reposessor of a motor vehicle is strictly limited** to the ministerial duty of providing prima facie evidence of what has already occurred by purely private action, namely, the transfer of title from the debtor to the creditor in a manner specifically provided for by their

agreement. It does not in any meaningful way involve the director in the repossession and subsequent transfer of ownership to the reposessor. *Sifuentes v. Weed*, 186 Colo. 109, 525 P.2d 1157 (1974).

**This section does not serve to purge a title of prior defects** but simply gives it a prima facie standing. *Federico v. Universal C.I.T. Credit Corp.*, 140 Colo. 145, 343 P.2d 830 (1959); *Avis Rent-A-Car Sys. v. Woefel*, 155 Colo. 207, 393 P.2d 551 (1964).

#### **42-6-108. Identification number - title - street rod vehicles. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2452, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1648, § 40, effective June 1. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 811, § 6, effective August 8. **L. 2011:** Entire section repealed, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 249, § 22, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section was relocated to § 42-12-203 in 2011.

#### **42-6-108.5. Rebuilder's certificate of title. (Repealed)**

**Source:** **L. 2006:** Entire section added, p. 950, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2011:** Entire section repealed, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 249, § 22, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section was relocated to § 42-12-102 in 2011.

#### **42-6-109. Sale or transfer of vehicle - program.**

(1) Except as provided in section 42-6-113, a person shall not sell or otherwise transfer a motor or off-highway vehicle to a purchaser or transferee without delivering to the purchaser or

transferee a certificate of title to the vehicle duly transferred in the manner prescribed in section 42-6-110. The certificate of title may be in an electronic format. Except as provided in section 42-6-115, a purchaser or transferee does not acquire any right, title, or interest in and to a motor or off-highway vehicle purchased by the purchaser or transferee unless and until the purchaser or transferee obtains from the transferor the certificate of title duly transferred in accordance with this part 1. Any party to the transaction may request either a paper or electronic version of a certificate of title.

(2) Repealed.

(3) (a) Beginning January 1, 2019, the department shall implement a voluntary program for an owner of a motor vehicle to notify the department or an authorized agent after ownership of the motor vehicle is transferred to another person in accordance with subsection (1) of this section.

(b) A report of ownership transfer is properly filed if the report is made in a manner, which may include by electronic means, approved by the department and received by the department or authorized agent within five business days after the transfer of ownership, and includes the following:

(I) The date and time of sale or transfer;

(II) The full name of the owner of the motor vehicle before the transfer;

(III) The vehicle identification number of the motor vehicle; and

(IV) An affidavit, signed under penalty of perjury, that the requirements for the transfer of ownership in subsection (1) of this section have been satisfied.

(c) The department shall:

(I) Provide or approve one or more methods for reporting the transfer of ownership;

(II) Notify, with the owner's registration renewal information, the owner of a motor vehicle of the option to report the transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle;

(III) Notify the public of the option to report a transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle;

(IV) Place instructions on each certificate of title document issued on or after August 8, 2018, for reporting the transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle; and

(V) Forward a copy of the report to each lienholder of record.

(d) (I) If an owner reports a bona fide transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle in accordance with this section, the owner is not liable in or subject to any civil or criminal action brought against the following after the motor vehicle was transferred:

- (A) The operator of the motor vehicle, arising from the use of the motor vehicle; and
  - (B) The motor vehicle.
- (II) This subsection (3)(d) does not apply to a civil or criminal action if the action is brought against the owner for the owner's:
- (A) Negligence in permitting the purchaser to drive the motor vehicle at the time of sale;
  - (B) Failure to comply with any law governing the sale of the motor vehicle;
  - (C) Negligence in selling the motor vehicle;
  - (D) Material misstatement or omission about the condition of the motor vehicle; or
  - (E) Failure to make any disclosure required by law.
- (e) A report filed under this subsection (3) does not extinguish or impair the rights of any lienholder.
- (f) This subsection (3) does not require the owner who transfers a motor vehicle to another person to report the sale to the department in accordance with this subsection (3).
- (4) (a) A record covered by this article 6, including a certificate of title, a document necessary to issue a certificate of title, or a signature on the record or document may not be denied legal effect, validity, or enforceability solely because it is in the form of an electronic record, document, or signature. Except as otherwise provided in this article 6, if a rule of law requires a record to be in writing or provides consequences if it is not, an electronic record satisfies that rule of law.
- (b) For a record, document, or signature to be legally effective, valid, or enforceable, a person need not obtain a written power of attorney solely because the record, document, or signature is in an electronic form.
- (c) This subsection (4) applies to and in a court of law.
- (d) This subsection (4) does not require the department to implement a system to electronically accept records, documents, or signatures.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2453, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1658, § 4, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 811, § 7, effective August 8. **L. 2012:** Entire section amended, (SB 12-095), ch. 112, p. 388, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** (1), IP(2), and (2)(b) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2380, § 6, effective June 5. **L. 2018:** (3) added, (SB 18-073), ch. 83, p. 680, § 1, effective August 8; (4) added with relocations, (SB 18-255), ch. 405, p. 2386, § 2, effective August 8. **L. 2026:**



(1), (3)(a), and (3)(b)(IV) amended and (2) repealed, (HB 26-1041), ch. 14, p. 59, § 1, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-108 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-109 was relocated to § 42-6-110.

(2) Subsection (4) is similar to § 42-6-102 (5)(b) as it existed prior to 2018.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in the 2012 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 112, Session Laws of Colorado 2012.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For comment on *Codding v. Jackson*, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955), appearing below, see 28 Rocky Mt. L. Rev. 266 (1956).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-109 is similar to § 42-6-108 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**To the extent this section and § 16-13-101 et seq. are inconsistent in the context of civil forfeiture proceedings,** the specific provisions contained in the forfeiture statute prevail and the timing of the delivery of the certificate of title was not dispositive. *People v. One 1968 Chevrolet 2-Door*, 895 P.2d 1177 (Colo. App. 1995) (decided under law in effect prior to 1994 amendment and relocation).

**Purpose of this section** is to insure that purchasers of automobiles, whether individual citizens or dealers, as well as

lenders who finance automobile purchases, can readily and reliably ascertain the status of the seller's title to the automobile without recourse to other official state records. *Guy Martin Buick, Inc. v. Colo. Springs Nat'l Bank*, 184 Colo. 166, 519 P.2d 354 (1974).

**The purpose of this section and § 42-6-109** is to require the certification of title to motor vehicles so as to disclose the rights of third persons for enforceability purposes. *United Fire & Cas. Co. v. Perez*, 161 Colo. 31, 419 P.2d 663 (1966); *Randall v. Carroll*, 30 Colo. App. 45, 488 P.2d 250 (1971).

**Intent of section.** This section is intended to hold in abeyance both the seller's power to transfer and the purchaser's right to receive any right, title, or interest in the automobile to be sold until such time as the certificate of title is delivered to the purchaser. *Guy Martin Buick, Inc. v. Colo. Springs Nat'l Bank*, 184 Colo. 166, 519 P.2d 354 (1974).

**The statutes are designed to provide a method whereby the licensing authorities may check and control the chain of title** as it passes from one private purchaser to another, to the end that bogus or illegal transactions may more easily be detected. *Codding v. Jackson*, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955).

**The provisions governing transfer of title to motor vehicles are mandatory.** *Codding v. Jackson*, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955); *Amarillo Auto Auction, Inc. v. Hutchinson*, 135 Colo. 320, 310 P.2d 715 (1957); *Bill Dreiling Motor Co. v. St. Paul Fire & Marine Ins.*, 28 Colo. App. 318, 472 P.2d 153 (1970).

**Unless strict compliance with the statute is made, no interest or right of any kind can be transferred.** *Codding v. Jackson*, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P. 2d 976 (1955); *Amarillo Auto Auction, Inc. v. Hutchinson*, 135 Colo. 320, 310 P.2d 715 (1957); *Bill Dreiling Motor Co. v. St. Paul Fire & Marine Ins.*, 28 Colo. App. 318, 472 P.2d 153 (1970).

**Upon transfer of a vehicle, the transferee must obtain a certificate of title** in order to obtain any enforceable rights to the vehicle. *Bill Dreiling Motor Co. v. St. Paul Fire & Marine Ins.*, 28 Colo. App. 318, 472 P.2d 153 (1970).

**Provisions provide manner in which right, title, or interest may be transferred.** The provisions of the motor vehicle code provide the sole and exclusive manner in which the legal title, as well as any right, title, or interest in a motor vehicle may be transferred, sold, or assigned. *Codding v.*

*Jackson*, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955).

**Unless a purchaser complies with the statute, he cannot be considered a purchaser in good faith.** *Codding v. Jackson*, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955).

**Certificate of title act does not defeat insurable interest when** the purchasers do everything they can to comply with its provisions, but the statutory protection fails when the vehicle is stolen and its identification number changed. *Webb v. M.F.A. Mut. Ins. Co.*, 44 Colo. App. 210, 620 P.2d 38 (1980).

**Nondelivery of the certificate of title does not prevent change of ownership as between the parties to the transaction.** *United Fire & Cas. Co. v. Perez*, 161 Colo. 31, 419 P.2d 663 (1966); *Waggoner v. Wilson*, 31 Colo. App. 518, 507 P.2d 482 (1972); *Kerns v. Nat'l Union Fire Ins. Co.*, 281 F. Supp. 3d 1126 (D. Colo. 2017).

Retention of an inchoate security interest in a vehicle does not compel a different outcome. *Kerns v. Nat'l Union Fire Ins. Co.*, 281 F. Supp. 3d 1126 (D. Colo. 2017).

Failure to deliver certificate of title does not prevent acquisition of ownership rights as between the parties to the transaction. *Colo. Auto & Truck Wreckers Ass'n v. Dept. of Rev.*, 618 P.2d 646 (Colo. 1980).

**Failure to have a certificate of title issued does not defeat the contractual rights of the seller.** *Randall v. Carroll*, 30 Colo. App. 45, 488 P.2d 250 (1971).

**This section and § 42-6-109 do not control the results of an action brought for damages for breach of contract** between the original parties to the transaction. *Randall v. Carroll*, 30 Colo. App. 45, 488 P.2d 250 (1971).

**Purchaser without certificate takes subject to rights of valid prior mortgages.** The purchaser of a motor vehicle other than from a dealer as defined in § 42-6-102 without delivery of certificate of title takes subject to rights of valid prior mortgages. *First Nat'l Bank v. Chuck Lowen, Inc.*, 128 Colo. 104, 261 P.2d 158 (1953).

**Purchaser acquired voidable title when certificates delivered to bank as security for bank's loan to purchaser.** See *Guy Martin Buick, Inc. v. Colo. Springs Nat'l Bank*, 184 Colo. 166, 519 P.2d 354 (1974).

**Showing of mortgages on title certificates.** The mobility of motor vehicles and their frequent sale in states far distant from the county of the mortgage filing has resulted in a new method of protection by means of showing mortgages on the title certificate, which can be carried with the car, rather than by record in the files of a distant and probably unknown county. Under the policy of our law the requisite of clear title is the possession of a certificate free of lien. Title depends on receipt of such a certificate, and ignorance of mortgages must be proven by the certificate. *First Nat'l Bank v. Chuck Lowen, Inc.*, 128 Colo. 104, 261 P.2d 158

(1953); *Loye v. Denver United States Nat'l Bank*, 431 F.2d 402 (10th Cir. 1965).

**A title to an automobile does not vest immediately upon an assignment of the old certificate.** *Codding v. Jackson*, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955).

**This section must be construed with § 42-6-131.** Under § 42-6-131, the recognition of a foreign mortgage in Colorado depends not upon its being filed for record, but upon its appearing on the certificate of title. That section must be construed together with this section which provides that except in cases not here applicable no person shall sell a motor vehicle without delivering a certificate of title and that no purchaser shall acquire any right, title, or interest in a motor vehicle unless he shall first obtain from the transferor the certificate of title thereto. By virtue of that section, on failure of an out-of-state dealer to deliver such certificate, whether because it showed a mortgage on its face or because it was deposited with the mortgagee, the purchaser could acquire no title as against prior mortgagees, and his rights are subordinate to such as are valid. *First Nat'l Bank v. Chuck Lowen, Inc.*, 128 Colo. 104, 261 P.2d 158 (1953); *Federico v. Universal C.I.T. Credit Corp.*, 140 Colo. 145, 343 P.2d 830 (1959).

**Exception to section.** Section 42-6-134 is an exception to the title transfer requirements of this section and § 42-6-109. *Colo. Auto & Truck Wreckers Ass'n v. Dept. of Rev.*, 618 P.2d 646 (Colo. 1980).

**42-6-110. Certificate of title - transfer - department records - rules - definition.**

(1) Upon the sale or transfer of a motor or off-highway vehicle for which a certificate of title has been issued or filed, the person in whose name the certificate of title is registered, if the person is not a dealer, shall execute a formal transfer of the vehicle described in the certificate. The person in whose name the certificate of title is registered or the person's agent or attorney shall affirm the sale or transfer, accompanied by a written declaration that the statement is made under the penalties of perjury in the second degree, as defined in section 18-8-503, C.R.S. The purchaser or transferee, within sixty days thereafter, shall present the certificate, together with an application for a new certificate of title, to the director or one of the authorized agents, accompanied by the fee required in section 42-6-137 to be paid for the filing of a new certificate of title; except that, if no title can be found and the motor vehicle is not roadworthy, the purchaser or transferee may wait until twenty-four months after the motor vehicle was purchased to apply for a certificate of title.

(1.5) (a) If an insurer, as defined in section 10-1-102 (13), a salvage pool authorized by an insurer, or an authorized agent of an insurer is unable to obtain the properly endorsed certificate of ownership or other evidence of ownership acceptable to the department within thirty days following oral or written acceptance by the owner of an offer of settlement of a total loss, that insurer, salvage pool, or agent may request, on a form provided by the department and signed under penalty of perjury, the department to issue a salvage or nonrepairable title for the vehicle. The request must include information declaring that the insurer, salvage pool, or agent has made at least two written attempts to obtain the certificate of ownership or other acceptable evidence of title and must include the fee for a duplicate title. The form requesting a salvage or nonrepairable title is the only evidence required to obtain a salvage or nonrepairable title.

(b) Upon receiving the fee for a duplicate title and the certificate of ownership, other evidence of title, or a properly executed request described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1.5), the department shall issue the salvage or nonrepairable title for the vehicle.

(c) As used in this subsection (1.5), "authorized agent of an insurer" means a person who has been authorized on forms promulgated by the department to be an agent of the insurer for the purpose of disposing of a vehicle that has been declared a total loss.

(1.7) (a) The department shall allow an insurer, as defined in section 10-1-102 and that is regulated under title 10, an agent of the insurer, a salvage pool that is licensed as a used motor vehicle dealer, a motor vehicle dealer licensed under article 20 of title 44, a used motor vehicle dealer licensed under article 20 of title 44, or any person approved by the department to use the electronic systems created in section 42-4-2103 (3)(c)(III) to access owner and lienholder information of a motor vehicle in the department's records if:

(I) The motor vehicle is the subject of an insurance claim being processed by the insurer;

- (II) The motor vehicle is possessed by a salvage pool;
  - (III) The access is related to a motor vehicle transaction with a motor vehicle dealer or used motor vehicle dealer; or
  - (IV) The access is authorized by section 24-72-204 (7).
- (b) The department shall ensure that the information available to the insurer, the insurer's agent, the salvage pool, a motor vehicle dealer, a used motor vehicle dealer, or a person approved by the department is correct and is limited to the information needed to verify and contact the owner and lienholder of the motor vehicle.
- (c) The department may charge the insurer, the insurer's agent, the salvage pool, a motor vehicle dealer, a used motor vehicle dealer, or a person approved by the department a fee in an amount not to exceed the lesser of five dollars or the direct and indirect costs of implementing this subsection (1.7). The department shall deposit the fee in the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).
- (d) The department may promulgate rules establishing standards for verifying:
- (I) The identity of the person accessing the records; and
  - (II) That the access is authorized by section 24-72-204 (7).
- (e) In allowing access to the electronic system under this subsection (1.7), the department shall ensure that the addresses of program participants under part 21 of article 30 of title 24 are not released.
- (2) A person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2453, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (1) amended, p. 1658, § 5, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 812, § 8, effective August 8. **L. 2009:** (1) amended, (SB 09-107), ch. 143, p. 606, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2013:** (1) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2381, § 7, effective June 5. **L. 2014:** (1.5) added, (HB 14-1100), ch. 122, p. 434, § 4, effective August 6. **L. 2017:** (1.7) added, (SB 17-251), ch. 309, p. 1671, § 1, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** IP(1.7)(a), (1.7)(b), and (1.7)(c) amended, (SB 18-183), ch. 131, p. 856, § 1, effective April 12; (1.7) amended, (HB 18-1299), ch. 297, p. 1812, § 8, effective July 1, 2019. **L. 2021:** (1.5)(a) amended and (1.5)(c) added, (HB 21-1291), ch. 260, p. 1522, § 1, effective September 7; (2) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3320, § 752, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (1.7)(c) amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 915, § 19, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-109 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-110 was relocated to § 42-6-111.

(2) Amendments to subsection (1.7) by HB 18-1299 and SB 18-183 were harmonized, effective July 1, 2019.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "A Revision of Statutes for Colorado", see 28 Dicta 165 (1951). For comment on *Codding v. Jackson*, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955), appearing below, see 28 Rocky Mt. L. Rev. 266 (1956).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-110 is similar to § 42-6-109 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**Purpose of section is to disclose rights of third persons.** The purpose of this section and § 42-6-108 is to require the certification of title to motor vehicles so as to disclose the rights of third persons for enforceability purposes. *Randall v. Carroll*, 30 Colo. App. 45, 488 P.2d 250 (1971).

**Provisions provide manner in which right, title, and interest may be transferred.** The provisions of the motor vehicle code provide the sole and exclusive manner in which the legal title, as well as any right, title, or interest in a motor vehicle may be transferred, sold, or assigned. *Codding v. Jackson*, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955).

**The provisions of the statute governing transfer of title to motor vehicles are**

**mandatory.** *Codding v. Jackson*, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955); *Bill Dreiling Motor Co. v. St. Paul Fire & Marine Ins.*, 28 Colo. App. 318, 472 P.2d 153 (1970).

**Unless strict compliance with the statute is made, no interest or right of any kind can be transferred.** *Codding v. Jackson*, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955); *Bill Dreiling Motor Co. v. St. Paul Fire & Marine Ins.*, 28 Colo. App. 318, 472 P.2d 153 (1970).

**Unless a purchaser complies with the statute, he cannot be considered a purchaser in good faith.** *Codding v. Jackson*, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955).

**Because a method employed by a defendant in "jumping title" contrary to the statutes leaves him in no position to make a claim as an innocent purchaser for value.** *Codding v. Jackson*, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955).

**Failure to deliver certificate of title does not prevent acquisition of ownership rights as between the parties to the transaction.** *Colorado Auto & Truck Wreckers Ass'n v. Dept. of Rev.*, 618 P.2d 646 (Colo. 1980).

**A title to an automobile does not vest immediately upon an assignment of the old certificate.** Coddington v. Jackson, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955).

**Requirements for divestment of ownership and possession.** Where a party executes a formal transfer of title by subscribing his name before a notary public at a bank, and then delivers the title and possession of the vehicle upon receipt of the funds, he completely divests himself of ownership of the vehicle and any right to possession thereof. People v. Armijo, 197 Colo. 91, 589 P.2d 935 (1979).

**An endorsement in blank of a certificate of title to a motor vehicle gives an immediate transferee the implied authority to insert his name as the purchaser,** and its transferability is limited to the surrender thereof to the proper licensing authority for the purpose of issuing a new certificate to such transferee. Coddington

v. Jackson, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955).

**Certificates of title not negotiable.** To safeguard the rights and interests of owners against imposters, it is clear the general assembly intended to deprive certificates of title of negotiability in its accepted meaning. Coddington v. Jackson, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955).

**Section 42-6-108 and this section do not control the results of an action brought for damages for breach of contract** between the original parties to the transaction. Randall v. Carroll, 30 Colo. App. 45, 488 P.2d 250 (1971).

**Exception to section.** Section 42-6-134 is an exception to the title transfer requirements of this section and § 42-6-108. Colorado Auto & Truck Wreckers Ass'n v. Dept. of Rev., 618 P.2d 646 (Colo. 1980).

**Applied** in Morrison v. Droll, 41 Colo. App. 354, 588 P.2d 383 (1978).

#### **42-6-110.5. Certificates of title - arrangements for transfer of title upon death - beneficiary designation forms - definitions.**

(1) (a) On and after August 10, 2016, the division shall make available a beneficiary designation form that allows the owner or joint owners of a vehicle to arrange for the transfer of the vehicle's title to a named beneficiary upon the death of the owner or upon the death of all joint owners of the vehicle. At a minimum, the form must include fields for the following information:

- (I) The manufacturer, model, year, and vehicle identification number of the vehicle;
- (II) The name of the owner or every joint owner of the vehicle;
- (III) The words "transfer on death to", or the abbreviation "TOD", followed by the name of the beneficiary; and

(IV) The signature of the owner of the vehicle or of each joint owner of the vehicle.

(V) Repealed.

(b) The division shall make beneficiary designation forms available:

(I) In each office of the division that is open to the public for conducting business relating to motor vehicles and driver's licenses; and

(II) On the division's public website.

(2) (a) Upon the death of the owner, or of the last surviving joint owner, of a vehicle for which a beneficiary designation form has been properly executed, as described in subsection (1)(a) of this section, the beneficiary shall present the form to the division and request a new title of ownership of the vehicle in the beneficiary's name. The form must be accompanied by:

(I) Proof of the death of the vehicle's owner or proof of the death of the last surviving joint owner of the vehicle; and

(II) The fee for an application for a certificate of title, as described in section 42-6-137 (1).

(b) Upon the presentation of a properly executed beneficiary designation form and accompanying documents, as described in subsection (2)(a) of this section, the division, subject to any security interest, shall issue a new certificate of title to the beneficiary. For the purposes of this subsection (2)(b), the division may rely on a death certificate, record, or report that constitutes prima facie evidence of death.

(2.4) The personal representative, as defined in section 15-10-201 (39), of the estate of a deceased vehicle owner is not liable for obtaining a new certificate of title or for transferring title to the vehicle if the personal representative does not have actual knowledge of the existence of a valid, unrevoked beneficiary designation form.

(2.6) A successor, as defined in section 15-10-201 (51), of a decedent, or a person acting on behalf of a successor, is not liable for obtaining a new certificate of title or transferring title to the vehicle by an affidavit executed in accordance with section 15-12-1201 if the person does not have actual knowledge of the existence of a valid, unrevoked beneficiary designation form.

(3) During the lifetime of the owner of a vehicle for which a beneficiary designation form has been properly executed or before the death of the last surviving joint owner of such a vehicle:

(a) The signature or consent of the beneficiary is not required for any transaction relating to the vehicle; and

(b) The owner or surviving joint owners of the vehicle may revoke the beneficiary designation form or change the beneficiary of the beneficiary designation form at any time by:



(I) Selling the vehicle with proper assignment and delivery of the certificate of title to another person; or

(II) Properly executing a subsequent beneficiary designation form that designates a new beneficiary.

(4) Upon the death of the owner or upon the death of the last surviving joint owner of a vehicle for which a beneficiary designation form has been properly executed, the interest of the beneficiary in the vehicle is subject to any contract of sale, assignment, or ownership or security interest to which the owner or joint owners of the vehicle were subject during their lifetime.

(5) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of this section, the designation of a beneficiary in a beneficiary designation form may not be changed or revoked by will or by any other instrument or by a change in circumstances.

(6) The transfer on death of a vehicle pursuant to this section is a nonprobate transfer pursuant to the "Colorado Probate Code", articles 10 to 17 of title 15.

(7) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Beneficiary" means one or more specifically named persons or entities designated to receive title to a vehicle upon the death of the preceding owner or joint owners.

(b) "Beneficiary designation form" means a form that indicates the intention of a present owner or joint owners of a vehicle to transfer ownership of the vehicle to a named beneficiary upon the death of the owner or last surviving joint owner of the vehicle.

(c) "Division" means the division of motor vehicles in the department of revenue.

(d) "Joint owner" means an individual who owns a vehicle with one or more other individuals as joint tenants with rights of survivorship. "Joint owner" does not include an individual who owns a vehicle with one or more other individuals as tenants in common.

(e) "Owner" means an individual who owns a vehicle.

(f) "Vehicle" includes any motor vehicle, motorcycle, motor home, trailer, or other item for which a certificate of title is issued by the division.

**Source: L. 2016:** Entire section added, (HB 16-1051), ch. 47, p. 111, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2017:** IP(1)(a), (1)(b), IP(2)(a), (2)(b), (6), and (7)(a) amended and (2.4), (2.6), (7)(c), (7)(d), (7)(e), and (7)(f) added, (HB 17-1213), ch. 184, p. 674, § 1, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** (1)(a)(V)(B) added by revision, (HB 18-1299), ch. 297, pp. 1813, 1815, §§ 9, 15; IP(2)(a), (2)(b), IP(3), and (4) amended, (HB 18-1299), ch. 297, p. 1813, § 9, effective July 1, 2019.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (1)(a)(V)(B) provided for the repeal of subsection (1)(a)(V), effective July 1, 2019. (See L. 2018, pp. 1813, 1815.)

**42-6-111. Sale to dealers - certificate need not issue.**

(1) Upon the sale or transfer to a dealer of a motor or off-highway vehicle for which a Colorado certificate of title has been issued, the dealer shall transfer and file the certificate of title to the motor or off-highway vehicle; except that, so long as the vehicle remains in the dealer's possession and at the dealer's place of business for sale and for no other purpose, the dealer need not procure or file a new certificate of title as is otherwise required in this part 1.

(2) If a motor or off-highway vehicle dealer wishes to obtain a new certificate of title, the dealer may present the old certificate of title to the director with the fee imposed by section 42-6-137 (6), whereupon the director shall issue a new certificate of title to the dealer within one working day after application. This subsection (2) does not apply to a motor or off-highway vehicle subject to a lien.

(3) (a) A wholesale motor vehicle auction dealer who does not buy, sell, or own the motor vehicles transferred at auction shall disclose the identity of the wholesale motor vehicle auction dealer, the date of the auction, and the license number of the auction on a form and in a manner prescribed by the executive director. A wholesale motor vehicle auction dealer does not become an owner by reason of such disclosure nor as a result solely of the guarantee of title, guarantee of payment, or reservation of a security interest.

(b) A wholesale motor vehicle auction dealer may buy or sell motor vehicles at wholesale in such dealer's own name and, in such instances, shall comply with the provisions of this part 1 applicable to dealers, including licensing.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2453, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2000: (1) and (3)(a) amended, p. 1658, § 6, effective July 1, 2001. L. 2005: Entire section amended, p. 812, § 9, effective August 8. L. 2013: (1) and (2) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2381, § 8, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-110 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-111 was relocated to § 42-6-113.

**ANNOTATION**

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**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-111 is similar to § 42-6-110 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included with the annotations to this section.

**Provisions are regulatory and do not affect property rights.** The provisions of the statutes concerning registration of motor vehicles are regulatory measures and nothing therein purports to affect property rights. *Waterman v. Colo. Lease & Inv. Co.*, 130 Colo. 305, 275 P.2d 191 (1954).

**42-6-112. Initial registration of a vehicle - dealer responsibility to timely forward certificate of title to purchaser or holder of a chattel mortgage - penalty.**

(1) A dealer of motor or off-highway vehicles shall, within thirty days after the sale, deliver or facilitate the delivery of the certificate of title to a purchaser or the holder of a chattel mortgage on the motor or off-highway vehicle subject to section 42-6-109.

(2) A person who violates this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2454, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 813, § 10, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2381, § 9, effective June 5. **L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3320, § 753, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-110.5 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-112 was relocated to § 42-6-114.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class A traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for violations of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(Q).

**42-6-113. New vehicles - bill of sale - certificate of title - rental businesses - rules.**

(1) Upon the sale or transfer by a dealer of a new motor or off-highway vehicle, the dealer shall, upon delivery, make, execute, and deliver to the purchaser or transferee a sufficient bill of sale and the manufacturer's certificate of origin.

(2) The bill of sale must:

(a) Be affirmed by a statement signed by the dealer, containing or accompanied by a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury in the second degree, as defined in section 18-8-503, C.R.S.;

(b) Be in such form as the director may require; and

(c) Contain, in addition to other information that the director may by rule require, the make and model of the motor or off-highway vehicle, the identification number placed upon the vehicle by the manufacturer for identification purposes, the manufacturer's suggested retail price, and the date of the sale or transfer, together with a description of any mortgage or lien on the vehicle that secures any part of the purchase price.

(3) Upon presentation of the bill of sale and the manufacturer's certificate of origin, the director or an authorized agent shall file a new certificate of title for the vehicle described in the bill of sale. A dealer shall transfer a new motor or off-highway vehicle used by a dealer for demonstration in accordance with this section.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, the department may, upon presentation of a manufacturer's invoice, issue a business that rents motor vehicles or special mobile machinery a certificate of title for a new motor vehicle or special mobile machinery if the business submits a signed affidavit or a title application attesting that the motor vehicle or special mobile machinery is new and has not been issued a certificate of title and that the business is entitled to be issued a certificate of title for the motor vehicle or special mobile machinery. Upon request of the department, the business shall make available a scanned image of the front of the manufacturer's certificate of origin for up to one percent of the registered vehicles of the business for any given month.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2454, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1659, § 7, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 813, § 11, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2382, § 10, effective June 5. **L. 2018:** (4) added, (HB 18-1299), ch. 297, p. 1813, § 10, effective July 1, 2019.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-111 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-113 was relocated to § 42-6-115.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-113 is similar to § 42-6-111 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included with the annotations to this section.

**First purchaser protected by bond against dealer's prior mortgage.** Certification begins with the first retail purchaser, based upon bill of sale from the dealer. The first purchaser is protected in theory against a dealer's prior mortgage by means of a bond required to be filed by the dealer for the purchaser's protection. First Nat'l Bank v. Chuck Lowen, Inc., 128 Colo. 104, 261 P.2d 158 (1953).

**Whereas purchaser from other than dealer takes subject to valid prior mortgages.** The purchaser of a motor vehicle other than from a dealer as defined in § 42-6-102 without delivery of certificate of title takes subject to valid prior mortgages. First Nat'l Bank v. Chuck Lowen, Inc., 128 Colo. 104, 261 P.2d 158 (1953).

**Title passes to purchaser of new car without recordation of bill of sale.** This section does not require the purchaser of a new automobile from a dealer to record his dealer's bill of sale as a condition precedent to the passing of title to him. Colo. State Bank v. Riede, 92 Colo. 362, 20 P.2d 1010 (1933).

**Title may not be defeated by dealer's chattel mortgage.** Such purchaser who receives a bill of sale and possession of the car, acquires complete title which cannot be defeated by the giving of a chattel mortgage by the dealer to a third party between the time of the execution of the bill of sale and the securing of a certificate of title by the purchaser. Colo. State Bank v. Riede, 92 Colo. 362, 20 P.2d 1010 (1933).

**Possession of automobile is evidence of ownership.** See South Denver Bank v. Guardian Trust Co., 86 Colo. 121, 278 P. 590 (1929).

**Bill of sale is evidence** that the car was acquired in due course of law. Irvine v. Murphy, 77 Colo. 285, 236 P. 1000 (1925).

#### **42-6-114. Transfers by bequest, descent, or law.**

Upon the transfer of ownership of a motor or off-highway vehicle by inheritance or by operation of law, as in proceedings in bankruptcy, insolvency, replevin, attachment, execution, or other judicial sale, or if the vehicle is sold to satisfy storage or repair charges or repossessed to satisfy a secured debt, the director or the authorized agent may issue, upon the surrender of any available certificate of title and presentation of such proof of ownership as the director may reasonably require or a court order, a new certificate of title on behalf of the new owner and dispose of the certificate as in other cases.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2455, § 1, effective January 1, 1995; entire section amended, p. 1041, § 21, effective July 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1659, § 8, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 814, § 12, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** Entire section amended, p. 1513, § 77, effective June 1. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2382, § 11, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-112 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-114 was relocated to § 42-6-116.

(2) Amendments to this section by Senate Bill 94-043 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-114 is similar to § 42-6-112 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included in the annotations to this section.

**The physical act of transferring the title to the creditor is for the most part ministerial** and does not add significantly to any state involvement that exists because of the statutory authorization. *Kirksey v. Theilig*, 351 F. Supp. 727 (D. Colo. 1972).

#### **42-6-115. Furnishing bond for certificates.**

(1) (a) If the applicant for a certificate of title to a motor or off-highway vehicle is unable to provide the director or the authorized agent with a certificate of title duly transferred to the applicant or other evidence of ownership satisfactory to the director as specified in rules established under section 42-6-104, the director or the authorized agent may file a certificate of title for the vehicle if the applicant furnishes the director or the authorized agent with a statement, in a form specified by the director, that contains:

(I) A recital of the facts and circumstances by which the applicant acquired the ownership and possession of the vehicle;

(II) The source of the title to the vehicle; and

(III) Other information as the director may require to determine:

(A) Whether any liens are attached to the motor vehicle;

(B) The date of the liens;

(C) The amount secured by the vehicle;

(D) Where the liens are of record; and

(E) The right of the applicant to have a certificate of title filed on behalf of the applicant.

(b) The statement specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) must contain or be accompanied by a written declaration that it is made under penalty of perjury in the second degree, as defined in section 18-8-503, C.R.S., and must accompany the application for the certificate as required in section 42-6-116.

(c) The director or the authorized agent may maintain any evidence submitted to the director or the authorized agent in a paper or electronic version.

(d) Upon receipt of an application by the owner of a motor or off-highway vehicle that is subject to a lien or mortgage, the authorized agent shall not issue a certificate of title unless the owner includes a signed original or signed duplicate of the mortgage or copy of the mortgage. Upon receiving the mortgage, the authorized agent shall comply with sections 42-6-121 (2), 42-6-122, and 42-6-123 concerning the lien or mortgage.

(2) If the director or the authorized agent finds that the applicant is the same person to whom a certificate of title for the vehicle has previously been issued or filed and to whom a license was issued for the year during which the application for the certificate of title is made and that a certificate of title should be filed on behalf of the applicant, the director or authorized agent may file the certificate.

(3) (a) Except as provided by paragraph (b) of this subsection (3) or section 42-12-402, the department or an authorized agent shall not file a certificate of title under this section until the applicant furnishes evidence of a savings account, deposit, or certificate of deposit meeting the requirements of section 11-35-101, C.R.S., or a good and sufficient bond with a corporate surety, to the state, in an amount fixed by the director, not less than twice the reasonable value of the vehicle determined as of the time of application. The applicant and the applicant's surety shall hold harmless any person who suffers loss or damage by reason of the filing of a certificate under this section.

(b) (I) If a vehicle is twenty-five years old or older, the applicant has had a certified vehicle identification number inspection performed on the vehicle, and the applicant presents a bill of sale within twenty-four months after the sale with the title application, the applicant need not furnish surety under this subsection (3). To be excepted from the surety requirement, an applicant must submit an affidavit to the department that is sworn to under penalty of perjury and that states that the required documents submitted are true and correct.

(II) An applicant need not furnish surety under this subsection (3) for an off-highway vehicle if the applicant submits an affidavit under penalty of perjury attesting to ownership of the vehicle and if the vehicle:

(A) Was moved to Colorado from a state not issuing certificates of title for off-highway vehicles;

(B) Is used and held as inventory by a powersports dealer;

(C) Was owned by an agency of the United States or another state or a political subdivision thereof;

(D) Was owned by an agricultural producer and used strictly for agricultural purposes;

(E) Was owned exclusively for the purpose of being operated in an organized competitive or noncompetitive event on publicly or privately owned or leased land; except that this exemption does not apply unless the agency exercising jurisdiction over the land specifically authorizes the organized competitive or noncompetitive event; or

(F) Was used by a dealer, manufacturer, or authorized designee for an off-highway vehicle operator education or safety program.

(4) If any person suffers loss or damage by reason of the filing of the certificate of title as provided in this section, the person has a right of action against the applicant and the surety on the applicant's bond against either of whom the person damaged may proceed independently of the other.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2455, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1660, § 9, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2003:** (2) amended and (3) added, p. 1339, § 1, effective April 22. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 814, § 13, effective August 8. **L. 2009:** (3)(b) amended, (SB 09-107), ch. 143, p. 606, § 2, effective August 5. **L. 2011:** (3) amended, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 248, § 16, effective August 10. **L. 2012:** Entire section amended, (SB 12-095), ch. 112, p. 389, § 3, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** IP(1)(a) and (3)(b) amended and (1)(d) added, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2382, § 12, effective June 5. **L. 2018:** (3)(b)(I) amended, (HB 18-1299), ch. 297, p. 1814, § 11, effective July 1, 2019. **L. 2022:** (1)(a)(III)(D) and (1)(d) amended, (HB 22-1388), ch. 475, p. 3463, § 9, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-113 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-115 was relocated to § 42-6-117.



**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in the 2012 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 112, Session Laws of Colorado 2012.

**42-6-116. Applications for filing of certificates of title - rules.**

(1) If a person who desires or who is entitled to a filing of a certificate of title to a motor or off-highway vehicle is required to apply to the director or the authorized agent, the applicant shall apply upon a form provided by the director in which appears a description of the motor or off-highway vehicle including the make and model, the manufacturer's number, and a description of any other distinguishing mark, number, or symbol placed on the vehicle by the vehicle manufacturer for identification purposes, as may be required by the director by rule adopted in accordance with article 4 of title 24, C.R.S. The application must show the name and correct address of the owner determined pursuant to section 42-6-139, a class A, class B, class C, class D, or class F vehicle owner's personal identification number as provided on a state-issued driver's license or assigned by the department, and the applicant's source of title and must include a description of all known mortgages and liens upon the motor or off-highway vehicle, the holder of the lien, the amount originally secured, and the name of the county and state if the owner holds a certificate of title or the state if the owner does not hold a certificate of title where the mortgage, lien, or financing statement is recorded or filed. The application must be verified by a statement signed by the applicant and must contain or be accompanied by a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury in the second degree, as defined in section 18-8-503, C.R.S.

(2) Upon receipt of an application by the owner of a motor or off-highway vehicle that is subject to a lien or mortgage, the authorized agent shall not issue a certificate of title unless the owner includes a signed original or signed duplicate of the mortgage or copy of the mortgage. Upon receiving the mortgage, the authorized agent shall comply with sections 42-6-121 (2), 42-6-122, and 42-6-123 concerning the lien or mortgage.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2456, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2000: Entire section amended, p. 1660, § 10, effective July 1, 2001. L. 2005: Entire section amended, p. 815, § 14, effective August 8; entire section amended, p. 694, § 2, effective January 1, 2007. L. 2007: Entire section amended, p. 496, § 1, effective August 3. L. 2013: Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2383, § 13, effective June 5. L. 2022: (2) amended, (HB 22-1388), ch. 475, p. 3463, § 10, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-114 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-116 was relocated to § 42-6-118.

(2) Amendments to this section by House Bill 05-1019 and Senate Bill 05-038 were harmonized, effective January 1, 2007.

#### **42-6-117. Filing of certificate.**

(1) The director or the authorized agent shall use reasonable diligence to ascertain whether the facts stated in an application and other documents submitted to the director or the authorized agent are true. In appropriate cases, the director or authorized agent may require the applicant to furnish additional information regarding ownership of the vehicle and the right to file on behalf of the applicant a certificate of title for the vehicle. The director or the authorized agent may refuse to file a certificate of title to such vehicle if the director or the authorized agent determines that the applicant is not entitled to such certificate.

(2) No certificate of title may be filed for a vehicle required to have its vehicle identification number inspected pursuant to section 42-5-202 unless a vehicle identification number inspection form has been transmitted to the director or the authorized agent showing the number recorded from the vehicle or the number assigned to the vehicle under section 42-12-202.

(3) At the request of the title owner, lienholder, or mortgagee, a paper copy of a filed certificate of title may be issued by the director or the authorized agent.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2456, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1661, § 11, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 816, § 15, effective August 8. **L. 2011:** (2) amended, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 248, § 17, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-115 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-117 is similar to § 42-6-115 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included in the annotations to this section.

**This section empowers the director of the motor vehicle division to refuse to issue a new certificate** if he determines that the applicant therefor is not entitled thereto. *Codding v. Jackson*, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955).

**Statutes are designed to provide a method whereby the licensing authorities may check and control the chain of title as it passes from one private purchaser to**

another, to the end that bogus or illegal transactions may more easily be detected. *Codding v. Jackson*, 132 Colo. 320, 287 P.2d 976 (1955).

#### **42-6-118. Amended certificate.**

If the owner of a motor or off-highway vehicle for which a Colorado certificate of title has been issued or filed replaces any part of the motor or off-highway vehicle on which appears the identification number or symbol described in the certificate of title and the identification number or symbol no longer appears on the motor or off-highway vehicle, or incorporates the part containing the identification number or symbol into another motor or off-highway vehicle, the owner shall immediately apply to the director or an authorized agent for an assigned identification number and an amended filing of a certificate of title to the vehicle.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2457, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1661, § 12, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 816, § 16, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2384, § 14, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-116 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-118 was relocated to § 42-6-119.

#### **ANNOTATION**

**Applied** in *People v. Rautenkranz*, 641 P.2d 317 (Colo. App. 1982).

#### **42-6-119. Certificates for vehicles registered in other states.**

(1) When a resident of the state acquires the ownership of a motor or off-highway vehicle for which a certificate of title has been issued by a state other than Colorado, the person acquiring the vehicle shall apply to the director or an authorized agent for the filing of a certificate of title as in other cases.

(2) If a dealer acquires the ownership of a motor or off-highway vehicle by lawful means and the vehicle is titled under the laws of a state other than Colorado, the dealer need not file a

Colorado certificate of title for the vehicle so long as the vehicle remains in the dealer's possession and at the dealer's place of business solely for the purpose of sale.

(3) Upon the sale by a dealer of a motor or off-highway vehicle, the certificate of title to which was issued in a state other than Colorado, the dealer shall, within thirty days after the sale, deliver or facilitate the delivery to the purchaser the certificate of title, duly and properly endorsed or assigned to the purchaser, with a statement by the dealer containing or accompanied by a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury in the second degree, as defined in section 18-8-503, C.R.S., and setting forth the following:

(a) That the dealer, by the execution of the affidavit, warrants to the purchaser and all persons who claim through the named purchaser that, at the time of the sale, transfer, and delivery by the dealer, the vehicle described was free and clear of all liens and mortgages except as might appear in the certificate of title;

(b) That the vehicle is not a stolen vehicle; and

(c) That the dealer had good, sure, and adequate title to, and full authority to sell and transfer, the vehicle.

(4) (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4)(b) of this section, if the purchaser of the vehicle completes and includes the vehicle identification number inspection form as part of the application for filing of a Colorado certificate of title to the vehicle and accompanies the application with the affidavit required by subsection (3) of this section and the duly endorsed or assigned certificate of title from a state other than Colorado, a Colorado certificate of title may be filed in the same manner as upon the sale or transfer of a motor or off-highway vehicle for which a Colorado certificate of title has been issued or filed. Upon the filing by the director or the authorized agent of the certificate of title, the director or the authorized agent may dispose of the certificate of title and shall record the certificate of title as provided in section 42-6-124.

(b) If an applicant for the filing of a Colorado certificate of title for a vehicle for which another state has issued a certificate of title presents either a copy of a manufacturer's certificate of origin or a purchase receipt from the dealer or the out-of-state seller from whom the applicant purchased the vehicle and either document indicates that the applicant purchased the vehicle as new, the applicant need not include a vehicle identification number inspection form as part of the application.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2457, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (3) and (5) amended, p. 158, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (1), (2), and (4) amended, p. 1662, § 13, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 816, § 17, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2384, § 15, effective June 5. **L. 2017:** (4) amended, (HB 17-1105), ch. 44, p. 130, § 3, effective March 16.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-118 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-119 was relocated to § 42-6-120.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-119 is similar to § 42-6-118 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included in the annotations to this section.

**These provisions are more than merely administrative, they are mandatory.** Amarillo Auto Auction, Inc. v. Hutchinson, 135 Colo. 320, 310 P.2d 715 (1957).

**And strict compliance is required.** The general assembly concluded as a matter of public protection that all the right or interest of any kind in and to an automobile is wrapped up in, and subject to, a strict compliance with the law concerning the certificate of title. Amarillo Auto Auction, Inc. v. Hutchinson, 135 Colo. 320, 310 P.2d 715 (1957).

**Out-of-state vehicles are in interstate commerce while being auctioned in this**

**state.** Motor vehicles brought into the state from other states exclusively for sale to other dealers at an auction and which, when bought at such auctions, are transported by the purchaser from this state to other states, are at all times in interstate commerce when being brought to auction, sold at auction, or transported from auction into other states. Jesse M. Chase Casper Co. v. Fugate, 128 F. Supp. 244 (D. Colo. 1955).

**In an interdealer transfer, the transferee dealer was required to have only the certificates of title from another state and possession at his place of business for sale.** The transferor dealer, having parted with all evidence of ownership, had no title on which to predicate a claim for conversion. Finance Corp. v. Bauer, 167 Colo. 519, 448 P.2d 791 (1968).

### **42-6-120. Security interests upon vehicles.**

(1) Except as provided in this section and sections 42-6-130 and 42-6-148, the provisions of the "Uniform Commercial Code", title 4, C.R.S., relating to the filing, recording, releasing, renewal, priority, and extension of chattel mortgages, as defined in section 42-6-102 (9), do not apply to motor or off-highway vehicles. A mortgage or refinancing of a mortgage intended by the parties to the mortgage or refinancing to encumber or create a lien on a motor vehicle, or to be perfected as a valid lien against the rights of third persons, purchasers for value without notice, mortgagees, or creditors of the owner, must be filed for public record. The department or

authorized agent shall note the fact of filing on the owner's certificate of title or bill of sale substantially in the manner provided in section 42-6-121.

(2) This section and section 42-6-121 do not apply to a mortgage or security interest upon a vehicle or motor vehicle held for sale or lease that constitutes inventory as defined in section 4-9-102, C.R.S. The perfection of mortgages or security interests, and the rights of the parties, are governed by article 9 of title 4, C.R.S.

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in the case of motor vehicles, off-highway vehicles, or trailers, a lease transaction does not create a sale or security interest solely because it permits or requires the rental price to be adjusted either upward or downward under the agreement by reference to the amount realized upon sale or other disposition of the motor vehicle, off-highway vehicle, or trailer.

(4) The rights of a buyer, lessee, or lien creditor that arise after a mortgage attaches to a motor or off-highway vehicle and before perfection under this article are determined by section 4-9-317, C.R.S.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2458, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (3) added, p. 333, § 1, effective April 16. **L. 2000:** (1) amended, p. 1662, § 14, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (2) amended, p. 1448, § 46, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (1) amended, p. 817, § 18, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (1) amended, p. 1513, § 78, effective June 1; (1) amended, p. 640, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (1) amended and (4) added, (SB 09-150), ch. 182, p. 802, § 3, effective April 22. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2385, § 16, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-119 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-120 was relocated to § 42-6-121.

(2) Amendments to subsection (1) by House Bill 06-1391 and Senate Bill 06-163 were harmonized.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For note, "Chattel Security Transactions and the Colorado Certificate of Title Act", see 25 Rocky Mt. L. Rev. 60 (1952). For note, "The Effect of Certificate

of Title Acts on Foreign Auto Liens", see 29 Rocky Mt. L. Rev. 384 (1957).

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-120 is similar to § 42-6-119 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by

SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included in the annotations to this section.

**This section relates only to mortgages on "motor vehicles".** Rabtoay Gen. Tire Co. v. Colo. Kenworth Corp., 135 Colo. 110, 309 P.2d 616 (1957).

**To enlarge the scope of the act to include a mortgage on tires would be an act of judicial legislation.** Rabtoay Gen. Tire Co. v. Colo. Kenworth Corp., 135 Colo. 110, 309 P.2d 616 (1957).

**For tires are detachable accessories and, unless intention to the contrary is clearly shown, are not merged in the motor vehicle upon which they are placed.** Rabtoay Gen. Tire Co. v. Colo. Kenworth Corp., 135 Colo. 110, 309 P.2d 616 (1957).

**The doctrine of title by accession does not apply to the equipment of a car which the buyer and seller do not intend to be merged** into its structure and which is clearly distinguishable and as readily detachable from it as are tires and tubes. Rabtoay Gen. Tire Co. v. Colo. Kenworth Corp., 135 Colo. 110, 309 P.2d 616 (1957).

**Colorado's Certificate of Title Act operates as strictly as the real property recording statutes to cut off unrecorded interests,** undoubtedly reflecting legislative intent to promote greater certainty in commercial transactions, by allowing parties to rely on the recording statutes. In re Richards, 275 B.R. 586 (Bankr. D. Colo. 2002).

**Inapplicability of uniform commercial code to motor vehicles.** By the express

terms used in this section, only such provisions of the uniform commercial code as relate to the filing, recording, releasing, renewal, and extension of chattel mortgages are made inapplicable to motor vehicles. Roylance v. Citizens Sav. Bank, 148 Colo. 423, 366 P.2d 557 (1961).

**A creditor's lien has not been filed for public record until the information submitted from the lienholder has been reviewed by the director or his or her authorized agent and the lien information has been entered into the agent's database and transmitted to the state's central registry.** Hepner v. AmeriCredit Fin. Servs., Inc., 338 B.R. 470 (D. Colo. 2005) (decided under law in effect prior to the 2005 amendment), *aff'd*, 345 B.R. 261 (D. Colo. 2006); Peters v. WFS Fin. Servs., Inc., 338 B.R. 103 (Bankr. D. Colo. 2006).

**Perfection of a security interest in a motor vehicle occurs upon entry of the mortgage and title information into the central registry.** Hepner v. AmeriCredit Fin. Servs., Inc., 345 B.R. 261 (D. Colo. 2006).

**Once it occurs, perfection relates back to the time the mortgagee delivered its mortgage and title paperwork to the county clerk.** Hepner v. AmeriCredit Fin. Servs., Inc., 345 B.R. 261 (D. Colo. 2006).

**Application of uniform commercial code where automobiles held as inventory.** Where automobiles were held for sale as inventory, the provisions of the Colorado uniform commercial code applied in their entirety. Guy Martin Buick, Inc. v. Colo. Springs Nat'l Bank, 184 Colo. 166, 519 P.2d 354 (1974).

**The uniform commercial code applies to a security interest in a motor vehicle held in inventory, notwithstanding the requirement in § 42-6-109 that the certificate of title is required to transfer an interest in a motor vehicle.** Although a bank had a perfected security interest in an auto dealer's inventory, the interest was extinguished upon sale of the vehicle because the bank authorized the sale of the inventory. Under § 4-9-315, the bank was left with a security interest only in the proceeds of the sale. Therefore, a credit union that financed the purchase of the vehicle from the dealer had a security interest that prevails against the bank, even though the certificate of title was not conveyed to the credit union at the time of sale. *Valley Bank & Trust Co. v. Holyoke Cmty. Fed. Credit Union*, 121 P.3d 358 (Colo. App. 2005).

**Substantial compliance with § 42-6-120.** This section provides that any mortgage intended to create a lien on a motor vehicle, to be effective as a valid lien against creditors of the owner, shall be filed for public record and the fact thereof noted on the certificate of title "substantially" in the manner provided by § 42-6-120 and the filing with the authorized agent and the notation by him of that fact on the certificate "substantially" in the manner provided in § 42-6-120 shall constitute notice to the world of the existence of such mortgage. *Loye v. Denver United States Nat'l Bank*, 341 F.2d 402 (10th Cir. 1965).

**Notation of creditor as "owner" suffices.** A notation of the creditor as "owner" on the certificate of title constitutes

substantial compliance with § 42-6-120. *Yeager Trucking v. Circle Leasing*, 29 B.R. 131 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1983).

**The certificate of title act creates a system of notice filing** in which the certificate merely indicates who may have a security interest. Further inquiry from the parties is necessary to determine the complete state of affairs. *Yeager Trucking v. Circle Leasing*, 29 B.R. 131 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1983).

**Proper recording of chattel mortgages provides "notice to the world".** If there ever was any exception to the general rule of priority of chattel mortgages for a garageman's equitable lien for necessary repairs, it was eliminated by the enactment of this section which provides that properly recording and noting chattel mortgages on the title certificate provides "notice to the world". *First Sec. Bank v. Crouse*, 374 F.2d 17 (10th Cir. 1967).

**With recordation of a chattel mortgage, persons who subsequently deal with the chattel have constructive notice of the encumbrance.** *Rabtoay Gen. Tire Co. v. Colo. Kenworth Corp.*, 135 Colo. 110, 309 P.2d 616 (1957).

**Constructive notice is as effectual as actual notice.** *Rabtoay Gen. Tire Co. v. Colo. Kenworth Corp.*, 135 Colo. 110, 309 P.2d 616 (1957).

**Superiority of recorded lien.** A creditor cannot obtain a judicial lien superior to a transferee's interest, once the requirements for the recording of the lien on a motor vehicle set out in this section and § 42-6-120



are fulfilled. *GMAC v. Martella*, 22 B.R. 649 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1982).

**Mortgage cannot attach more value than amount noted on certificate.**

Allowing a mortgage to attach having more value than the amount noted on the certificate of title would negate the purpose of this section and § 42-6-120, which is to make the certificate conclusive as to the rights of the parties with respect to notice of prior encumbrances. *In re Grizaffi*, 23 B.R. 137 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1982).

**Section inapplicable to foreign mortgages.** In view of § 42-6-131, the

provisions of this section requiring filing of mortgages does not apply to foreign mortgages. *First Nat'l Bank v. Chuck Lowen, Inc.*, 128 Colo. 104, 261 P.2d 158 (1953).

**Persons with no right in vehicle not protected by section.** Where a party has no rights to a motor vehicle, having been divested of all ownership, he is not within the four categories of persons protected by the filing requirements of this section. *People v. Armijo*, 197 Colo. 91, 589 P.2d 935 (1979).

**42-6-121. Filing of mortgage - rules.**

(1) The holder of a chattel mortgage on a motor or off-highway vehicle desiring to secure the rights provided for in this part 1 and to have the existence of the mortgage and the fact of the filing of the mortgage noted in the filing of the certificate of title to the encumbered vehicle must present the signed original or signed duplicate of the mortgage or copy of the mortgage and the certificate of title or application for certificate of title to the vehicle encumbered to the authorized agent of the director in the county or city and county in which the mortgagor of the vehicle resides or where the vehicle is located. The holder may file either with paper documents or electronically. The mortgage or refinancing of a loan secured by a mortgage must state the name and address of the debtor; the name and address of the mortgagee or name of the mortgagee's assignee; the make, vehicle identification number, and year of manufacture of the mortgaged vehicle; and the date and amount of the loan secured by the mortgage. An owner of a motor or off-highway vehicle applying for a certificate of title under section 42-6-115, 42-6-116, or 42-6-119 is deemed to have filed under this section on behalf of the mortgage or lienholder.

(2) (a) Upon the receipt of the electronic, original, or duplicate mortgage and certificate of title or application for certificate of title, the authorized agent, if satisfied that the vehicle described in the mortgage is the same as that described in the certificate of title or filed title, shall file within the director's authorized agent's motor and off-highway vehicle database:

(I) Notice of the mortgage or lien, in which appears the day on which the mortgage was received for filing;

(II) The name and address of the mortgagee named and the name and address of the holder of the mortgage, if the holder is not the named mortgagee;

(III) The amount secured by the vehicle;

(IV) The date of the mortgage;

(V) The day and year on which the mortgage was filed; and

(VI) Any other information regarding the filing of the mortgage in the office of the director's authorized agent as may be required by the director by rule.

(b) The director's authorized agent shall electronically transmit, when the director's authorized agent uses an electronic filing system, the certificate of title, application for certificate of title, and mortgage information to the database of the director for maintenance of a central registry of motor and off-highway vehicle title information pursuant to section 42-6-147.

(3) A mortgage is deemed to be a signed original or a signed duplicate if the signature appearing on a certificate of title or application for certificate of title was affixed personally by the mortgagor or the mortgagor's attorney-in-fact, in ink, in carbon, or by any other means.

(4) For purposes of liens created pursuant to section 14-10-122 (1.5), C.R.S., the lien shall contain the information set forth in this section as well as any additional information required in section 14-10-122 (1.5)(f), C.R.S.

(5) The lien or mortgage shall be perfected pursuant to section 42-6-120 on the date all documents required by subsection (1) of this section, including, without limitation, the signed original or signed duplicate of the mortgage or a copy containing the information required by subsection (1) of this section, are received by the authorized agent and payment is tendered on the fee imposed by section 42-6-137 (2).

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2458, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** Entire section amended, p. 1310, § 46, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1663, § 15, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2006:** Entire section amended, p. 640, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (1) amended, (SB 09-292), ch. 369, p. 1984, § 127, effective August 5; (1) amended, (HB 09-1089), ch. 196, p. 880, § 1, effective October 1. **L. 2013:** (1) and (2) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2386, § 17, effective June 5. **L. 2022:** (1), IP(2)(a), and (2)(a)(V) amended, (HB 22-1388), ch. 475, p. 3464, § 11, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-120 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-121 was relocated to § 42-6-122.

(2) Amendments to subsection (1) by Senate Bill 09-292 and House Bill 09-1089 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 1997 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 236, Session Laws of Colorado 1997.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-121 is similar to § 42-6-120 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included in the annotations to this section.

**The purpose of the title act was to provide a simple and effective means of ascertaining the title to and interests in motor vehicles** and that means is an examination of the title certificate itself. The provision in the statute requiring the notation on the title certificate of the filed chattel mortgage was designed to make that certificate conclusive as to the rights of the parties with respect to the matter of notice of prior encumbrances. It is not the province of this court to give to the statute a narrow interpretation out of harmony with the designed purpose and intent of the general assembly. *Loye v. Denver United States Nat'l Bank*, 341 F.2d 402 (10th Cir. 1965).

The certificate of title act creates a system of notice filing in which the certificate merely indicates who may have a security interest. Further inquiry from the parties is necessary to determine the complete state of affairs. *Yeager Trucking v. Circle Leasing*, 29 B.R. 131 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1983).

**This section is intended to supersede the use of local files and records in providing notice of encumbrances** upon motor vehicles. *Loye v. Denver United States Nat'l Bank*, 341 F.2d 402 (10th Cir. 1965).

**The notation on a title certificate of the existence of an encumbrance is sufficient notice** to subsequent creditors. *Loye v. Denver United States Nat'l Bank*, 341 F.2d 402 (10th Cir. 1965).

**Notation of creditor as "owner" suffices.** A notation of the creditor as "owner" on the certificate of title constitutes substantial compliance with this section. *Yeager Trucking v. Circle Leasing*, 29 B.R. 131 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1983).

**Superiority of recorded lien.** A creditor cannot obtain a judicial lien superior to a transferee's interest, once the requirements for the recording of the lien on a motor vehicle set out in § 42-6-119 and this section are fulfilled. *GMAC v. Martella*, 22 B.R. 649 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1982).

**Mortgage cannot attach more value than amount noted on certificate.** Allowing a mortgage to attach having more value than the amount noted on the

certificate of title would negate the purpose of § 42-6-119 and this section, which is to make the certificate conclusive as to the rights of the parties with respect to notice of prior encumbrances. *In re Grizaffi*, 23 B.R. 137 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1982).

**The recording of a chattel mortgage on a motor vehicle in the wrong county does not render the mortgage lien void** so as to be vulnerable to attack by a trustee in bankruptcy. *Loye v. Denver United States Nat'l Bank*, 341 F.2d 402 (10th Cir. 1965).

**Application of uniform commercial code where automobiles held as inventory.** Where automobiles were held for sale as

inventory, this section and § 42-6-119 did not apply to the security interest of the bank making a loan to the purchaser, and the provisions of article 9 of title 4 did apply. *Guy Martin Buick, Inc. v. Colo. Springs Nat'l Bank*, 32 Colo. App. 235, 511 P.2d 912 (1973), *aff'd*, 184 Colo. 166, 519 P.2d 354 (1974).

**The Colorado Certificate of Title Act (CCTA) does not supersede § 4-9-317 (e) of the Uniform Commercial Code** because subsection (e) does not govern the manner or timing of the perfection of liens. It governs only the priority of a lien and is not inconsistent with the CCTA. *In re Roser*, 613 F.3d 1240 (10th Cir. 2010).

#### **42-6-122. Disposition of mortgages by agent - rules.**

(1) The authorized agent, upon receipt of the mortgage, shall file the mortgage in the agent's office, appropriately indexed and cross-indexed:

(a) Under one or more of the following headings in accordance with the rules adopted by the director:

(I) Make or vehicle identification number of motor or off-highway vehicles mortgaged;

(II) Names of owners of mortgaged motor or off-highway vehicles as they appear on the certificates of title thereto;

(III) The numbers of the certificates of title for motor or off-highway vehicles mortgaged;

(IV) The numbers or other identification marks assigned to registration certificates issued upon the registration of mortgaged vehicles;

(b) Under the name of the mortgagee, the holder of the mortgage, or the owner of the vehicle; or

(c) Under such other system as the director may devise and determine to be necessary for the efficient administration of this part 1.

(2) All records of mortgages affecting motor or off-highway vehicles are public and may be inspected and copied, as is provided by law respecting public records affecting real property. A

duly certified copy of the department's electronic record of the mortgage or lien is admissible in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding in this state as evidence of the existence of the mortgage or lien.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2459, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** IP(1) amended, p. 1663, § 16, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2009:** IP(1)(a) and (1)(a)(I) amended, (HB 09-1089), ch. 196, p. 880, § 2, effective October 1. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2387, § 18, effective June 5; (2) amended, (HB 13-1289), ch. 380, p. 2225, § 4, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-121 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-122 was relocated to § 42-6-123.

(2) Amendments to subsection (2) by House Bill 13-1289 and Senate Bill 13-280 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in the 2013 act amending subsection (2), see section 1 of chapter 380, Session Laws of Colorado 2013.

#### **42-6-123. Disposition after mortgaging.**

After a mortgage on a motor or off-highway vehicle has been filed in the authorized agent's office, the authorized agent shall mail, deliver, or electronically transfer to the director the certificate of title or other evidence of ownership satisfactory to the director as specified in rules adopted under section 42-6-104 that the authorized agent has filed in the record. The director shall maintain completed electronic records transferred by the authorized agent. The director shall issue a new certificate of title containing, in addition to the other matters required to be set forth in certificates of title, a description of the mortgage and all information respecting the mortgage and the filing of the mortgage that appear in the certificate of the authorized agent, and the director or the director's authorized agent shall then dispose of the new certificate of title containing the notation as provided in section 42-6-124. When a motor or off-highway vehicle is subject to an electronic mortgage or lien, the certificate of title for the motor or off-highway vehicle is considered to be physically held by the mortgagee or lienholder for all legal purposes, including compliance with state or federal odometer disclosure requirements.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2459, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1664, § 17, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (HB 13-1289), ch. 380, p. 2225, § 5, effective June 5; entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, pp. 2387, 2397, §§ 19, 42, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-122 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-123 was relocated to § 42-6-124.

(2) Amendments to this section by sections 19 and 42 of Senate Bill 13-280 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in the 2013 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 380, Session Laws of Colorado 2013.

#### **42-6-124. Disposition of certificates of title.**

(1) The director shall dispose of a certificate of title issued by the director or the authorized agent in the following manner:

(a) If the certificate of title that is filed by the authorized agent is maintained in an electronic format within the director's and the authorized agent's motor and off-highway vehicle databases as required by the standards established pursuant to article 71.3 of title 24, C.R.S., the certificate of title shall be disposed of in accordance with paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection (1).

(b) If it appears, from the records in the director's or the authorized agent's office and from an examination of the certificate of title, that the motor or off-highway vehicle described in the certificate of title is not subject to a mortgage filed after August 1, 1949, or if the vehicle is encumbered by a mortgage filed in any county of a state other than Colorado, the director or authorized agent shall deliver the certificate of title to the person who appears to be the owner of the vehicle or mail the certificate to the owner of the vehicle at his or her address as it appears in the application, the certificate of title, or other records in the director's or the authorized agent's office.

(c) If it appears, from the records in the office of the director or the authorized agent and from the certificate of title, that the motor or off-highway vehicle described in the certificate of title is subject to one or more mortgages filed after August 1, 1949, the director or the authorized agent shall electronically maintain or deliver the certificate of title issued by the director to the mortgagee named in the certificate of title or the holder of the certificate of title whose mortgage was first filed in the office of an authorized agent.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2460, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1664, § 18, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2002:** (1)(a) amended, p. 859, § 10, effective May 30. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2388, § 20, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-123 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-124 was relocated to § 42-6-125.

#### **42-6-125. Release of mortgages - rules.**

(1) Upon the payment or discharge of the undertaking secured by a mortgage on a motor or off-highway vehicle that has been filed for record under section 42-6-121, the legal holder, on a form approved by the director, shall notify the director or authorized agent of the discharge of the obligation and release of the mortgage securing the obligation and set forth in the notice the facts concerning the right of the holder to release the mortgage as the director may require by rule. The lienholder shall include in the notice of satisfaction and release a signed affirmation, noted in the certificate of title on file with the director or the authorized agent, that contains or is accompanied by a notarized declaration or a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury in the second degree, as defined in section 18-8-503. Thereupon, the holder of the released mortgage shall dispose of the certificate of title as follows:

(a) If the motor or off-highway vehicle is encumbered by a mortgage filed under section 42-6-121 after the date on which the released mortgage was filed for record, the holder of the certificate of title shall deliver the certificate to the person shown to be the holder of the mortgage noted on the title filed earliest after the filing of the released mortgage, or to the person or agent of the person shown to be the assignee or other legal holder of the mortgage, or shall mail the certificate to the mortgagee or holder at the address appearing on the mortgage. If the certificate is returned unclaimed, the holder shall mail the certificate to the director.

(b) If it appears from an examination of the certificate of title that there are no other outstanding mortgages against the motor or off-highway vehicle upon the release of the mortgage as provided in this section, the holder of the mortgage shall deliver the certificate of title to the owner of the vehicle or shall mail the title to the owner at his or her address, and, if for any reason the certificate of title is not delivered to the owner or is returned unclaimed, the holder shall immediately mail the certificate to the director.

(c) The director's authorized agent shall note in the electronic record of the lien the satisfaction and release of the lien or mortgage and shall file a notice of the satisfaction and release in accordance with section 42-6-122.

(2) (a) (I) Except when a lienholder can show extenuating circumstances, within fifteen calendar days after a lien or mortgage on a motor or off-highway vehicle is paid and satisfied, a lienholder shall release the lien or mortgage as required by subsection (1) of this section.

(II) As used in this subsection (2), "extenuating circumstances" means a situation where access to the title is impaired, making good faith compliance with this subsection (2) impossible within the time frame required by this paragraph (a). "Extenuating circumstances" does not include intentional or negligent acts by a lienholder that result in delay beyond the time frame required in this subsection (2).

(b) Any person aggrieved by a violation of this subsection (2) may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to bring about compliance with this subsection (2) and for any damages arising from the violation.

(3) Mortgage or lien satisfactions may be electronically transmitted to the department's authorized agent as authorized by rules of the director. When electronic transmission of mortgages or liens or mortgage or lien satisfactions is used, a certificate of title need not be issued until the last mortgage or lien is satisfied and a clear certificate of title is issued to the owner of the motor or off-highway vehicle under section 42-6-126.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2460, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** IP(1) amended and (1)(c) added, p. 1665, § 19, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2009:** IP(1), (1)(a), and (1)(b) amended, (HB 09-1089), ch. 196, p. 881, § 3, effective October 1. **L. 2011:** (2) added, (HB 11-1185), ch. 122, p. 383, § 1, effective April 20. **L. 2013:** (1), (2)(a)(I), and (3) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, pp. 2388, 2397, §§ 21, 43, effective June 5; (3) added, (HB 13-1289), ch. 380, p. 2226, § 6, effective June 5. **L. 2022:** IP(1) amended, (HB 22-1388), ch. 475, p. 3464, § 12, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-124 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-125 was relocated to § 42-6-126.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in the 2013 act adding subsection (3), see section 1 of chapter 380, Session Laws of Colorado 2013.

## ANNOTATION



**Law reviews.** For article, "Discharge of Security Transactions", see 26 Rocky Mt. L. Rev. 115 (1954).

**42-6-126. New certificate upon release of mortgage.**

(1) (a) Upon the satisfaction of the debt and release of a mortgage on a motor or off-highway vehicle filed for record as required by section 42-6-121:

(I) The owner of the vehicle encumbered by the mortgage, the purchaser from or transferee of the owner as appears on the certificate of title, or the holder of a mortgage that was junior to the mortgage released, upon the receipt of the certificate of title, as provided in section 42-6-125, shall deliver the title to the authorized agent, who shall transmit the title to the director; or

(II) The lienholder shall notify the authorized agent of the satisfaction of the debt and release of the mortgage, setting forth any facts concerning the right of the holder to release the mortgage as the director may require. The lienholder shall sign a satisfaction and release that is affirmed by a statement containing or accompanied by a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury in the second degree, as defined in section 18-8-503, C.R.S. Upon receiving a valid satisfaction and release, the director or authorized agent shall note the release of the lien and shall issue a certificate of title for the motor vehicle, omitting all reference to the mortgage.

(b) Upon the receipt by the director of a statement of mortgage release, the director shall:

(I) Note on the records in the director's office to show the release of the lien of the mortgage;

(II) Issue a new certificate of title to the motor or off-highway vehicle, omitting all reference to the released mortgage; and

(III) Dispose of the new certificate of title in the manner prescribed in other cases unless directed otherwise.

(2) For certificates of title that are maintained in an electronic format, any release of lien, mortgage, or encumbrance shall be filed prior to the issuance of a new certificate of title. In the event the holder of the lien, mortgage, or other encumbrance has filed bankruptcy or is no longer in business, the person seeking issuance of a new certificate of title reflecting the release of the lien, mortgage, or other encumbrance, which has been maintained electronically, shall either post a bond with the director in a reasonable amount determined by the director or shall wait until the period of the lien, mortgage, or other encumbrance expires.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2461, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2000: Entire section amended, p. 1665, § 20, effective July 1, 2001. L. 2009: (1) amended,

(HB 09-1089), ch. 196, p. 881, § 4, effective October 1. **L. 2013:** (1)(a) and (1)(b)(II) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2389, § 22, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-125 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-126 was relocated to § 42-6-127.

#### **42-6-127. Duration of lien of mortgage - extensions - rules.**

(1) The lien of a mortgage or refinancing of a mortgage filed in the manner prescribed in section 42-6-121 or 42-6-129 shall remain valid and enforceable for a period of ten years after the filing of the certificate in the office of the director's authorized agent or until the discharge of the mortgage on the vehicle, if the discharge occurs sooner, except in the case of trailer coaches; truck tractors; multipurpose trailers, if known when filed; and motor homes, that are subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of this section. During the ten-year period or any extension of such period, the lien of the mortgage may be extended for successive three-year periods upon the holder of the mortgage presenting to the director's authorized agent of the county where the mortgage is filed or in the county where the owner resides a certification of extension of chattel mortgage, subscribed by the holder of the mortgage and acknowledged by the holder before an officer authorized to acknowledge deeds to real property, in which shall appear a description of the mortgage on the vehicle, to what extent it has been discharged or remains unperformed, and such other information respecting the mortgage as may be required by appropriate rule of the director to enable the director's authorized agent to properly record the extension.

(2) Upon receipt of a mortgage extension, the authorized agent shall make and complete the electronic record of the extension as the director by rule may require within the director's or the authorized agent's motor and off-highway vehicle database and shall note the fact of the extension of the mortgage on the certificate of title, which may be filed electronically. Thereafter, the authorized agent shall return the certificate to the person shown on the certificate to be entitled to the certificate. If any mortgage other than one on a trailer coach; truck tractor; multipurpose trailer, if known when filed; or motor home has been filed for record and noted on the certificate of title and has not been released or extended within ten years after the date when the mortgage was filed in the office of the authorized agent, the person shown by the records in the director's office to be the owner of the motor or off-highway vehicle described in the certificate of title, upon filing an application, may request that the authorized agent remove references to the mortgages shown on the records. The authorized agent shall remove all reference to mortgages shown in the authorized agent's records to have been of record in the office of the authorized agent for more than ten years without being released or extended.

(3) The duration of the lien of any mortgage on a trailer coach, as defined in section 42-1-102 (106), a truck tractor, as defined in section 42-1-102 (109), a multipurpose trailer, as defined in section 42-1-102 (60.3), or a motor home, as defined in section 42-1-102 (57), shall be for the full term of the mortgage, but the lien of the mortgage may be extended beyond the original term of the mortgage for successive three-year periods by following the procedure prescribed in subsection (1) of this section during the term of the mortgage or any extension thereof.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2461, § 1, effective January 1, 1995; entire section amended, p. 920, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (1) and (2) amended, p. 1666, § 21, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (HB 09-1089), ch. 196, p. 882, § 5, effective October 1. **L. 2013:** (2) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2390, § 23, effective June 5. **L. 2022:** (3) amended, (SB 22-212), ch. 421, p. 2987, § 92, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-126 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-127 was relocated to § 42-6-128.

(2) Amendments to this section by House Bill 94-1165 were harmonized with Senate Bill 94-001.

#### **42-6-128. Validity of mortgage between parties.**

Nothing in this part 1 impairs the validity of a mortgage on a motor or off-highway vehicle between the parties as long as no purchaser for value, mortgagee, or creditor without actual notice of the existence of a mortgage has acquired an interest in the motor or off-highway vehicle described in the mortgage, notwithstanding that the parties to the mortgage have failed to comply with this part 1.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2462, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2390, § 24, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-127 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-128 was relocated to § 42-6-130.

#### **ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-128 is similar to § 42-6-127 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included in the annotations to this section.

**By virtue of this section the failure to have a certificate of title issued does not defeat the contractual rights of the seller.**

Randall v. Carroll, 30 Colo. App. 45, 488 P.2d 250 (1971).

**Persons with no right in vehicle not protected by § 42-6-119.** Where a party has no rights to a motor vehicle, having been divested of all ownership, he is not within the four categories of persons protected by the filing requirements of § 42-6-119. People v. Armijo, 197 Colo. 91, 589 P.2d 935 (1979).

#### **42-6-129. Second or other junior mortgages.**

(1) On and after July 1, 1977, a person who takes a junior mortgage on a motor or off-highway vehicle for which a Colorado certificate of title has been issued or filed may file the mortgage for public record and have the existence of the mortgage noted or filed on the certificate of title with like effect as in other cases, as required by this section.

(2) The junior mortgagee or the holder of the mortgage shall file the mortgage as required by section 42-6-121 with the authorized agent of the county where the mortgagor of the motor or off-highway vehicle resides or where the vehicle is located with a written request to have the existence of the mortgage noted or filed on the certificate of title records of the authorized agent pertaining to the vehicle covered by the junior mortgage. Upon the filing of the mortgage, the authorized agent shall note in the record of the vehicle the day and hour when the mortgage was received by the agent, shall make and deliver a receipt for the mortgage to the person filing the mortgage, and shall file the mortgage as required under section 42-6-122. If there is more than one mortgage or lien on the motor or off-highway vehicle, the department's authorized agent may electronically transmit the mortgage or lien to the first mortgage or lienholder and notify the first mortgage or lienholder of any additional mortgages or liens.

(3) The director's authorized agent, by registered mail, return receipt requested, shall make a written demand on the holder of the certificate of title, addressed to such person at the person's address as the same may appear in said written request, that such certificate be delivered to the authorized agent for the purpose of having noted on the certificate such second or junior mortgage. Within fifteen days after the receipt of such demand, the person holding such certificate shall either mail or deliver the same to such director's authorized agent or, if the person no longer has possession of the certificate, shall so notify the agent and, if the person knows, shall likewise inform the agent where and from whom such certificate may be procured. Upon the receipt of such certificate, the director's authorized agent shall complete an application for a new title and record the number thereof on the mortgage, as in the case of a first mortgage,

and shall, as in the case of a first mortgage, issue and file a new certificate of title on which record the existence of all mortgages on the motor vehicle, including such second or junior mortgage, have been noted.

(4) If a person lawfully in possession of a certificate of title to a motor or off-highway vehicle, upon whom demand is made for the delivery to the authorized agent, fails to deliver or mail the certificate of title to the authorized agent, the person is liable to the holder of the junior mortgage for all damage sustained by reason of the omission.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2462, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (1), (2), and (3) amended, p. 1667, § 22, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2013:** (1), (2), and (4) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, pp. 2391, 2398, §§ 25, 44, effective June 5; (2) amended, (HB 13-1289), ch. 380, p. 2226, § 7, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-127.5 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-129 was relocated to § 42-6-131.

(2) Amendments to subsection (2) by sections 25 and 44 of Senate Bill 13-280 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in the 2013 act amending subsection (2), see section 1 of chapter 380, Session Laws of Colorado 2013.

#### **42-6-130. Priority of secured interests.**

The liens or mortgages filed for record or noted on a certificate of title to a motor or off-highway vehicle, as provided in section 42-6-121, take priority in the same order that they were filed with the authorized agent; except that the priority of a purchase-money security interest, as defined in section 4-9-103, C.R.S., is determined in accordance with sections 4-9-317 (e) and 4-9-324 (a), C.R.S.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2463, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1668, § 23, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 818, § 19, effective August 8. **L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (SB 09-150), ch. 182, p. 802, § 4, effective April 22. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2391, § 26, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-128 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-130 was relocated to § 42-6-132.

#### **42-6-131. Mechanic's, warehouse, and other liens.**

Nothing in this part 1 impairs the rights of lien claimants arising under a mechanic's lien or the lien of a warehouse or other person claimed for repairs on or storage of a motor or off-highway vehicle when a mechanic's lien or storage lien originated prior to a mortgage or lien on the motor or off-highway vehicle being filed for record and the vehicle has remained continuously in the possession of the person claiming the mechanic's lien or lien for storage.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2463, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2005: Entire section amended, p. 818, § 20, effective August 8. L. 2013: Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2391, § 27, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-129 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-131 was relocated to § 42-6-133.

#### **42-6-132. Existing mortgages not affected. (Repealed)**

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2464, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2005: Entire section amended, p. 818, § 21, effective August 8. L. 2009: Entire section repealed, (HB 09-1089), ch. 196, p. 883, § 6, effective October 1.

#### **42-6-133. Foreign mortgages and liens.**

A mortgage or lien on a motor or off-highway vehicle filed for record in a state other than Colorado is not valid and enforceable against the rights of subsequent purchasers for value, creditors, lienholders, or mortgagees having no actual notice of the existence of the mortgage or lien. If the certificate of title for the vehicle bears any notation adequate to apprise a purchaser, creditor, lienholder, or mortgagee of the existence of a mortgage or lien at the time a third party acquires a right in the motor vehicle, the mortgage or lien and the rights of the holder of the mortgage or lien are enforceable in this state as though the mortgage were filed in Colorado and

noted on the certificate of title or noted in the record of the authorized agent for the vehicle under section 42-6-121.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2464, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1668, § 24, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 818, § 22, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2392, § 28, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-131 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-133 was relocated to § 42-6-135.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-133 is similar to § 42-6-131 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, relevant cases construing that provision have been included in the annotations to this section.

**Purpose, application, and limitations of section.** The purpose of this section, being to apprise a local purchaser of the existence of a foreign lien, it applies only to a regular and nonfraudulent foreign title, and its operation is limited to the protection of a local innocent purchaser where a foreign title is issued without notation of lien. *Federico v. Universal C.I.T. Credit Corp.*, 140 Colo. 145, 343 P.2d 830 (1959).

**Refusal to give effect to mortgage filed for record in foreign state.** In the first sentence of this section the general assembly has changed the prior law by refusing to give effect to a mortgage that is filed for record in a foreign state and nothing more, at least in a state which uses the system of

certificates of title. *Federico v. Universal C.I.T. Credit Corp.*, 140 Colo. 145, 343 P.2d 830 (1959).

**Modified by second sentence of section.** If taken literally, the first sentence of this section would indicate that no foreign mortgage shall be enforceable against a subsequent purchaser for value in Colorado. However, the second sentence of the same section refers to the "certificate of title for such vehicle ... under the laws of ... any other state". Thus, it would appear that the second sentence modifies and thus limits the first sentence to application to mortgages originating in certificate of title states. *Doenges-Glass, Inc. v. GMAC*, 175 Colo. 518, 488 P.2d 879 (1971).

**In view of this section, the provisions of § 42-6-119 requiring filing of mortgages does not apply** to foreign mortgages. *First Nat'l Bank v. Chuck Lowen, Inc.*, 128 Colo. 104, 261 P.2d 158 (1953).

**The recognition of a foreign mortgage depends not upon its being filed for record, but upon its appearing on the certificate of title.** First Nat'l Bank v. Chuck Lowen, Inc., 128 Colo. 104, 261 P.2d 158 (1953); Fleming v. Gevelhoff, 133 Colo. 436, 296 P.2d 748 (1956).

**The present statutory method of protection is by means of showing of encumbrances on the title certificate.** Fleming v. Gevelhoff, 133 Colo. 436, 296 P.2d 748 (1956).

**This section is clearly designed to encourage other states to require notation** as a means of protecting their citizens holding mortgages on motor vehicles which can easily be moved into this state as well as to other states. Federico v. Universal C.I.T. Credit Corp., 140 Colo. 145, 343 P.2d 830 (1959).

**Where the title to a truck bore a notation adequate to apprise** a purchaser, creditor, or mortgagee and the chattel mortgage is therefore entitled to the same effect as though it were filed in this state in the manner prescribed by statute. First Sec. Bank v. Crouse, 374 F.2d 17 (10th Cir. 1967).

**An attaching creditor with notice that there is doubt as to the title to a vehicle may not prevail over a foreign mortgage** regardless of a failure of the mortgagee to comply with the requirement of the foreign state for filing mortgages by failure to note

the mortgage on the original certificate of title. Federico v. Universal C.I.T. Credit Corp., 140 Colo. 145, 343 P.2d 830 (1959).

**The rule of comity requires** that a foreign lien on a motor vehicle is enforceable in this state provided it is valid in the state where it is executed. Doenges-Glass, Inc. v. GMAC, 28 Colo. App. 283, 472 P.2d 761 (1970), aff'd, 175 Colo. 518, 488 P.2d 879 (1971).

**Only if a certificate of title is issued and delivered to the buyer will this rule be disregarded.** Doenges-Glass, Inc. v. GMAC, 28 Colo. App. 283, 472 P.2d 761 (1970), aff'd, 175 Colo. 518, 488 P.2d 879 (1971).

**This section does not render a foreign mortgage unenforceable against a third party where a sale is without a certificate of title.** Federico v. Universal C.I.T. Credit Corp., 140 Colo. 145, 343 P.2d 830 (1959).

**The defense provided by this section to the enforceability of foreign lien is applicable only if** the subsequent purchaser acquired superior rights to the motor vehicle, and the acquisition of such rights is dependent upon compliance with § 42-6-108. Doenges-Glass, Inc. v. GMAC, 28 Colo. App. 283, 472 P.2d 761 (1970), aff'd, 175 Colo. 518, 488 P.2d 879 (1971).

**This section must be read together with § 42-6-108.** Federico v. Universal C.I.T. Credit Corp., 140 Colo. 145, 343 P.2d 830 (1959).



#### **42-6-134. Where application for certificates of title made.**

Except as otherwise provided in this part 1, a person shall apply for recording of a certificate of title upon the sale or transfer of a motor or off-highway vehicle with the authorized agent of the county where the vehicle will be registered for operation. If the certificate of title application is made through a third-party provider, the applicant need not be physically present in the county where the vehicle will be registered if the third-party provider applies for a certificate of title in the county where the vehicle will be registered.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2464, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1668, § 25, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 819, § 23, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2392, § 29, effective June 5. **L. 2018:** Entire section amended, (HB 18-1299), ch. 297, p. 1814, § 12, effective July 1, 2019.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-132 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-134 was relocated to § 42-6-136.

#### **42-6-135. Lost certificates of title.**

(1) If data is lost transmitting an application for a certificate of title and accompanying documentation, which may be transmitted by the authorized agent to the director and upon an appropriate application of the owner or other person entitled to such certificate of title, such certificate of title may be reissued or recorded bearing such notations respecting existing unreleased mortgages or liens on the vehicle as indicated by the director's or authorized agent's records. Such certificate of title shall be issued without charge.

(2) If the title owner, lienholder, or mortgagee of a certificate of title loses, misplaces, or accidentally destroys a certificate of title to a motor or off-highway vehicle that the person holds as described in the certificate of title, upon application, the director or the authorized agent may issue a duplicate copy of the recorded certificate of title as in other cases.

(3) (a) Upon the issuance of a copy of the recorded certificate of title as provided for in this section, the director or the authorized agent shall note on the copy every mortgage shown to be unreleased and the lien that is in effect as disclosed by the records of the director or authorized agent and shall dispose of such certificate as in other cases.

(b) Upon the payment or discharge of the debt secured by a mortgage on a motor vehicle that has been filed for record in the manner prescribed in section 42-6-121, the lienholder shall notify

the authorized agent of the satisfaction and release of the mortgage, setting forth any facts concerning the right of the holder to release the mortgage as the director may require. The satisfaction and release shall be affirmed by a statement signed by the lienholder noted in the certificate of title and shall contain or be accompanied by a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury in the second degree, as defined in section 18-8-503, C.R.S. Upon receiving a valid satisfaction and release, the director or authorized agent shall note the release of the lien and shall issue a certificate of title for the motor vehicle, omitting all reference to the mortgage.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2464, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1668, § 26, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 819, § 24, effective August 8. **L. 2009:** (3) amended, (HB 09-1089), ch. 196, p. 883, § 7, effective October 1. **L. 2013:** (2) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2392, § 30, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-133 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-135 was relocated to § 42-6-137.

**Cross references:** For payment of bond for issuance of certificate, see § 42-6-115.

#### **42-6-136. Surrender and cancellation of certificate - penalty for violation.**

(1) (a) The owner of a motor or off-highway vehicle for which a Colorado certificate of title has been issued, upon the destruction or dismantling of the vehicle or upon its being changed so that it is no longer a motor or off-highway vehicle, shall surrender the certificate of title to the vehicle to the director or the authorized agent or notify the director or the authorized agent on director-approved forms indicating the loss, destruction, or dismantling. Upon receiving the surrendered certificate of title or the notice of loss, destruction, or dismantling, the director or authorized agent shall classify the vehicle as junk.

(b) The department shall not issue a certificate of title to a vehicle classified as junk. The holder of a lien or mortgage secured by the vehicle's title for the purchase shall surrender the title to the department. The department shall cancel the title and remove the vehicle identification number from the motor vehicle database.

(c) Upon the owner's procuring the consent of the holders of unreleased mortgages or liens noted on or recorded as part of the certificate of title, the director or authorized agent shall cancel the certificate.

(d) A person who violates this section commits a petty offense and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-503.

(2) (a) When a motor vehicle owner determines that a motor vehicle for which a Colorado certificate of title has been issued is nonrepairable, the owner of the vehicle shall apply for a nonrepairable title. To be issued a nonrepairable title, an applicant must provide the director with evidence of ownership that satisfies the director of the applicant's right to have a nonrepairable title filed in the applicant's favor. If a motor vehicle is nonrepairable, the director or authorized agent shall issue the vehicle a nonrepairable title.

(b) Upon the owner's procuring the consent of the holder of an unreleased mortgage or lien noted on the certificate of title, the director or authorized agent shall cancel the vehicle's registration.

(3) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2014.)

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2464, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 1669, § 27, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2002:** (1) amended, p. 1563, § 375, effective October 1; (3) amended, p. 635, § 1, effective January 1, 2003. **L. 2004:** (3) amended, p. 931, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 819, § 25, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** (1) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2392, § 31, effective June 5. **L. 2014:** Entire section amended, (HB 14-1100), ch. 122, p. 434, § 5, effective August 6. **L. 2021:** (1)(d) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3320, § 754, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-134 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-136 was relocated to § 42-6-138.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsection (1), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-136 is the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by similar to § 42-6-134 as it existed prior to SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that

provision has been included in the annotations to this section.

**Legislative intent.** The general assembly amended this section in 1976 in an effort to thwart the use of a vehicular theft device known as the "salvage switch". Colorado Auto & Truck Wreckers Ass'n v. Dept. of Rev., 618 P.2d 646 (Colo. 1980).

**Section is not invalid as improper delegation of legislative authority** to the department of revenue. Colorado Auto & Truck Wreckers Ass'n v. Dept. of Rev., 618 P.2d 646 (Colo. 1980).

**"Salvage"** connotes the secondary or scrap value of a motor vehicle stemming

from a state of damage or disrepair that renders the vehicle unsuitable for its originally intended use on the public highways in the absence of major alteration or repair. Colorado Auto & Truck Wreckers Ass'n v. Dept. of Rev., 618 P.2d 646 (Colo. 1980).

**"Sold or otherwise disposed of as salvage"** is sufficiently definite so as to provide notice to potential wrongdoers of the proscribed conduct and to protect against discriminatory enforcement. Colorado Auto & Truck Wreckers Ass'n v. Dept. of Rev., 618 P.2d 646 (Colo. 1980).

#### **42-6-136.5. Salvage title.**

(1) Upon the sale or transfer of a motor vehicle for which a current Colorado certificate of title has been issued or filed and that has become a salvage vehicle, the purchaser or transferee shall apply for a salvage certificate of title. The owner of the vehicle may apply for a salvage certificate of title before the sale or transfer of the vehicle. To be issued a salvage title, an owner applying for a salvage certificate of title must provide the director with evidence of ownership that satisfies the director of the applicant's right to have a salvage certificate of title filed in the applicant's favor.

(2) (a) An owner of a salvage motor vehicle that has been made roadworthy who applies for a certificate of title as provided in section 42-6-116 shall include the information regarding the vehicle as the director may require by rule. To be issued a salvage title, the owner must provide to the director evidence of ownership that satisfies the director that the applicant is entitled to file a certificate of title. The director shall place a designation in a conspicuous place in the record when a salvage vehicle has been made roadworthy. The director shall include the words "REBUILT FROM SALVAGE" and shall make the designation a permanent part of the certificate of title for the vehicle, so that the phrase appears on all subsequent certificates of title for the vehicle.

(b) (I) An owner of a salvage motor vehicle that has been made roadworthy who applies for a certificate of title in accordance with section 42-6-116 shall include a certified VIN inspection in accordance with section 42-5-202 by a certified VIN inspector.

(II) To pass the VIN inspection required by this paragraph (b), the applicant must stamp a motor vehicle with a salvage brand using the words "REBUILT FROM SALVAGE" with each letter being not less than one-fourth inch in height. The brand must be placed in the following locations:

- (A) In a motorcycle, on the frame in a visible location;
- (B) In a class A manufactured motor home, on the main entrance door jamb;
- (C) In a trailer, adjacent to the public vehicle identification number; and
- (D) In all other motor vehicles, on the body post to which the driver's door latches, also known as the driver's door B pillar.

(c) (I) Except as provided in subsection (2)(c)(II) of this section, a person commits a class 2 misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501 if the person:

- (A) Intentionally removes or alters a salvage brand; or
- (B) Possesses a motor vehicle without retitling the vehicle with a salvage brand for forty-five days after learning that the motor vehicle's salvage brand may have been removed or altered.

(II) A person may remove or alter a salvage brand if necessary to legitimately repair a motor vehicle. To qualify for this exception, the person must provide evidence of the repair to the investigating law enforcement authority. The evidence must include pre-repair and post-repair photographs of the affected motor vehicle part and the salvage brand and a signed affidavit describing the repairs. Upon repair, or subsequent repair, the person or owner must restamp the vehicle.

**Source: L. 2014:** Entire section added, (HB 14-1100), ch. 122, p. 436, § 6, effective August 6.  
**L. 2021:** IP(2)(c)(I) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3321, § 755, effective March 1, 2022.

#### **42-6-137. Fees.**

(1) (a) Upon filing with the authorized agent an application for a certificate of title, the applicant shall pay to the agent a fee of seven dollars and twenty cents, which shall be in addition to the fees for the registration of such motor vehicle. If the additional fee of seven dollars and twenty cents is collected by a third-party provider, as defined in section 42-1-102, the provider shall collect and remit the fee to the department, who shall transmit the fee to the authorized agent.

(b) Repealed.

(2) Upon the receipt by an authorized agent of a mortgage for filing under section 42-6-121, 42-6-125, or 42-6-129, the filer shall pay the authorized agent the fees that are imposed by law for the filing of like instruments in the office of the county clerk and recorder and, in addition, a fee of seven dollars and twenty cents for the issuance or recording of the certificate of title and the notation of the existence of the mortgage. If the additional fee of seven dollars and twenty cents is collected by a third-party provider, as defined in section 42-1-102, the provider shall collect and remit the fee to the department, who shall transmit the fee to the authorized agent.

(3) Upon application to the authorized agent to have noted or recorded on a certificate of title the extension of a mortgage described in the certificate of title and noted or recorded on the certificate, such authorized agent shall receive a fee of one dollar and fifty cents.

(4) Upon the release and satisfaction of a mortgage and upon application to the authorized agent for the notation on the certificate of title pursuant to section 42-6-125, such authorized agent shall be paid a fee of seven dollars and twenty cents.

(5) For the issuance of a copy of a recorded certificate of title, except as may be otherwise provided in this part 1, the authorized agent shall be paid a fee of eight dollars and twenty cents. If the department assigns a new identifying number to any motor vehicle, the fee charged for such assignment shall be three dollars and fifty cents.

(6) Upon filing with the director or authorized agent an application for a certificate of title, a motor or off-highway vehicle dealer who applies to receive a certificate of title shall pay to the director or authorized agent a fee of twenty-five dollars.

(7) An authorized agent shall, if possible, provide the following recording of titles on the same day as the date of request by an applicant:

(a) A title issued because of a transfer of a motor or off-highway vehicle currently titled in Colorado;

(b) A title issued for a new motor or off-highway vehicle upon filing of a manufacturer's statement of origin without liens; and

(c) Any other title issued or recorded by the director or the authorized agent. The director and authorized agents shall take into account the best service for citizens in the most cost-effective manner, the use of electronic issuance of titles, and consideration of the business plan for issuing titles at county offices.

(8) Notwithstanding the amount specified for any fee in this section, the director by rule or as otherwise provided by law may reduce the amount of one or more of the fees if necessary pursuant to section 24-75-402 (3), C.R.S., to reduce the uncommitted reserves of the fund to which all or any portion of one or more of the fees is credited. After the uncommitted reserves of

the fund are sufficiently reduced, the director by rule or as otherwise provided by law may increase the amount of one or more of the fees as provided in section 24-75-402 (4), C.R.S.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2465, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (5) amended, p. 800, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (8) added, p. 1359, § 115, effective June 1; (1), (2), and (5) amended and (7) added, p. 928, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (2), (3), (5), IP(7), and (7)(c) amended, p. 1669, § 28, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (1), (2), and (5) amended, p. 814, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2002:** (1)(b)(III) amended, p. 951, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2003:** (4) amended, p. 1978, § 4, effective May 22. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 821, § 26, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** (2), (6), (7)(a), and (7)(b) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2393, § 32, effective June 5. **L. 2018:** (1)(a) and (2) amended, (HB 18-1299), ch. 297, p. 1814, § 13, effective July 1, 2019. **L. 2022:** (6) amended, (HB 22-1388), ch. 475, p. 3465, § 13, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-135 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-137 was relocated to § 42-6-139.

(2) Subsection (8) was originally numbered as (7) in Senate Bill 98-194 but has been renumbered on revision for ease of location.

(3) Subsection (1)(b)(III) provided for the repeal of subsection (1)(b), effective September 1, 2006. (See L. 2002, p. 951.)

#### **42-6-138. Disposition of fees.**

(1) (a) All fees received by the authorized agent under section 42-6-137 (1)(a), (2), or (4) or 38-29-138 (1)(a), (2), or (4) upon application for a certificate of title, shall be disposed of as follows: Four dollars shall be retained by the authorized agent and disposition made as provided by law; three dollars and twenty cents shall be credited to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(b) Repealed.

(2) The authorized agent shall dispose of all fees collected under section 42-6-137 (5) or 38-29-138 (5) as follows:

(a) For a copy of a recorded certificate of title, six dollars and fifty cents shall be retained by the authorized agent and disposition made as provided by law; and one dollar and seventy cents shall be credited to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2); and

(b) For assignment of a new identifying number to a motor or off-highway vehicle or manufactured home, the authorized agent shall retain two dollars and fifty cents and dispose of it as provided by law and shall credit one dollar to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2). The department shall credit all fees it collects under section 42-6-137 (1)(a), (4), or (5) or 38-29-138 (1)(a), (4), or (5) to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account.

(3) The authorized agent shall retain all fees paid under section 42-6-137 (3) for the extension of a mortgage or lien on a motor or off-highway vehicle filed in the authorized agent's office to defray the cost of the extension or release and shall dispose of the fees as provided by law; except that the authorized agent shall dispose of fees for this service that are paid in the city and county of Denver in the same manner as fees retained by the agent that were paid for filing an application for a certificate of title.

(4) (a) The department shall credit the fee paid by a motor or off-highway vehicle dealer pursuant to section 42-6-137 (6) for issuance of a certificate of title to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

(b) Of the fees received by an authorized agent in accordance with section 42-6-137 (6), the authorized agent shall:

(I) Retain twenty-one dollars and eighty cents; and

(II) Transmit three dollars and twenty cents to the state treasurer, who shall credit the amount to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2466, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (2) amended, p. 800, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (1) and (2) amended, p. 929, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (2) and (3) amended, p. 1670, § 29, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2001:** (1) amended, p. 815, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2002:** (2) amended, p. 1034, § 76, effective June 1; (1)(b)(II) amended, p. 951, § 2, effective August 7. **L. 2003:** (1)(a), (2), and (3) amended, p. 1979, § 5, effective May 22. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 822, § 27, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** IP(2), (2)(b), (3), and (4) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2393, § 33, effective June 5. **L. 2022:** (1)(a), (2), and (4) amended, (HB 22-1339), ch. 135, p. 915, § 20, effective July 1; (4) amended, (HB 22-1388), ch. 475, p. 3465, § 14, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-136 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-138 was relocated to § 42-6-140.

(2) Subsection (1)(b)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (1)(b), effective September 1, 2006. (See L. 2002, p. 951.)



(3) Amendments to subsection (4) by HB 22-1388 and HB 22-1339 were harmonized, effective January 1, 2023.

**42-6-139. Registration and title application - where made.**

(1) (a) For purposes of this section, a person's residence is the person's principal or primary home or place of abode, to be determined in the same manner as residency for voter registration purposes as provided in sections 1-2-102 and 31-10-201, C.R.S.; except that, in applying the terms of those sections, "voter registration" is replaced with "motor vehicle registration" or "off-highway vehicle registration" as a circumstance to be taken into account in determining the principal or primary home or place of abode.

(b) A person's residence for the purposes of titling an off-highway vehicle is the same as determined by paragraph (a) of this subsection (1).

(2) (a) Except as may be otherwise provided by rule of the director, it is unlawful for a person who is a resident of the state to register, obtain a license for, or procure a certificate of title to a motor vehicle at any address other than:

(I) For a motor vehicle owned by a business and operated primarily for business purposes, the address where the vehicle is principally operated and maintained; or

(II) For a motor vehicle to which subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a) does not apply, the address of the owner's residence; except that, if a motor vehicle is permanently maintained at an address other than the address of the owner's residence, the vehicle shall be registered at the address where the vehicle is permanently maintained.

(b) Except as may be otherwise provided by rule of the director, it is unlawful for a person who is a resident of the state to procure a certificate of title to an off-highway vehicle at an address other than:

(I) For an off-highway vehicle owned by a business and operated primarily for business purposes, the address where the vehicle is principally operated and maintained; or

(II) For an off-highway vehicle to which subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b) does not apply, the address of the owner's residence; except that, if an off-highway vehicle is permanently maintained at an address other than the address of the owner's residence, the vehicle must be registered at the address where the vehicle is permanently maintained.

(3) A person who knowingly violates any of the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, section 42-3-103 (4)(a), or section 42-6-140 or any rule of the director promulgated pursuant to this part 1 commits a petty offense.

(4) In addition to any other applicable penalty, a person who violates subsection (2) of this section, section 42-3-103 (4)(a), or section 42-6-140 is subject to a civil penalty of five hundred dollars. The violation is determined by, assessed by, and paid to the municipality or county where the motor or off-highway vehicle is or should have been registered, subject to judicial review pursuant to rule 106 (a)(4) of the Colorado rules of civil procedure.

(5) A person subject to the penalties imposed by this section continues to be liable for unpaid registration fees, specific ownership taxes, or other taxes and fees concerning the registration of a vehicle owed by such person.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2467, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (3) and (4) amended and (5) added, p. 1003, § 7, effective August 6. **L. 98:** (3) and (4) amended, p. 787, § 3, effective July 1, 1999. **L. 2003:** (3) and (4) amended, p. 2004, § 74, effective May 22. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 823, § 28, effective August 8; (3) and (4) amended, p. 1179, § 20, effective August 8. **L. 2009:** (3) amended, (SB 09-108), ch. 5, p. 52, § 11, effective March 2. **L. 2013:** (1), (2), and (4) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2394, § 34, effective June 5. **L. 2021:** (3) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3321, § 756, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-137 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-139 was relocated to § 42-6-141.

(2) Amendments to subsections (3) and (4) by Senate Bill 05-038 and House Bill 05-1107 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** For penalties for petty offenses, see § 18-1.3-503.

## ANNOTATION

**Use of the term "owner" in subsection (2)(b) applies to business entities as well as natural persons.** A vehicle does not necessarily qualify for registration under subsection (2)(a) simply because it is owned by a business. Although ownership by a

business is one criterion, the vehicle must also be operated primarily for business purposes. *Stevinson Imports, Inc. v. City & County of Denver*, 143 P.3d 1099 (Colo. App. 2006).

#### **42-6-140. Registration upon becoming resident.**

Within ninety days after becoming a resident of Colorado, the owner of a motor vehicle shall apply for a Colorado certificate of title, a license, and registration for the vehicle that is registered, that is licensed, or for which a certificate of title is issued in another state. Any person who violates the provisions of this section is subject to the penalties provided in sections 42-6-139 and 43-4-804 (1)(d), C.R.S.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2467, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** Entire section amended, p. 1003, § 8, effective August 6. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 824, § 29, effective August 8. **L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (SB 09-108), ch. 5, p. 52, § 12, effective March 2.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-138 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-140 was relocated to § 42-6-142.

**Cross references:** For registration requirements and exemptions, see § 42-3-103.

#### **42-6-141. Director's records to be public.**

Records in the director's office pertaining to the title to a motor or off-highway vehicle are public records subject to section 42-1-206. This includes records regarding ownership of and mortgages or liens on a vehicle for which a Colorado certificate of title has been issued.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2468, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 824, § 30, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** Entire section amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2395, § 35, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-139 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-141 was relocated to § 42-6-143.

#### **42-6-142. Penalties.**

(1) A person shall not sell, transfer, or in any manner dispose of a motor or off-highway vehicle in this state without complying with this part 1.

(2) A person who violates subsection (1) of this section for which no other penalty is expressly provided commits a petty offense.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2468, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 824, § 31, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** (1) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2395, § 36, effective June 5. **L. 2021:** (2) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3321, § 757, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-140 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-142 was relocated to § 42-6-145.

**Cross references:** For penalties for petty offenses, see § 18-1.3-503.

#### **ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-142 is similar to § 42-6-140 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included in the annotations to this section.

**Where violation occurred prior to July 1, 1988,** and since this statute did not provide for probation, it was illegal for court to impose a fine and then suspend the fine and place the defendant on probation conditioned on restitution. *People v. Rollins*, 771 P.2d 32 (Colo. App. 1989).

#### **42-6-143. Altering or using altered certificate.**

A person who causes to be altered or forged a certificate of title issued by the director pursuant to this part 1, or a written transfer of a title, or any other notation placed on the title by the director or under the director's authority concerning a mortgage or lien or who uses or attempts to use any such certificate to transfer the vehicle, knowing it to be altered or forged, commits a class 6 felony and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-401, C.R.S.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2468, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2002:** Entire section amended, p. 1563, § 376, effective October 1. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 825, § 32, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-141 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-143 was relocated to § 42-6-146.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

#### **42-6-144. False oath.**

A person who applies for a certificate of title, written transfer of a title, satisfaction and release, oath, affirmation, affidavit, statement, report, or deposition required to be made or taken under any of the provisions of this article, and who, upon such application, transfer, satisfaction and release, oath, affirmation, affidavit, statement, report, or deposition, swears or affirms willfully and falsely in a matter material to any issue, point, or subject matter in question, in addition to any other penalties provided in this article, is guilty of perjury in the second degree, as defined in section 18-8-503, C.R.S.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2468, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 825, § 33, effective August 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-141.5 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-6-145. Use of vehicle identification numbers in applications - rules.**

(1) (a) A person required to apply for a certificate of title or registration of a motor vehicle shall use the identification number placed upon the motor vehicle by the manufacturer or the special vehicle identification number assigned to the motor vehicle by the department pursuant to section 42-12-202. The department shall not issue a certificate of title or registration card unless it uses the identification number of the motor vehicle.

(b) A person required to apply for a certificate of title for an off-highway vehicle shall use the identification number placed upon the vehicle by the manufacturer or the special vehicle

identification number assigned to the off-highway vehicle by the department. The department shall not issue a certificate of title unless it uses the identification number of the off-highway vehicle; except that, if the vehicle does not have a conforming identification number or is a duplicate, the department shall assign a special identification number for the certificate of title and require the owner to place the number on the vehicle.

(2) The identification number provided for in this section shall be accepted in lieu of any motor number or serial number provided for in this title.

(3) (a) After receiving an application for a certificate of title, the department or its authorized agent shall electronically verify with the department of public safety that the motor vehicle has not been reported stolen. The department shall not register a motor vehicle reported stolen in the system until the vehicle is recovered by the owner.

(b) The department shall promulgate rules setting forth procedures to notify the local law enforcement agency upon discovery that a person is attempting to obtain a certificate of title for a stolen motor vehicle.

(c) This subsection (3) is effective July 1, 2009.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2468, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (1) amended, p. 1648, § 41, effective June 1. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 825, § 34, effective August 8. **L. 2008:** (3) added, p. 1025, § 3, effective August 5. **L. 2011:** (1) amended, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 248, § 18, effective August 10. **L. 2013:** (1) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2395, § 37, effective June 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-142 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-145 is similar to § 42-6-142 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included in the annotations to this section.

everything they can to comply with its provisions, but the statutory protection fails when the vehicle is stolen and its identification number changed. *Webb v. M.F.A. Mut. Ins. Co.*, 44 Colo. App. 210, 620 P.2d 38 (1980).

**Certificate of title act does not defeat insurable interest** when the purchasers do

**42-6-146. Repossession of motor vehicle or off-highway vehicle - owner must notify law enforcement agency - definition - penalty.**

(1) If a mortgagee, lienholder, or the mortgagee's or lienholder's assignee or the agent of either repossesses a motor or off-highway vehicle because of default in the terms of a secured debt, the reposessor shall notify, either orally or in writing, a law enforcement agency, as provided in this section, of the repossession, the name of the owner, the name of the reposessor, and the name of the mortgagee, lienholder, or assignee. The notification must be made at least one hour before, if possible, and in any event no later than one hour after, the repossession occurs. If the repossession takes place in an incorporated city or town, the reposessor shall notify the police department, town marshal, or other local law enforcement agency of the city or town. If the repossession takes place in the unincorporated area of a county, the reposessor shall notify the county sheriff.

(2) A reposessor who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a petty offense.

(3) If a motor or off-highway vehicle being repossessed is subject to the "Uniform Commercial Code - Secured Transactions", article 9 of title 4, C.R.S., the repossession is governed by section 4-9-629, C.R.S.

(4) As used in this section, the term "reposessor" means the party who physically takes possession of the motor or off-highway vehicle and drives, tows, or transports the vehicle for delivery to the mortgagee, lienholder, or assignee or the agent of the mortgagee, lienholder, or assignee.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2469, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2001:** (3) amended, p. 1448, § 47, effective July 1. **L. 2002:** (2) amended, p. 1564, § 377, effective October 1. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 825, § 35, effective August 8. **L. 2013:** (1), (3), and (4) amended, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2395, § 38, effective June 5. **L. 2021:** (2) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3321, § 758, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-143 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** (1) For penalties for petty offenses, see § 18-1.3-503.

(2) For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsection (2), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

#### **42-6-147. Central registry - rules.**

(1) The director shall maintain a central registry of electronic files for all certificates of title, mortgages, liens, releases of liens or mortgages, and extensions. The authorized agents shall transmit all electronic filing information to the director for maintenance of the registry. The director shall promulgate rules:

(a) To determine when an electronic signature is acceptable for the purposes of filing certificate of title documents; and

(b) As may be necessary for the administration of electronic filing of certificates of title and all related documents.

(2) The director shall develop a plan to implement electronic filing on a statewide basis. The director shall encourage participation by the counties in an electronic filing system. The director shall begin the implementation of the electronic filing system no later than July 1, 2001, and shall complete the statewide implementation of electronic filing no later than July 1, 2006. The director may grant an exclusion from participation in the electronic filing system upon application by an individual county that demonstrates reasonable cause why electronic filing would be burdensome to the county.

**Source: L. 2000:** Entire section added, p. 1671, § 30, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2005:** Entire section amended, p. 826, § 36, effective August 8.

#### **42-6-148. Off-highway vehicles - sales.**

(1) (a) Unless the owner has obtained a certificate of title for an off-highway vehicle under this article, a person shall not sell the off-highway vehicle and a vehicle dealer shall not purchase the off-highway vehicle; except that the dealer may purchase an off-highway vehicle without a certificate of title if the vehicle has never been titled and was originally purchased in:

(I) Colorado before July 1, 2014; or

(II) A foreign jurisdiction that does not or did not issue certificates of title to off-highway vehicles when purchased.

(b) If an off-highway vehicle dealer purchases an off-highway vehicle without a certificate of title, the dealer shall before finalizing the purchase require the seller to sign an affidavit that:

(I) Is made under penalty of perjury;

(II) States whether the vehicle is subject to a lien interest, and if there is a lienholder, the name of the lienholder;



- (III) States that the seller owns the off-highway vehicle;
- (IV) Indicates how long the seller has owned the off-highway vehicle; and
- (V) Contains a warning to the seller that falsifying the affidavit is perjury because the affidavit is submitted to a public official.

(c) Upon being contacted by a powersports vehicle dealer, a law enforcement agency shall check the Colorado crime information center computer system to ascertain if the off-highway vehicle has been reported stolen. If the off-highway vehicle has been stolen, the agency shall recover and secure the vehicle and notify its rightful owner. Upon the release of the off-highway vehicle to the owner or lienholder, the agency shall adjust or delete the entry in the Colorado crime information center computer system.

(d) To obtain a title for an off-highway vehicle that an off-highway vehicle dealer purchased without a certificate of title, the dealer must present to the department an affidavit as described in paragraph (b) of this subsection (1), signed by the seller from whom the off-highway vehicle dealer acquired the off-highway vehicle.

(e) A sale or purchase made in violation of this subsection (1) is void.

(2) A current off-highway vehicle registration issued under article 14.5 of title 33, C.R.S., is sufficient evidence of ownership to issue a certificate of title under this part 1 if the off-highway vehicle was first purchased in Colorado before July 1, 2014, and has been registered for at least one year.

(3) Until an off-highway vehicle is issued a certificate of title, the attachment, recording, perfection, priority, renewal, extension, modification, releasing, termination, foreclosure, and any other aspect of a security interest in an off-highway vehicle is governed by the "Uniform Commercial Code", title 4, C.R.S.

**Source: L. 2013:** Entire section added, (SB 13-280), ch. 407, p. 2396, § 39, effective June 5.  
**L. 2016:** (1) and (2) amended, (SB 16-010), ch. 69, p. 175, § 2, effective August 10.

## PART 2

### USED MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

#### **42-6-201. Definitions.**

As used in this part 2, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Owner" means the person who holds the legal title of a motor vehicle, but, in the event a motor vehicle is the subject of an agreement for the conditional sale or lease thereof, with the right to purchase upon the performance of the conditions stated in the agreement and with an immediate right to possession vested in the conditional vendee or lessee, or in the event a mortgagor of a vehicle is entitled to possession, then such conditional vendee, lessee, or mortgagor shall be deemed the owner.

(2) "Person" means an individual, firm, association, corporation, or partnership.

(3) "Private sale" means a sale or transfer of a used motor vehicle between two persons neither of whom is a used motor vehicle dealer.

(4) "Retail used motor vehicle sale" means a sale or transfer of a used motor vehicle from a used motor vehicle dealer to a person other than a used motor vehicle dealer.

(5) "Sale" means that the buyer of the used motor vehicle has paid the purchase price or, in lieu thereof, has signed a purchase contract or security agreement and has taken physical possession or delivery of the used motor vehicle.

(6) "Sale between used motor vehicle dealers" means a sale or transfer of a used motor vehicle from one used motor vehicle dealer to another.

(7) "Sale from an owner other than a used motor vehicle dealer to a used motor vehicle dealer" means any sale, trade-in, or other transfer of a used motor vehicle from a person other than a used motor vehicle dealer to a used motor vehicle dealer.

(8) "Used motor vehicle" means every self-propelled motor vehicle having a gross weight of less than sixteen thousand pounds that has been sold, bargained for, exchanged, given away, leased, loaned, or driven as a "company executive car" or the title to which has been transferred from the person who first acquired it from the manufacturer or importer and it is so used as to have become what is commonly known as "secondhand" within the ordinary meaning thereof. A previously untitled motor vehicle that has been driven by the dealer for more than one thousand five hundred miles, excluding mileage incurred in the transit of the motor vehicle from the manufacturer to the dealer or from another dealer to the dealer, shall be considered a "used motor vehicle". This shall not apply to any automobile manufactured before January 1, 1942.

(9) "Used motor vehicle dealer" means any licensed motor vehicle dealer, used motor vehicle dealer, or wholesaler as defined by section 44-20-102.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2469, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (8) amended, p. 558, § 2, effective August 6. **L. 2017:** (9) amended, (SB 17-240), ch. 395, p. 2067, § 57, effective July 1. **L. 2018:** (9) amended, (SB 18-030), ch. 7, p. 143, § 25, effective October 1.

## ANNOTATION

**Part creates a presumption of reasonable reliance** from the mere receipt of the statement and makes material any misrepresentation appearing therein. *Lurvey v. Phil Long Ford, Inc.*, 37 Colo. App. 11, 541 P.2d 114 (1975).

**Part modifies common-law requirement.** In an action for fraud in a suit

alleging misrepresentations in an odometer statement, this part modifies the common-law requirement that the plaintiff, to establish a prima facie action, must prove that his reliance on that statement was reasonable. *Lurvey v. Phil Long Ford, Inc.*, 37 Colo. App. 11, 541 P.2d 114 (1975).

### **42-6-202. Prohibited acts - penalty.**

(1) It is unlawful for any person to advertise for sale, to sell, to use, or to install or to have installed any device which causes an odometer to register any mileage other than the true mileage driven. For purposes of this section, the true mileage driven is that mileage driven by the vehicle as registered by the odometer within the manufacturer's designed tolerance.

(2) It is unlawful for any person or the person's agent to disconnect, reset, or alter the odometer of any motor vehicle with the intent to change the number of miles indicated thereon.

(3) It is unlawful for any person, with the intent to defraud, to operate a motor vehicle on any street or highway knowing that the odometer of such vehicle is disconnected or nonfunctional.

(4) Nothing in this part 2 shall prevent the service, repair, or replacement of an odometer, if the mileage indicated thereon remains the same as before the service, repair, or replacement. When the odometer is incapable of registering the same mileage as before such service, repair, or replacement, the odometer shall be adjusted to read zero, and a notice in writing shall be attached to the left door frame of the vehicle by the owner or the owner's agent specifying the mileage prior to repair or replacement of the odometer and the date on which it was repaired or replaced. Any removal or alteration of such notice so affixed is unlawful.

(5) It is unlawful for any transferor to fail to comply with 49 U.S.C. sec. 32705 and any rule concerning odometer disclosure requirements or to knowingly give a false statement to a transferee in making any disclosure required by such law.

(6) (a) A person who violates subsection (1), (2), or (5) of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor.

(b) A person who violates subsection (3) of this section commits a petty offense.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2470, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2005:** (5) amended, p. 826, § 37, effective August 8. **L. 2021:** (6) added, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3321, § 759, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-206 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For penalties for misdemeanors, see § 18-1.3-501; for penalties for petty offenses, see § 18-1.3-503.

## ANNOTATION

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-202 is similar to § 42-6-206 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that provision has been included in the annotations to this section.

**Modifies common-law requirement.** In an action for fraud in a suit alleging misrepresentations in an odometer statement, this part modifies the common-law requirement that the plaintiff, to establish a prima facie action, must prove that his reliance on that statement was reasonable. *Lurvey v. Phil Long Ford, Inc.*, 37 Colo. App. 11, 541 P.2d 114 (1975).

**Part creates a presumption of reasonable reliance** from the mere receipt of the statement and makes material any

misrepresentation appearing therein. *Lurvey v. Phil Long Ford, Inc.*, 37 Colo. App. 11, 541 P.2d 114 (1975).

The statutory language in this section and § 42-6-208 is sufficiently strong to make clear the intent of the general assembly to afford plaintiffs the benefit of the rule as to presumption of reasonable reliance. *Lurvey v. Phil Long Ford, Inc.*, 37 Colo. App. 11, 541 P.2d 114 (1975).

**Which is rebuttable with burden on defendant.** The presumption of reasonable reliance by plaintiff on misrepresentation as to mileage is rebuttable and should be deemed to place the burden of proof on this issue upon the defendant rather than the plaintiffs. *Lurvey v. Phil Long Ford, Inc.*, 37 Colo. App. 11, 541 P.2d 114 (1975).

### 42-6-203. Penalty - repeal. (Repealed)

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2471, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2021:** (2) added by revision, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, pp. 3321, 3331, §§ 760, 803.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section was similar to former § 42-6-207 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Subsection (2) provided for the repeal of this section, effective March 1, 2022. (See L. 2021, pp. 3321, 3331.)

#### **42-6-204. Private civil action.**

(1) Any person who, with intent to defraud, violates any requirement imposed under this part 2 shall be liable in an amount equal to the sum of:

(a) Three times the amount of actual damages sustained or three thousand dollars, whichever is greater; and

(b) In the case of any successful action to enforce said liability, the costs of the action together with reasonable attorney fees as determined by the court.

(2) An action to enforce any liability created under subsection (1) of this section must be brought within the time period prescribed in section 13-80-102, C.R.S.

(3) There shall be no liability under this section if a judgment has been entered in federal court pursuant to section 409 of the "Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act", Public Law 92-513.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2471, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-208 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For current provisions relating to section 409 of the "Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act", see 49 U.S.C. sec. 32710.

#### **ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since § 42-6-204 is similar to § 42-6-208 as it existed prior to the 1994 amending of title 42 as enacted by SB 94-1, a relevant case construing that

provision has been included in the annotations to this section.

**Presumption of reasonable reliance intended.** The statutory language in § 42-6-

205 and this section is sufficiently strong to make clear the intent of the general assembly to afford plaintiffs the benefit of the rule as to presumption of reasonable reliance. *Lurvey v. Phil Long Ford, Inc.*, 37 Colo. App. 11, 541 P.2d 114 (1975).

**Rebuttal by defendant.** The presumption of reasonable reliance by plaintiff on misrepresentation as to mileage is rebuttable and should be deemed to place the burden of proof on this issue upon the defendant rather than the plaintiffs. *Lurvey v. Phil Long Ford, Inc.*, 37 Colo. App. 11, 541 P.2d 114 (1975).

#### **42-6-205. Consumer protection.**

All provisions of section 6-1-708, C.R.S., concerning deceptive trade practices in the sale of motor vehicles shall apply to the sale of used motor vehicles.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2471, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
L. 99: Entire section amended, p. 655, § 13, effective May 18.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-209 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-6-206. Disclosure requirements upon transfer of ownership of a salvage vehicle - rules - definitions.**

(1) Prior to sale of a vehicle rebuilt from salvage to a prospective purchaser for the purpose of selling or transferring ownership of such vehicle, the owner shall prepare a disclosure affidavit stating that the vehicle was rebuilt from salvage. The disclosure affidavit shall also contain a statement of the owner stating the nature of the damage which resulted in the determination that the vehicle is a salvage vehicle. The words "rebuilt from salvage" shall appear in bold print at the top of each such affidavit.

(2) ***[Editor's note: This version of the introductory portion to subsection (2) is effective until July 1, 2027.]*** Any person who sells a vehicle rebuilt from salvage for the purpose of transferring ownership of such vehicle shall:

(2) ***[Editor's note: This version of the introductory portion to subsection (2) is effective July 1, 2027.]*** If the title of a vehicle that was rebuilt from salvage does not have the "REBUILT FROM SALVAGE" disclosure on the title or if the vehicle is subject to multiple assignments, a person that sells the vehicle rebuilt from salvage shall:

(a) Provide a copy of a disclosure affidavit prepared in accordance with the provisions of subsection (1) of this section to each prospective purchaser; and

(b) Obtain a signed statement from each such purchaser clearly stating that the purchaser has received a copy of the disclosure affidavit and has read and understands the provisions contained therein.

(3) (a) Any person who purchases a vehicle rebuilt from salvage who was not provided with a copy of a disclosure affidavit prepared in accordance with the provisions of subsection (1) of this section and who, subsequent to sale, discovers that the vehicle purchased was rebuilt from salvage shall be entitled to a full and immediate refund of the purchase price from the prior owner.

(b) In the event a person is entitled to a refund under this subsection (3), the prior owner shall be required to make an immediate refund of the full purchase price to the purchaser. A signed statement from the purchaser prepared in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of this section shall relieve the prior owner of the obligation to make such refund.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b) of this section, any owner, seller, or transferor of a vehicle rebuilt from salvage who fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine for a first offense not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars and a fine of five thousand dollars for each subsequent offense.

(b) A person who violates subsection (2)(a) of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor.

(5) The executive director of the department of revenue shall prescribe rules and regulations for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this section.

(6) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Sale" means any sale or transfer of a vehicle rebuilt from salvage.

(b) "Salvage vehicle" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 42-6-102 (17).

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2472, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2009: (6)(b) amended, (SB 09-292), ch. 369, p. 1984, § 128, effective August 5. L. 2021: (4) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3321, § 761, effective March 1, 2022. L. 2025: IP(2) amended, (HB 25-1189), ch. 395, p. 2228, § 5, effective July 1, 2027.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-210 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-6-206 was relocated to § 42-6-202.

(2) Section 7(2) of chapter 395 (HB 25-1189), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to titles issued and fees incurred on or after July 1, 2027.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class 2 misdemeanor, see § 18-1.3-501.

## **MOTOR VEHICLE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY LAW**

### **ARTICLE 7**

#### **Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law**

| PART 1<br>GENERAL PROVISIONS                                                              |                                                                                                                 | security and proof of<br>financial responsibility<br>for the future.          |                                             |
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| 42-7-409. | Proof for member of family or chauffeur.                                            | 42-7-502.   | Action against nonresident - reciprocity with other states.                           |
| 42-7-410. | Certificate for insurance policy.                                                   | 42-7-503.   | Director to furnish operating record.                                                 |
| 42-7-411. | Restrictions in certain type of policy.                                             | 42-7-504.   | Matters not to be evidence in litigation.                                             |
| 42-7-412. | Certificate furnished by nonresident.                                               | 42-7-505.   | Forging ability to respond in damages.                                                |
| 42-7-413. | Motor vehicle liability policy.                                                     | 42-7-505.5. | Motor carrier indemnity agreements void - choice of law for transportation contracts. |
| 42-7-414. | Requirements to be complied with.                                                   |             |                                                                                       |
| 42-7-415. | When insurance carrier to issue certificate.                                        | 42-7-506.   | Surrender of license.                                                                 |
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## PART 1

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### **42-7-101. Short title.**

This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Act".

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2473, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

### ANNOTATION

**Applied** in *Genua v. Kilmer*, 37 Colo. App. 365, 546 P.2d 1279 (1976); *Rael v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 42 Colo. App. 66, 589 P.2d 515 (1979); *Briner v. Charnes*, 10 B.R. 850 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1981); *Marez v. Dairyland Ins. Co.*, 638 P.2d 286 (Colo. 1981).

#### **42-7-102. Legislative declaration.**

(1) The general assembly is acutely aware of the toll in human suffering and loss of life, limb, and property caused by negligence in the operation of motor vehicles in our state. Although it recognizes that this basic problem can be and is being dealt with by direct measures designed to protect our people from the ravages of irresponsible drivers, the general assembly is also very much concerned with the financial loss visited upon innocent traffic crash victims by negligent motorists who are financially irresponsible. In prescribing the sanctions and requirements of this article 7, it is the policy of this state to induce and encourage all motorists to provide for their financial responsibility for the protection of others and to assure the widespread availability to

the insuring public of insurance protection against financial loss caused by negligent financially irresponsible motorists.

(2) (a) The general assembly hereby finds that motor vehicle crashes cause a substantial economic impact in lost wages, medical bills, and property destruction exacerbated by the following:

(I) Some negligent motorists are uninsured or flee the scene of a crash.

(II) Negligent motorists often attempt to avoid financial responsibility by means such as fleeing the state, concealing their whereabouts, or failing to update the address on their driver's license with the department of revenue, thereby frustrating service of process and preventing the innocent victim from accessing either the negligent driver's liability insurance policy or the uninsured motorist coverage the victim has purchased.

(III) When innocent traffic crash victims cannot access either the negligent driver's automobile liability policy or their own uninsured motorist coverage, the burden of the uncompensated losses are borne by the taxpayer in the form of taxes for medicaid, by trauma facilities in the form of uncompensated hospital-related costs, and by the innocent victim.

(b) (I) The state of Colorado encourages the widespread availability of uninsured or underinsured motorist insurance by requiring every motor vehicle liability policy delivered or issued in this state to contain uninsured motorist coverage unless the named insured rejects such coverage in writing.

(II) Because insurance benefits have been paid for by either the negligent driver or the innocent victim for the purpose of compensating the innocent victim for injuries or losses, the general assembly declares that it is necessary to simplify the process for an innocent victim to access the negligent driver's liability insurance policy or his or her own uninsured motorist coverage in order to prevent the burden from being borne by the taxpayer or the health-care system.

(c) Therefore, the general assembly declares that the policy of Colorado is that all motor vehicle liability policies shall require policyholders of an automobile liability policy to appoint their insurance carrier as an agent for the purpose of service of process in certain limited instances in accordance with section 42-7-414 (3), and to deem a defendant to be uninsured for purposes of uninsured or underinsured motorist coverage if the court deems service on the defendant's insurance company to be ineffective or insufficient.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2473, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2010:** Entire section amended, (HB 10-1164), ch. 196, p. 846, § 2, effective January 1, 2011.

**L. 2026:** (1), IP(2)(a), (2)(a)(I), and (2)(a)(III) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 488, § 75, effective August 12.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "The Sociological and Legal Problem of the Uncompensated Motor Victim", see 11 Rocky Mt. L. Rev. 12 (1938). For article, "Über Problems: Ride-Sharing Exclusions in Personal Automobile Insurance Policies", see 47 Colo. Law. 46 (Aug.-Sept. 2018).

**Annotator's note.** Since this section is similar to repealed § 13-7-2(3), CRS 53, relevant cases construing § 13-7-2(3) have been included in the annotations to this section.

**When article applicable.** The provisions of this article do not come into play until an insurance policy has been certified as proof of financial responsibility. *Urtado v. Shupe*, 33 Colo. App. 162, 517 P.2d 1357 (1973), *aff'd*, 187 Colo. 24, 528 P.2d 222 (1974).

**The motor vehicle financial responsibility act does not require insurance.** *United States Fire Ins. Co. v. Goldstein Transp.*, 30 Colo. App. 478, 496 P.2d 1079 (1972).

**The modern trend of legislation is in the direction requiring operators of motor vehicles to maintain liability insurance** for the protection of third persons and this has been necessitated by the tremendous increase of the number of such vehicles and

the irresponsibility problem. *Lucas v. District Court*, 140 Colo. 510, 345 P.2d 1064 (1959).

**A liability insurance policy is for the benefit of injured persons** in that it provides security for the satisfaction of any judgment obtained. *Lucas v. District Court*, 140 Colo. 510, 345 P.2d 1064 (1959).

**Insurance policies are definitely relevant to the subject matter of pending actions** growing out of accidents covered by such policies, especially in view of the fact that this legislation apparently would require a defendant to disclose to the state authority information concerning the insurance which a plaintiff might seek, and this would be a matter of public record. *Lucas v. District Court*, 140 Colo. 510, 345 P.2d 1064 (1959).

**This section reflects the legislative intent that all purchasers of automobile liability insurance policies must have the opportunity to purchase uninsured motorist coverage.** *Passamano v. Travelers Indem. Co.*, 882 P.2d 1312 (Colo. 1994).

**Applied** in *Briner v. Charnes*, 10 B.R. 850 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1981); *State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co. v. Meyer*, 647 P.2d 683 (Colo. App. 1982).

### **42-7-103. Definitions.**

As used in this article 7, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Repealed.

(2) "Automobile liability policy" or "bond" means a liability policy or bond subject, if the crash has resulted in bodily injury or death, to a limit, exclusive of interest and costs, of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars because of bodily injury to or death of one person in any one crash and, subject to said limit for one person, to a limit of not less than fifty thousand dollars because of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one crash, and, if the crash has resulted in injury to or destruction of property, to a limit of not less than fifteen thousand dollars because of injury to or destruction of property of others in any one crash.

(3) "Conviction" means conviction in any court of record or municipal court, and such conviction shall include a plea of guilty, a plea of nolo contendere accepted by the court, the forfeiture of any bail or collateral deposited to secure a defendant's appearance in court which forfeiture has not been vacated, and the acceptance and payment of a penalty assessment under the provisions of section 42-4-1701 or under the similar provisions of any town or city ordinance.

(3.5) "Crash" means a motor vehicle collision or incident occurring on public or private property within the state, including events involving motor vehicles, vulnerable road users as defined in section 42-4-1402.5 (1), or other transportation devices.

(4) "Department" means the department of revenue acting directly or through its duly authorized officers and agents.

(5) "Director" means the executive director of the department of revenue.

(6) "Driver" means every person who is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle upon a highway.

(6.5) (a) "Evidence of insurance" means proof given by the insured in person to the department that the insured has a complying policy in full force and effect. Proof may be made through presentation of a copy of such complying policy or a card issued to the insured as evidence that a complying policy is in full force and effect. A card issued to the insured as evidence that a complying policy is in full force and effect may be produced in either paper or electronic format. Acceptable electronic formats include display of electronic images on a cellular phone or any other type of portable electronic device.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (6.5), "complying policy" means a policy of insurance as required by part 6 of article 4 of title 10, C.R.S.

(7) "License" means any license, temporary instruction permit, or temporary license issued under laws of this state pertaining to the licensing of persons to operate motor vehicles, or, with respect to any person not licensed, the term means any operating privilege or privileges to apply for such license.

(8) (a) "Motor vehicle" means a vehicle that is self-propelled, including trailers and semitrailers designed for use with such vehicles and every vehicle that is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires but not operated upon rails.

(b) "Motor vehicle" does not include an electric scooter, as defined in section 42-1-102.

(9) "Motor vehicle liability policy", "operators' policy of liability insurance", or "financial responsibility bond" means a policy or bond certified as proof of financial responsibility for the future.

(10) "Nonresident" means every person who is not a resident of this state.

(11) "Nonresident's operating privilege" means the privilege conferred upon a nonresident by the laws of this state pertaining to the operation by the nonresident of a motor vehicle.

(12) "Owner" means a person who holds the legal title of the vehicle; or in the event a vehicle is the subject of an agreement for the conditional sale or lease thereof with the right of purchase upon performance of the conditions stated in the agreement and with an immediate right of possession vested in the conditional vendee or lessee, or in the event a mortgagor of a vehicle is entitled to possession, then such conditional vendee or lessee or mortgagor shall be deemed the owner for the purpose of this article.

(13) "Person" means every natural person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation.

(14) (a) "Proof of financial responsibility for the future", also referred to in this article 7 as proof of financial responsibility, means proof of ability to respond in damages for liability, on account of crashes occurring after the effective date of said proof, arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle, in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars because of bodily injury to or death of one person in any one crash, and, subject to said limit for one person, in the amount of fifty thousand dollars because of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one crash, and in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars because of injury to or destruction of property of others in any one crash.

(b) For purposes of this title, the form known as the "SR-22" furnished to the department may be used as proof of financial responsibility in compliance with this article.

(15) "State" means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, or any province of Canada.

(16) (a) "Transportation contract" means a contract, agreement, or understanding, whether written or oral, express or implied, between a motor carrier and another party regarding:

- (I) The transportation of property by motor vehicle for compensation or hire;
- (II) Entrance on property for the purpose of loading, unloading, or transporting property by motor vehicle for compensation or hire; or
- (III) Access or services incidental or related to an activity described in subparagraph (I) or (II) of this paragraph (a).

(b) "Transportation contract" does not include:

- (I) A contract, subcontract, or agreement that concerns or affects transportation involving a railroad;
- (II) The uniform intermodal interchange and facilities access agreement administered by the intermodal association of North America; or
- (III) Any other agreement providing for the interchange, use, or possession of an intermodal chassis or container or other intermodal equipment.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2473, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (6.5) added and (14) amended, p. 708, § 3, effective May 23; (6.5) amended, p. 1215, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (6.5)(b) amended, p. 794, § 4, effective May 21. **L. 2013:** (6.5)(a) amended, (HB 13-1159), ch. 101, p. 322, § 3, effective August 7. **L. 2014:** (16) added, (HB 14-1065), ch. 63, p. 283, § 1, effective March 24. **L. 2019:** IP and (8) amended, (HB 19-1221), ch. 271, p. 2565, § 17, effective May 23. **L. 2026:** (1) repealed, (2) and (14)(a) amended, and (3.5) added, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 489, § 76, effective August 12.

## ANNOTATION

**Subsection (12) of this section concerning motor vehicles shows the purpose of declaring that a person who owns the legal title to a vehicle shall be deemed the owner.** Registration can only be issued to the owner and in the event certain things occur, then the registration is to be cancelled and registration plates suspended, unless the owner makes a showing of beneficial responsibility, gives bond, or

procures necessary insurance. *Ferguson v. Hurford*, 132 Colo. 507, 290 P.2d 229 (1955) (decided under repealed § 13-7-1, C.R.S. 1963).

**Family car doctrine inapplicable.** Where defendant holds the automobile's title jointly with her husband, and the defendant is not the head of the household, bare legal title alone is insufficient to justify the

application of the family car doctrine. *Lee v. Degler*, 169 Colo. 226, 454 P.2d 937 (1969).

**Section 10-4-319 (now § 10-4-609) incorporates the minimum limits for bodily injury or death** as set forth in this article. *Nationwide Mut. Ins. Co. v. Hillyer*, 32 Colo. App. 163, 509 P.2d 810 (1973).

**Loss of consortium not separate injury required to be insured.** Nothing in § 10-4-319 (now § 10-4-609) and this section suggests that the General Assembly considered loss of consortium to be a separate bodily injury which must be insured against in all insurance policies. *Arguello v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 42 Colo. App. 372, 599 P.2d 266 (1979).

**Subsection (2) of this section and § 10-4-609 (1), when read together,** clearly establish the intent of the General Assembly to provide a mechanism by means of which an insured might purchase insurance coverage for protection against loss caused by the conduct of a negligent and financially irresponsible motorist. *Kral v. Am. Hardware Mut. Ins. Co.*, 784 P.2d 759 (Colo. 1989).

Insurance coverage is not based on the number of uninsured or underinsured tortfeasors causing an accident, nor must an insurer provide separate uninsured and underinsured coverage for every driver

involved in an accident with its insured. *Farmers Ins. Exch. v. Star*, 952 P.2d 809 (Colo. App. 1997).

**When considered together, subsection (3) of this section and § 10-4-609 reflect a clear legislative purpose** to place an injured party having uninsured motorist coverage in the same position as if the uninsured motorist had been insured. Any agreement to reduce the amount of benefits an insured might receive under an uninsured motorist clause of an insurance contract must be viewed in light of this legislative intent. *Kral v. Am. Hardware Mut. Ins. Co.*, 784 P.2d 759 (Colo. 1989).

**Provision in insurance policy that allowed the insurer to set off benefits received from workers' compensation** was, in effect, the reduction of uninsured motorist coverage in contravention of the established minimums, and this result was contrary to public policy. *Nationwide Mut. Ins. Co. v. Hillyer*, 32 Colo. App. 163, 509 P.2d 810 (1973).

**An "SR-22" submitted in the name of the vehicle owner's son, along with a standard liability insurance policy in the owner's name, does not constitute proof of financial responsibility for the future;** subsection (14) is clear and unambiguous. *Zelenoy v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 192 P.3d 538 (Colo. App. 2008).



## PART 2

### ADMINISTRATION

#### **42-7-201. Director to administer article.**

(1) The director shall administer and enforce the provisions of this article and may make rules and regulations in writing necessary for the administration of this article.

(2) (a) The director shall provide for a hearing upon request of any person affected by an order or act of the director under the provisions of this article. Such hearing need not be a matter of record.

(b) A request for a hearing, made within the twenty-day period prescribed in section 42-7-301 (3) and (4), shall operate during the pendency of such hearing to postpone the effective date of any order or act of the director pursuant to this article.

(c) If the person, for the protection of the public interest and safety, files or has filed with the director evidence of current liability insurance in the driver's name, or has made a deposit as provided in section 42-7-418, the request for hearing shall also postpone the date on which the affected person's license or nonresident's operating privilege would otherwise be suspended.

(d) The decision as rendered by the director upon a hearing, or an order or act of the director when no hearing is requested, shall be final unless the affected person seeks judicial review.

(e) In any action for judicial review of the action of the director, the court, upon application for a hearing on the question of irreparable injury with three days' notice to the director of such hearing and upon a finding by the court at such hearing that irreparable injury to the affected person would otherwise result, may order that the filing of the action shall operate to postpone the effective date of the director's order or act, in which event the court may also impose the condition, for the protection of the public interest and safety, that the person bringing the action shall obtain and maintain during the pendency of the action an automobile liability policy or bond or deposit of security as provided in section 42-7-418. The procedure in all other respects upon review shall be in accordance with the applicable provision of section 24-4-106, C.R.S.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2474, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 96:** (2)(c) amended, p. 1209, § 4, effective July 1.

#### **42-7-202. Report of accident required. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2475, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (1) and (3) amended, p. 1209, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2003:** (5) amended, p. 1575, § 14, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** Entire section repealed, p. 462, § 1, effective August 4.

### PART 3

## SECURITY AND PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN CONNECTION WITH CRASHES

### **42-7-301. Security and proof of financial responsibility for the future required under certain circumstances.**

(1) Unless exempt under section 42-7-302, an operator or owner named in a crash report required to be filed pursuant to section 42-4-1606 shall file with the director, according to the procedure provided by this section, both:

(a) Security, in an amount specified after consideration of the crash report and written substantiation of such report as provided in subsection (3)(b) of this section, which is sufficient to satisfy any judgments for damages or injuries resulting from the crash as may be recovered against such operator or owner but which in no event may exceed the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars; and

(b) Proof of financial responsibility for the future.

(2) Based upon a report filed pursuant to section 42-4-1606, the director shall determine whether an operator or owner is required to comply with the provisions of this article 7 and, if so, shall:

(a) Within fifteen days after receipt of the crash report, inform each such operator and each such owner of such requirement and that the operator or owner's license or nonresident's operating privilege will be suspended if the operator or owner fails to comply with the provisions of this article 7;

(b) Within sixty days after receipt of the crash report, send written notice of the requirement of filing security and proof of financial responsibility for the future to each such owner and each such operator at his or her last-known address, by first-class mail pursuant to section 42-2-119 (2).

(3) The notice specified in paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of this section shall state that:

(a) The license or nonresident's operating privilege of the person so notified is subject to suspension and shall be suspended unless such person, within twenty days after the mailing of such notice by the director, establishes that the requirements of this section are not applicable to

such person or that such person previously filed or then files both security and proof of financial responsibility for the future as provided in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of this section.

(b) Any person having a claim for property damage or personal injury may be required by the director to substantiate such claim by written statement sworn to by a person experienced in estimating the cost of repairing the property damaged and a written report as to the personal injury sworn to by a licensed physician.

(c) The person notified is entitled to a hearing and judicial review as provided in section 42-7-201.

(d) The date on which such person's license or nonresident's operating privilege would otherwise be suspended shall be postponed during the pendency of such hearing if the request for a hearing is made within twenty days after the mailing of said notice and if the person files security and evidence of current liability insurance in the respondent's name.

(4) Upon expiration of such twenty-day period without a request for hearing or compliance with the contents of the notice as specified in subsection (3) of this section, such person's license or nonresident's operating privilege shall be suspended unless and until such person files security and proof of financial responsibility for the future as provided in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of this section.

(5) When no crash report is filed or when erroneous or incomplete information is given, the director, with regard to the matters set forth in this article 7, shall, after receipt of correct information with respect to said matters, take whatever appropriate action is indicated, consistent with the provisions of this article 7.

(6) No policy or bond is effective under this section unless issued by an insurance company or surety company authorized to do business in this state, but the surety requirements of this section may be satisfied by evidence of a savings account, deposit, or certificate of deposit meeting the requirements of section 11-35-101. However, if a motor vehicle was not registered in this state, or if a motor vehicle was registered elsewhere than in this state at the effective date of the policy or bond, or the most recent renewal thereof, such policy or bond will not be effective under this section unless the insurance company or surety company, if not authorized to do business in this state, executes a power of attorney authorizing the director to accept, on its behalf, service of notice or process in any action upon such policy or bond arising out of such crash.

(7) (a) (I) The security required pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section may, in whole or in part, take the form of a contract between a person having a claim for property damage or personal injury and the operator or owner. Any such contract shall require notice by first-class mail to any obligor in default at the obligor's last-known address and

allowing at least a ten-day period after mailing for the obligor to cure the default before remedies become available.

(II) The director shall prescribe the form of any contract authorized by subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a).

(b) The director shall immediately suspend the license of a person obligated under a contract used as security pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (7), upon receipt of evidence from the creditor in the form of an affidavit that:

(I) The obligor has defaulted on any payment obligation under the contract;

(II) Notice of the default has been sent to the obligor by certified mail; and

(III) The obligor has failed to cure the default within fifteen days after the date of mailing of the notice.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2476, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (3)(d) amended, p. 961, § 22, effective May 25; (7) added, p. 1215, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 96:** IP(1), IP(2), and (3)(d) amended, p. 1210, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** IP(1) amended, p. 464, § 4, effective August 4. **L. 2026:** IP(1), (1)(a), (2), (5), and (6) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 489, § 77, effective August 12.

## ANNOTATION

**Section held constitutional.** See *In re Questions Submitted by United States Dist. Court*, 179 Colo. 270, 499 P.2d 1169 (1972).

**There is no requirement that the order of suspension be sent to the licensed driver or be received by him.** *People v. Neal*, 191 Colo. 302, 552 P.2d 508 (1976).

When the motor vehicle department undertook to mail to appellee the order of suspension, it was a wholly gratuitous action, and failure to prove that appellee received the superfluous mailing which is not required by law was not fatal to the prosecution of the offense of driving an automobile while her license was under

suspension. *People v. Neal*, 191 Colo. 302, 552 P.2d 508 (1976).

**Sufficient notice.** Where appellee was involved in an automobile accident on or about August 16, 1973, and on November 20, 1973, she acknowledged receipt of a notice dated November 14, 1973, wherein she was informed that failure upon her part to comply with at least one of several alternatives within 20 days "will cause suspension of your driver's license", this notice comported with the provisions of this section. *People v. Neal*, 191 Colo. 302, 552 P.2d 508 (1976).

**Burden on motorist to show no possibility of judgment be rendered.** It was legislative intent to place burden upon uninsured motorist of showing that there is not a reasonable possibility of judgment being rendered against him and that therefore provisions of section are not applicable to him. In re Questions Submitted by United States Dist. Court, 179 Colo. 270, 499 P.2d 1169 (1972).

**Posting of security or suspension of driving privileges is required only when there is reasonable possibility of judgment being rendered** against person involved. In re Questions Submitted by United States Dist. Court, 179 Colo. 270, 499 P.2d 1169 (1972); Sandoval v. Heckers, 350 F. Supp. 127 (D. Colo. 1972).

**Applied** in Rael v. Motor Vehicle Div., 42 Colo. App. 66, 589 P.2d 515 (1979).

#### **42-7-301.5. Proof of financial responsibility.**

(1) Any person who presents an altered or counterfeit letter or altered or counterfeit insurance identification card from an insurer or agent for the purpose of proving financial responsibility for purposes of this article 7 shall be in violation of section 18-5-104, and the minimum fine shall be one thousand dollars.

(2) Any person who alters or creates a counterfeit letter or insurance identification card for another violates section 18-5-104 and shall be punished by a minimum fine of one thousand dollars.

(3) It shall be an affirmative defense that the person did not know or could not have known that the presented document was altered or counterfeit.

(4) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 1446, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2001:** (4) amended, p. 525, § 14, effective May 22. **L. 2003:** (4) amended, p. 2649, § 10, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (1) and (2) amended, p. 794, § 5, effective January 1, 2005. **L. 2006:** (4) repealed, p. 1010, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2021:** (1) and (2) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3322, § 762, effective March 1, 2022.

#### **42-7-302. Exemptions from requirement of filing security and proof of financial responsibility for the future.**

(1) The requirement of filing security and proof of financial responsibility for the future pursuant to section 42-7-301 does not apply:

- (a) To any person who qualifies as a self-insurer under section 42-7-501 or who operates a motor vehicle for a self-insurer under section 42-7-501;
- (b) To any person who has been released from liability, or finally adjudicated not liable, prior to the date the director would otherwise suspend a license or a nonresident's operating privilege under section 42-7-301 (4);
- (c) To the state of Colorado or any political subdivision thereof or any municipality therein;
- (d) To the operation by any employee of the federal government of any motor vehicle while acting within the scope of such employment;
- (e) Repealed.
- (f) To the operator or owner if such owner had in effect at the time of such crash an automobile liability policy with respect to the motor vehicle involved in such crash;
- (g) To the operator, if not the owner of such motor vehicle, if there was in effect at the time of such crash an automobile liability policy or bond with respect to the operation of motor vehicles not owned by that person;
- (h) To the operator or owner if the liability of such operator or owner for damages resulting from such crash is, in the judgment of the director, covered by any other form of liability insurance policy or bond or deposit as provided in section 42-7-418;
- (i) To the owner of a motor vehicle if at the time of the crash the vehicle was being operated without the owner's express or implied permission, or was parked by a person who had been operating such motor vehicle without such permission.

(2) In determining whether any person is exempt from the requirements of section 42-7-301, the director shall rely upon reports or other information submitted and, when requested by any person affected by a crash to make a finding of fact, shall consider the report of the investigating officer, if any, the crash reports, and any affidavits of persons having knowledge of the facts.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2477, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 96:** (1)(e) repealed, p. 1210, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2026:** IP(1), (1)(f), (1)(g), (1)(h), (1)(i), and (2) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 490, § 78, effective August 12.

## ANNOTATION

**Constitutionality.** Placing the burden upon the uninsured motorist of showing that there is not a reasonable possibility of a judgment being rendered against him is constitutional. *Sandoval v. Heckers*, 350 F. Supp. 127 (D. Colo. 1972).

**The language "the director finds to be free from any fault" means** a finding that there is not a reasonable possibility of a judgment being rendered against the person whose conduct is being considered. *Sandoval v. Heckers*, 350 F. Supp. 127 (D. Colo. 1972).

**Meaning of phrase "free from fault".** "Free from fault" in subsection (1)(e)(III) means that there is not a reasonable possibility of a judgment being rendered against the person whose conduct is being considered. *Rael v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 42 Colo. App. 66, 589 P.2d 515 (1979).

**Uninsured motorist has burden of bringing himself within exception of this section.** In re Questions Submitted by United States Dist. Court, 179 Colo. 270, 499 P.2d 1169 (1972).

**Subsection (1)(b) refers to a finding that there is no reasonable possibility of**

**judgment being rendered** against person whose conduct is being considered. In re Questions Submitted by United States Dist. Court, 179 Colo. 270, 499 P.2d 1169 (1972).

**Although finding of freedom from fault goes beyond finding as to reasonable possibility of judgment.** In re Questions Submitted by United States Dist. Court, 179 Colo. 270, 499 P.2d 1169 (1972); *Rael v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 42 Colo. App. 66, 589 P.2d 515 (1979).

While a hearing officer must take comparative negligence into account when deciding whether there is a reasonable possibility of a judgment being entered against an owner or operator, this does not require specific percentage findings on each party's negligence. *Rael v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 42 Colo. App. 66, 589 P.2d 515 (1979).

#### **42-7-303. Duration of suspension.**

(1) The license or nonresident's operating privilege suspended under section 42-7-301 shall remain so suspended and not be renewed, nor shall any such license be issued to such person, unless there is filed with the director evidence satisfactory to the director that such person has been released from liability, has entered into a contract used as security pursuant to section 42-7-301 (7), or has been finally adjudicated not liable, or until:

(a) Such person deposits and files or there has been deposited and filed on behalf of such person the security and proof of financial responsibility for the future required under section 42-7-301; or

(b) Three years have elapsed following the date of such crash and evidence satisfactory to the director has been filed with the director that during such period no action for damages arising out of such crash has been instituted, and such person has filed or then files and maintains proof of financial responsibility for the future as provided in section 42-7-408; except that a contract used as security pursuant to section 42-7-301 (7) may provide for a different period of time; or

(c) Three years have elapsed since the failure to timely cure any default, after notice, under a contract used as security pursuant to section 42-7-301 (7) and evidence satisfactory to the director has been filed with the department showing that no civil action to enforce the contract has been filed during such period.

(2) If the director determines that the driver is not responsible for any damages to any other party as a result of the crash, the driver may:

(a) Prevent a suspension from occurring by filing future proof of liability insurance pursuant to section 42-7-408; or

(b) Reinstate a license, if a suspension has already occurred, by filing future proof of liability insurance pursuant to section 42-7-408 and paying the reinstatement fee.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2478, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** IP(1) and (1)(b) amended and (1)(c) added, p. 1216, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 96:** (2) added, p. 1210, § 8, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (1)(c) amended, p. 1648, § 42, effective June 1. **L. 2004:** IP(1) amended, p. 464, § 5, effective August 4. **L. 2026:** (1)(b) and IP(2) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 491, § 79, effective August 12.

#### **ANNOTATION**

**Applied** in *Rael v. Motor Vehicle Div.*, 42 Colo. App. 66, 589 P.2d 515 (1979).

#### **42-7-304. Custody and disposition of security.**

(1) Security deposited in compliance with the requirements of section 42-7-301 must be placed by the director in the custody of the state treasurer and must be applied only to the payment of a judgment rendered against the person on whose behalf the deposit was made, for damages arising out of the crash in question in an action at law begun not later than one year after the date of such crash. Such deposit or any balance thereof must be returned to the depositor or the depositor's personal representative, or the person designated by either of them, when evidence satisfactory to the director has been filed with the director that there has been a release from liability, or a final adjudication of nonliability, or a warrant for confession of judgment, or a duly acknowledged agreement, or whenever, after the expiration of one year from the date of the crash, or within one year after the date of deposit of any security, the director shall be given reasonable evidence that there is no such action pending and no judgment rendered in such action left unpaid.



(2) The director may reduce the amount of security ordered in any case within six months after the date of the crash if, in the director's judgment, the amount originally ordered is excessive. In case the security originally ordered has been deposited, the excess deposit over the reduced amount ordered must be returned immediately to the depositor or the depositor's personal representative, regardless of any other provisions of this article 7.

(3) (a) It is the duty of any person having a claim against the security deposited under the provisions of section 42-7-301, on or before the expiration of one year from the date of the crash, to notify the director in writing under oath that there has been a release of liability, or a final adjudication of nonliability, or a warrant for confession of judgment, or a duly acknowledged agreement or that there is no action pending and no judgment rendered in any such action left unpaid or of any action taken on said claim which has not been finally determined.

(b) If any claimant fails to notify the director in writing under oath as provided in paragraph (a) of this subsection (3), the director shall notify the state treasurer to that effect and the state treasurer may, upon receipt of said notification, void the obligation provided for in section 42-7-301 and release and return the security to the depositor. The state treasurer shall then be fully and completely released from any further obligation or liability in relation thereto.

(c) Where said depositor cannot be located, the state treasurer shall notify the depositor by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the last-known address of said depositor, advising said depositor that the depositor must either appear and claim the security deposited within thirty days from the date of receipt of said letter, or said security will escheat to the general fund of the state of Colorado. If said depositor does not appear within the thirty-day period, the state treasurer shall void the obligation as provided in section 42-7-301, and the security shall escheat to the general fund of the state of Colorado, relieving the state treasurer of any further obligation or liability in relation thereto.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2479, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** (1), (2), and (3)(a) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 491, § 80, effective August 12.

**Cross references:** For unclaimed property, see article 13 of title 38.

PART 4

PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - JUDGMENTS AND  
CONVICTIONS

**42-7-401. Proof required on judgments.**

(1) The director shall also suspend the license issued to any person upon receiving an affidavit from the judgment creditor that such person has failed for a period of thirty days to satisfy any final judgment in amounts and upon a cause of action as stated in this article, or, in a criminal proceeding arising from the use or operation of a motor vehicle, has failed to comply with the terms of any order of restitution made as a condition of probation pursuant to section 18-1.3-205, C.R.S.

(2) The judgment referred to means a final judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction in any state or of the United States against a person as defendant upon a cause of action as stated in this article.

(3) The judgment referred to means any final judgment for damage to property in excess of one hundred dollars or for damages in any amount for or on account of bodily injury to or death of any person resulting from the operation of any motor vehicle upon a highway.

(4) This article shall not apply to any such judgment rendered against this state or any political subdivision thereof or any municipality therein.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2480, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1) amended, p. 1216, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2002:** (1) amended, p. 1564, § 378, effective October 1.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsection (1), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

**ANNOTATION**

**Law reviews.** For article, "Recovery of Interest: Part II — Other Than Personal Injury", see 18 Colo. Law. 1307 (1989).

**42-7-402. Suspension, duration, bankruptcy.**

(1) The suspension required in section 42-7-401 shall remain in effect and no new license shall be issued to such person unless and until such judgment is satisfied or vacated or execution therein stayed and proof of financial responsibility given, except under the conditions stated in this article.

(2) A discharge in bankruptcy following the rendering of any such judgment shall relieve the judgment debtor from any of the requirements of this article.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2480, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**ANNOTATION**

**Applied** in *Briner v. Charnes*, 10 B.R. 850 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1981).

**42-7-403. Sufficiency of payments.**

(1) Every judgment referred to in this article 7 and for the purposes of this article 7 is deemed satisfied:

(a) When twenty-five thousand dollars has been credited upon any judgment rendered in excess of that amount for or on account of bodily injury to or the death of one person as the result of any one crash;

(b) When, subject to said limit of twenty-five thousand dollars as to one person, the sum of fifty thousand dollars has been credited upon any judgment rendered in excess of that amount for or on account of bodily injury to or the death of more than one person as the result of any one crash;

(c) When fifteen thousand dollars has been credited upon any judgment rendered in excess of that amount for damage to property of others in excess of one hundred dollars as a result of any one crash;

(d) When six years have elapsed since the date that such judgment became final; or

(e) When three years, or such other period as authorized pursuant to section 42-7-408 (1), have elapsed since the judgment debtor gives proof of financial responsibility; except that this paragraph (e) shall not apply to any judgment debtor subject to paragraph (d) of this subsection (1).

(2) Credit for such amounts shall be deemed a satisfaction of any such judgment in excess of said amounts only for the purposes of this article.

(3) Whenever payment has been made in settlement of any claims for bodily injury, death, or property damage arising from a motor vehicle crash resulting in injury, death, or property damage to two or more persons in such crash, any such payment must be credited in reduction of the amounts provided for in this section.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2480, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1)(d) amended, p. 709, § 4, effective May 23; (1)(d) amended and (1)(e) added, p. 1217, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2026:** IP(1), (1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), and (3) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 492, § 81, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** Amendments to subsection (1)(d) by Senate Bill 95-131 and House Bill 95-1156 were harmonized.

#### **42-7-404. Payment of judgment in installments.**

(1) The director shall not suspend a license and shall restore any suspended license following nonpayment of a final judgment when the judgment debtor gives proof of financial responsibility and obtains an order from the trial court in which such judgment was rendered permitting the payment of such judgment in installments of not less than twenty-five dollars per month, while the payment of any said installment is not in default.

(2) A judgment debtor upon five days' notice to the judgment creditor may apply to the trial court in which the judgment was obtained for the privilege of paying such judgment in installments, and the court, in its discretion and without prejudice to any other legal remedies which the judgment creditor may have, may so order, fixing the amounts and times of, and the person to receive, payment of the installments.

(3) In the event the judgment debtor fails to pay any installment as permitted by the order of the court, upon notice of such default supported by an appropriate document from the court or by sworn affidavit of either the judgment creditor or the person designated to receive payments, the director shall immediately suspend the license of the judgment debtor until said judgment is satisfied as provided in this article.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2481, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** Entire section amended, p. 1217, § 6, effective July 1.

#### **42-7-405. Suspension upon second judgment.**

After one judgment is satisfied and proof of financial responsibility is given as required in this article 7 and another such judgment is rendered against the judgment debtor for any crash occurring prior to the date of the giving of said proof and such person fails to satisfy the latter judgment within the amounts specified in this article 7 within thirty days after the same becomes final, the director shall again suspend the license of such judgment debtor and shall not renew the same nor issue to the judgment debtor any license while such latter judgment remains in effect and unsatisfied within the amounts specified in this article 7.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2481, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 493, § 82, effective August 12.

#### **42-7-406. Proof required under certain conditions.**

(1) Whenever the director revokes the license of any person pursuant to section 42-2-125 or 42-2-126, or cancels any license pursuant to section 42-2-122 because of the licensee's inability to operate a motor vehicle because of physical or mental incompetence, or cancels any probationary license pursuant to section 42-2-127, the director shall not issue to or continue in effect for any such person any new or renewal of license until permitted under the motor vehicle laws of this state, and not then until and unless such person files or has filed and maintains proof of financial responsibility as provided in this article 7; except that persons whose licenses are canceled pursuant to section 42-2-122 (2.5) or revoked for a first offense pursuant to section 42-2-125 (1)(g.5) or a first offense pursuant to section 42-2-126 (3)(b) or (3)(e) are not be required to file proof of financial responsibility in order to be relicensed.

(1.5) (a) Whenever the director revokes the license of a person under section 42-2-126 (3)(a), (3)(c), or (3)(d) for a second or subsequent offense and such person was driving the same vehicle in two or more of such offenses but did not own such vehicle, the director shall mail a notice to the owner of the vehicle pursuant to section 42-2-119 (2). In such notice, the director shall inform the owner that:

(I) The operator of the motor vehicle owned by the owner has been involved in multiple alcohol-related driving violations while operating the owner's vehicle;

(II) Because of the risks to the public connected with the use of the vehicle in alcohol-related driving violations, it is necessary for the motor vehicle owner to establish proof of financial responsibility;

(III) Within thirty days after the date of mailing of the notice, the owner is required to file proof of financial responsibility for the future pursuant to the requirements of section 42-7-408 or to request a hearing regarding the applicability of this requirement to the owner;

(IV) The vehicle owner is entitled to a hearing and judicial review pursuant to section 42-7-201;

(V) If the owner has not filed proof of financial responsibility or requested a hearing within thirty days after the date of mailing of the notice, the department will suspend the driver's license or nonresident operating privilege of the owner.

(b) If proof of financial responsibility for the future is required under this subsection (1.5), such proof shall be maintained for a period of three years as required by section 42-7-408 (1)(b).

(c) This subsection (1.5) does not apply to a motor vehicle that is:

(I) Rented from a person, firm, corporation, or other business entity whose primary business is the rental of motor vehicles; or

(II) Rented or loaned from a person, firm, corporation, or other business entity whose primary business is operation as a motor vehicle repair facility and who is providing such motor vehicle to the person while a motor vehicle is being repaired.

(2) (a) Whenever the director suspends the license of any person under section 42-2-127, the director shall not issue a probationary license to such person, nor shall the director at the termination of such person's period of suspension reinstate, reissue, renew, or issue a new license to such person unless such person furnishes the director evidence of insurance to show that the person is then insured, unless such person has deposited or deposits money or securities as provided in section 42-7-418.

(b) Evidence of insurance required pursuant to this subsection (2) does not require the use of the form known as the "SR-22" or any substantially similar form.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2481, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** Entire section amended, p. 709, § 5, effective May 23. **L. 97:** (1) amended, p. 1536, § 1, effective July 1; (1) amended, p. 1388, § 9, effective July 1; (1) amended, p. 1469, § 16, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (1) amended, p. 1436, § 9, effective July 1; (1.5) added, p. 1241, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 99:** (1) amended, p. 392, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2002:** (1) amended, p. 1586, § 20, effective July 1. **L. 2003:** (1) amended, p. 1905, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (1) and IP(1.5)(a) amended, p. 254, § 24, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (1) amended, (HB 09-1266), ch. 347, p. 1821, § 15, effective August 5. **L. 2021:** (1) amended, (HB 21-1314), ch. 460, p. 3101, § 17, effective January 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** Amendments to subsection (1) by House Bill 97-1003, House Bill 97-1125, and House Bill 97-1301 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 1998 act enacting subsection (1.5), see section 1 of chapter 295, Session Laws of Colorado 1998.

## ANNOTATION

**Driving status of "denied" continues until conditions met.** Before a person against whom an order of denial has been entered is entitled to operate a motor vehicle, he must reapply for a new license at the end of the period of denial, pay the restoration fee required by § 42-2-124 (3), file proof of financial responsibility as required by subsection (1) of this section, and must be in receipt and possession of the new license. Unless and until these conditions are satisfied, his driving status as "denied" continues and he is subject to prosecution under § 42-2-130 (1)(a) for driving under denial. *People v. Lessar*, 629 P.2d 577 (Colo. 1981).

**The department must postpone the suspension of a license if the vehicle owner requests a hearing;** however, because the vehicle owner failed to produce proof of financial responsibility at the hearing, the suspension would not be reversed. Further, the statute's requirements for proving financial responsibility are not unconstitutionally vague. *Zelenoy v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 192 P.3d 538 (Colo. App. 2008).

**Applied** in *Zucchini v. Colo. Dept. of Rev.*, 620 P.2d 247 (Colo. App. 1980); *Briner v. Charnes*, 10 B.R. 850 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1981); *Colo. Dept. of Rev. v. Smith*, 640 P.2d 1143 (Colo. 1982).

### **42-7-407. Duty of courts to report.**

The clerk of a court or the judge of a court which has no clerk shall forward to the director a certified record of any judgment for damages, the rendering and nonpayment of which judgment requires the director to suspend the license and registrations in the name of the judgment debtor under this article. This record shall be forwarded to the director immediately upon the expiration of thirty days after such judgment becomes final and when such judgment has not been stayed or satisfied within the amounts specified in this article, as shown by the records of the court.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2482, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**42-7-408. Proof of financial responsibility - methods of giving proof - duration - exception.**

(1) (a) Proof of financial responsibility for the future, when required under this article, may be given by the following alternate methods:

(I) Proof that a policy of liability insurance has been obtained and is in full force and effect or that a bond has been duly executed or that deposit has been made of money; or

(II) Securities as provided in section 42-7-418.

(b) Proof of financial responsibility for the future in the amounts provided in section 42-7-103 (14) shall be maintained for three years from the date last required and shall be furnished for each motor vehicle registered during that period; except that, if during such three-year period the insured has not been licensed to drive pursuant to this title, the insured shall be credited with the nonlicensed time toward the three-year period.

(c) Notwithstanding the three-year requirement in subsection (1)(b) of this section:

(I) If an insured has been found guilty of DUI, DUI per se, or DWAI or if the insured's license has been revoked pursuant to section 42-2-126, other than a revocation under section 42-2-126 (3)(b) or (3)(e), only one time and no crash was involved in such offense, proof of financial responsibility for the future is required to be maintained only for as long as the insured's driving privilege is ordered to be under restraint, up to a maximum of three years. The time period for maintaining the future proof of liability insurance begins at the time the driver reinstates the driver's driving privilege.

(II) If an insured has been found guilty of a second or subsequent offense of UDD with a BAC of at least 0.02 but not more than 0.05 or if the insured's driver's license has been revoked because of a second or subsequent offense pursuant to section 42-2-126 (3)(b) or (3)(e), proof of financial responsibility for the future shall be required to be maintained only for as long as the insured's driving privilege is ordered to be under restraint. The time period for maintaining the future proof of liability insurance shall begin at the time the driver reinstates his or her driving privilege.

(2) The term of the policy of liability insurance or the bond submitted as proof of financial responsibility for the future shall be for a minimum of three months.

(3) If an insured's driver's license is canceled pursuant to section 42-2-125 (4), and after such cancellation neither a court of competent jurisdiction nor an administrative hearing officer determines that the charges have been proved, the insured shall not be required to comply with the proof of financial responsibility requirements stated in this section.



(4) If at any time when insurance is required to be maintained in accordance with section 42-4-1409 or this article it is not so maintained or becomes invalid, the director shall suspend the driver's license of the person who has not maintained the required insurance and shall not reinstate the license of such person until future proof of financial responsibility is provided in accordance with section 42-7-406 (1).

(5) Repealed.

(6) (a) Upon receipt of evidence from an agency of another state or foreign jurisdiction that a former Colorado resident has obtained a license in such state or foreign jurisdiction, the director shall suspend the requirement for proof of financial responsibility for the future until such time as the former resident has made application for a new Colorado license.

(b) If such former resident makes application for a Colorado driver's license, the director shall reinstate the requirement for proof of financial responsibility for the future until such time as the original requirement to maintain proof of financial responsibility for the future has expired.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2482, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1) amended and (3) added, p. 709, § 6, effective May 23. **L. 96:** (1)(c) amended and (4) and (5) added, p. 1211, § 9, effective June 1. **L. 97:** (6) added, p. 338, § 1, effective April 19; (1)(c) and (5) amended, p. 1388, § 10, effective July 1; (1)(c) amended, p. 1470, § 17, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (1)(c)(II) amended, p. 176, § 8, effective April 6. **L. 2008:** (1)(c) amended, p. 254, § 25, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** (1)(c)(I) amended, (HB 13-1325), ch. 331, p. 1887, § 19, effective May 28. **L. 2026:** IP(1)(c) and (1)(c)(I) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 493, § 83, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) Amendments to subsection (1)(c) by House Bill 97-1003 and House Bill 97-1301 were harmonized.

(2) Subsection (5)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (5), effective July 1, 1998. (See L. 97, p. 1388.)

#### ANNOTATION

**This section touches on the matter of proof of insurance liability and certification.** Am. Serv. Mut. Ins. Co. v.

Parviz, 153 Colo. 490, 386 P.2d 982 (1963) (decided under repealed § 13-7-18, C.R.S. 1963).

**42-7-409. Proof for member of family or chauffeur.**

Whenever the director determines that any person required to give proof by reason of a conviction is not the owner of a motor vehicle but was at the time of such conviction a chauffeur or motor vehicle operator, however designated, in the employ of an owner of a motor vehicle or a member of the immediate family or household of the owner of a motor vehicle, the director shall accept proof of financial responsibility given by such owner in lieu of proof given by such other person so long as such latter person is operating a motor vehicle for which the owner has given proof as provided in this article. No such license shall be reinstated and no new license issued until otherwise permitted under the laws of this state.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2482, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**42-7-410. Certificate for insurance policy.**

(1) Proof of financial responsibility may be made by filing with the director the written certificate of any insurance carrier duly authorized to do business in this state, certifying that it has issued to or for the benefit of the person furnishing such proof and named as the insured a motor vehicle liability policy or in certain events an operator's policy, meeting the requirements of this article, and that said policy is then in full force and effect. Such certificate shall give the dates of issuance and expiration of such policy and shall explicitly describe all motor vehicles covered thereby, unless the policy is issued to a person who is not the owner of a motor vehicle.

(2) The director shall not accept any certificate unless the same covers all motor vehicles registered in the name of the person furnishing such proof as owner and an additional certificate shall be required as a condition precedent to the subsequent registration of any motor vehicle or motor vehicles in the name of the person giving such proof as owner.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2483, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 96:** (1) amended, p. 1211, § 10, effective July 1.

**ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** Since this section is similar to repealed § 13-7-19, CRS 53, relevant cases construing § 13-7-19 have been included in the annotations to this section.

**Submission of policy as proof of future responsibility.** This section applies to a driver having prior accidents, who has manifested financial irresponsibility and submits to the director a policy as proof of

future responsibility in order that he may continue to operate an automobile. *Safeco Ins. Co. of Am. v. Gonacha*, 142 Colo. 170, 350 P.2d 189 (1960); *Am. Serv. Mut. Ins. Co. v. Parviz*, 153 Colo. 490, 386 P.2d 982 (1963).

**It is not a condition precedent to the right to drive upon the highways of the state that one have insurance.** *Am. Serv.*

*Mut. Ins. Co. v. Parviz*, 153 Colo. 490, 386 P.2d 982 (1963).

**Voluntary certification of a general liability policy to the director of revenue is permitted, but not required,** by this section. *United States Fire Ins. Co. v. Goldstein Transp.*, 30 Colo. App. 478, 496 P.2d 1079 (1972).

#### **42-7-411. Restrictions in certain type of policy.**

(1) When a certificate is filed showing that a policy has been issued covering all motor vehicles owned by the insured but not insuring such person when operating any motor vehicle not owned by that person, it is unlawful for such person to operate any motor vehicle not owned by that person or not covered by such certificate.

(2) In the event the owner of the motor vehicle desires to be relieved of the restriction stated in subsection (1) of this section and to be permitted to drive any other motor vehicle, the owner may have such restrictions removed upon filing a certificate showing that there has been issued to the owner a policy of insurance insuring the owner as insured against liability imposed by law upon such an insured for bodily injury to or death of any person or damage to property to the amounts and limits as provided under section 42-7-103 (14) with respect to any motor vehicle operated by the insured and which otherwise complies with the requirements of this article with respect to such type of policy. Such policy is referred to in this article as an operator's policy.

(3) When the person required to give proof of financial responsibility is not the owner of a motor vehicle, then an operator's policy of the type and coverage described in subsection (2) of this section shall be sufficient under this article.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2483, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

#### **42-7-412. Certificate furnished by nonresident.**

(1) The nonresident owner of a foreign vehicle may give proof of financial responsibility by filing with the director a written certificate of an insurance carrier authorized to transact business in the state in which the motor vehicle described in such certificate is registered or if such nonresident does not own a motor vehicle then in the state in which the insured resides and

otherwise conforming to the provisions of this article 7, and the director shall accept the same upon condition that said insurance carrier complies with the following provisions of this section:

(a) Said insurance carrier shall execute a power of attorney authorizing the director to accept service on its behalf of notice or process in any action arising out of a motor vehicle crash in this state.

(b) Said insurance carrier shall duly adopt a resolution which shall be binding upon it, declaring that its policies shall be deemed to be varied to comply with the law of this state relating to the terms of motor vehicle liability policies issued in this article.

(c) Said insurance carrier shall also agree to accept as final and binding any final judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction in this state duly rendered in any action arising out of a motor vehicle crash.

(2) If any foreign insurance carrier which has qualified to furnish proof of financial responsibility defaults in any of said undertakings or agreements, the director shall not subsequently accept any certificate of said carrier, whether previously filed or subsequently tendered, as proof of financial responsibility so long as such default continues.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2483, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** IP(1), (1)(a), and (1)(c) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 493, § 84, effective August 12.

#### ANNOTATION

**This section touches on the matter of proof of insurance liability and certification.** Am. Serv. Mut. Ins. Co. v.

Parviz, 153 Colo. 490, 386 P.2d 982 (1963) (decided under repealed § 13-7-21, C.R.S. 1963).

#### **42-7-413. Motor vehicle liability policy.**

(1) "Motor vehicle liability policy", as used in this article, means a policy of liability insurance issued by an insurance carrier authorized to transact business in this state to or for the benefit of the person named therein as insured, which policy shall meet the following requirements:

(a) The policy of liability insurance shall designate by explicit description or by appropriate reference all motor vehicles with respect to which coverage is thereby intended to be granted.

(b) The policy of liability insurance shall insure the person named therein and any other person using or responsible for the use of said motor vehicle with the express or implied permission of said insured.

(c) The policy of liability insurance shall insure every such person on account of the maintenance, use, or operation of the motor vehicle within the continental limits of the United States or Canada against loss from the liability imposed by law; for damages, including damages for care and loss of services arising from such maintenance, use, or operation to the extent and aggregate amount, exclusive of interest and costs, with respect to each such motor vehicle, in the amounts specified in section 42-7-103 (2).

(2) When an operator's policy of liability insurance is required, it shall insure the person named therein as insured against the liability imposed by law upon the insured for bodily injury to or death of any person or damage to property to the amounts and limits set forth in paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of this section and growing out of the use or operation by the insured within the continental limits of the United States or Canada of any motor vehicle not owned by the insured.

(3) Any liability policy issued under this section need not cover any liability of the insured assumed by or imposed upon said insured under any workers' compensation law nor any liability for damage to property in charge of the insured or the insured's employees.

(4) Any such policy of liability insurance may grant any lawful coverage in excess of or in addition to the coverage specified in this section or contain any agreements, provisions, or stipulations not in conflict with the provisions of this article and not otherwise contrary to law.

(5) Any motor vehicle liability policy which by endorsement contains the provisions required under this section shall be sufficient proof of ability to respond in damages.

(6) The department may accept several policies of one or more such carriers which together meet the requirements of this section.

(7) Any binder pending the issuance of any policy of liability insurance, which binder contains or by reference includes the provisions under this section, shall be sufficient proof of ability to respond in damages.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2484, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

#### ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For comment on *Am. Serv. Mut. Ins. Co. v. Parviz*, appearing below, see 37 U. Colo. L. Rev. 138 (1964). For comment on *Am. Bus Lines v. Am. Sur. Co.*,

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appearing below, see 43 Den. L.J. 238 (1966). For article, "Kohl v. Union Insurance Company: Interpretation and Application of the 'Arising Out of the Use Clause'", see 65 Den. U. L. Rev. 77 (1988). For article, "Recovery of Interest: Part II — Other Than Personal Injury", see 18 Colo. Law. 1307 (1989).

**Annotator's note.** Since this section is similar to repealed § 13-7-22, CRS 53, CSA, C. 16, § 56, and laws antecedent to CSA, C. 16, § 56, relevant cases construing these provisions have been included in the annotations to this section.

**"Use" of motor vehicle was causally related to the accidental discharge of rifle** where accident occurred while insured was preparing to unload rifle and safely store it for the journey home. Kohl v. Union Ins. Co., 731 P.2d 134 (Colo. 1986).

**This section applies only to policies issued by an insurance carrier authorized to transact business** in this state and to insurance policies issued in this state by companies organized under the insurance laws. Am. Serv. Mut. Ins. Co. v. Parviz, 153 Colo. 490, 386 P.2d 982 (1963).

**Applicability of section limited.** This section applies only after a driver has submitted a policy to the commissioner of insurance as proof of his financial responsibility. Price v. Sommermeyer, 41 Colo. App. 147, 584 P.2d 1220 (1978), *aff'd*, 198 Colo. 548, 603 P.2d 135 (1979).

**A policy of automobile liability insurance is a contract** and is construed in general accordance with the rules for

construction of contracts. Waggoner v. Wilson, 31 Colo. App. 518, 507 P.2d 482 (1972).

**The requirements of this section become a part of an insurance contract to which it is applicable.** Universal Indem. Ins. Co. v. Tenery, 96 Colo. 10, 39 P.2d 776 (1934); Traders & Gen. Ins. Co. v. Pioneer Mut. Comp. Co., 127 Colo. 516, 258 P.2d 776 (1953).

**Ownership of vehicle and payment of insurance premium do not constitute use of or responsibility for a vehicle for the purposes of coverage.** An insurance carrier is not obliged to cover a person who owns a vehicle or pays the insurance premiums when such person is not a named insured. Mid-Century Ins. Co. v. Heritage Drug, Ltd., 3 P.3d 461 (Colo. App. 1999).

**Subsection (1)(b) of this section requires that a permission clause be included in all liability policies.** Am. Bus Lines v. Am. Sur. Co., 238 F. Supp. 589 (D. Colo. 1965).

**An omnibus clause is neither required by subsection (1)(c) nor may it be implied by law.** United States Fire Ins. Co. v. Goldstein Transp., 30 Colo. App. 478, 496 P.2d 1079 (1972).

**Representations, as distinguished from warranties, need not be attached to the automobile liability insurance contract** in order for the insurer to rely upon the same. Safeco Ins. Co. of Am. v. Gonacha, 142 Colo. 170, 350 P.2d 189 (1960).

**False representations material to risk are grounds to void policy.** Where

representations made in an application for automobile liability insurance are false and material to the risk and relied upon by the insurer in issuing the policy, the necessary grounds to void the policy are met. *Safeco Ins. Co. of Am. v. Gonacha*, 142 Colo. 170, 350 P.2d 189 (1960).

**The purpose of a nonownership clause** is to provide the insured with coverage while the insured is engaged in the occasional or infrequent use of an automobile other than the one specified in the policy, but not to provide liability coverage in regard to unspecified automobiles which are furnished or available for the insured's frequent or regular use. *Waggoner v. Wilson*, 31 Colo. App. 518, 507 P.2d 482 (1972).

**Permittee retaining full right or power of control may turn over operation to another.** Where a named insured grants to another "actual use" of his automobile, there is no violation of that permission where the permittee turns over the mechanical operation of the automobile to another, but remains in the car with full right or power of control over its use. *Berthrong v. Certified Indem. Co.*, 31 Colo. App. 81, 497 P.2d 1273 (1972).

**Person accompanied by permittee is covered by omnibus clause.** Where plaintiff was involved in an automobile accident while driving a car with the permission and in the company of one to whom unlimited and unrestricted use has been given by the insured owner, he came within the coverage of an omnibus clause in the owner's policy as an additional insured. *Berthrong v.*

*Certified Indem. Co.*, 31 Colo. App. 81, 497 P.2d 1273 (1972).

**General permission does not convey permittee authority to allow another independent use.** The general permission given by a named insured to another to use an automobile does not convey authority to the permittee to allow a second person independent use of the automobile and, where a permittee is using an automobile beyond the scope of the permission given him, he will not be held to be an additional insured under the omnibus clause of an automobile liability policy. *Berthrong v. Certified Indem. Co.*, 31 Colo. App. 81, 497 P.2d 1273 (1972).

**Effect of negligence of renter of automobile.** See *Universal Indem. Ins. Co. v. Tenery*, 96 Colo. 10, 39 P.2d 776 (1934).

**Accident must arise under circumstances reasonably contemplated.** To be within the coverage afforded by an automobile insurance clause, the accident must arise under circumstances which could be reasonably contemplated by the parties when they entered the agreement. *Beeson v. State Auto. & Cas. Underwriters*, 32 Colo. App. 62, 508 P.2d 402, *aff'd*, 183 Colo. 284, 516 P.2d 623 (1973).

**Gunshot injuries sustained during a traffic altercation were "caused by accident"** and, therefore, subject to uninsured motorist coverage. *State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co. v. McMillan*, 925 P.2d 785 (Colo. 1996).

**Phrase "caused by accident" was ambiguous,** and must be construed against

the drafter of the insurance policy. State  
Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co. v. McMillan, 925

P.2d 785 (Colo. 1996).

**42-7-414. Requirements to be complied with.**

(1) Except as provided in section 42-7-417, no motor vehicle liability policy or operator's policy of liability insurance shall be issued in this state unless and until all of the requirements of subsection (2) of this section are met.

(2) Every motor vehicle liability policy and every operator's policy of liability insurance accepted as proof under this article shall be subject to the following provisions whether or not contained therein:

(a) The liability of the insurance carrier under any such policy shall become absolute whenever loss or damage covered by such policy occurs, and the satisfaction by the insured of a final judgment for such loss or damage shall not be a condition precedent to the right or obligation of the carrier to make payment on account of such loss or damage. No fraud, misrepresentation, or other act of the insured in obtaining or retaining any such policy, or in adjusting a claim under any such policy, and no failure of the insured to give any notice, forward any paper, or otherwise cooperate with the insurance carrier shall constitute a defense as against the judgment creditor on any such judgment. The insurance carrier shall not be liable on any such judgment if it has not had reasonable notice of an opportunity to appear in and defend the action in which such judgment was rendered or if the judgment was obtained through collusion between the judgment creditor and the insured.

(b) The insurance carrier shall have the right to settle any claim covered by the policy, and if such settlement is made in good faith, the amount thereof shall be deductible from the limits of liability specified in the policy.

(c) No such policy shall be canceled except as provided in this section and section 42-7-416. The notice of cancellation shall be delivered to the named insured in person or mailed by certified mail, post-office receipt secured, or by registered mail prior to such cancellation. Unless the contract or policy of insurance provides for a shorter period of notice, said notice shall be so delivered or mailed to the address shown in the policy not less than thirty days prior to the date of cancellation. Proof of such mailing shall be sufficient proof of cancellation. Failure by any insurer to comply with the provisions for cancellation in this section and section 42-7-416 shall render invalid any such cancellation.

(d) No such policy shall be canceled or annulled as respects any loss or damage by any agreement between the carrier and the insured after the said insured has become responsible for such loss or damage, and any such cancellation or annulment shall be void.



(e) The policy may provide that the insured, or any other person covered by the policy, shall reimburse the insurance carrier for payment made on account of any loss or damage claim or suit involving a breach of the terms, provisions, or conditions of the policy. If the policy provides for limits in excess of the limits specified in section 42-7-103 (14), the insurance carrier may plead against any plaintiff, with respect to the amount of such excess limits of liability, any defenses which it may be entitled to plead against the insured, and any such policy may further provide for the prorating of the insurance thereunder with other applicable valid and collectible insurance.

(f) The policy, the written application therefor, if any, and any rider or endorsement which does not conflict with the provisions of this article shall constitute the entire contract between the parties.

(g) When any insurance carrier authorized to do business within the state of Colorado issues a policy of automobile insurance insuring against bodily injury, death, or injury to or destruction of property or showing financial responsibility, except a binder, a complete copy of the insurance policy shall be transmitted to the purchaser within thirty days of the purchase thereof; except that, when such policy is renewed, only a copy of the notice of renewal shall be required. Mailing of the copy of the policy to the address of the purchaser as given at the time of purchase shall be deemed to be a transmittal as required by this section.

(3) (a) The insurance carrier that issues a motor vehicle liability policy accepted as proof under this article shall include the following provision in the policy contract: "If the insured's whereabouts for service of process cannot be determined through reasonable effort, the insured agrees to designate and irrevocably appoint the insurance carrier as the agent of the insured for service of process, pleadings, or other filings in a civil action brought against the insured or to which the insured has been joined as a defendant or respondent in any Colorado court if the cause of action concerns an incident for which the insured can possibly claim coverage. Subsequent termination of the insurance policy does not affect the appointment for an incident that occurred when the policy was in effect. The insured agrees that any such civil action may be commenced against the insured by the service of process upon the insurance carrier as if personal service had been made directly on the insured. The insurance carrier agrees to forward all communications related to service of process to the last-known email and mailing address of the policyholder in order to coordinate any payment of claims or defense of claims that are required."

(b) If service of process is made on the insurance carrier under this subsection (3), the plaintiff shall cause the service of process to be made on the insurance carrier's registered agent.

(c) If service is obtained under this section, the venue for the underlying claim is the same as if the defendant is a nonresident.

(d) Except as expressly provided in this subsection (3), this subsection (3) does not alter or expand the terms and conditions of the insurance policy or liability coverage.

(e) In the contract provision required by this subsection (3), the name of the insurance carrier issuing the policy shall be substituted for the phrase "The insurance carrier."

(f) If service of process is made on the insurance carrier under this subsection (3) and the court enters judgment or the insurance carrier agrees to a settlement for the damages caused by the absent insured, the amount of the insurance carrier's liability shall not exceed the policy limits of the coverage. A judgment or settlement obtained using service of process on the carrier shall not bar the injured person from subsequently making personal service on the person who caused the injury and seeking additional remedies provided by law.

(g) Payment under the policy pursuant to this section shall not be deemed to be an admission of liability by the alleged tortfeasor and shall not prejudice the right of the alleged tortfeasor to contest his or her liability or the extent of damages owed to the injured party.

(h) As used in this subsection (3), "reasonable effort" means service at the defendant's last-known address, an address obtained from the insurance policy, an address obtained from a driver's license or motor vehicle registration, or any readily ascertainable successor address.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2485, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2010:** (3) added, (HB 10-1164), ch. 196, p. 847, § 3, effective January 1, 2011.

## ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "One Year Review of Contracts", see 34 Dicta 85 (1957). For comment on Am. Serv. Mut. Ins. Co. v. Parviz, 153 Colo. 490, 386 P.2d 982 (1963), appearing below, see 37 U. Colo. L. Rev. 138 (1964). For article, "The 'Catch 22' of Underinsured Motorist Settlements", see 17 Colo. Law. 49 (1988).

**Annotator's note.** Since this section is similar to repealed § 13-7-23, CRS 53, relevant cases construing § 13-7-23 have been included in the annotations to this section.

**Purpose and provisions of section.** The purpose of this section is to foster and promote insurance coverage or, in the event

of accident, a bond to insure financial responsibility. Its ultimate object is to provide compensation for innocent persons who might be injured through faulty operation of motor vehicles. Toward these ends, it provides inter alia that: (1) The insurance carrier's liability shall become absolute whenever loss or damage covered by the policy occurs; (2) that attempted satisfaction of final judgment by insured shall not be a condition precedent to the obligation of carrier to make payment; (3) that fraud, misrepresentation or other act of insured in obtaining the policy shall not constitute a defense available to the insurer against a judgment creditor; and (4) limitations upon the cancellation of a policy.

Lucas v. District Court, 140 Colo. 510, 345 P.2d 1064 (1959).

**This section applies only to policies issued by an insurance carrier authorized to transact business in this state** and to insurance policies issued in this state by companies organized under the insurance laws of this state. Am. Serv. Mut. Ins. Co. v. Parviz, 153 Colo. 490, 386 P.2d 982 (1963).

**Absolute liability of carrier.** This section provides that once a policy has been approved by the commissioner of insurance, the liability of the insurance carrier thereunder shall become absolute whenever loss or damage covered by said policy occurs. Safeco Ins. Co. of Am. v. Gonacha, 142 Colo. 170, 350 P.2d 189 (1960).

**Section has no application where policy issued upon false representation.** In an

action by judgment creditors of the insured against the insurer on an automobile liability policy, where the policy sued upon was not issued in consequence of the insured's previous accident record under the provisions of this section, but was issued by the insurer upon the false representations of the insured with respect to his previous record, this section has no application and it is error to direct a verdict for plaintiffs. Safeco Ins. Co. of Am. v. Gonacha, 142 Colo. 170, 350 P.2d 189 (1960).

**The language of subsection (3) contains no indication that it was intended to alter the obligations under C.R.C.P. 4(m) or C.R.C.P. 41(b).** State Farm Mut. Auto Ins. Co. v. Steul, 2020 COA 146, 477 P.3d 778.

**Applied** in Genua v. Kilmer, 37 Colo. App. 365, 546 P.2d 1279 (1976).

#### **42-7-415. When insurance carrier to issue certificate.**

An insurance carrier which has issued a motor vehicle liability policy or an operator's policy of liability insurance meeting the requirements of this article shall upon request of the insured therein deliver to the insured for filing or at the request of the insured shall file directly with the director an appropriate certificate showing that such policy has been issued, which certificate shall meet the requirements of this article. The issuance and delivery or filing of such a certificate shall be conclusive evidence that every policy therein recited has been duly issued and complies with the requirements of this article.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2486, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

#### **42-7-416. Notice required upon cancellation.**

When an insurance carrier has certified a motor vehicle liability policy under this article, it shall give written notice to the director during the ten-day period immediately following the effective date of the cancellation of such policy stating that the policy has been canceled.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2486, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 96:** Entire section amended, p. 1212, § 11, effective July 1.

**42-7-417. Article not to affect other policies.**

(1) This article shall not be held to apply to or affect policies of automobile insurance against liability which may be required by any other law of this state, and such policies, if endorsed to conform to the requirements of this article, shall be accepted as proof of financial responsibility when required under this article.

(2) This article shall not be held to apply to or affect policies insuring solely the insured named in the policy against liability resulting from the maintenance, operation, or use of motor vehicles not owned by the insured by persons in the insured's employ or on the insured's behalf.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2486, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**42-7-418. Money - securities for financial responsibility.**

(1) A person may give proof of financial responsibility by delivering to the director money in an amount or securities approved by said director and of a market value in a total amount as would be required for coverage in a motor vehicle liability policy furnished by the person giving such proof under this article. Such securities shall be of a type which may legally be purchased by savings banks or for trust funds.

(2) All money or securities so deposited shall be subject to execution to satisfy any judgment mentioned in this article but shall not otherwise be subject to attachment or execution.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2487, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Cross references:** For permitted investments by savings and loan association, see § 11-41-114; for fiduciary investments, see part 3 of article 1 of title 15.

**ANNOTATION**

**Law reviews.** For article, "Recovery of Injury", see 18 Colo. Law. 1307 (1989).  
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**42-7-419. Substitution of proof.**

The director shall cancel any bond or return any certificate of insurance or the director shall direct and the state treasurer shall return any money or securities to the person entitled thereto, upon the substitution and acceptance of other adequate proof of financial responsibility pursuant to this article.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2487, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**42-7-420. Failure of proof - other proof.**

Whenever any evidence of proof of ability to respond in damages filed by any person under the provisions of this article no longer fulfills the purpose for which required, the director, for the purpose of this article, shall require other evidence of ability to respond in damages as required by this article and shall suspend the license of such person pending such proof.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2487, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**42-7-421. When director may release proof of financial responsibility.**

(1) The director, upon request, shall cancel any bond or return any certificate of insurance, or the director shall direct and the state treasurer shall return to the person entitled thereto any money or securities deposited pursuant to this article 7 as proof of financial responsibility, or waive the requirement of filing proof of financial responsibility in any of the following events:

(a) At any time after three years from the date such proof was required, or after any other period during which proof was required pursuant to section 42-7-408 (1) in the case of certain violations for an alcohol-related driving offense, if, during such three-year or other period preceding the request, the person furnishing such proof has not been convicted of any offense referred to in section 42-7-406; or

(b) In the event of the death of the person on whose behalf such proof was filed, or the permanent incapacity of such person to operate a motor vehicle; or

(c) In the event the person who has given proof of financial responsibility surrenders the person's license to the director, but the director shall not release such proof in the event any action for damages upon a liability referred to in this article 7 is then pending or any judgment upon any such liability is then outstanding and unsatisfied or in the event the director has received notice that such person has within the period of three months immediately preceding been involved as a driver in any motor vehicle crash. An affidavit of the applicant of the nonexistence of such facts is sufficient evidence thereof in the absence of evidence to the contrary in the records of the department.

(2) Whenever any person to whom proof has been surrendered, as provided in paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of this section, applies for a license within a period of three years from the date proof of financial responsibility was originally required, or within any other period during which proof of financial responsibility was required pursuant to section 42-7-408 (1), any such application shall be refused unless the applicant establishes such proof for the remainder of such period.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2487, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1)(a) and (2) amended, p. 710, § 7, effective May 23. **L. 2026:** IP(1) and (1)(c) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 494, § 85, effective August 12.

#### **42-7-422. No proof when proof required.**

Any person whose license or other privilege to operate a motor vehicle has been suspended, canceled, or revoked, and restoration thereof or issuance of a new license is contingent upon the furnishing of proof of financial responsibility for the future, and who, during such suspension or revocation or in the absence of proper authorization from the director, drives any motor vehicle upon any highway in Colorado except as permitted under this article 7 commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2488, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3322, § 763, effective March 1, 2022.

#### **ANNOTATION**

**Effect of failure to prove receipt of superfluous mailing on prosecution.** When the motor vehicle department undertook to mail to appellee the order of suspension, it was a wholly gratuitous action, and failure to prove that appellee received the

superfluous mailing which is not required by law was not fatal to the prosecution of the offense of driving an automobile while her license was under suspension. *People v. Neal*, 191 Colo. 302, 552 P.2d 508 (1976).

**Applied** in *People v. Mascarenas*, 632 P.2d 1028 (Colo. 1981).

## PART 5

### GENERAL

#### **42-7-501. Self-insurers.**

(1) Any person in whose name more than twenty-five motor vehicles are registered may qualify as a self-insurer by obtaining a certificate of self-insurance issued by the commissioner of insurance.

(2) The commissioner of insurance may, in his or her discretion, upon the application of such person, issue a certificate of self-insurance when the commissioner of insurance is satisfied that such person is possessed and will continue to be possessed of ability to pay all judgments that may be obtained against such person. Upon not less than five days' notice and a hearing pursuant to such notice, the commissioner of insurance may, upon reasonable grounds, cancel a certificate of self-insurance. Failure to pay any judgment within thirty days after such judgment has become final shall constitute a reasonable ground for the cancellation of a certificate of self-insurance.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2488, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 97:** Entire section amended, p. 1078, § 9, effective July 1.

#### **42-7-502. Action against nonresident - reciprocity with other states.**

(1) All of the provisions of this article shall apply to any person who is not a resident of this state, and if such nonresident has been convicted of an offense which would require the suspension or revocation of the license of a resident, or if such nonresident has failed to satisfy a judgment within thirty days after the same became final which would require suspension or revocation under this article in respect to a resident, then in either such event such nonresident shall not operate any motor vehicle in this state, and the director shall not issue to such nonresident any license unless and until such nonresident gives proof of financial responsibility and satisfies any such judgment as is required with respect to a resident of this state.

(2) The director shall transmit a certified copy of any record of any such conviction of a nonresident to the motor vehicle commissioner or state officer performing the functions of a

commissioner in the state in which such nonresident resides and shall likewise forward to such officer a certified record of any unsatisfied judgment rendered against such nonresident which requires suspension of such nonresident's driving privileges in this state.

(3) When a nonresident's operating privilege is suspended pursuant to section 42-7-301, the director shall transmit a certified copy of the record of such action to the official in charge of the issuance of licenses in the state in which such nonresident resides, if the law of such other state provides for action in relation thereto similar to that provided for in subsection (4) of this section.

(4) Upon receipt of certification that the operating privilege of a resident of this state has been suspended or revoked in any such other state pursuant to a law providing for its suspension or revocation for failure to deposit security for the payment of judgments arising out of a motor vehicle crash or for failure to deposit security and furnish a statement evidencing that the resident is insured under an automobile liability insurance policy or bond or for failure to file and maintain proof of financial responsibility, under circumstances which would require the director to suspend a nonresident's operating privilege had the crash occurred in this state, the director shall suspend the license of such resident. Such suspension shall continue until such resident furnishes evidence of compliance with the law of such other state relating to the deposit of such security and until such resident furnishes the statement evidencing automobile liability insurance or a bond, or, as the case may be, files proof of financial responsibility, if required by such law.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2488, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** (4) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 494, § 86, effective August 12.

#### ANNOTATION

**Law reviews.** For article, "A Decade of Colorado Law: Conflict of Laws, Security, Contracts and Equity", see 23 Rocky Mt. L. Rev. 247 (1951). For comment on *Warwick v. District Court*, 129 Colo. 300, 269 P.2d 704, appearing below, see 31 Dicta 439 (1954).

**Annotator's note.** Since this section is similar to repealed CSA, C. 16, § 48(1), a relevant case construing CSA, C. 16, § 48(1), has been included in the annotations to this section.

**The reason for this section** obviously is for the protection of persons within the border who may have reason to enforce liability upon the person so entering the state and using the highways thereof. Such a provision is not necessary, and does not apply to a person entering the state for the purpose of residing here in connection with an employment within the state, as obtains from the facts herein disclosed. For all purposes here material, the person so situated and residing within the state is in the same class as lifelong residents, and if



such person is involved in an accident in this state and leaves the state shortly thereafter, it is immaterial. *Warwick v. District Court*, 129 Colo. 300, 269 P.2d 704 (1954).

**Nonresident subject to act and secretary of state is his attorney for service of process.** The provisions of this section were intended to, and do, clearly indicate that whenever a resident of some other state crosses the border line into this state, whether on a drive across the country,

or for a short sojourn, he has subjected himself to the provisions of the statute, and by such entry made the secretary of state his true and lawful attorney upon whom service may be had if the person is involved in any accident or collision upon the public highway while operating a motor vehicle thereon. If the time involved is only one hour or less in crossing a corner of the state, or into and out thereof, such appointment is in full force and effect. *Warwick v. District Court*, 129 Colo. 300, 269 P.2d 704 (1954).

#### **42-7-503. Director to furnish operating record.**

The director shall, upon request, furnish any insurance carrier or any person or surety the record of any person subject to the provisions of this article, which record shall fully designate the motor vehicles, if any, registered in the name of such person, and if there is no record of any conviction of such person of a violation of any provision of any statute relating to the operation of a motor vehicle or of any injury or damage caused by such person as provided in this article, the director shall so certify. Such records shall be public records and subject to the provisions of section 42-1-206. No information required to be confidential by the provisions of section 24-72-204 (3.5)(a), C.R.S., shall be released by the director except as provided by that section. The director shall collect for each such certificate the sum of seventy-five cents.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2489, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

#### **42-7-504. Matters not to be evidence in litigation.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, neither action taken by the director pursuant to this article 7, any judgment or court decision on appeal therefrom, the findings of the director in such action, nor the security deposited, statement evidencing automobile liability insurance or bond, or proof of financial responsibility filed as provided in this article 7 shall be referred to nor be evidence of the negligence or due care of either party of an action at law to recover damages or in a criminal proceeding arising out of a motor vehicle crash. This section shall not apply to an action brought by the director to enforce the provisions of this article 7.

(2) For the purposes of any civil trial, civil hearing, or arbitration held in relation to uninsured or underinsured motorist insurance coverage where the question of the existence of

automobile liability insurance is an issue or when the amount of such insurance is an issue, the director shall issue, upon request, a certificate under seal. The certificate must contain the motor vehicle operator's name, address, date of birth, and driver's license number; the date of the crash; and a statement indicating whether or not the records indicate that the owner or operator had in effect at the time of the crash an effective automobile liability policy and, if such a policy was in effect, the amount of coverage, the name of the insurer, and the number of the policy. Such certificate is prima facie evidence of the facts contained therein. The director shall collect for each such certificate an amount sufficient to defray the costs of administration of this section. Such amount must be included as a cost of the action.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2490, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2004:** Entire section amended, p. 464, § 6, effective August 4. **L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 494, § 87, effective August 12.

#### **42-7-505. Forging ability to respond in damages.**

Any person who forges or without authority signs any evidence of ability to respond in damages or who furnishes the director with a false statement evidencing that such person is insured under an automobile liability policy or bond, as required by the director in the administration of this article 7, commits a class 2 misdemeanor.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2490, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3322, § 764, effective March 1, 2022.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class 2 misdemeanor, see § 18-1.3-501.

#### **42-7-505.5. Motor carrier indemnity agreements void - choice of law for transportation contracts.**

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if any provision of a transportation contract purports to indemnify, defend, or hold harmless or has the effect of indemnifying, defending, or holding harmless the indemnitee from or against any liability for loss or damage resulting from its own negligence or intentional acts or omissions, then, to that extent, the provision is hereby declared contrary to public policy and is therefore void.

(2) Notwithstanding any contractual provision to the contrary, the laws of the state of Colorado apply to every transportation contract executed or renewed, or under which services are performed, within the state of Colorado.

**Source: L. 2014:** Entire section added, (HB 14-1065), ch. 63, p. 284, § 2, effective March 24.

**42-7-506. Surrender of license.**

(1) Any person whose license has been suspended as provided in this article 7 and has not been reinstated shall immediately return such license held by such person to the director. Any person willfully failing to comply with this requirement commits a class A traffic infraction.

(2) The director is authorized to take possession of any license upon the suspension thereof under the provisions of this article or to direct any peace officer to take possession thereof and to return the same to the office of the director.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2490, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2021:** (1) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3323, § 765, effective March 1, 2022.

**42-7-507. Penalty.**

Any person who violates any provision of this article 7 for which another penalty is not prescribed by law commits a class A traffic infraction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2491, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3323, § 766, effective March 1, 2022.

**42-7-508. No repeal of motor vehicle laws.**

This article shall in no respect be considered as a repeal of the provisions of the state motor vehicle laws, but shall be construed as supplemental thereto.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2491, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**42-7-509. Article does not prevent other process.**

This article shall not be construed to prevent the plaintiff in any action at law from relying for security upon the other processes provided by law.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2491, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**42-7-510. Insurance or bond required.**

(1) An owner of a truck that is subject to the registration fee imposed pursuant to section 42-3-306 (5)(b) or (7) and that is not subject to article 10.1 of title 40, before operating or permitting the operation of the vehicle upon a public highway in this state, shall have in each vehicle a motor vehicle liability policy or a certificate evidencing the policy issued by an insurance carrier or insurer authorized to do business in Colorado, or a copy of a valid certificate of self-insurance issued pursuant to section 10-4-624, or a surety bond issued by a company authorized to do a surety business in Colorado in the sum of fifty thousand dollars for damages to property of others; the sum of one hundred thousand dollars for damages for or on account of bodily injury or death of one person as a result of any one crash; and, subject to such limit as to one person, the sum of three hundred thousand dollars for or on account of bodily injury to or death of all persons as a result of any one crash.

(2) (a) Every owner of a motor vehicle designed and used for the nonemergency transportation of individuals with disabilities as defined in subsection (2)(b) of this section, before operating or permitting the operation of such vehicle upon any public highway in this state, shall file with the department a certificate evidencing a motor vehicle liability insurance policy issued by an insurance carrier or insurer authorized to do business in the state of Colorado or a surety bond issued by a company authorized to do a surety business in the state of Colorado with a minimum sum of fifty thousand dollars for damages to property of others; a minimum sum of one hundred thousand dollars for damages for or on account of bodily injury or death of one person as a result of any one crash; and, subject to such limit as to one person, a minimum sum of three hundred thousand dollars for or on account of bodily injury to or death of all persons as a result of any one crash.

(b) As used in this subsection (2), a "motor vehicle designed and used for the nonemergency transportation of individuals with disabilities" means any motor vehicle designed to facilitate the loading of individuals with physical disabilities confined to a wheelchair except vehicles owned by the United States government, vehicles owned and operated by any special transportation district, or privately owned vehicles when such privately owned vehicles are used by the owner to transport the owner or members of the owner's family who are confined to a wheelchair.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction. If any violation of this section is committed on behalf of a partnership or corporation, any director, officer, partner, or high managerial agent thereof who authorized, ordered, permitted, or otherwise participated in, by commission or omission, such violation is also a class A traffic infraction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2491, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1) amended, p. 961, § 23, effective May 25; (1) amended, p. 1211, § 26, effective May 31. **L. 2004:** (1) amended, p. 907, § 36, effective May 21. **L. 2005:** (1) amended, p. 1179, § 21, effective August 8. **L. 2010:** (1) amended, (HB 10-1167), ch. 125, p. 417, § 8, effective April 15; (1) amended, (SB 10-212), ch. 412, p. 2039, § 20, effective July 1. **L. 2011:** (1) amended, (HB 11-1198), ch. 127, p. 426, § 28, effective August 10. **L. 2021:** (3) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3323, § 767, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2022:** (3) amended, (HB 22-1229), ch. 68, p. 349, § 44, effective March 1. **L. 2026:** (1) and (2)(a) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 495, § 88, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) Amendments to subsection (1) by Senate Bill 95-173 and House Bill 95-1068 were harmonized.

(2) Amendments to subsection (1) by House Bill 10-1167 and Senate Bill 10-212 were harmonized.

(3) Section 47 of chapter 68 (HB 22-1229), Session Laws of Colorado 2022, provides that the act changing this section is effective March 1, 2022, but the governor did not approve the act until April 7, 2022.

## PART 6

### UNINSURED MOTORIST IDENTIFICATION DATABASE PROGRAM

#### **42-7-601. Short title.**

(1) This part 6 shall be known and may be cited as the "Motorist Insurance Identification Database Program Act".

(2) Repealed.

**Source: L. 95:** Entire part added, p. 715, § 1, effective May 23. **L. 97:** Entire section amended, p. 1447, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2003:** (2) repealed, p. 2649, § 11, effective July 1.

**42-7-602. Uninsured motorist identification database program - creation.**

The general assembly hereby directs the transportation legislation review committee to conduct an examination of the problem of uninsured motorists in this state and to propose legislation which shall alleviate if not eliminate the problem. The general assembly further directs the transportation legislation review committee to examine Colorado's compulsory motor vehicle insurance system. Such examination shall include a review of whether such system should be maintained or repealed and whether there are more effective enforcement mechanisms that might be employed. The committee shall also study the effectiveness of other enforcement mechanisms including, but not limited to, uninsured motorist database programs that have been employed in other compulsory insurance states.

**Source: L. 95:** Entire part added, p. 715, § 1, effective May 23.

**42-7-603. Definitions.**

As used in this part 6, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Database" means the motorist insurance identification database described in section 42-7-604 (5).
- (2) "Department" means the department of revenue.
- (3) "Designated agent" means the party with which the department contracts under section 42-7-604.
- (4) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2000, p. 1649, § 43, effective June 1, 2000.)
- (5) "Program" means the motorist insurance identification database program created in section 42-7-604.

**Source: L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 1447, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** (3) and (4) amended, p. 1649, § 43, effective June 1.

**42-7-604. Motorist insurance identification database program - creation - administration - selection of designated agent - legislative declaration.**

(1) The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that the purpose of this section is to help reduce the uninsured motorist population in this state and measure the effectiveness of the motorist insurance identification database created herein.

(2) The general assembly further recognizes that the information and data required to be disclosed by insurers in creating and maintaining the motorist insurance identification database is proprietary in nature. Accordingly, the parties handling such information and data shall at all times maintain their confidential and proprietary nature.

(3) The motorist insurance identification database program is hereby created for the purpose of establishing a database to use when verifying compliance with the motor vehicle security requirements in this article and in articles 3 and 4 of this title. The program shall be administered by the department.

(4) (a) The department shall monitor compliance with the financial security requirements of this article and may contract with a designated agent to monitor such compliance with the financial security requirements of this article. If the department contracts with a designated agent, the agent shall be authorized to perform all functions of the department delegated to the agent in the contract.

(b) After a contract has been entered into with a designated agent, the department shall convene a working group for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the program. The working group shall consist of representatives of the insurance industry, the division of insurance, the department of public safety, and the department.

(5) (a) The department or its designated agent, using its own computer network, shall develop and maintain a computer database with information provided by:

(I) Insurers, pursuant to section 10-4-615, C.R.S.; except that any person who qualifies as self-insured pursuant to section 10-4-624, C.R.S., shall not be required to provide information to the department; and

(II) The department shall compare the make, year, and vehicle identification number of all registered vehicles to policy information provided by insurers.

(b) The department shall establish guidelines for the development and maintenance of a database so that the database can easily be accessed by state and local law enforcement agencies.

(c) The department shall:

(I) Provide an internet option that allows insurers and their agents, including commercial insurers, to submit insurance information directly to the designated agent. Each insurer shall cooperate with the verification process.

(II) Provide a reasonable and adequate quality control process to ensure the accurate input of data, including the vehicle identification numbers and insurance information;

(III) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2006, p. 1011, § 7, effective July 1, 2006.)

(IV) Provide each county clerk access to the most currently available data from the database of insurance information.

(6) The department shall, at least weekly:

(a) Update the database with information provided by insurers in accordance with section 10-4-615, C.R.S.;

(b) Compare then-current motor vehicle registrations against the database.

(6.5) and (7) Repealed.

(8) The department, in cooperation with the division of insurance, shall promulgate rules and develop procedures for administering and enforcing this part 6. Such rules shall specify the reporting requirements that are necessary and appropriate for commercial lines of insurance and shall be developed with input by insurers and the designated agent.

**Source:** **L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 1448, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (3) amended, p. 787, § 4, effective July 1, 1999. **L. 2000:** (3), (4), (5)(a)(II), (5)(b), (7), and (8) amended, p. 1649, § 44, effective June 1. **L. 2002:** (7) amended, p. 1034, § 77, effective June 1; (7) amended, p. 872, § 10, effective August 7. **L. 2003:** (5)(c) added and (6.5) and (7) repealed, pp. 2649, 2650, §§ 12, 13, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (5)(a)(I) amended, p. 907, § 37, effective May 21; (5)(a)(I) and (5)(c)(III) amended, p. 795, § 6, effective January 1, 2005. **L. 2006:** (4)(a), (5), IP(6) amended, p. 1011, § 7, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** Amendments to subsection (7) by Senate Bill 02-159 and House Bill 02-1341 were harmonized.

**42-7-605. Notice of lack of financial responsibility. (Repealed)**



**Source:** **L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 1449, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** IP(1) and (3) amended, p. 1650, § 45, effective June 1. **L. 2001:** IP(1) amended, p. 523, § 7, effective May 22. **L. 2003:** (5) added, p. 1885, § 1, effective May 22; (1)(a) amended, p. 1575, § 15, effective July 1. **L. 2004:** (5) amended, p. 907, § 38, effective May 21; (1) and (5) amended, p. 795, § 7, effective January 1, 2005. **L. 2005:** IP(1)(a) amended, p. 1179, § 22, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** Entire section repealed, p. 1012, § 8, effective July 1.

**42-7-606. Disclosure of insurance information - penalty.**

(1) Information provided by insurers and the department for inclusion in the database established pursuant to section 42-7-604 is the property of the insurer or the department, as the case may be, and may not be disclosed except as follows:

(a) The department shall verify a motor vehicle's insurance coverage upon request by any state or local government agency investigating, litigating, or enforcing such motor vehicle's compliance with the financial security requirements.

(b) The department shall disclose whether a motor vehicle has the required insurance coverage upon request by the following individuals and agencies only:

- (I) The owner;
- (II) The parent or legal guardian of the owner if the owner is an unemancipated minor;
- (III) The legal guardian of the owner if the owner is legally incapacitated;
- (IV) Any person who has power of attorney from the owner;
- (V) Any person who submits a notarized release from the owner that is dated no more than ninety days before the date the request is made;
- (VI) Any person suffering loss or injury in a motor vehicle crash, but only as part of a crash report authorized in part 16 of article 4 of this title 42; or
- (VII) The office of the state auditor, for the purpose of conducting any audit authorized by law.

(2) Any person or agency who knowingly discloses information from the database for a purpose or to a person other than those authorized in this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

(3) The state shall not be liable to any person for gathering, managing, or using information in the database pursuant to this part 6.

(4) The designated agent shall not be liable to any person for performing its duties under this part 6, unless and to the extent said agent commits a willful and wanton act or omission. The designated agent shall be liable to any insurer damaged by the designated agent's negligent failure to protect the confidential and proprietary nature of the information and data disclosed by the insurer to the designated agent.

(5) The designated agent shall provide to this state an errors and omissions insurance policy covering said designated agent in an appropriate amount.

(6) No insurer shall be liable to any person for performing its duties under this part 6, unless and to the extent the insurer commits a willful and wanton act or omission.

**Source:** **L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 1450, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2000:** IP(1) and IP(1)(b) amended, p. 1650, § 46, effective June 1. **L. 2002:** (2) amended, p. 1564, § 379, effective October 1. **L. 2006:** IP(1) and (1)(a) amended, p. 1014, § 9, effective July 1. **L. 2007:** (1) amended, p. 208, § 1, effective August 3. **L. 2021:** (2) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3323, § 768, effective March 1, 2022. **L. 2026:** (1)(b)(VI) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 496, § 89, effective August 12.

**Cross references:** (1) For the penalty for a class A traffic infraction generally, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(I); for the penalty and surcharge for a violation of this section, see § 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(I)(S).

(2) For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsection (2), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

#### **42-7-607. Part 6 not to supersede other provisions.**

This part 6 shall not supersede other actions or penalties that may be taken or imposed for violation of the financial security requirements of this article.

**Source:** **L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 1451, § 6, effective July 1.

#### **42-7-608. Review by department of regulatory agencies - repeal. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 1451, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2001:** Entire section amended, p. 522, § 1, effective May 22. **L. 2003:** Entire section repealed, p. 2646, § 2, effective July 1.

#### **42-7-609. Report.**

The department of revenue shall submit a report, in consultation with the division of insurance, regarding the effectiveness of the motorist insurance database, including without limitation the department's recommendations on whether the program should be continued and on whether enforcement mechanisms should be instituted or changed. The report shall be submitted to the house business affairs and labor committee of the general assembly by January 1, 2008.

**Source: L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 1451, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2001:** Entire section amended, p. 522, § 2, effective May 22. **L. 2003:** Entire section amended, p. 2646, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2006:** Entire section amended, p. 1011, § 6, effective July 1.

## **PORT OF ENTRY WEIGH STATIONS**

### **ARTICLE 8**

#### **Port of Entry Weigh Stations**

|           |                                                              |           |                                                                                         |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 42-8-101. | Legislative declaration.                                     | 42-8-108. | Cooperation among departments.                                                          |
| 42-8-102. | Definitions.                                                 |           |                                                                                         |
| 42-8-103. | Ports of entry - operation by Colorado state patrol.         | 42-8-109. | Fines and penalties - suspension of certificate or permit.                              |
| 42-8-104. | Powers and duties - rules.                                   | 42-8-110. | Expenses of administration appropriated from the highway users tax fund.                |
| 42-8-105. | Clearance of motor vehicles at port of entry weigh stations. | 42-8-111. | Cooperative agreements with contiguous states for operations of ports of entry - rules. |
| 42-8-106. | Issuance of clearance receipts.                              |           |                                                                                         |
| 42-8-107. | Construction and rights-of-way.                              |           |                                                                                         |

#### **42-8-101. Legislative declaration.**

In order to facilitate enforcement of the laws of the state of Colorado concerning motor carriers and the owners and operators of motor vehicles; to equally distribute the payments of any fees, licenses, or taxes imposed by the laws of this state on motor carriers and the owners and operators of motor vehicles, and to effect the collection thereof; and to assist motor carriers and the owners and operators of motor vehicles to comply with all tax laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to them, it is declared necessary to establish port of entry weigh stations on the public highways of this state.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2492, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

#### **42-8-102. Definitions.**

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Motor vehicles" means trucks, truck tractors, trailers, and semitrailers or combinations thereof.
- (2) "Person" means an individual, a partnership, a corporation, a company, or an association.
- (3) "Port of entry officer" means a uniformed member of the Colorado state patrol who is not a trooper and whose powers and duties are described in section 42-8-104 (2).

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2492, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2012:** (3) added, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 468, § 12, effective July 1. **L. 2013:** (3) amended, (HB 13-1300), ch. 316, p. 1709, § 140, effective August 7.

#### **42-8-103. Ports of entry - operation by Colorado state patrol.**

- (1) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2012.)
- (2) The chief of the Colorado state patrol shall be responsible for establishing and operating port of entry weigh stations at such points along the public highways of this state as are determined to be necessary to carry out the purposes of this article. The chief shall authorize permanent port of entry weigh stations and mobile port of entry weigh stations to be established and operated by the Colorado state patrol. The location or relocation of the stationary or mobile port of entry weigh stations shall be determined by the chief.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2492, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** Entire section amended, p. 386, § 3, effective April 17; entire section amended, p. 1551, § 11, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** Entire section amended, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 469, § 13, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** Amendments to this section by House Bill 96-1114 and Senate Bill 96-084 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** For the department of revenue and divisions thereunder, see § 24-1-117.

#### **42-8-104. Powers and duties - rules.**

(1) The chief of the Colorado state patrol shall issue such rules as the chief deems necessary to implement this article and carry out its purposes. All permanent port of entry weigh stations established under the authority of this article shall be operated at times determined by the chief so as to reasonably allow owners and operators of motor vehicles subject to fees, licenses, or taxes or to rules imposed by the state of Colorado to comply with all such laws and rules by clearance at a port of entry weigh station. All port of entry weigh stations, either permanent or mobile, shall be equipped with weighing equipment approved as to accuracy by the division of inspection and consumer services of the department of agriculture.

(2) A port of entry officer, during the time that the officer is actually engaged in performing the officer's duties as such and while acting under proper orders or rules issued by the chief of the Colorado state patrol, shall exercise all the powers invested in peace officers in connection with directing traffic and in the enforcement of the provisions of this article 8; articles 2, 3, and 20 of this title 42; part 5 of article 4 of this title 42; and sections 42-4-106 (5), 42-4-209, 42-4-225 (1.5), 42-4-235, 42-4-1407, 42-4-1409, and 42-4-1414; except that an officer does not have the power to serve civil writs and process and, in the exercise of the officer's duties, an officer has the authority to restrain and detain persons or vehicles and may impound any vehicle until any tax or license fee imposed by law is paid or until compliance is had with any tax or regulatory law or rule issued thereunder.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2493, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (2) amended, p. 1102, § 3, effective August 2; (2) amended, p. 1454, § 2, effective July 1, 2001. **L. 2006:** (2) amended, p. 1514, § 80, effective June 1. **L. 2010:** (2) amended, (HB 10-

1167), ch. 125, p. 418, § 9, effective April 15; (2) amended, (HB 10-1113), ch. 244, p. 1083, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** Entire section amended, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 469, § 14, effective July 1. **L. 2020:** (2) amended, (HB 20-1027), ch. 41, p. 139, § 1, effective March 20. **L. 2024:** (2) amended, (SB 24-100), ch. 207, p. 1278, § 5, effective August 7.

**Editor's note:** (1) Amendments to subsection (2) by House Bill 00-1178 and House Bill 00-1142 were harmonized, effective July 1, 2001.

(2) Amendments to subsection (2) by House Bill 10-1167 and House Bill 10-1113 were harmonized.

**Cross references:** For rule-making procedures, see article 4 of title 24.

#### **42-8-105. Clearance of motor vehicles at port of entry weigh stations.**

(1) Every owner or operator of a motor vehicle that is subject to payment of registration fees under the provisions of section 42-3-306 (5)(b) and every owner or operator of a motor vehicle or combination of vehicles having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating of twenty-six thousand one pounds or more shall secure a valid clearance from an officer of the Colorado state patrol, or from a port of entry weigh station before operating the vehicle or combination of vehicles or causing the vehicle or combination of vehicles to be operated on the public highways of this state, but an owner or operator shall be deemed to have complied with the provisions of this subsection (1) if the owner or operator secures a valid clearance from the first port of entry weigh station located within five road miles of the route that the owner or operator would normally follow from the point of departure to the point of destination. An owner or operator shall not be required to seek out a port of entry weigh station not located on the route such owner or operator is following if the owner or operator secures a special revocable permit from the Colorado state patrol in accordance with the provisions of subsection (4) of this section. A vehicle with a seating capacity of fourteen or more passengers registered under the provisions of section 42-3-304 (13) or 42-3-306 (2)(c)(I) shall not be required to secure a valid clearance pursuant to this section.

(2) It is unlawful for any owner or operator of a motor vehicle subject to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section to permit the travel of such motor vehicle on the public highways of this state without first having secured a valid clearance as provided in said subsection (1), and every such owner or operator shall be required to seek out a port of entry weigh station for the purpose of securing such valid clearance, whether or not such port of entry weigh station is

located on the route that the owner or operator is following, unless a valid clearance or a special permit in accordance with subsection (4) of this section has previously been secured.

(3) Every owner or operator of a motor vehicle subject to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall secure a valid clearance at each port of entry weigh station located on the route that the owner or operator would normally follow from the point of departure to the point of destination for verification of its previously secured clearance.

(3.5) Every owner or operator of a motor vehicle subject to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, when stopped for a lawful inspection, shall permit personnel of a port of entry weigh station to inspect the fuel tank of the vehicle for the purpose of ensuring that the vehicle is not operating on the public highways of the state using tax-exempt diesel fuel in violation of section 42-4-1414.

(4) The Colorado state patrol may issue a special revocable permit to the owner or operator of any vehicle being operated over a regularly scheduled route waiving the requirement that the owner or operator seek out and secure a valid clearance at a port of entry weigh station not located directly on the route being followed. In order for the permit to be effective, the vehicle must be operating over a regularly scheduled route that has previously been cleared with the Colorado state patrol.

(5) Any owner or operator of a motor vehicle that is subject to the provisions of sections 42-3-304 to 42-3-306, who is found guilty of violating the provisions and requirements of this section, shall be subject to the fines and penalties prescribed in section 42-8-109.

(6) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2493, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1) amended, p. 962, § 24, effective May 25. **L. 96:** (1), (4), and (6) amended, p. 1551, § 12, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (1) to (4) amended, p. 1095, § 8, effective June 1. **L. 99:** (3.5) added, p. 665, § 1, effective May 18. **L. 2005:** (1) and (5) amended, p. 1179, § 23, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (1) amended, p. 1514, § 81, effective June 1. **L. 2010:** (1) amended, (SB 10-212), ch. 412, p. 2039, § 21, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** (1) and (4) amended and (6) repealed, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 470, § 15, effective July 1.

#### **42-8-106. Issuance of clearance receipts.**

All owners and operators of motor vehicles subject to the payment of fees, licenses, or taxes imposed by the laws of this state, including foreign vehicles, that have not been properly certificated or permitted by the public utilities commission or that have not been approved by the department of revenue for monthly or periodic payment of such fees, licenses, or taxes shall be

issued a clearance receipt at a port of entry weigh station only after such fees, licenses, or taxes that may be due are paid or compliance is had with regulatory acts. A clearance receipt issued under this section shall specify the date upon which issued and amounts of fees, licenses, or taxes to be paid. The receipt shall be valid only for the dates and trips specified thereon and for the length of time specified thereon. The Colorado state patrol, through the port of entry weigh stations, may also issue permits for oversize and overweight commercial hauls pursuant to rules and regulations governing such hauls established by the department of transportation. Failure to secure such clearance receipt shall subject the owner or operator to a penalty of double the amount of any tax, license, or fee due that shall be in addition to and distinct from the penalty provided for in section 42-8-109.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2494, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 98:** Entire section amended, p. 1096, § 9, effective June 1. **L. 2012:** Entire section amended, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 470, § 16, effective July 1.

#### **42-8-107. Construction and rights-of-way.**

Within thirty days after receiving notification from the chief of the Colorado state patrol, the department of transportation shall make available without charge to the Colorado state patrol such rights-of-way upon or adjacent to the public highways of this state as are needed for the construction or reconstruction of port of entry weigh stations. If such rights-of-way are not available, the department of transportation shall acquire such rights-of-way as are needed to carry out the purposes of this article out of money in the state highway fund provided for right-of-way acquisition. If possible, the construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of port of entry weigh stations shall be accomplished with forces of the department of transportation within thirty days after notification by the chief of the Colorado state patrol requesting such work.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2495, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2012:** Entire section amended, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 471, § 17, effective July 1.

#### **42-8-108. Cooperation among departments.**

The governor of Colorado shall require the chief of the Colorado state patrol, the chief engineer of the department of transportation, the commissioner of agriculture, the director of the division of commerce and development, and the chair of the public utilities commission to cooperate to the fullest extent possible to the end that port of entry weigh stations established under authority of this article shall serve the broadest possible functions.



**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2495, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2012:** Entire section amended, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 471, § 18, effective July 1.

**42-8-109. Fines and penalties - suspension of certificate or permit.**

(1) Any person who drives a vehicle or owns a vehicle in violation of the provisions of section 42-8-105 (1) to (5) or 42-8-106 commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 42-1-217, all fines and penalties imposed under this article shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the state highway fund; except that fifty percent of any fine or penalty imposed under this article for a violation occurring within the corporate limits of a city, town, or city and county or outside the corporate limits of a city, town, or city and county, which violation is cited by a law enforcement officer of such city, town, county, or city and county, shall be transmitted to the treasurer or chief financial officer of such city, town, county, or city and county, and the remaining fifty percent shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the state highway fund.

(3) In addition to the penalties imposed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the chief of the Colorado state patrol shall, upon the conviction of any owner or operator or of any agent, officer, or employee, after a third offense within one calendar year, notify the public utilities commission of such conviction, and the commission may suspend any license or permit for a period not to exceed six months or revoke all such certificates and permits issued to the owner or operator of such vehicles by the public utilities commission. Such certificate or permit can be suspended or revoked only after due notice and hearing and for good cause shown. The chief shall file a complaint with the public utilities commission, and the commission must hold a hearing within thirty days after filing of a complaint by the chief. If at the hearing the commission finds that the facts as stated in the complaint by the chief are substantially correct, the commission may immediately revoke all intrastate certificates and permits issued by it to such violator.

(4) (Deleted by amendment, L. 96, p. 386, § 4, effective April 17, 1996.)

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2495, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 96:** Entire section amended, p. 386, § 4, effective April 17. **L. 2012:** (3) amended, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 471, § 19, effective July 1.

**Cross references:** For the penalty for a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense, see § 42-4-1701 (3)(a)(II).

**42-8-110. Expenses of administration appropriated from the highway users tax fund.**

For the purpose of administering this article and for the operation, maintenance, and future construction of the port of entry weigh stations established pursuant to this article, there shall be appropriated from the highway users tax fund for each fiscal year such moneys as the general assembly may determine, upon presentation of a budget for that purpose in form and content in accordance with the provisions for submission of budget requests by state agencies.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2496, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**42-8-111. Cooperative agreements with contiguous states for operations of ports of entry - rules.**

(1) In addition to any other powers granted by law, the chief of the Colorado state patrol is hereby authorized to negotiate and enter into cooperative agreements with the designated representatives of contiguous states for the operations of ports of entry at the borders between Colorado and such contiguous states.

(2) An agreement with a contiguous state or contiguous states for the operation of ports of entry at the borders between Colorado and such contiguous state or states entered into under the provisions of this section may include, but shall not be limited to, the following provisions:

(a) The joint operation of ports of entry by Colorado and a contiguous state or contiguous states;

(b) A grant of authority to the port of entry employees and officials of Colorado and to the port of entry employees and officials of each other state which is a party to such agreement to:

(I) Collect any fees, taxes, and penalties which are imposed by other states which are parties to such agreement on behalf of such states and to remit such fees, taxes, and penalties to such states; and

(II) Take actions to enforce the laws of other states that are parties to the agreement, including, but not limited to, the monitoring of licenses and other credential usage, the enforcement of tax restraint, distraint, or levy orders, the issuance of civil citations, and the conduct of any necessary equipment inspections. Port of entry personnel shall have and maintain

the authority to enforce the provisions of section 42-4-1414 regarding the prohibition on the use of dyed fuel on Colorado highways.

(c) The assignment of Colorado ports of entry employees and officials at jointly operated ports of entry outside of Colorado and the assignment of ports of entry employees and officials of contiguous states at ports of entry within Colorado; and

(d) The allowance of such access to the data bases of Colorado and other states which are parties to such agreement by the employees and officials of each state as is necessary to enforce the laws of each such state and to operate under the terms of such agreement.

(3) Any agreement entered into under the provisions of this section shall contain provisions which express the understanding that any employees and officials of any other state who are assigned to jointly operated ports of entry, who enforce the laws of Colorado under the terms of such agreement, or who otherwise act under the terms of such agreement shall not be compensated by Colorado and shall not be considered to be employees or officials of Colorado for the purposes of any employee rights or benefits.

(4) The chief of the Colorado state patrol is hereby authorized to appoint employees and officials of a contiguous state as agents of the Colorado state patrol with the powers to enforce the laws of Colorado under the terms of cooperative agreements entered into under the provisions of this section.

(5) The chief of the Colorado state patrol may promulgate such rules as are necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this section.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2496, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (4) amended, p. 1655, § 52, effective June 1. **L. 2010:** (2)(b)(II) amended, (HB 10-1113), ch. 244, p. 1084, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** (1), (4), and (5) amended, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 472, § 20, effective July 1.

## **MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIRS**

### **ARTICLE 9**

#### **Motor Vehicle Repair Act**

|           |                |           |                                                                                |
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| 42-9-107.   | Used, reconditioned, or rebuilt parts.                                             | 42-9-109.5. | Inflatable restraint systems - replacement. |
| 42-9-108.   | Invoice.                                                                           | 42-9-110.   | Exemption - antique motor vehicles.         |
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#### **42-9-101. Short title.**

This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Motor Vehicle Repair Act of 1977".

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2500, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-11-101 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-9-102. Definitions.**

As used in this article 9, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Auto parts recycler" means any person who purchases motor vehicles for the purpose of dismantling and selling the components thereof and who complies with all federal, state, and local regulations. "Auto parts recycler" includes a vehicle dismantler.

(1.2) "Customer" means the owner, the agent of the owner, or a family member, employee, or any other person whose use of the vehicle is authorized by the owner.

(1.5) "Estimate" means a written or oral assessment that describes structural damage to or mechanical needs of a motor vehicle. The estimate shall include total estimated costs of repair, excluding sales taxes and towing charges, together with a statement as to whether any parts to be installed are new original equipment manufacturer, new nonoriginal equipment manufacturer, used, reconditioned, or rebuilt.

(1.6) "Inflatable restraint system" has the same meaning as is set forth in 49 CFR sec. 507.208 S4.1.5.1 (b).

(1.7) "Invoice" means the final statement for services rendered.

(2) (a) "Motor vehicle" means every self-propelled vehicle intended primarily for use and operation on the public highways.

(b) The term does not include:

(I) Trucks and truck tractors having a gross vehicle weight of more than eight thousand five hundred pounds;

(II) Farm tractors and other machines and tools used in the production, harvesting, and care of farm products; or

(III) Motorcycles or autocycles.

(3) "Motor vehicle repair facility" means any natural person, partnership, corporation, trust, association, or group of persons associated in fact although not a legal entity which, with intent to make a profit or a gain of money or other thing of value, engages in the business or occupation of performing repairs on a motor vehicle, including repairs on body parts. The term "motor vehicle repair facility" includes a motor vehicle repair garage.

(4) "Necessary" means essential to a desired or projected end as stated by the customer or indispensable to avoid loss or damage.

(5) "Repairs on a motor vehicle" or "repairs" includes maintenance, diagnosis, repairs, service, and parts replacement but does not include washing the vehicle or adding gasoline or oil to the vehicle.

(6) "Work order" means a document that a customer signs to authorize repairs. "Work order" may include an estimate.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2500, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (3) amended and (1.5), (1.7), and (6) added, p. 857, § 1, effective May 21; (1) amended and (1.2) and (1.6) added, p. 796, § 2, effective August 6. **L. 2022:** IP and (2) amended, (HB 22-1043), ch. 361, p. 2588, § 29, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-11-102 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Subsection (1.6) was originally numbered as (1.5) in House Bill 97-1098 but was renumbered on revision for ease of location.

## ANNOTATION

**"Customer" means owner but does not unambiguously include a transferee or subsequent owner.** The inclusion of such owners in the term "customer" would not be consistent with the use of that word elsewhere in the Motor Vehicle Repair Act. *Frisone v. Deane Automotive Center, Inc.*, 942 P.2d 1215 (Colo. App. 1996).

**The word "motor vehicle" includes a vehicle sold for use on the highway or normally used on the highway.** The statutory definition does not limit the definition to vehicles that are not currently legal to drive on the roadway. *Sanchez v.*

*Rains Precision Motorsports*, 2025 COA 40, 570 P.3d 1078.

**The word "repairs" covers replacing parts that are not working correctly.** Even if a new part is intended to increase performance, replacing a part that is not working correctly is a repair. *Sanchez v. Rains Precision Motorsports*, 2025 COA 40, 570 P.3d 1078.

**"[P]arts replacement" is not restricted to exclude aftermarket parts.** *Sanchez v. Rains Precision Motorsports*, 2025 COA 40, 570 P.3d 1078.

### **42-9-103. Applicability.**

The provisions of sections 42-9-104, 42-9-105, and 42-9-106 shall not apply where the total cost of the labor and parts is one hundred dollars or less.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2501, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-11-102.5 as it existed prior to 1994.

### **42-9-104. When consent and estimate required - original transaction - disassembly.**

(1) (a) No repairs on a motor vehicle shall be performed by a motor vehicle repair facility unless the facility obtains the written consent of the customer.

(b) The required written consent is waived by the customer only when the motor vehicle has been towed to the motor vehicle repair facility or the customer has left the motor vehicle with the motor vehicle repair facility outside of normal business hours or when the customer has signed a waiver in compliance with paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of this section. The waiver established by this paragraph (b) for any vehicle that is towed to a motor vehicle repair facility or left with

the motor vehicle repair facility outside of normal business hours is limited to a maximum of one hundred dollars for all labor and parts.

(c) When the customer has not given the motor vehicle repair facility written consent to perform repairs, no repairs shall be performed unless the facility first communicates orally to the customer the written estimate of the total cost of such repairs and the customer then consents to the required repairs. A record of such communication and consent shall be made on the work order by the motor vehicle repair facility and shall include the date, time, manner of consent, telephone number called, if any, and the names of the persons giving and receiving such consent. If more than one such communication occurs between the motor vehicle repair facility and the customer, a record of the telephone number need not be made for each subsequent communication if the telephone number is the same as on the initial consent.

(2) (a) (I) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (2), no repairs shall be performed by a motor vehicle repair facility unless said facility first submits in writing or, where allowed by this section, orally communicates to the customer an estimate of the total cost of any such repairs. The written estimate shall include the expected completion date of such repairs. A copy of the completed written estimate of the total cost of repair shall be provided to the customer.

(II) (A) Except as provided in sub-subparagraph (B) of this subparagraph (II), storage charges may accrue, beginning on the fourth day, if the customer has not picked up the motor vehicle within three days, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday, any legal holiday, and any days the repair facility is closed for business, after notification of the completion of authorized repairs or if the customer failed to authorize repairs to be performed within three days, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday, any legal holiday, and any days the repair facility is closed for business, after the date of communication of an estimate.

(B) Storage charges shall be assessed in accordance with section 38-20-109, C.R.S., if the facility chooses to sell the customer's property in accordance with article 20 of title 38, C.R.S.

(C) The amounts that a customer may be charged for storage charges shall be conspicuously printed on the separate written authorization provided to the customer.

(III) The work order provided to the customer shall state conspicuously that, except for body shop repair parts and exchanged or warranty parts that shall only be presented to the customer for examination and not returned, and except for inflatable restraint system components, the customer is entitled to the return of the replaced parts if the customer so requests at the time of consenting to or authorizing the repairs.

(IV) The work order, or a legible copy thereof, shall be retained by the motor vehicle repair facility for at least three years.

(b) A customer may waive the right to receive any estimate, either written or oral, prior to authorizing repairs by signing the customer's name and the date below the following statement that shall be in bold type: **"I DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE ANY ESTIMATE, EITHER WRITTEN OR ORAL, TO WHICH I AM ENTITLED BY LAW, BEFORE REPAIRS ARE AUTHORIZED."** The signing of such waiver does not constitute an authorization of repairs, which shall be a separate statement.

(c) (I) In the event that it is necessary to disassemble, or partially disassemble, a motor vehicle or a motor vehicle part in order to provide the customer with an estimate for required repairs, the written estimate required in paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) shall show the cost of reassembly in the event that the customer elects not to proceed with the repairs of the motor vehicle or motor vehicle part. The estimate shall also include the total cost of labor and parts to replace those expendable items that are normally destroyed by such disassembly. No act of disassembly that would prevent the restoration of the same unit to its former condition may be undertaken unless the motor vehicle repair facility has fully informed the customer of that fact in writing on the work order and the customer consents to the disassembly.

(II) Any estimate of required repairs given after a disassembly shall comply with the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2); except that such written estimate may then be communicated orally to the customer. A record of such communication shall be made on the work order by the motor vehicle repair facility, including the date, time, manner of communication, telephone number called, if any, and names of persons giving and receiving such consent. If more than one such communication occurs between the motor vehicle repair facility and the customer, a record of the telephone number need not be made for each subsequent communication if the telephone number is the same as on the initial consent.

(d) Towing charges are excluded from the written or oral estimate and consent requirements of this section.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2501, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1)(b) and (2)(a) amended, p. 575, § 1, effective January 1, 1996. **L. 97:** Entire section amended, p. 858, § 2, effective May 21; (2)(a)(III) amended, p. 797, § 3, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-11-103 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Amendments to subsection (2)(a)(III) by House Bill 97-1098 and House Bill 97-1105 were harmonized.



**42-9-105. When consent and estimate required - additional repairs - changed completion date.**

(1) Except when an estimate has been waived pursuant to section 42-9-104 (2)(b), no charge shall be made for labor and parts in excess of the estimate, plus ten percent thereof or twenty-five dollars, whichever is less, without the consent of the customer to the additional charge before performance of the labor or installation of the parts not included in the estimate. Consent by the customer to additional charges may be written or oral. In either case, a record of such consent shall be made on the work order by the motor vehicle repair facility and shall include the date, time, manner of consent, telephone number called, if any, and names of the persons giving and receiving the consent. If more than one such communication occurs between the motor vehicle repair facility and the customer, a record of the telephone number need not be made for each subsequent communication if the telephone number is the same as on the initial consent.

(2) (a) The customer shall be notified in writing on the work order of any changes in the expected completion date of the repairs and of the new expected completion date. Such notification may be communicated to the customer orally, but such communication, written or oral, shall be made no more than twenty-four hours after the original completion date, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday, and any legal holiday. If communicated orally, a record of such communication shall be made on the work order by the motor vehicle repair facility and shall include the date, time, telephone number called, if any, and names of the persons giving and receiving such communication. If the name of the person receiving such communication is different than the original customer, the name and telephone number called, if any, shall be recorded on the work order.

(b) No additional changes in the completion date shall be made unless the consent of the customer to the additional change is obtained. If the required consent is given orally, the motor vehicle repair facility shall make a record of such consent on the work order and shall include the date, time, manner of consent, and the names of the persons giving and receiving such consent.

(c) If the motor vehicle repair facility fails to notify the customer of the change in the completion date or if the customer refuses to consent to an additional change in the completion date, the contract may be canceled at the option of either the customer or the motor vehicle repair facility. Once the contract has been canceled in this manner, the motor vehicle repair facility shall be required to reassemble the motor vehicle in substantially the same condition in which it was delivered to the motor vehicle repair facility without cost to the customer unless the customer has been previously notified as to the impracticality of such reassembly; except that the customer shall be required to pay for any repairs already completed as specified in section 42-9-106 (3)(a).

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2502, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (2)(a) and (2)(c) amended, p. 576, § 2, effective January 1, 1996. **L. 97:** Entire section amended, p. 860, § 3, effective May 21.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-11-103.1 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-9-106. Amounts over estimate - storage charges - cancellation of authorized repairs.**

(1) Except when an estimate has been waived pursuant to section 42-9-104 (2)(b), if the charge for labor and parts is over the original estimate or any subsequent estimate by ten percent thereof or twenty-five dollars, whichever is less, and unless further oral or written consent is given by the customer pursuant to section 42-9-105 (1), the motor vehicle repair facility shall return the motor vehicle to the customer upon the payment of the amount of the original estimate or any subsequent estimate plus ten percent thereof or twenty-five dollars, whichever is less, and the motor vehicle repair facility shall not be entitled to a lien for said excess pursuant to section 38-20-106, C.R.S.

(2) No charge shall be made for storage of the motor vehicle unless the motor vehicle is not picked up by the customer within three days, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday, legal holidays, and any days the repair facility is closed for business, after the customer is notified that the repairs have been completed and the customer was notified, as required by section 42-9-104 (2)(a), that such storage charges would accrue. Storage charges may accrue pursuant to a written agreement, separate from any other repair document, between the motor vehicle repair facility and the customer. The written authorization, in bold type, shall state the following:

#### **Storage Fee Policy**

A storage fee may not be charged unless a written agreement, separate from any other repair document, for an amount is reached. A storage fee may be charged, beginning on the fourth day, if a motor vehicle is not removed within three days after the customer is notified that repairs have been completed, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays, and any days the repair facility is closed for business.

The motor vehicle repair facility shall make a record of the notice of completion on the work order. The record shall include the date and time of the notice of completion, the manner of communication of the notice, the telephone number called, if any, and the name of the person receiving the notice.

(3) (a) If the customer cancels previously authorized repairs prior to their completion, the motor vehicle repair facility shall be entitled to charge the customer for repairs, including labor and parts, which have already been performed so long as said charge does not exceed the original estimate or any subsequent estimate for the repairs already performed.

(b) In requesting the return of the motor vehicle subsequent to the cancellation of previously authorized repairs, the customer shall specify whether it should be reassembled in substantially the same condition in which it was delivered to the motor vehicle repair facility or in such a lesser condition of assembly as the customer shall designate. Reassembly shall be completed by the motor vehicle repair facility within three days of the customer's request, excluding Saturday, Sunday, any legal holiday, and any days the repair facility is closed for business.

(c) All charges for reassembly, whether or not the requested repairs are completed, shall be included in the original estimate or in any subsequent estimate.

(4) Nothing in this section shall require a motor vehicle repair facility to give an estimate if such facility does not agree to perform the requested repairs.

(5) Payment by the customer of any amount in excess of those allowed by this article or for unauthorized repairs is not a waiver of any of the rights granted by this article to the customer, nor shall such payment be construed as consent to additional repairs or excess charges.

(6) All written estimates and other information required by this section shall be recorded on or attached to the invoice described in section 42-9-108.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2503, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 95: (2) amended, p. 576, § 3, effective January 1, 1996. L. 97: (1), (2), (3)(a), (3)(b), and (4) amended, p. 861, § 4, effective May 21.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-11-103.5 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-9-107. Used, reconditioned, or rebuilt parts.**

The motor vehicle repair facility shall specify in the original estimate whether any parts to be installed are new original equipment manufacturer, new nonoriginal equipment manufacturer, used, reconditioned, or rebuilt and then shall obtain the consent of the customer before any new original equipment manufacturer, new nonoriginal equipment manufacturer, used, reconditioned,

or rebuilt parts are installed in the motor vehicle. If such consent is oral, the motor vehicle repair facility shall make a record of such consent on the work order and shall include the date, time, and manner of consent. The telephone number called, if any, and the name of the person giving and receiving the consent, if different than the original customer, shall be recorded on the work order. The motor vehicle repair facility shall adjust the original estimate for new parts to reflect the altered cost if used, reconditioned, or rebuilt parts are authorized and installed.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2504, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** Entire section amended, p. 577, § 4, effective January 1, 1996. **L. 97:** Entire section amended, p. 862, § 5, effective May 21.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-11-104 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-9-108. Invoice.**

(1) All repairs done by a motor vehicle repair facility shall be recorded on a customer's invoice. A legible copy of the customer's invoice shall be given to the customer when the motor vehicle is returned to the customer. The original or a legible copy of the customer's invoice shall be retained for at least three years by the motor vehicle repair facility.

(2) The customer's invoice shall include the following:

- (a) The name and address of the customer;
- (b) The year, make, odometer reading on the date the motor vehicle was brought in for repairs, and license number of the motor vehicle;
- (c) The date the motor vehicle was received for repairs;
- (d) An itemization of each part added to or replaced in the motor vehicle; a description of each part by name and identifying number; clear identification of which parts are used, reconditioned, or rebuilt; and the charges levied for each part added or replaced;
- (e) The amount charged for labor, the full name or employee number of each mechanic or repairer who in whole or in part performed repairs, and the identification of the specific stage of repair for which each mechanic or repairer named was partially or wholly responsible;
- (f) An itemized statement of all additional charges, including storage, service and handling, and taxes;
- (g) An identification of any repairs subcontracted to another repair facility;

(h) The legible initials of the person filling out any portion of the invoice not specified in this subsection (2); and

(i) A copy of any warranty issued by the motor vehicle repair facility setting forth the terms and conditions of such warranty.

(3) Itemization of a particular part is not required on the customer's invoice if no charge is levied for that part.

(4) Miscellaneous designations such as "shop supplies", "paint and paint supplies", and "shop materials" may be used on the customer's invoice.

(5) Designation of mechanics, repairers, parts, or labor is not required on the customer's invoice if the customer has been given a flat-rate price, if such repairs are customarily done and billed on a flat-rate price basis and agreed upon by the customer, and if such flat rates are conspicuously posted by the motor vehicle repair garage or otherwise made available to the customer prior to rendering the estimate.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2504, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 97:** (1), (2)(g), and (2)(h) amended and (2)(i) added, p. 862, § 6, effective May 21.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-11-105 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-9-108.5. Warranty completion date.**

When a motor vehicle is returned under a warranty issued by the repair facility, the facility shall give the customer a written notice that specifies that the work is under warranty and that provides the customer with a completion date for the repair, as required by section 42-9-104.

**Source: L. 95:** Entire section added, p. 577, § 5, effective January 1, 1996. **L. 97:** Entire section amended, p. 863, § 7, effective May 21.

#### **42-9-108.7. Motor vehicle repair facility warranties.**

If a motor vehicle repair facility issues a motor vehicle repair facility warranty, such warranty shall appear with the invoice and shall set forth all terms and conditions of such warranty. The facility warranty shall be limited to the terms and conditions set forth in such warranty.

**Source: L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 863, § 8, effective May 21.

#### **42-9-109. Return of replaced parts.**

Except for body shop repair parts, inflatable restraint system components, and parts that the motor vehicle repair facility is required to return to the manufacturer or distributor under a manufacturer warranty or exchange arrangement, the motor vehicle repair facility shall return replaced parts to the customer at the time of the completion of the repairs if the customer so requests at the time of consenting to or authorizing the repairs. A motor vehicle repair facility is not authorized to return any components of an inflatable restraint system to the consumer.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2505, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 97:** Entire section amended, p. 863, § 9, effective May 21; entire section amended, p. 797, § 4, effective August 6.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-11-106 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Amendments to this section by House Bill 97-1098 and House Bill 97-1105 were harmonized.

#### **42-9-109.5. Inflatable restraint systems - replacement.**

(1) (a) A motor vehicle repair garage may replace an inflatable restraint system only with an inflatable restraint system that is newly manufactured or an inflatable restraint system salvaged and sold by a vehicle dismantler or auto parts recycler.

(b) A motor vehicle repair garage is not required to install a salvaged inflatable restraint system and may do so only upon obtaining specific written authorization from the customer. A motor vehicle repair garage installing a salvaged inflatable restraint system shall include the phrase "salvaged inflatable restraint system" prominently on the face of the invoice. A motor vehicle repair garage may not use other terms, including but not limited to "used" or "as is", to describe a salvaged inflatable restraint system on an invoice.

(2) (a) If a vehicle dismantler or auto parts recycler sells a salvaged inflatable restraint system, the vehicle dismantler or auto parts recycler shall state the following information on the invoice:

- (I) The date of sale of the salvaged inflatable restraint system;
  - (II) The vehicle identification number of the vehicle from which the inflatable restraint system was salvaged; and
  - (III) The part number of the salvaged inflatable restraint system, if such number is available.
- (b) A vehicle dismantler or auto parts recycler shall maintain the bill of sale for any sale of a salvaged inflatable restraint system for at least three years after the date of the sale.

**Source: L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 797, § 5, effective August 6.

**42-9-110. Exemption - antique motor vehicles.**

This article does not apply to repairs of any motor vehicle twenty-five or more years old or of any motor vehicle that is a collector's item as defined in section 42-12-101.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2505, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2011:** Entire section amended, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 248, § 19, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-11-107 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-9-111. Prohibited acts - definitions.**

- (1) A motor vehicle repair facility or any employee or contract laborer of the facility shall not:
- (a) Charge for repairs which have not been consented to by the customer or charge for repairs in excess of amounts allowed by this article;
  - (b) Represent that repairs are necessary when such is not a fact;
  - (c) Represent that repairs have been performed when such is not a fact;
  - (d) Represent that a motor vehicle or motor vehicle part being diagnosed is in dangerous condition when such is not a fact;

(e) Perform emissions repairs to bring motor vehicles into compliance with the provisions of sections 42-4-301 to 42-4-316 when such repairs are not indicated by the identified emissions failure;

(f) Fail to issue an invoice as required by section 42-9-108;

(g) Fail to give notice as required by section 42-9-105;

(h) Require a customer to sign a work order that does not state the repairs that are requested by the customer;

(i) Fail to state the motor vehicle odometer reading, unless such reading is unfeasible due to the condition of the odometer; or

(j) (I) Install or reinstall, as part of a vehicle inflatable restraint system, any device that causes the motor vehicle's diagnostic systems to fail to warn that:

(A) The motor vehicle is equipped with a counterfeit supplemental restraint system component;

(B) The motor vehicle is equipped with a nonfunctional airbag; or

(C) No airbag is installed.

(II) For purposes of subsection (1)(j)(I) of this section, an installation or reinstallation does not occur until the work is completed and the motor vehicle is returned to the customer, or title is transferred.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Airbag" means a motor vehicle inflatable occupant restraint system device that is part of a supplemental restraint system.

(b) "Counterfeit supplemental restraint system component" means a replacement supplemental restraint system component that displays a mark identical or substantially similar to the genuine mark of a motor vehicle manufacturer or a supplier of parts to the manufacturer of a motor vehicle without authorization from that manufacturer or supplier.

(c) "Nonfunctional airbag" means a replacement airbag that:

(I) Was previously deployed or damaged;

(II) Has an electric fault that is detected by the motor vehicle's diagnostic systems when the installation procedure is completed and the motor vehicle is returned to the customer who requested the work to be performed or when ownership is intended to be transferred;



(III) Includes a part or object, including a supplemental restraint system component, installed in a motor vehicle to mislead the owner or operator of the motor vehicle into believing that a functional airbag has been installed; or

(IV) Is prohibited from being sold or leased in accordance with 49 U.S.C. sec. 30120 (j).

(d) "Supplemental restraint system" means a passive inflatable motor vehicle occupant crash protection system designed for use in conjunction with active restraint systems as described in 49 CFR 571.208. A supplemental restraint system includes:

(I) Each airbag installed in accordance with the motor vehicle manufacturer's design; and

(II) All components required to ensure that an airbag operates as designed in the event of a crash and in accordance with the federal motor vehicle safety standards for the specific make, model, and year of the motor vehicle.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2506, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1)(f) to (1)(h) added, p. 577, § 6, effective January 1, 1996. **L. 97:** IP(1) and (1)(h) amended and (1)(i) added, p. 863, § 10, effective May 21. **L. 2002:** (1)(h) and (1)(i) amended and (1)(j) added, p. 196, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2021:** IP(1) and (1)(j) amended and (2) added, (HB 21-1193), ch. 148, p. 866, § 2, effective September 7.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-11-108 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### ANNOTATION

**Recommending a fuel injector flush as a routine preventive maintenance service on all vehicles,** regardless of age or

condition, violates subsection (1)(b). *Jones v. Stevinson's Golden Ford*, 36 P.3d 129 (Colo. App. 2001).

#### **42-9-112. Criminal penalties.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, any motor vehicle repair facility or any employee of such facility that fails to provide a completed written or oral estimate as required under section 42-9-104 (2) or an invoice as required under section 42-9-108 or violates the provisions of section 42-9-105 commits a petty offense.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this section, any motor vehicle repair facility or any employee of such facility who violates section 42-9-111 commits a petty offense. No portion of the minimum fine for repeat offenders shall be suspended.

(2.5) Any motor vehicle repair facility or any employee of such facility who violates any provision of this article 9 other than the provisions for which penalties are provided in subsections (1), (2), and (4) of this section commits a petty offense.

(2.7) A violation of this article shall also constitute a deceptive trade practice in violation of the "Colorado Consumer Protection Act", article 1 of title 6, C.R.S., and shall subject the motor vehicle repair facility or any employee of such facility to the remedies or penalties contained in article 1 of title 6.

(3) (Deleted by amendment, L. 97, p. 863, § 11, effective May 21, 1997.)

(4) Any motor vehicle repair facility or any employee of such facility who violates the provisions of section 42-9-111 (1)(j) commits a petty offense.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2506, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** Entire section amended, p. 578, § 7, effective January 1, 1996. **L. 97:** Entire section amended, p. 863, § 11, effective May 21. **L. 2002:** (2) and (2.5) amended and (4) added, p. 196, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2021:** (1), (2), (2.5), and (4) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3323, § 769, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-11-109 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For penalties for petty offenses, see § 18-1.3-503.

#### **42-9-113. Civil penalties.**

In any civil action for the enforcement of this article, the court may award reasonable attorney fees and costs to the prevailing party, and a customer shall be entitled to treble damages for failure of any motor vehicle repair facility or any employee of such facility to comply with this article, except for clerical errors or omissions; but in no event shall such damages be less than two hundred fifty dollars. The customer shall first make written demand for the customer's damages from the motor vehicle repair facility by certified mail at least ten days prior to the filing of any such action, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday, and any legal holiday. Such action shall be brought within the time period prescribed in section 13-80-103, C.R.S.

**Source: L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 864, § 12, effective May 21.

## **42-9.5 ARTICLE 9.5**

### **Vehicle Protection Products**

|             |                              |             |                                            |
|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 42-9.5-101. | Short title.                 | 42-9.5-104. | Warranty reimbursement insurance policies. |
| 42-9.5-102. | Definitions.                 | 42-9.5-105. | Warranties - insurance.                    |
| 42-9.5-103. | Vehicle protection products. | 42-9.5-106. | Applicability.                             |

#### **42-9.5-101. Short title.**

This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Vehicle Protection Products Act".

**Source: L. 2004:** Entire article added, p. 745, § 1, effective July 1.

#### **42-9.5-102. Definitions.**

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Incidental costs" means expenses incurred by the warranty holder that concern the failure of the vehicle protection product and that are specified in the vehicle protection product warranty. Incidental costs may include, without limitation, insurance policy deductibles, rental vehicle charges, the difference between the actual value of the stolen vehicle at the time of theft and the cost of a replacement vehicle, sales taxes, registration fees, transaction fees, and mechanical inspection fees.

(2) "Vehicle protection product" means a vehicle protection device, system, or service that:

(a) Is installed on or applied to a vehicle;

(b) Is designed to prevent loss or damage to a vehicle from a specific cause;

(c) Includes a written warranty by a warrantor stating that, if the vehicle protection product fails to prevent loss or damage to a vehicle from a specific cause, the warranty holder shall be paid specified incidental costs by the warrantor as a result of such failure; and

(d) Comes with a warranty reimbursement insurance policy covering the warrantor's liability from such product.

(3) "Vehicle protection product warrantor" or "warrantor" means a person who is contractually obligated to the warranty holder under the terms of the vehicle protection product warranty agreement. "Warrantor" does not include an authorized insurer.

(4) "Warranty" means an express warranty and shall not include an insurance policy.

(5) "Warranty reimbursement insurance policy" means a policy of insurance issued to the vehicle protection product warrantor to pay, on behalf of the warrantor, all covered contractual obligations incurred by the warrantor under the vehicle protection product warranty.

**Source: L. 2004:** Entire article added, p. 745, § 1, effective July 1.

#### **42-9.5-103. Vehicle protection products.**

(1) A warranty contract accompanying a vehicle protection product that is sold or offered for sale shall:

(a) Identify in the contract the warrantor, the seller, the warranty holder, and the terms of the sale;

(b) Conspicuously state that the obligations of the warrantor are guaranteed under a warranty reimbursement insurance policy;

(c) Conspicuously state that, if the payment due under the terms of the warranty is not provided by the warrantor within sixty days after proof of loss has been filed by the warranty holder pursuant to the terms of the warranty, the warranty holder may file a claim for reimbursement directly with the warranty reimbursement insurance company;

(d) Conspicuously state the name and address of the warranty reimbursement insurance company;

(e) Conspicuously state: "This agreement is a product warranty and is not insurance.";

(f) Guarantee the warrantor's product with a warranty reimbursement insurance policy; and

(g) Authorize the warranty holder to file a claim directly with the warranty reimbursement insurance company if the payment due under the terms of the warranty is not provided by the warrantor within sixty days after proof of loss has been filed pursuant to the terms of the warranty.

**Source: L. 2004:** Entire article added, p. 746, § 1, effective July 1.

**42-9.5-104. Warranty reimbursement insurance policies.**

(1) A warranty reimbursement insurance policy shall state that the warranty reimbursement insurance company will reimburse or pay on behalf of the vehicle protection product warrantor all covered sums that the warrantor is legally obligated to pay, or will provide the service that the warrantor is legally obligated to perform, according to the warrantor's contractual obligations under the vehicle protection product warranty.

(2) A warranty reimbursement insurance policy shall state that, if the payment due under the terms of the warranty is not provided by the warrantor within sixty days after proof of loss has been filed according to the terms of the warranty by the warranty holder, the warranty holder may file directly with the warranty reimbursement insurance company for reimbursement.

**Source: L. 2004:** Entire article added, p. 747, § 1, effective July 1.

**42-9.5-105. Warranties - insurance.**

A vehicle protection warranty that complies with this section shall not be deemed to be insurance and shall be exempt from regulation as insurance pursuant to title 10, C.R.S.

**Source: L. 2004:** Entire article added, p. 747, § 1, effective July 1.

**42-9.5-106. Applicability.**

This article shall not apply to contracts regulated by article 11 of this title, which concerns motor vehicle service contract insurance.

**Source: L. 2004:** Entire article added, p. 747, § 1, effective July 1.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **Motor Vehicle Warranties**

|            |                                                                            |            |                                      |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 42-10-101. | Definitions.                                                               | 42-10-106. | Applicability of federal procedures. |
| 42-10-102. | Repairs to conform vehicle to warranty.                                    | 42-10-107. | Statute of limitations.              |
| 42-10-103. | Failure to conform vehicle to warranty - replacement or return of vehicle. | 42-10-108. | Third-party inspection - disclosure. |
| 42-10-104. | Affirmative defenses.                                                      | 42-10-109. | Buyback notice.                      |
| 42-10-105. | Limitations on other rights and remedies.                                  | 42-10-110. | Applicability.                       |

#### **42-10-101. Definitions.**

As used in this article 10, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Consumer" means the purchaser, other than for purposes of resale, of a motor vehicle that is used for personal, family, or household purposes; any person to whom the motor vehicle is transferred for the same purposes during the duration of a manufacturer's express warranty for the motor vehicle; and any other person entitled by the terms of the warranty to enforce the obligations of the warranty.

(1.5) "Lemon law buyback vehicle" means a motor vehicle that was repurchased by or returned to the manufacturer, the manufacturer's agent, or the manufacturer's authorized dealer for inability to conform the motor vehicle to the manufacturer's warranty in accordance with this article 10 or with any other state or federal motor vehicle warranty law.

(2) "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled private passenger vehicle, including pickup trucks and vans, designed primarily for travel on the public highways and used to carry not more than ten persons, which is sold to a consumer in this state; except that the term does not include motor homes as defined in section 42-1-102 (57), vehicles designed to travel on three or fewer wheels in contact with the ground, or a motor vehicle that has been modified for commercial use.

(2.5) "Safety-based nonconformity" means a nonconformity that:

(a) Results in a condition that is likely to cause death or serious bodily injury if the vehicle is driven; or

(b) Creates a risk of fire or explosion.

(3) "Warranty" means the written warranty, so labeled, of the manufacturer of a new motor vehicle, including any terms or conditions precedent to the enforcement of obligations under that warranty.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2506, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2024:** IP, (1), and (2) amended and (1.5) and (2.5) added, (SB 24-192), ch. 450, p. 3130, § 1, effective August 7.

#### **42-10-102. Repairs to conform vehicle to warranty.**

If a motor vehicle has a safety-based nonconformity or does not conform to a warranty and the consumer reports the nonconformity to the manufacturer, the manufacturer's agent, or the manufacturer's authorized dealer within the first twenty-four thousand miles of the motor vehicle's operation or within two years following the date of the original delivery of the motor vehicle to a consumer, whichever occurs earlier, the manufacturer, the manufacturer's agent, or the manufacturer's authorized dealer shall make such repairs as are necessary to conform the motor vehicle to the warranty, notwithstanding the fact that the repairs are made after the expiration of the period.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2507, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2024:** Entire section amended, (SB 24-192), ch. 450, p. 3131, § 2, effective August 7.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-12-102 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-10-102 was relocated to § 8-20-802.

#### **42-10-103. Failure to conform vehicle to warranty - replacement or return of vehicle.**

(1) If the manufacturer, the manufacturer's agent, or the manufacturer's authorized dealer is unable to conform the motor vehicle to the warranty by repairing or correcting the defect or condition that substantially impairs the use and market value of or safety of the motor vehicle after a reasonable number of attempts, the manufacturer shall, at the manufacturer's option, replace the motor vehicle with a comparable motor vehicle or accept return of the motor vehicle from the consumer and refund to the consumer the full purchase price, including the sales tax, license fees, and registration fees and any similar governmental charges, less a reasonable allowance for the consumer's use of the motor vehicle. Refunds shall be made to the consumer and lienholder, if any, as their interests may appear.

(2) (a) A reasonable number of attempts is presumed to have been undertaken to conform a motor vehicle to the warranty if:

(I) The same nonconformity has been subject to repair three or more times by the manufacturer, the manufacturer's agent, or the manufacturer's authorized dealer within the first twenty-four thousand miles or within two years following the date of the original delivery of the motor vehicle to the consumer, whichever occurs earlier, but the nonconformity continues to exist;

(II) The motor vehicle is out of service by reason of repair for a cumulative total of twenty-four or more business days of the repairer during the mileage specified in subsection (2)(a)(I) of this section or during the time period specified in subsection (2)(a)(I) of this section, whichever occurs earlier; or

(III) A safety-based nonconformity has been subject to two or more repair attempts by the manufacturer, the manufacturer's agent, or the manufacturer's authorized dealer within the first twenty-four thousand miles of operation or within two years following the date of the original delivery of the motor vehicle to the consumer, whichever occurs earlier, but the safety-based nonconformity continues to exist.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection (2), the term of a warranty, the two-year period, and the twenty-four-day period are extended by any period of time during which repair services are not available to the consumer because of war, invasion, strike, or fire, flood, or other natural disaster.

(c) A presumption under subsection (2)(a) of this section does not apply against a manufacturer unless the manufacturer has received prior written notification by certified mail from or on behalf of the consumer stating that one or more attempts to repair the same nonconformity have been made pursuant to section 42-10-102 and the alleged nonconformity remains, and the manufacturer has been provided ten business days to cure the alleged defect after receipt of the notification. The defect counts as one nonconformity subject to repair under subsections (2)(a)(I) and (2)(a)(III) of this section.

(d) Every authorized motor vehicle dealer shall include a form, containing the manufacturer's name and business address, with each motor vehicle owner's manual on which the consumer may give written notification of any defect, as such notification is required by paragraph (c) of this subsection (2), and the form shall clearly and conspicuously disclose that written notification by certified mail of the nonconformity is required, in order for the consumer to obtain remedies under this article.

(3) The court shall award reasonable attorney fees to the prevailing side in any action brought to enforce the provisions of this article.

(4) A reasonable allowance for use, as described in subsection (1) of this section, must be obtained by multiplying the total contract price or lessee cost of the motor vehicle by a fraction



having as its denominator one hundred thousand and having as the fraction's numerator the sum of:

- (a) The number of miles that the motor vehicle traveled before the consumer's first presentation of the vehicle to the manufacturer, the manufacturer's agent, or the manufacturer's dealer or lessor for repair of the nonconformity; and
- (b) The number of miles that the motor vehicle traveled during any subsequent period when the motor vehicle was not out of service by reason of repair.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2507, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2024:** (1), (2)(a), (2)(b), and (2)(c) amended and (4) added, (SB 24-192), ch. 450, p. 3131, § 3, effective August 7.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-12-103 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-10-103 was relocated to § 8-20-803.

#### **42-10-104. Affirmative defenses.**

- (1) It is an affirmative defense to any claim under this article 10 that:
  - (a) An alleged nonconformity does not substantially impair the safety of or use and market value of a motor vehicle, as applicable; or
  - (b) A nonconformity is the result of abuse, neglect, or unauthorized modifications or alterations of the motor vehicle by a consumer.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2508, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2024:** IP(1) and (1)(a) amended, (SB 24-192), ch. 450, p. 3132, § 4, effective August 7.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-12-104 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-10-104 was relocated to § 8-20-804.

**42-10-105. Limitations on other rights and remedies.**

Nothing in this article shall in any way limit the rights or remedies which are otherwise available to a consumer under any other state law or any federal law. Nothing in this article shall affect the other rights and duties between the consumer and a seller, lessor, or lienholder of a motor vehicle or the rights between any of them. Nothing in this article shall be construed as imposing a liability on any authorized dealer with respect to a manufacturer or creating a cause of action by a manufacturer against its authorized dealer; except that failure by an authorized dealer to properly prepare a motor vehicle for sale, to properly install options on a motor vehicle, or to properly make repairs on a motor vehicle, when such preparation, installation, or repairs would have prevented or cured a nonconformity, shall be actionable by the manufacturer.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2508, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-12-105 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-10-105 was relocated to § 8-20-805.

**42-10-106. Applicability of federal procedures.**

If a manufacturer has established or participates in an informal dispute settlement procedure which substantially complies with the provisions of part 703 of title 16 of the code of federal regulations, as from time to time amended, the provisions of section 42-10-103 (1) concerning refunds or replacement shall not apply to any consumer who has not first resorted to such procedure.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2509, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-12-106 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-10-106 was relocated to § 8-20-806.

**42-10-107. Statute of limitations.**

Any action brought to enforce this article 10 must be commenced within thirty months following the date of the original delivery of a motor vehicle to a consumer; except that the

statute of limitations is tolled during the period the consumer has submitted to arbitration under section 42-10-106 or while the motor vehicle is not available for use by reason of repair.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2509, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2024:** Entire section amended, (SB 24-192), ch. 450, p. 3133, § 5, effective August 7.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-12-107 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-10-107 was relocated to § 8-20-807.

#### **42-10-108. Third-party inspection - disclosure.**

(1) (a) A motor vehicle dealer selling a lemon law buyback vehicle to a potential purchaser for purposes other than for resale must either:

(I) Allow a third-party agent of a potential purchaser to inspect the motor vehicle before selling the motor vehicle; or

(II) Provide a seven-day free-look period during which the purchaser may return the motor vehicle and receive a refund of all money paid to purchase the motor vehicle, less shipping costs.

(b) To make the inspection provided in subsection (1)(a)(I) of this section, a third-party agent may have reasonable access to conduct the inspection, but the third-party agent must be qualified to use or operate any equipment used to inspect the vehicle and must not interfere with normal business operations of the motor vehicle dealer.

(2) A motor vehicle dealer selling a lemon law buyback vehicle to a potential purchaser for purposes other than for resale must conspicuously disclose in writing, before the motor vehicle is purchased, to each potential purchaser of the motor vehicle for purposes other than for resale the right described in subsection (1)(a) of this section.

**Source: L. 2024:** Entire section added, (SB 24-192), ch. 450, p. 3133, § 6, effective August 7.

#### **42-10-109. Buyback notice.**

(1) If the motor vehicle is returned pursuant to section 42-10-103 (1), a manufacturer, a manufacturer's agent, or a manufacturer's authorized dealer shall, before the resale of the motor vehicle in this state:

(a) Notify the department of revenue that the motor vehicle was returned to the manufacturer, the manufacturer's agent, or the manufacturer's authorized dealer pursuant to section 42-10-103 (1);

(b) Attach a decal to the motor vehicle that clearly and conspicuously reads "Lemon Law Buyback" on the body post to which the driver's door latches, also known as the driver's door B pillar, on the date the motor vehicle is returned and shall not remove the decal; and

(c) Apply for a lemon law buyback branded certificate of title pursuant to article 6 of this title 42 in the manufacturer's, the manufacturer's agent's, or the manufacturer's authorized dealer's name.

(2) A seller of a motor vehicle, including a manufacturer or dealer, who knows or should have known that the motor vehicle is a lemon law buyback vehicle shall clearly and conspicuously disclose that the motor vehicle is a lemon law buyback vehicle before the sale of the motor vehicle.

(3) The seller of a lemon law buyback vehicle shall not remove a lemon law buyback decal from the lemon law buyback vehicle.

**Source: L. 2024:** Entire section added, (SB 24-192), ch. 450, p. 3133, § 6, effective August 7.

#### **42-10-110. Applicability.**

(1) This article 10 does not apply to a used motor vehicle; except that sections 42-10-108 and 42-10-109 apply to a used motor vehicle.

(2) This article 10 does not apply to a used motor vehicle dealer licensed in accordance with article 20 of title 44.

**Source: L. 2024:** Entire section added, (SB 24-192), ch. 450, p. 3134, § 6, effective August 7.

## **ARTICLE 11**

### **Motor Vehicle Service Contract Insurance**

42-11-101. Definitions.

42-11-102. Reimbursement policy  
required for sale of  
service contract.

|            |                                                                   |            |                                       |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 42-11-103. | Reimbursement policy - required provisions.                       | 42-11-106. | Deceptive trade practices prohibited. |
| 42-11-104. | Service contract - required statements.                           | 42-11-107. | Enforcement.                          |
| 42-11-105. | Manufacturers' express warranties and service contracts excluded. | 42-11-108. | Remedies.                             |
|            |                                                                   | 42-11-109. | Maintenance agreement excluded.       |

#### **42-11-101. Definitions.**

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Mechanical breakdown insurance" means an insurance policy, contract, or agreement, as defined in section 10-1-102 (12), C.R.S., that undertakes to perform or provide repair or replacement service, or indemnification for that service, for the operational or structural failure of a motor vehicle due to a defect in materials or skill of work or normal wear and tear, and that is issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in this state.

(2) "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle subject to registration under section 42-1-102 (58) or any powersports vehicle as defined in section 44-20-402 (11).

(3) (a) "Motor vehicle service contract" or "service contract" means a contract or agreement between a provider and a service contract holder, which contract or agreement is given for consideration over and above the lease or purchase price of a motor vehicle and obligates the provider to perform or provide repair or replacement service, or indemnification for that service, for the operational or structural failure of a motor vehicle due to a defect in materials or skill of work or normal wear and tear. A motor vehicle service contract may provide for any one or more of the following services:

(I) Repairing or replacing tires or wheels on a motor vehicle damaged as a result of coming into contact with road hazards;

(II) Removing dents, dings, or creases on a motor vehicle that can be repaired using the process of paintless dent removal without affecting the existing paint finish and without replacing vehicle body panels, sanding, bonding, or painting;

(III) Replacing or repairing a windshield damaged by road hazards;

(IV) Replacing a motor vehicle key or key fob if the key or key fob becomes inoperable or is lost or stolen;

(V) Other services that are similar to the services listed in this paragraph (a).

(b) "Motor vehicle service contract" or "service contract" does not include mechanical breakdown insurance.

(4) (a) "Motor vehicle service contract provider" or "provider" means a person who, in connection with a motor vehicle service contract:

(I) Incurs the obligations and liabilities to the service contract holder as set forth in the contract; and

(II) Issues, makes, provides, sells, or offers to sell the contract.

(b) A motor vehicle dealer who sells a motor vehicle that is the subject of a motor vehicle service contract is not a "provider" unless the dealer also satisfies both of the conditions set forth in paragraph (a) of this subsection (4).

(5) "Motor vehicle service contract reimbursement insurance policy" or "reimbursement insurance policy" means a policy of insurance providing coverage for all obligations and liabilities incurred by a motor vehicle service contract provider under the terms of a motor vehicle service contract issued by the provider.

(5.5) "Road hazard" means a hazard that is encountered while driving a motor vehicle. "Road hazard" may include potholes, rocks, wood debris, metal parts, glass, plastic, curbs, or composite scraps.

(6) "Service contract holder" means a person who purchases a motor vehicle service contract.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2509, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. L. 2003: (4) amended, p. 886, § 1, effective April 7; (1) amended, p. 623, § 41, effective July 1. L. 2014: (2) amended, (HB 14-1199), ch. 204, p. 750, § 3, effective January 1, 2015. L. 2016: (3) amended and (5.5) added, (HB 16-1317), ch. 143, p. 424, § 1, effective August 10. L. 2018: (2) amended, (SB 18-030), ch. 7, p. 143, § 26, effective October 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-13-101 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-11-101 was relocated to § 42-9-101.

#### **42-11-102. Reimbursement policy required for sale of service contract.**

A motor vehicle service contract shall not be issued, made, provided, sold, or offered for sale in this state unless the provider of the service contract is insured under a motor vehicle service

contract reimbursement insurance policy issued by an insurer or administrator authorized to do business in this state.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2510, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-13-102 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-11-102 was relocated to § 42-9-102.

#### **42-11-103. Reimbursement policy - required provisions.**

A motor vehicle service contract reimbursement insurance policy shall not be issued, made, provided, sold, or offered for sale in this state unless the reimbursement insurance policy conspicuously states that the issuer of the policy shall pay on behalf of the provider all sums which the provider is legally obligated to pay for failure to perform according to the provider's contractual obligations under the motor vehicle service contracts issued or sold by the provider.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2510, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-13-103 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-11-103 was relocated to § 42-9-104.

#### **42-11-104. Service contract - required statements.**

A motor vehicle service contract shall not be issued, made, provided, sold, or offered for sale in this state unless the contract conspicuously states that the obligations of the provider to the service contract holder are guaranteed under a service contract reimbursement policy, and unless the contract conspicuously states the name and address of the issuer of the reimbursement policy, the applicable policy number, and the means by which a service contract holder may file a claim under the policy.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2510, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-13-104 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-11-104 was relocated to § 42-9-107.

**42-11-105. Manufacturers' express warranties and service contracts excluded.**

This article does not apply to motor vehicle manufacturers' express warranties and service contracts as defined in section 42-10-101 (3). For purposes of this section, the term "manufacturer" includes the manufacturer or distributor of the covered vehicle or a subsidiary or affiliate of a manufacturer or distributor if fifty-one percent or more of the subsidiary or affiliate is owned directly or indirectly by the manufacturer, distributor, or common owner of fifty-one percent or more of the manufacturer or distributor.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2510, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2016:** Entire section amended, (HB 16-1317), ch. 143, p. 425, § 2, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-13-105 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-11-105 was relocated to § 42-9-108.

**42-11-106. Deceptive trade practices prohibited.**

Failure to comply with the provisions of this article in the course of a business, vocation, or occupation is a deceptive trade practice and is subject to the provisions of the "Colorado Consumer Protection Act", article 1 of title 6, C.R.S.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2510, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-13-106 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-11-106 was relocated to § 42-9-109.

**42-11-107. Enforcement.**

The attorney general and the district attorneys of the judicial districts of the state are concurrently responsible for the enforcement of this article.



**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2510, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-13-107 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-11-107 was relocated to § 42-9-110.

#### **42-11-108. Remedies.**

The provisions of this article shall be available to any service contract holder in a civil action for any claim against a motor vehicle service contract provider. The court shall award reasonable attorney fees and costs to a prevailing party in any civil action brought to enforce the provisions of this article.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2510, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-13-108 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-11-108 was relocated to § 42-9-111.

#### **42-11-109. Maintenance agreement excluded.**

A prepaid agreement that provides only routine maintenance is not a service contract nor a contract of insurance.

**Source: L. 2016:** Entire section added, (HB 16-1317), ch. 143, p. 425, § 3, effective August 10.

## **COLLECTOR'S ITEMS**

### **ARTICLE 12**

#### **Motor Vehicles as Collector's Items**

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PART 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

**42-12-101. Definitions.**

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Collector" means an individual or person who is:

(a) The owner of one or more vehicles of historic or special interest who collects, purchases, acquires, trades, or disposes of these vehicles or parts thereof for such owner's use in order to preserve, restore, and maintain a vehicle for hobby purposes or use; or

(b) A bona fide member of a national automobile club or association whose charter recognizes in membership a sincere demonstration of interest in the history of automotive engineering, in the preservation of antique, vintage, or special interest motor vehicles, in a sharing of knowledge and experience with other automotive enthusiasts, or in the promotion of good fellowship among such members or collectors.

(2) "Collector's item" means a motor vehicle, including a truck or truck tractor, that is of:

(a) Model year 1975 or earlier;

(b) Model year 1976 or later that was registered as a collector's item prior to September 1, 2009; except that a vehicle so registered is not eligible for registration as a collector's item upon sale or transfer to a new owner; or

(c) A model year at least thirty-two years old unless the vehicle was registered before September 1, 2009, and meets the requirements of paragraph (b) of this subsection (2). If the vehicle is being registered under this paragraph (c) and in the program area, as defined in section 42-4-304:

(I) The vehicle must have passed an emissions test meeting the standards of part 3 of article 4 of this title within the last twelve months before being initially registered by the owner as a collector's item; and

(II) The owner must sign an affidavit that the vehicle will not be driven on roadways for more than four thousand five hundred miles per year.

(3) "Commercial vehicle" means a trailer, truck, or truck tractor, as those terms are defined in section 42-1-102.

(4) "Dealer" means a person who is engaged in the business or vocation of manufacturing, buying, selling, trading, destroying, or salvaging motor vehicles, motor vehicle parts, motor vehicle equipment, or motor vehicle accessories.

(5) "Department" means the department of revenue.

(6) "Director" means the executive director of the department of revenue.

(7) "Garage" means a building or business place used for the storage or repair of motor vehicles.

(8) "Inspector" means a peace officer of a law enforcement agency who has been certified under section 42-5-206 to inspect vehicle identification numbers.

(9) "Law enforcement agency" means the Colorado state patrol or the agency of a local government authorized to enforce the laws of Colorado.

(10) "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle designed for operation on the highway and not running on rails.

(11) "Parts car" means a motor vehicle, generally in inoperable condition, that is owned by a collector to furnish or to supply parts that are usually unobtainable from normal sources, thus enabling a collector or other collectors to preserve, restore, complete, and maintain a vehicle of historic or special interest.

(12) "Rebuilt vehicle" means a vehicle that was assembled from parts of two or more commercially manufactured vehicles or that has been altered in such a manner that it is not readily recognizable as a commercially manufactured vehicle of a given year. "Rebuilt vehicle" includes a kit car and a street-rod vehicle.

(13) "State" includes the territories and the federal districts of the United States.

(14) "Street-rod vehicle" means a vehicle with a body design manufactured in 1948 or earlier or with a reproduction component that resembles a 1948 or earlier model that has been modified for safe road use, including modifications to the drive train, suspension, and brake systems, modifications to the body through the use of materials such as steel or fiberglass, and modifications to other safety or comfort features.

(15) "Vehicle" means a motor vehicle required to have a certificate of title under part 1 of article 6 of this title but does not include commercial vehicles.

(16) "Vehicle identification number" means the identifying number, serial number, engine number, or other distinguishing number or mark, including any letters, that is unique to the identity of a given vehicle or vehicle part and that was placed on a vehicle or vehicle part by its manufacturer or by the department under either section 42-12-202 or the laws of another state or country.

**Source:** L. 2011: Entire article amended with relocations, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 232, § 1, effective August 10. L. 2013: (2) amended, (HB 13-1071), ch. 370, p. 2160, § 1, effective August 7. L. 2014: IP(2)(c) amended, (HB 14-1056), ch. 23, p. 154, § 2, effective March 7.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (11) is similar to former § 42-12-101 (3) as it existed prior to 2011.

#### **42-12-102. Rebuilder's certificate of title.**

(1) (a) If the applicant for a certificate of title to a motor vehicle is unable to provide the director or the authorized agent with a certificate of title duly transferred to the applicant or other

evidence of ownership that satisfies the director that the applicant owns the vehicle, the director may issue a rebuilder's title for a motor vehicle valued principally because of the vehicle's early date of manufacture, design, or historical interest or valued as a collector's item if:

- (I) The motor vehicle is not roadworthy;
- (II) The motor vehicle is at least twenty-five years old;
- (III) The components of the motor vehicle include at least a rolling chassis;
- (IV) The application contains or is accompanied by a statement that complies with paragraph (b) of this subsection (1);
- (V) The applicant obtains a certified vehicle identification number inspection; and
- (VI) The applicant provides surety that complies with subsection (3) of this section.

(b) The statement required by subparagraph (IV) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) must contain an account of the facts by which the applicant acquired ownership of the vehicle, the source of the title to the vehicle, and such other information as the director may require. The statement must contain a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury in the second degree, as defined in section 18-8-503, C.R.S.

(c) ***[Editor's note: Subsection (1)(c) is effective July 1, 2027.]*** If an applicant for a certificate of title to a motor vehicle is able to provide the director or an authorized agent with a certificate of title duly transferred to the applicant or other evidence of ownership that satisfies the director that the applicant owns the vehicle, the director or authorized agent may issue a rebuilder's title for the motor vehicle valued principally because of the vehicle's early date of manufacture, design, or historical interest or valued as a collector's item if:

- (I) The motor vehicle is not roadworthy;
- (II) The motor vehicle is at least twenty-five years old;
- (III) The components of the motor vehicle include at least a rolling chassis; and
- (IV) The applicant obtains a certified vehicle identification number inspection.

(2) If a motor vehicle titled under this section is later made roadworthy, the department shall issue to an applicant a standard certificate of title if the applicant:

- (a) Obtains a certified vehicle identification number inspection;
- (b) (I) Furnishes a bond under subsection (3) of this section;
- (II) This subsection (2)(b) is repealed, effective July 1, 2027; and

(c) ***[Editor's note: Subsection (2)(c) is effective July 1, 2027.]*** Surrenders the previous ownership document or title.

(3) (a) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (3)(a) is effective until July 1, 2027.]*** To convert a rebuilder's title to a standard certificate of title, the applicant shall furnish evidence of a savings account, deposit, or certificate of deposit meeting the requirements of section 11-35-101, C.R.S., or a good and sufficient bond with a corporate surety. The account, deposit, certificate, or bond must be in an amount fixed by the director, but not less than twice the reasonable value of the vehicle, determined as of the time of application. The applicant and the applicant's surety shall hold harmless any person who suffers loss or damage by reason of the filing of a certificate of title under this section.

(3) (a) ***[Editor's note: This version of subsection (3)(a) is effective July 1, 2027.]*** To comply with subsection (1)(a)(VI) of this section, an applicant must furnish evidence of a savings account, deposit, or certificate of deposit meeting the requirements of section 11-35-101 or a good and sufficient bond with a corporate surety. The account, deposit, certificate, or bond must be in an amount fixed by the director, but not less than twice the reasonable value of the vehicle, determined as of the time of application. The applicant and the applicant's surety must hold harmless any person that suffers loss or damage by reason of the filing of a certificate of title under this section.

(b) If a person suffers loss or damage by reason of the filing of a certificate of title under this section, the person has a right of action against the applicant and the surety on the applicant's bond, against either of whom the person damaged may proceed independently of the other.

(4) (a) A person shall not drive a motor vehicle titled under this section on the highways until it complies with subsection (5) of this section.

(b) The department or its authorized agent shall not classify a vehicle issued a title under this section as a salvage vehicle.

(5) (a) If the motor vehicle's frame and body identification numbers do not match the manufacturer's numbering system as being originally mated or if the motor vehicle is reconstructed from salvage parts or other motor vehicles or reproduction parts, an application for title using subsection (1) or (2) of this section must include evidence of ownership of the parts, other motor vehicles, or reproduction components used in the reconstruction. If the evidence is not acceptable to the director, the director shall reject the application for certificate of title.

(b) The evidence required by paragraph (a) of this subsection (5) must include or be accompanied by an affidavit stating the facts concerning the reconstruction and an affidavit of physical inspection that includes a computer check of the state and national compilations of wanted and stolen vehicles.

(c) Before issuing a certificate of title under paragraph (a) of this subsection (5), the department shall issue a special vehicle identification number to the vehicle.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article amended with relocations, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 234, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2025:** (1)(c) and (2)(c) added and (3)(a) amended, (HB 25-1189), ch. 395, p. 2228, § 6, effective July 1, 2027; (2)(b)(II) added by revision, (HB 25-1189), ch. 395, pp. 2228, 2229, §§ 6, 7.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 42-6-108.5 as it existed prior to 2011, and the former § 42-12-102 was relocated to § 42-12-401.

(2) Section 7(2) of chapter 395 (HB 25-1189), Session Laws of Colorado 2025, provides that the act changing this section applies to titles issued and fees incurred on or after July 1, 2027.

#### **42-12-103. Furnishing bond for certificates.**

(1) If a collector's item, street-rod vehicle, or horseless carriage is twenty-five years old or older, the applicant has had a certified vehicle identification number inspection performed on the vehicle, and the applicant presents a bill of sale within twenty-four months after the sale with the title application, then the applicant need not furnish surety under section 42-6-115 (3). To be excepted from the surety requirement, an applicant shall submit to the department a sworn affidavit, under penalty of perjury, stating that the required documents submitted are true and correct.

(2) If any person suffers loss or damage by reason of the filing of the certificate of title as provided in this section, the person shall have a right of action against the applicant and the surety on the applicant's bond, against either of whom the person damaged may proceed independently of the other.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article amended with relocations, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 235, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2022:** (1) amended, (HB 22-1388), ch. 475, p. 3465, § 15, effective January 1, 2023.

**Editor's note:** The former § 42-12-103 was relocated to § 42-12-402 in 2011.

**42-12-104. Applicability of articles 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6.**

Except as otherwise provided in this article, articles 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of this title apply to the titling and registration of a motor vehicle.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article amended with relocations, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 236, § 1, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** The former § 42-12-104 (1) and (3) were relocated to § 42-12-403, and the former § 42-12-104 (2) was relocated to § 42-12-404, in 2011.

**42-12-105. Evidence of ownership of parts - copy of nonrepairable title.**

The director may accept a copy of the nonrepairable title as evidence of ownership of a part when the part is used to restore another vehicle under this article.

**Source: L. 2014:** Entire section added, (HB 14-1100), ch. 122, p. 438, § 7, effective August 6.

## PART 2

### STREET-ROD VEHICLES

**42-12-201. Inspections - street-rod vehicles.**

When an inspector performs a vehicle identification number inspection on a street-rod vehicle, the inspector shall accept the serial number of such street-rod vehicle as the vehicle's identification number or, if the street-rod vehicle has frame and body identification numbers that do not match or is reconstructed from salvage parts, other vehicles, or reproduction parts, the inspector shall accept the special vehicle identification number assigned to such vehicle by the department by section 42-12-202 as the vehicle identification number.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article amended with relocations, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 236, § 1, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-5-203 as it existed prior to 2011.



**42-12-202. Assignment of a special vehicle identification number by the department.**

The department may assign a special vehicle identification number to any street-rod vehicle whenever required by section 42-12-203 and to any vehicle or commercial vehicle whenever no vehicle identification number is found on the vehicle or whenever a vehicle identification number has been removed, changed, altered, or obliterated. The special number must be affixed to the vehicle or commercial vehicle in the manner and position determined by the department. The special number is the vehicle identification number required to be recorded by an inspector on the inspection form that is transmitted to the department, which shall register and title the motor vehicle using the special vehicle identification number.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article amended with relocations, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 236, § 1, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-5-205 as it existed prior to 2011.

**ANNOTATION**

**Annotator's note.** The following annotations include cases decided prior to the 2011 amendment to this article.

**The provisions of this section are not inconsistent with § 42-5-102 (2),** by which the general assembly intended to prohibit intentional alteration of identification numbers. *People v. Sequin*, 199 Colo. 381, 609 P.2d 622 (1980); *People v. Rautenkranz*, 641 P.2d 317 (Colo. App. 1982).

**Court's determination in motion for return of seized vehicle.** In a motion for

return of a seized vehicle, the trial court must determine whether the obliteration or alteration of the vehicle identification number was intentional, in which case § 42-5-102 (2) would govern and the vehicle would be subject to forfeiture as contraband, or whether the obliteration or alteration was unintentional, in which case the vehicle would not be contraband and should be released to the owner. *People v. Rautenkranz*, 641 P.2d 317 (Colo. App. 1982).

**42-12-203. Identification number - title - street-rod vehicles.**

(1) When a person applies for a certificate of title for a street-rod vehicle, the department shall accept the serial number of the street-rod vehicle as its vehicle identification number or the

special vehicle identification number assigned to such vehicle by the department under section 42-12-202.

(2) A person who applies for a certificate of title for a street-rod vehicle having frame and body identification numbers that do not match the manufacturer's numbering system as being originally mated or that is reconstructed from salvage parts or other motor vehicles or reproduction parts shall furnish evidence of ownership, acceptable to the director, of such salvage parts, other motor vehicles, or reproduction components used in the reconstruction of such vehicle. In addition, the applicant shall furnish an affidavit stating the facts concerning the reconstruction and an affidavit of physical inspection that includes a computer check of the state and national compilations of wanted and stolen vehicles. The department may issue a special vehicle identification number and title the street-rod vehicle as a rebuilt vehicle. The model year and the year of manufacture that are listed on the certificate of title of a street-rod vehicle are the model year and the year of manufacture that the body of such vehicle resembles.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article amended with relocations, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 236, § 1, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-6-108 as it existed prior to 2011.

**42-12-204. Signal lamps and devices - street-rod vehicles and custom motor vehicles - definition.**

(1) As used in this section, "blue dot tail light" means a red lamp installed in the rear of a motor vehicle containing a blue or purple insert that is not more than one inch in diameter.

(2) A street-rod vehicle or custom motor vehicle may use blue dot tail lights for stop lamps, rear turning indicator lamps, rear hazard lamps, and rear reflectors if the lamps comply with all requirements of part 2 of article 4 of this title.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article amended with relocations, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 237, § 1, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-4-215.5 as it existed prior to 2011.

## PART 3

### SPECIAL REGISTRATION OF HORSELESS CARRIAGES AND ORIGINAL PLATES

#### **42-12-301. Special registration of horseless carriages - rules.**

(1) (a) The department may specially register and issue a horseless carriage special license plate for motor vehicles valued principally because of the vehicles' early date of manufacture, design, or historical interest or valued as collector's items.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "early date of manufacture" means that a motor vehicle was manufactured at least fifty years before the current date of registration.

(2) The plates issued under subsection (1) of this section must be of a design, determined by the director, that is different from that used by the state for regular motor vehicle registration.

(3) (a) The director shall register the vehicles and issue plates for a period not exceeding five years, but all the registrations and plates shall expire on the same date regardless of the date of issue.

(b) Upon the expiration of the five-year period ending with the year 1959, and each five years thereafter, the registration plate originally issued for each vehicle must remain with the vehicle. The director shall issue a tab to be securely fastened to the plate showing the five years for which the motor vehicle is registered.

(c) A person who has registered a vehicle under this section shall renew the registration within thirty days prior to its expiration date. If the application for renewal, together with the fees, is not received by the director prior to the expiration date, the director shall notify the registered owner, at the owner's last-known address, by regular mail, to reregister the vehicle or surrender the registration plate within ten days after the expiration date of the registration. If the notice is not complied with, the director shall secure the return of the plate.

(4) The fee for issuing such registration and special registration plate or tab is five dollars for each five-year period or fraction thereof. In addition to the five-dollar registration fee, the director shall collect the one-dollar-and-fifty-cent annual specific ownership fee provided by law for each year of registration, which additional fee shall be collected for the number of years remaining at the time of registration and issuance or renewal of the registration.

(5) A person may drive a motor vehicle with the special registration plates authorized by this section or section 42-12-302 on the streets and highways, but only:

(a) To and from assemblies, conventions, or other meetings where such vehicles and their ownership are the primary interest;

- (b) On special occasions, for demonstrations and parades;
  - (c) On occasions when the operation of the vehicle on the streets and highways will not constitute a traffic hazard; and
  - (d) To, from, and during local, state, or national tours held primarily for the exhibition and enjoyment of such vehicles.
- (6) Upon the sale or transfer of a motor vehicle bearing a special registration plate, the plate remains with the vehicle and is transferred to the new owner. The new owner shall title such motor vehicle as provided by law and give notice of the transfer of ownership to the department.
- (7) Applications for special registration of motor vehicles are made directly to the department. The department shall administer all matters concerning such registration. The department shall transfer fees received from special registrations to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fees to the highway users tax fund.
- (8) The director may prepare any special forms and issue any rules necessary to implement this section.
- (9) When the director receives an application for a title to a vehicle under subsection (1) of this section, the director shall accept the original motor or serial number on the vehicle and shall not require or issue a special identification number for the vehicle.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article amended with relocations, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 237, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2017:** (3)(c) amended, (HB 17-1107), ch. 101, p. 373, § 26, effective August 9.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-3-219 as it existed prior to 2011.

#### **42-12-302. Original plates.**

(1) In addition to any other registration, the department may approve use of the style of original plates from the vehicle's year of manufacture for motor vehicles valued principally because of the vehicles' early date of manufacture, design, or historical interest or valued as collector's items. Original plates must meet the following criteria in order to qualify for use under this section:

- (a) The plates were made at least thirty years prior to registration under this section;
- (b) The plates are embossed with the year of original issue;

- (c) The plates are legible;
  - (d) The plates were issued contemporaneously with the year of manufacture of the vehicle upon which they are displayed, as determined by the department; and
  - (e) The plates do not exceed seven characters.
- (2) A person shall not drive the vehicle bearing the original plates except as authorized in section 42-12-301 (5).

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article amended with relocations, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 239, § 1, effective August 10.

## PART 4

### COLLECTOR'S ITEMS

#### **42-12-401. Registration of collector's items - fees - definition.**

(1) Except for motor vehicles that are entitled to registration under section 42-12-301, owners of collector's items shall apply for a title, register, and pay a specific ownership tax in the same manner as provided in this title for other motor vehicles, with the following exceptions:

(a) Such collector's items are registered for periods of five years. The taxes and fees imposed for registration of a collector's item for each five-year registration period is equal to five times the annual taxes and fees that would otherwise be imposed for the registration of the motor vehicle under this title and under title 43, C.R.S.; except that the amount of a surcharge imposed pursuant to section 43-4-804 (1)(a) or 43-4-805 (5)(g), C.R.S., is the amount specified in the applicable section. In addition to any other taxes and fees, if a collector's item is registered in a county that is a member of a highway authority and the authority has imposed an annual motor vehicle registration fee pursuant to section 43-4-506 (1)(k), C.R.S., then five times such annual motor vehicle registration fee is imposed and remitted to the authority.

(b) The motor vehicle's compliance with emissions standards is governed by section 42-12-404.

(c) The annual registration fee for a truck or truck tractor that has an empty weight of six thousand one pounds or more, or a declared gross vehicle weight of sixteen thousand one pounds or more and is a collector's item, is sixty-five dollars if such vehicle is used exclusively for noncommercial transportation and only used to drive:

(I) To and from assemblies, conventions, or other meetings where such vehicles and their ownership are the primary interest;

(II) For special occasions, demonstrations, and parades and on occasions when their operation on the streets and highways will not constitute a traffic hazard; or

(III) Traveling to, from, and during local, state, or national tours held primarily for the exhibition and enjoyment of such vehicles by their owners.

(d) For purposes of paragraph (c) of this subsection (1), "noncommercial transportation" means a truck or truck tractor used exclusively for private transportation of passengers or cargo for purposes unrelated in any way to a business or commercial enterprise.

(2) (a) An owner of a collector's item that is not operated upon the highways of this state and that is kept on private property for the purpose of maintenance, repair, restoration, rebuilding, or any other similar purpose shall pay an annual specific ownership tax as provided in section 42-3-106 on any such motor vehicle owned by the owner, except owners of parts cars or licensed garages or licensed automobile dealers. The owner shall pay the specific ownership tax in the manner provided in section 42-12-301.

(b) Upon payment of the specific ownership tax as provided in this subsection (2), the department shall issue to the owner of the motor vehicle for which the tax has been paid a license, sticker, decal, or other device evidencing such payment, as may be prescribed by the director. When such device or license is affixed to the motor vehicle for which it is issued, the owner of that motor vehicle is permitted to keep such motor vehicle on private property for the purposes of maintenance, repair, restoration, rebuilding, or renovation.

(3) Notwithstanding the amount specified for any fee in subsection (1) of this section, the director by rule or as otherwise provided by law may reduce the amount of one or more of the fees if necessary pursuant to section 24-75-402 (3), C.R.S., to reduce the uncommitted reserves of the fund to which all or any portion of one or more of the fees is credited. After the uncommitted reserves of the fund are sufficiently reduced, the director by rule or as otherwise provided by law may increase the amount of one or more of the fees as provided in section 24-75-402 (4), C.R.S.

(4) An applicant may apply for personalized license plates issued for a motor vehicle registration issued pursuant to this section. If the applicant complies with section 42-3-211, the department may issue such plates upon payment of the additional fee required by section 42-3-211 (6) for personalized license plates. If the applicant has existing personalized license plates for a motor vehicle, the applicant may transfer the combination of letters or numbers to a new set of license plates for the vehicle upon paying the fee imposed by section 42-3-211 (6)(a) and upon turning in such existing plates to the department as required by the department. A person who has obtained personalized plates under this subsection (4) shall pay the annual fee imposed by

section 42-3-211 (6)(b) to renew such plates. The fees imposed by this subsection (4) are in addition to all other taxes and fees imposed for collector's license plates.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article amended with relocations, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 240, § 1, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-12-102 as it existed prior to 2011.

#### **42-12-402. Storage.**

A collector may store one or more motor vehicles or motor vehicle parts on the collector's property if the vehicle, motor vehicle part, and storage area are maintained so as to not constitute a health hazard, a safety hazard, or a fire hazard; are screened from ordinary public view by means of a solid fence, trees, shrubbery, or other appropriate means; and are kept free of weeds, trash, and objectionable items.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article amended with relocations, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 241, § 1, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-12-103 as it existed prior to 2011.

#### **ANNOTATION**

**This section held to preempt county zoning ordinance which prohibited outdoor storage of only one collector's**

**vehicle.** Bd. of County Comm'rs v. Martin, 856 P.2d 62 (Colo. App. 1993) (decided prior to the 2011 amendment to this article).

#### **42-12-403. Special equipment or modification.**

(1) Unless the presence of special equipment was a prior condition for sale within Colorado at the time an historic or special interest vehicle was manufactured for first use, the presence of such equipment or device is not required as a condition for current legal use.

(2) Any safety device or safety equipment that was manufactured for and installed on a motor vehicle as original equipment must be in proper operating condition when the vehicle is operated on or for highway purposes.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article amended with relocations, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 242, § 1, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-12-104 (1) and (3) as they existed prior to 2011.

#### **42-12-404. Emissions.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a motor vehicle of historic or special interest manufactured prior to the date emission controls were standard equipment on that particular make or model of vehicle is exempted from statutes requiring the inspection and use of such emission controls. A motor vehicle using emission controls as standard equipment at the time of manufacture must have such equipment in proper operating condition at all times when the vehicle is operated on or for highway purposes.

(2) A certification of emissions control that has been issued for a motor vehicle that is registered as a collector's item before September 1, 2009, and that is of model year 1976 or later is valid until the motor vehicle is sold or transferred.

(3) Except for a motor vehicle that was registered before September 1, 2009, and meets the requirements of subsection (2) of this section, to register or reregister a collector's item that is model year 1976 or newer, the owner must have a certificate of emission control issued under part 3 of article 4 of this title.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article amended with relocations, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 242, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2013:** (1) amended and (3) added, (HB 13-1071), ch. 370, p. 2161, § 2, effective August 7. **L. 2014:** (3) amended, (HB 14-1056), ch. 23, p. 155, § 3, effective March 7.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-12-104 (2) as it existed prior to 2011.



**42-12-405. Registration penalty.**

In addition to any other penalties, the department shall cancel the registration of a noncommercial or recreational vehicle, truck, or truck tractor registered as a collector's item pursuant to section 42-12-401 that is used to transport cargo or passengers for profit or hire or in a business or commercial enterprise. The department shall cancel the registration of a truck or truck tractor registered as a collector's item pursuant to section 42-12-401 that is driven for any purpose other than those purposes allowed in section 42-12-401 (1)(c).

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article amended with relocations, (SB 11-031), ch. 86, p. 242, § 1, effective August 10.

**DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY**

**ARTICLE 13**

**Disposition of Personal Property**

|            |                                                           |            |                                           |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 42-13-101. | Scope and effect of article -<br>exception to provisions. | 42-13-106. | Impounded vehicles - notice -<br>hearing. |
| 42-13-102. | Return of property.                                       | 42-13-107. | Recovery of property -<br>limitation.     |
| 42-13-103. | Sale of unclaimed property.                               | 42-13-108. | Damages.                                  |
| 42-13-104. | Deposit of proceeds.                                      | 42-13-109. | Local regulations.                        |
| 42-13-105. | Release of impounded<br>vehicles - penalty.               |            |                                           |

**42-13-101. Scope and effect of article - exception to provisions.**

This article 13 applies to all personal property acquired or held by a law enforcement agency in the course of motor vehicle law enforcement or related highway duties and under circumstances supporting a reasonable belief that such property was abandoned, lost, stolen, or otherwise illegally possessed, including property left in abandoned vehicles or at vehicle crash locations, unclaimed property obtained by a search and seizure, and unclaimed property used as evidence in any criminal trial, except for such other personal property disposed of in a different manner in accordance with other Colorado statutes.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2513, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 496, § 90, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-16-101 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-13-101 was relocated to § 42-11-101.

#### **42-13-102. Return of property.**

Any personal property of the type described in section 42-13-101 and believed to be abandoned, lost, stolen, or otherwise illegally possessed shall be retained in custody by the sheriff, chief of police, or chief of the Colorado state patrol or by a designated representative within the law enforcement agency, who shall make reasonable inquiry and effort to identify and notify the owner or person entitled to possession thereof and shall return the property after such owner or person provides reasonable and satisfactory proof of ownership or right to possession and reimburses the law enforcement agency for all reasonable expenses of such custody and handling.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2513, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-16-102 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-13-102 was relocated to § 42-11-102.

#### **42-13-103. Sale of unclaimed property.**

If the identity or location of the owner or person entitled to possession of the property has not been ascertained within six months after the law enforcement agency obtains possession of the property described in section 42-13-101, the sheriff, chief of police, or chief of the Colorado state patrol or a designated representative within the law enforcement agency shall effectuate the sale of such property for cash to the highest bidder at a public auction, notice of which, including time, place, and a brief description of such property, shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county wherein such official has authority or jurisdiction or, in the case of the Colorado state patrol, in the county wherein said public auction is to be held at least ten days prior to such auction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2514, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-16-103 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-13-103 was relocated to § 42-11-103.

**42-13-104. Deposit of proceeds.**

Proceeds from the sale of property at public auction, less reimbursement of the law enforcement agency for the reasonable expenses of custody and handling thereof, shall be deposited in the treasury of the county, city and county, city, town, or state of which government the law enforcement agency is a branch.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2514, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-16-104 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-13-104 was relocated to § 42-11-104.

**42-13-105. Release of impounded vehicles - penalty.**

Any owner, operator, or employee of any garage or service station or any appointed custodian who releases any vehicle impounded or ordered held by an officer of the Colorado state patrol without a release from an officer of the Colorado state patrol or a bona fide court order commits a petty offense.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2514, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2002:** Entire section amended, p. 1564, § 380, effective October 1. **L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3324, § 770, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 24-33.5-213 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-13-105 was relocated to § 42-11-105.

**Cross references:** (1) For penalties for petty offenses, see § 18-1.3-503.

(2) For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

**42-13-106. Impounded vehicles - notice - hearing.**

(1) Whenever a motor vehicle is impounded and ordered held by the Colorado state patrol for a violation of motor vehicle registration or inspection laws, said patrol shall notify the registered owner of record of the impoundment of such vehicle and of the owner's opportunity to request a hearing to determine the validity of the impoundment.

(2) Such notice shall be sent by certified mail to the owner of the motor vehicle within forty-eight hours of impoundment, excluding weekends and holidays, and shall include the following information:

- (a) The address and telephone number of the Colorado state patrol;
- (b) The location of storage of the motor vehicle;
- (c) A description of the motor vehicle, which shall include, if available, the make, model, license plate number, mileage, and vehicle identification number;
- (d) The reason for which the motor vehicle was ordered held;
- (e) A citation to this section as the basis for the hearing provided for in subsection (1) of this section;
- (f) That, if the owner fails to request a hearing or if the impoundment is determined to be valid and the owner does not comply with the appropriate statute within thirty days, the motor vehicle may be subject to sale; and
- (g) That, in order to obtain a hearing concerning the validity of the impoundment, the owner must request such hearing in writing in the county court of the county in which the motor vehicle was impounded within ten days after the date appearing on the notice.

(3) Any notice sent to the owner of a motor vehicle pursuant to this section shall also include a form that the owner shall use when requesting a hearing in the county court of the county in which the motor vehicle is impounded. Such form shall include at least the following:

- (a) The name and address of the owner of the impounded motor vehicle;
- (b) A description of the motor vehicle as specified in paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of this section;
- (c) The reason for which the motor vehicle was ordered held;
- (d) A printed citation to this section as the basis for the requested hearing;

- (e) A printed statement naming the Colorado state patrol as a party to the action;
  - (f) A printed statement that the hearing is requested to contest the legality of the impoundment; and
  - (g) A statement to the owner of the motor vehicle that a copy of the citation on which the impoundment was based and a copy of the notice served on the owner by the Colorado state patrol must be attached to the form to complete the owner's request for a hearing.
- (4) Any such hearing shall be conducted within five days after the court's receipt of the owner's request for a hearing, excluding weekends and holidays. The clerk of the county court to which the request for hearing was made shall provide written notice of the scheduled date, time, and location of said hearing to both the requesting party and the Colorado state patrol, which notice shall be delivered at least two days prior to the hearing date. The failure of the owner to request or to attend a scheduled hearing shall satisfy the hearing requirement of this section.
- (5) The sole issue of the hearing shall be the legality of the impoundment of the motor vehicle. The burden of proof shall be on the Colorado state patrol to establish probable cause for the impoundment.
- (6) If the court determines that the impoundment was invalid, the Colorado state patrol shall be responsible only for the costs incurred in the towing and storage of the motor vehicle. If the court determines that the impoundment was valid and if the owner does not comply with the appropriate statute within ten days after the court's decision and refuses to remove the motor vehicle by means other than under its own power on a public highway, the Colorado state patrol shall have reasonable grounds to believe that the motor vehicle has been abandoned, and the provisions of part 18 or 21 of article 4 of this title shall apply; except that any notice or hearing requirements of said part 18 or 21 of article 4 of this title as to owners of motor vehicles shall be deemed to have been met by the notice and hearing provisions of this section. Nevertheless, the notice and hearing requirements of said part 18 or 21 of article 4 of this title as to lienholders, other than section 42-4-1814, shall not be deemed to have been met by the notice and hearing provisions of this section.
- (7) The provisions of this section shall not apply to removal of motor vehicles for any purpose other than those specified in this section.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2514, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2002:** (6) amended, p. 485, § 6, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 24-33.5-213.5 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-13-106 was relocated to § 42-11-106.

**42-13-107. Recovery of property - limitation.**

The owner or person entitled to possession of the property described in section 42-13-101 may claim and recover possession of the property at any time before its sale at public auction upon providing reasonable and satisfactory proof of ownership or right to possession and after reimbursing the law enforcement agency for all reasonable expenses of custody and handling thereof.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2516, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-16-105 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-13-107 was relocated to § 42-11-107.

**42-13-108. Damages.**

No person or agency shall be responsible for consequent damages to another occasioned by an act or omission in compliance with this article.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2516, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-16-106 as it existed prior to 1994, and the former § 42-13-108 was relocated to § 42-4-903.

**42-13-109. Local regulations.**

The provisions of this article may be superseded by ordinance or resolution of a municipality or county which sets forth procedures for disposition of personal property.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2516, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 42-16-107 as it existed prior to 1994.

## **IDLING STANDARD**

### **ARTICLE 14**

#### **State Idling Standard**

|            |                                       |            |                |
|------------|---------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 42-14-101. | Legislative declaration.              | 42-14-104. | Applicability. |
| 42-14-102. | Definitions.                          | 42-14-105. | Idling.        |
| 42-14-103. | Uniform standard - local governments. | 42-14-106. | Penalties.     |

#### **42-14-101. Legislative declaration.**

The general assembly hereby finds and determines that the operation of a motor vehicle in commerce has important statewide ramifications for commercial diesel vehicle operators because the transportation of people and property is not confined to one jurisdiction. Therefore, the general assembly hereby declares that idling standards are a matter of mixed local and statewide concern.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article added, (HB 11-1275), ch. 215, p. 942, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2024:** Entire section amended, (HB 24-1341), ch. 132, p. 476, § 1, effective August 7.

#### **42-14-102. Definitions.**

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Covered vehicle" means a vehicle to which this article applies under section 42-3-104.
- (2) "Idling" means when the primary propulsion engine of a covered vehicle is running but the vehicle is not in motion.
- (3) "Loading location" means a place where a covered vehicle loads or unloads people or property.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article added, (HB 11-1275), ch. 215, p. 943, § 2, effective July 1.

**42-14-103. Uniform standard - local governments.**

(1) A local authority may adopt or enact a resolution, ordinance, or other law concerning idling of a covered vehicle that is at least as stringent as, but not less stringent than, the state idling standard set forth in this article 14.

(2) The exemptions set forth in section 42-14-105 (2) apply to any local resolution, ordinance, or other law concerning the idling standard in section 42-14-105 (1).

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article added, (HB 11-1275), ch. 215, p. 943, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2024:** Entire section amended, (HB 24-1341), ch. 132, p. 476, § 2, effective August 7.

**42-14-104. Applicability.**

(1) This article applies to:

(a) Commercial diesel vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of greater than fourteen thousand pounds that are designed to operate on highways; and

(b) Locations where commercial diesel vehicles load or unload if a local authority has adopted or enacted a resolution, ordinance, or other law consistent with this article.

(2) This article does not supersede an ordinance of a local authority if the authority has an average elevation of over six thousand feet and if the ordinance was in effect on January 1, 2011.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article added, (HB 11-1275), ch. 215, p. 943, § 2, effective July 1.

**42-14-105. Idling.**

(1) **Standard.** The owner or operator of a covered vehicle shall not cause or permit the vehicle to idle for more than five minutes within any sixty-minute period except as authorized by subsection (2) of this section.

(2) **Exemptions.** Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to an idling, covered vehicle:

(a) When it remains motionless because of highway traffic, an official traffic control device or signal, or at the direction of a law enforcement officer;

(b) When the driver is operating defrosters, heaters, or air conditioners or is installing equipment only to prevent a safety or health emergency, and not for rest periods;



- (c) In the case of a law enforcement, emergency, public safety, or military vehicle, or any other vehicle used to respond to an emergency, when it is responding to an emergency or being used for training for an emergency, and not for the convenience of the vehicle operator;
- (d) When necessary for required maintenance, servicing, or repair of the vehicle;
- (e) During a local, state, or federal inspection verifying that the equipment is in good working order if required for the inspection;
- (f) During the operation of power take-off equipment if necessary for operating work-related mechanical or electrical equipment;
- (g) In the case of an armored vehicle, when a person is inside the vehicle to guard its contents or during the loading or unloading of the vehicle;
- (h) In the case of a passenger bus, when idling for up to five minutes in any sixty-minute period to maintain passenger comfort while nondriver passengers are on board;
- (i) When used to heat or cool a sleeper berth compartment during a rest or sleep period at a safety rest area as defined under 23 CFR 752.3, fleet trucking terminal, commercial truck stop, or state-designated location designed to be a driver's rest area;
- (j) When used to heat or cool a sleeper berth compartment during a rest or sleep period at a location where the vehicle is legally permitted to park and that is at least one thousand feet from residential housing, a school, a daycare facility, a hospital, a senior citizen center, or a medical outpatient facility providing primary, specialty, or respiratory care;
- (k) When idling for up to twenty minutes in any sixty-minute period if the ambient temperature is less than ten degrees; or
- (l) For a critical service or a utility provider, when performing the functions of the provider's duties.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article added, (HB 11-1275), ch. 215, p. 943, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2024:** (2)(j) and (2)(k) amended and (2)(l) added, (HB 24-1341), ch. 132, p. 477, § 3, effective August 7.

#### **42-14-106. Penalties.**

The owner or operator of a vehicle or the owner of a loading location that violates this article commits a class B traffic infraction, punishable by a fine of not more than one hundred fifty dollars for the first offense or a fine of not more than five hundred dollars for a second or

subsequent offense and by a surcharge of twenty dollars in accordance with section 24-4.1-119, C.R.S.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire article added, (HB 11-1275), ch. 215, p. 944, § 2, effective July 1.

## **HIGHWAY SAFETY**

### **ARTICLE 20**

#### **Transportation of Hazardous and Nuclear Materials**

| PART 1<br>HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - GENERAL<br>PROVISIONS |                                                                                                                       | 42-20-108.5. Materials used for<br>agricultural production -<br>exemption - legislative<br>declaration. |                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 42-20-101.                                            | Short title.                                                                                                          |                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                      |
| 42-20-102.                                            | Legislative declaration.                                                                                              | 42-20-109.                                                                                              | Penalty for violations.                                                                                              |
| 42-20-103.                                            | Definitions.                                                                                                          | 42-20-110.                                                                                              | Immobilization of unsafe<br>vehicles.                                                                                |
| 42-20-104.                                            | General powers and duties of<br>chief - department of<br>public safety -<br>cooperation from other<br>state agencies. | 42-20-111.                                                                                              | Additional penalties.                                                                                                |
|                                                       |                                                                                                                       | 42-20-112.                                                                                              | Reimbursement of local<br>governments.                                                                               |
|                                                       |                                                                                                                       | 42-20-113.                                                                                              | Hazardous materials spill -<br>abandonment of vehicle<br>containing hazardous<br>material - penalty -<br>definition. |
| 42-20-105.                                            | Enforcement.                                                                                                          |                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                      |
| 42-20-106.                                            | Regulatory authority of local<br>governments -<br>preemption - disposition<br>of local fines and<br>penalties.        |                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                      |
|                                                       |                                                                                                                       | PART 2<br>PERMIT SYSTEM FOR HAZARDOUS<br>MATERIALS                                                      |                                                                                                                      |
| 42-20-107.                                            | Hazardous materials safety<br>fund.                                                                                   | 42-20-201.                                                                                              | Hazardous materials<br>transportation permit<br>required.                                                            |
| 42-20-108.                                            | Rules and regulations for<br>transportation of<br>hazardous materials.                                                | 42-20-202.                                                                                              | Transportation permit -<br>application fee - rules.                                                                  |

|                                           |                                                                                                                                      |                                 |                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 42-20-203.                                | Carrying of permit and shipping papers.                                                                                              | 42-20-403.                      | Chief to promulgate rules and regulations - motor vehicles.     |
| 42-20-204.                                | Permit violations - penalties.                                                                                                       | 42-20-404.                      | Inspections.                                                    |
| 42-20-205.                                | Permit suspension or revocation - rules.                                                                                             | 42-20-405.                      | Violations - criminal penalties - definition.                   |
| 42-20-206.                                | Local government preemption.                                                                                                         | 42-20-406.                      | Violations - civil penalties - motor vehicles.                  |
| PART 3                                    |                                                                                                                                      | 42-20-407.                      | Repeat violations - civil penalties.                            |
| ROUTE DESIGNATION FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS |                                                                                                                                      | 42-20-408.                      | Compliance orders - penalty.                                    |
| 42-20-300.3.                              | Definitions.                                                                                                                         | PART 5                          |                                                                 |
| 42-20-301.                                | Route designation.                                                                                                                   | NUCLEAR MATERIALS PERMIT SYSTEM |                                                                 |
| 42-20-302.                                | Application for route designation - procedure - approval.                                                                            | 42-20-501.                      | Nuclear materials transportation permit required - application. |
| 42-20-303.                                | Road signs required - uniform standards.                                                                                             | 42-20-502.                      | Permits - fees.                                                 |
| 42-20-304.                                | Emergency closure of public roads.                                                                                                   | 42-20-503.                      | Carrying of shipping papers.                                    |
| 42-20-305.                                | Deviation from authorized route - penalty.                                                                                           | 42-20-504.                      | Rules and regulations.                                          |
| 42-20-306.                                | Transportation of hazardous materials through Eisenhower-Edwin C Johnson Memorial Tunnels - study - definitions - repeal. (Repealed) | 42-20-505.                      | Penalties - permit system.                                      |
| PART 4                                    |                                                                                                                                      | 42-20-506.                      | Permit suspension and revocation.                               |
| NUCLEAR MATERIALS - GENERAL PROVISIONS    |                                                                                                                                      | 42-20-507.                      | Local government preemption.                                    |
| 42-20-401.                                | Legislative declaration.                                                                                                             | 42-20-508.                      | Route designation - motor vehicles.                             |
| 42-20-402.                                | Definitions.                                                                                                                         | 42-20-509.                      | Strict liability for nuclear incidents.                         |
|                                           |                                                                                                                                      | 42-20-510.                      | Statute of limitations.                                         |

42-20-511. Nuclear materials

transportation fund.

## PART 1

### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### **42-20-101. Short title.**

Parts 1, 2, and 3 of this article shall be known and may be cited as the "Hazardous Materials Transportation Act of 1987".

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2516, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-101 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-20-102. Legislative declaration.**

The general assembly finds that the permitting and routing of motor vehicles transporting hazardous materials is a matter of statewide concern and is affected with a public interest and that the provisions of parts 1, 2, and 3 of this article are enacted in the exercise of the police powers of this state for the purpose of protecting the health, peace, safety, and welfare of the people of this state.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2516, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-102 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-20-103. Definitions.**

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Chief" means the chief of the Colorado state patrol.

(2) "Enforcement official" means, and is limited to, a peace officer who is an officer of the Colorado state patrol as described in sections 16-2.5-101 and 16-2.5-114, C.R.S., a port of entry officer, as defined in section 42-8-102 (3), a peace officer who is an investigating official of the

transportation section of the public utilities commission as described in sections 16-2.5-101 and 16-2.5-143, C.R.S., or any other peace officer as described in section 16-2.5-101, C.R.S.

(3) "Hazardous materials" means those materials listed in tables 1 and 2 of 49 CFR 172.504, excluding highway route controlled quantities of radioactive materials as defined in 49 CFR 173.403 (1), excluding ores, the products from mining, milling, smelting, and similar processing of ores, and the wastes and tailing therefrom, and excluding special fireworks as defined in 49 CFR 173.88 (d) when the aggregate amount of flash powder does not exceed fifty pounds.

(4) "Motor vehicle" means any device which is capable of moving from place to place upon public roads. The term includes, but is not limited to, any motorized vehicle or any such vehicle with a trailer or semitrailer attached thereto.

(5) "Patrol" means the Colorado state patrol within the department of public safety.

(6) "Person" means an individual, a corporation, a government or governmental subdivision or agency, a partnership, an association, or any other legal entity; except that separate divisions of the same corporation may, at their request, be treated as separate persons for the purposes of part 2 of this article.

(7) "Public road" means every way publicly maintained and opened to the use of the public for the purposes of vehicular travel, including, but not limited to, streets, bridges, toll roads, tunnels, and state and federal highways.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2516, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2003:** (2) amended, p. 1626, § 52, effective August 6. **L. 2012:** (2) amended, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 472, § 21, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-103 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-20-104. General powers and duties of chief - department of public safety - cooperation from other state agencies.**

(1) In addition to any other powers and duties granted to him or her in parts 1, 2, and 3 of this article, the chief shall promulgate such rules and regulations and conduct such hearings as may be necessary for the administration of this article.

(2) In addition to any other powers and duties granted to him or her in parts 1, 2, and 3 of this article and except as otherwise provided in parts 1, 2, and 3 of this article, the chief shall have the general authority and duty to carry out the provisions of parts 1, 2, and 3 of this article

and shall promulgate such rules and regulations, subject to the provisions of article 4 of title 24, C.R.S., as may be necessary to clarify the enforcement provisions of parts 1, 2, and 3 of this article.

(3) Upon request, other agencies of state government, including but not limited to the department of public health and environment and the department of transportation, shall provide advice and assistance to the department of public safety relating to the program established by parts 1, 2, and 3 of this article.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2517, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-104 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-20-105. Enforcement.**

(1) The provisions of parts 1, 2, and 3 of this article relating to the transportation of hazardous materials by motor vehicle may only be enforced by an enforcement official.

(2) Any enforcement official shall have the authority to issue penalty assessments for the misdemeanor traffic offenses specified in sections 42-20-204 (1) and 42-20-305 (2). At any time that a person is cited for a violation of any of the offenses specified, the person in charge of or operating the motor vehicle involved shall be given a notice in the form of a penalty assessment notice. Such notice shall be tendered by the enforcement official and shall contain the name and address of such person, the license number of the motor vehicle involved, if any, the number of such person's driver's license, the nature of the violation, the amount of the penalty prescribed for such violation, the date of the notice, a place for such person to execute a signed acknowledgment of receipt of the penalty assessment notice, a place for such person to execute a signed acknowledgment of guilt for the cited violation, and such other information as may be required by law to constitute such notice as a summons and complaint to appear in court should the prescribed penalty not be paid within twenty days. Every cited person shall execute the signed acknowledgment of receipt of the penalty assessment notice. The acknowledgment of guilt shall be executed at the time the cited person pays the prescribed penalty. The person cited shall pay the specified penalty at the office of the department of revenue, either in person or by postmarking such payment within twenty days after the citation. The department of revenue shall accept late payment of any penalty assessment up to twenty days after such payment becomes due. If the person cited does not pay the prescribed penalty within twenty days of the notice, the penalty assessment notice shall constitute a summons and complaint to appear in the county court of the county in which the penalty assessment was issued at a time and place specified by

the notice, unless payment for such penalty assessment has been accepted by the department of revenue as evidenced by receipt.

(3) All enforcement officials may, at their discretion and in lieu of issuing the penalty assessments pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, issue warning citations to persons who violate the provisions of part 1, 2, or 3 of this article.

(4) Enforcement of any law relating to the fixed-site storage or use of hazardous materials shall not be affected by the provisions of part 1, 2, or 3 of this article.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2518, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (2) amended, p. 1651, § 47, effective June 1. **L. 2003:** (1) amended, p. 664, § 2, effective August 6. **L. 2006:** (1) amended, p. 1064, § 2, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-105 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-20-106. Regulatory authority of local governments - preemption - disposition of local fines and penalties.**

(1) Except as specifically authorized in parts 1, 2, and 3 of this article, no county, town, city, or city and county shall have any authority to regulate the transportation of hazardous materials separate and apart from the regulation of other commodities. However, a county, town, city, or city and county may adopt and enforce regulations or ordinances which are no more stringent than the provisions of state law and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, if violations of such local regulations or ordinances carry penalties which are not more than the penalties imposed upon violations of state law and regulations adopted pursuant thereto. Any local government which adopts a regulation or ordinance pursuant to this section shall file a certified copy of such regulation or ordinance, and any amendment thereto, with the patrol.

(2) No person shall be prosecuted for a violation of both the provisions of part 1, 2, or 3 of this article and the provisions of such local ordinance or regulation when such prosecution arises out of the same incident.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2518, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-106 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-107. Hazardous materials safety fund.**

(1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the hazardous materials safety fund, which shall consist of:

- (a) Such moneys as may be appropriated thereto by the general assembly from time to time;
- (b) Any permit fees collected pursuant to section 42-20-202;
- (c) Any penalties collected by a state agency or by a court, as provided in section 42-20-305 (3);
- (d) Any penalties collected pursuant to section 42-20-204 (4);
- (e) Any gifts or donations made to the state of Colorado or any agency thereof specifically for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of parts 1, 2, and 3 of this article;
- (f) Any federal funds made available to the state of Colorado or any agency thereof specifically for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of parts 1, 2, and 3 of this article;
- (g) Any excess moneys credited to the fund in accordance with section 40-2-110.5 (9), C.R.S.

(2) The moneys in the hazardous materials safety fund shall be subject to appropriation by the general assembly for the purposes of parts 1, 2, and 3 of this article.

(3) At the end of each fiscal year, any moneys remaining in the hazardous materials safety fund shall not revert to the general fund but shall be subject to appropriation by the general assembly to the executive director of the department of public safety for disbursement to local governments for purposes related to the preparation and training for and response to hazardous materials incidents.

(4) Repealed.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2519, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2006:** (1)(g) added, p. 1095, § 5, effective August 7. **L. 2014:** (4) added, (HB 14-1081), ch. 8, p. 91, § 3, effective February 27. **L. 2015:** (4) repealed, (SB 15-264), ch. 259, p. 969, § 97, effective August 5.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-107 as it existed prior to 1994.



**42-20-108. Rules and regulations for transportation of hazardous materials.**

(1) The chief shall promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to section 24-4-103, C.R.S., for the safe transportation of hazardous materials by motor vehicle, both in interstate and intrastate transportation. Such rules and regulations shall be applicable to any person who transports or ships, or who causes to be transported or shipped, a hazardous material by motor vehicle. Such rules and regulations may govern any safety aspect of the transportation of hazardous materials which the chief deems appropriate, including, but not limited to, the packaging, handling, labeling, marking, and placarding of hazardous materials and motor vehicles transporting hazardous materials, the qualifications of drivers of motor vehicles transporting hazardous materials, financial responsibility requirements, and the use of any package or container in the transportation of hazardous materials which is not manufactured, fabricated, marked, labeled, maintained, reconditioned, repaired, or tested in accordance with such rules and regulations.

(2) The chief shall also promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to section 24-4-103, C.R.S., for the permitting and routing of hazardous materials transportation by motor vehicle within this state and the inspection of vehicles transporting hazardous materials.

(3) In adopting such rules and regulations, the chief shall use as general guidelines the standards and specifications for the safe transportation of hazardous materials contained in federal statutes, and in the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, as amended from time to time. The rules and regulations adopted by the chief shall not unduly burden interstate or intrastate commerce and shall be no more stringent than federal statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

(4) The rules and regulations adopted by the chief pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall not apply to farm machinery which is exempted from registration requirements pursuant to section 42-3-103, agricultural distribution equipment attached to or conveyed by such farm machinery, or vehicles used to transport to or from the farm or ranch site products necessary for agricultural production, except when such vehicles are used in the furtherance of any commercial business other than agriculture.

(5) The rules and regulations adopted by the chief shall provide for the issuance of a certificate of inspection which shall exempt inspected vehicles from additional inspections for a period of at least sixty days unless there is probable cause to assume that the vehicle is in an unsafe condition.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2519, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-108 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-108.5. Materials used for agricultural production - exemption - legislative declaration.**

(1) The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that the federal government has extended federal hazardous materials rules to agricultural producers in 49 CFR 173.5 in a way that would be unduly burdensome to agriculture without contributing significantly to public safety. The general assembly further finds, determines, and declares that the federal rules give explicit authority to the states to exempt themselves from the federal rules, and that this section is intended to exempt Colorado agriculture from such rules. The general assembly further finds, determines, and declares that it is imperatively necessary for the chief to adopt the rules required by this section in time to meet the deadline imposed by the federal rules.

(2) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Agricultural product" means a hazardous material, other than hazardous waste, whose end use directly supports the production of an agricultural commodity including, but not limited to, a fertilizer, pesticide, soil amendment, or fuel. An agricultural product is limited to a material in class 3, 8, or 9, division 2.1, 2.2, 5.1, or 6.1, or an ORM-D material as set forth in 49 CFR parts 172 and 173.

(b) "Farmer" means a person or such person's agent or contractor engaged in the production or raising of crops, poultry, or livestock.

(3) The transportation of an agricultural product other than a class 2 material, as such term is used in 49 CFR parts 172 and 173, over local roads between fields of the same farm, is excepted from the requirements of this part 1 when it is transported by a farmer who is an intrastate private motor carrier and the movement of the agricultural product conforms to rules of the chief, in consultation with the department of agriculture regarding such movement. The chief shall, in consultation with the director of the department of agriculture, promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to section 24-4-103, C.R.S., for the intrastate transportation of agricultural products.

(4) The transportation of an agricultural product to or from a farm, within one hundred fifty miles of such farm, is excepted from the emergency response information and training requirements in subparts G and H of 49 CFR part 172, and this article when:

(a) It is transported by a farmer who is an intrastate private motor carrier;

(b) The total amount of agricultural product being transported on a single vehicle does not exceed:

(I) Seven thousand three hundred kilograms or sixteen thousand ninety-four pounds of ammonium nitrate fertilizer properly classed as division 5.1.PG III in a bulk packaging; or

(II) One thousand nine hundred liters or five hundred two gallons for liquids or gasses, or two thousand three hundred kilograms or five thousand seventy pounds for solids of any other agricultural product;

(c) The packaging conforms to rules adopted by the chief in consultation with the department of agriculture. Such rules shall be adopted by September 30, 1998. Such products are hereby authorized for transportation.

(d) Each person having any responsibility for transporting the agricultural product for shipment pursuant to this subsection (4) is instructed in the applicable requirements of this section.

(5) The rules and regulations adopted by the chief pursuant to this section shall be no more stringent than the federal statutes or regulations require.

(6) Any rules and regulations required to be adopted by the chief pursuant to this section shall be promulgated no later than September 30, 1998. If the chief finds that such rules cannot be promulgated by that date pursuant to the regular rule-making process set forth in section 24-4-103, C.R.S., the chief shall adopt temporary or emergency rules pursuant to section 24-4-103 (6), C.R.S.

(7) The chief shall send a copy of the notification of proposed rule-making for rules adopted pursuant to this section, including temporary or emergency rule-making sent pursuant to section 24-4-103 (3)(b), C.R.S., to the office of legislative legal services.

**Source: L. 98:** Entire section added, p. 722, § 3, effective May 18.

#### **42-20-109. Penalty for violations.**

(1) Any person who violates a rule or regulation promulgated by the chief pursuant to section 42-20-104 commits a class 2 misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501.

(2) Any person who violates a rule promulgated by the chief pursuant to section 42-20-108 commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense and shall be punished as provided in section 42-4-1701.

(3) No conviction pursuant to this section shall bar enforcement by the public utilities commission of any provision of title 40, C.R.S., with respect to violations by persons subject to said title.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2520, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (3) amended, p. 962, § 25, effective May 25. **L. 2002:** (1) and (2) amended, p. 1564, § 381, effective October 1. **L. 2006:** (2) amended, p. 1064, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2021:** (1) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3324, § 771, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-109 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsections (1) and (2), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

#### **42-20-110. Immobilization of unsafe vehicles.**

Any enforcement official shall have the power to immobilize, impound, or otherwise direct the disposition of motor vehicles transporting hazardous materials when the enforcement official deems that the motor vehicle or the operation thereof is unsafe and when such immobilization, impoundment, or disposition is appropriate under or required by rules and regulations promulgated by the chief pursuant to section 42-20-104.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2520, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-110 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-20-111. Additional penalties.**

Any person, corporation, partnership, or other entity which intentionally or knowingly authorizes, solicits, requests, commands, conspires in, or aids and abets in the violation of any of the provisions of part 1, 2, or 3 of this article 20 commits a class 2 misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2521, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2002:** Entire section amended, p. 1564, § 382, effective October 1. **L. 2021:** Entire section amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3324, § 772, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-111 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

**42-20-112. Reimbursement of local governments.**

(1) A public entity, political subdivision of the state, or other unit of local government is hereby given the right to claim reimbursement for the costs resulting from action taken to remove, contain, or otherwise mitigate the effects of a hazardous materials abandonment or a hazardous materials spill.

(2) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to change or impair any right of recovery or subrogation arising under any other provision of law.

(3) Claims for reimbursement made pursuant to this section shall be in accordance with article 22 of title 29, C.R.S.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2521, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-112 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-113. Hazardous materials spill - abandonment of vehicle containing hazardous material - penalty - definition.**

(1) No person shall abandon any vehicle containing any hazardous material excluding that which is considered fuel and is contained within the vehicle's fuel tank or shall intentionally spill hazardous materials upon a street, highway, right-of-way, or any other public property or upon any private property without the express consent of the owner or person in lawful charge of that private property.

(2) (a) As used in this section, "abandon" means to leave a thing with the intention not to retain possession of or assert ownership or control over it. The intent need not coincide with the act of leaving.

(b) It is prima facie evidence of the necessary intent that:

(I) The vehicle has been left for more than three days unattended and unmoved; or

- (II) License plates or other identifying marks have been removed from the vehicle; or
  - (III) The vehicle has been damaged or is deteriorated so extensively that it has value only for junk or salvage; or
  - (IV) The owner has been notified by a law enforcement agency to remove the vehicle and it has not been removed within twenty-four hours after notification.
- (3) The driver of a motor vehicle transporting hazardous materials as cargo which is involved in a hazardous materials spill, whether intentional or unintentional, shall give immediate notice of the location of such spill and such other information as necessary to the nearest law enforcement agency.
- (4) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (3) of this section commits a class 2 misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2521, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2002:** (4) amended, p. 1565, § 383, effective October 1. **L. 2021:** (4) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3324, § 773, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-113 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsection (4), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

## PART 2

### PERMIT SYSTEM FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

#### **42-20-201. Hazardous materials transportation permit required.**

Except as otherwise provided in this part 2, no transportation of hazardous materials by motor vehicle which requires placarding under 49 CFR 172 or 173 shall take place in, to, from, or through this state until the department of transportation issues a permit, in accordance with the provisions of this part 2, authorizing the applicant to operate or move upon the public roads of this state a motor vehicle or a combination of motor vehicles which carries hazardous materials. This part 2 does not apply to motor vehicles owned by the federal government, motor vehicles when used to transport to or from the farm or ranch site products used for agricultural production, or farm machinery which is exempted from registration requirements by section 42-

3-103, unless such vehicles are used in furtherance of any commercial business other than agriculture. This part 2 applies to motor vehicles owned by the state or any political subdivision thereof; except that such vehicles are exempt from the fees provided in section 42-20-202. The requirements of this part 2 are in addition to, and not in substitution for, any other provisions of law.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2522, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2020:** Entire section amended, (SB 20-118), ch. 155, p. 662, § 1, effective January 1, 2021.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-201 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-202. Transportation permit - application fee - rules.**

(1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each person desiring to transport hazardous materials which require placarding under 49 CFR 172 or 173 in, to, from, or through this state shall submit a permit application for an annual permit to the department of transportation before beginning such transportation. Permit applications must be in a form designated by the department, and the department shall maintain records of all such applications.

(b) Each annual permit is valid for one year following its issuance and shall be issued after the approval of the permit application by the department of transportation and upon the payment of a permit fee, which fee must be based on the number of motor vehicles the applicant operates within this state, as follows:

| <b>Number of Motor<br/>Vehicles</b> | <b>Permit Fee</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 - 5                               | \$ 10             |
| 6 - 10                              | 25                |
| 11 - 50                             | 125               |
| 51 - 100                            | 200               |
| 101 - 300                           | 350               |
| over 300                            | 400               |

(c) Single trip permits may be obtained at all port of entry weigh stations. Each person transporting hazardous materials in, to, from, or through this state who has not obtained an annual permit from the department of transportation shall apply at the closest possible port of entry weigh station or at a department of transportation office for a single trip permit. Each single trip permit is valid for a single continuous business venture, but in no event shall the permit be valid for more than seventy-two hours, unless extended by any enforcement official for any reason the official deems advisable, including mechanical difficulties and road and weather conditions. A single trip permit shall be issued upon the approval of the permit application and upon the payment of a twenty-five-dollar permit fee.

(d) The department of transportation shall provide the option to a company filing for a permit under this subsection (1) to file an express consent waiver that enables the company to designate a company representative to be a party of interest for a violation of this section. The appearance of the company representative in a court hearing without the operator when the operator has signed such waiver shall not be deemed the practice of law in violation of article 93 of title 13.

(2) No annual permit application shall be approved unless the applicant:

(a) Supplies proof of having obtained liability insurance as required by the United States department of transportation pursuant to 49 CFR 387. Proof of such liability insurance policy shall be filed with the department of transportation. The insurance carrier shall give thirty days' written notice for nonpayment of premium and ninety days' notice for nonrenewal of policy to the department before the cancellation of such policy. At any time that the insurance policy lapses, the permit shall be automatically revoked.

(b) Agrees to comply with the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to section 42-20-108.

(3) No single trip permit application shall be approved unless the applicant:

(a) Supplies proof of having liability insurance as required by the United States department of transportation pursuant to 49 CFR 387 or signs a verification under the penalty of perjury as provided in section 42-3-122 that the applicant has the liability insurance as required by the United States department of transportation pursuant to 49 CFR 387;

(b) Agrees to comply with the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to section 42-20-108.

(4) The chief is authorized to promulgate such reasonable rules and regulations as may be necessary or desirable in governing the issuance of permits, if such rules and regulations are not in conflict with other provisions of state law.

(5) Any fees collected pursuant to this section shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the hazardous materials safety fund created in section 42-20-107.



**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2522, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2005:** (3)(a) amended, p. 1180, § 25, effective August 8. **L. 2006:** (1)(d) added, p. 310, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** (1)(d) amended, (SB 17-227), ch. 192, p. 705, § 9, effective August 9. **L. 2020:** (1) and (2)(a) amended, (SB 20-118), ch. 155, p. 662, § 2, effective January 1, 2021.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-202 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-20-203. Carrying of permit and shipping papers.**

(1) Any person transporting hazardous materials that require placarding under 49 CFR 172 or 173 in this state shall carry a copy of the shipping papers required in 49 CFR 172.200 and a copy of the hazardous materials transportation permit issued by the department of transportation or, before January 1, 2021, by the public utilities commission or by the Colorado state patrol at a port of entry weigh station in the transporting motor vehicle while in this state; except that, if a peace officer, as described in section 16-2.5-101, or any other enforcement official determines that the hazardous materials transportation permit can be electronically verified at the time of contact, a copy of the permit need not be carried by the person transporting hazardous materials. The permit is open to inspection or electronic verification by any enforcement official.

(2) In the event of an accident or crash involving hazardous materials, the operator of the motor vehicle shall provide the shipping papers to the emergency response authorities designated in or pursuant to article 22 of title 29 and immediately bring to their attention the fact that the motor vehicle is carrying hazardous materials.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2523, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2003:** (1) amended, p. 583, § 4, effective January 1, 2004. **L. 2004:** (1) amended, p. 1212, § 102, effective August 4. **L. 2012:** (1) amended, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 472, § 22, effective July 1. **L. 2020:** (1) amended, (SB 20-118), ch. 155, p. 664, § 3, effective January 1, 2021. **L. 2026:** (2) amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 496, § 91, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-203 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-20-204. Permit violations - penalties.**

(1) Any person who transports hazardous materials without a permit in violation of any of the provisions of section 42-20-201 commits a class 2 misdemeanor and shall be assessed a penalty of two hundred fifty dollars in accordance with the procedure set forth in section 42-20-105 (2). Any person who intentionally transports hazardous materials without a permit in violation of any of the provisions of section 42-20-201 commits a class 2 misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501. For the purposes of this subsection (1), if any person who previously has acknowledged guilt or has been convicted of a misdemeanor pursuant to this subsection (1) subsequently transports hazardous materials without a permit in violation of any of the provisions of section 42-20-201, a permissive inference is created that such subsequent transportation without a permit was intentional.

(2) Any person who has obtained an annual or a single trip hazardous materials transportation permit but fails to have a copy of said permit in the cab of the motor vehicle while transporting hazardous materials in, to, from, or through this state commits a class B traffic infraction and shall be assessed a penalty of twenty-five dollars in accordance with the procedure set forth in section 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(V); except that, if a peace officer, as described in section 16-2.5-101, C.R.S., or any other enforcement official may determine that the permit can be electronically verified at the time of contact, a copy of the permit need not be in the cab of the motor vehicle.

(3) Any person who knowingly violates any of the terms and conditions of an annual or single trip hazardous materials transportation permit commits a class 2 misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501.

(4) All penalties collected pursuant to this section by a state agency or by a court shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the hazardous materials safety fund created in section 42-20-107.

(5) Every court having jurisdiction over offenses committed under this section shall forward to the chief a record of the conviction of any person in said court for a violation of any said laws within forty-eight hours after such conviction. The term "conviction" means a final conviction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2524, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2002:** (1) and (3) amended, p. 1565, § 384, effective October 1. **L. 2003:** (2) amended, p. 583, § 5, effective January 1, 2004. **L. 2004:** (2) amended, p. 1212, § 103, effective August 4. **L. 2021:** (1) and (3) amended, (SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3325, § 774, effective March 1, 2022.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-204 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsections (1) and (3), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

**42-20-205. Permit suspension or revocation - rules.**

In addition to any other civil or criminal penalties, for violations occurring after March 16, 2020, the department of transportation may suspend a hazardous materials transportation annual permit for a period not to exceed six months or may revoke a permit for failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the permit, for failure to pay a civil penalty assessed pursuant to section 42-20-204, or for continuing violations of the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to part 1, 2, or 3 of this article 20. The permit may be suspended or revoked only for good cause shown after due notice and an opportunity for a hearing as provided in article 4 of title 24, if requested by the permit holder. The department may promulgate rules, subject to the requirements of article 4 of title 24, to establish specific procedures for suspension or revocation of permits and the conduct of permit suspension and revocation hearings.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2524, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2020:** Entire section amended, (SB 20-118), ch. 155, p. 664, § 4, effective January 1, 2021.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-205 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-206. Local government preemption.**

No county, city and county, city, or town shall establish any permit or fee system for the transportation of hazardous materials by motor vehicle.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2525, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-206 as it existed prior to 1994.

## PART 3

### ROUTE DESIGNATION FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

#### **42-20-300.3. Definitions.**

As used in this part 3, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Route designation" means a designation of a route by the state patrol under this part 3.

**Source: L. 2011:** Entire section added, (HB 11-1176), ch. 56, p. 149, § 1, effective August 10.

#### **42-20-301. Route designation.**

(1) (a) The patrol, after consultation with local governmental authorities, has the sole authority to designate which public roads are to be used and which are not to be used by motor vehicles transporting hazardous materials. The patrol shall exercise its authority in accordance with section 42-20-302. Gasoline, diesel fuel, and liquefied petroleum gas are exempt from route designation unless the petitioning authority specified in section 42-20-302 requests their inclusion. The patrol may exempt crude oil from route designation after a request from the petitioning authority.

(b) The patrol may include, as part of designated route restrictions, the closing of streets and highways and other conditions or restrictions the patrol deems advisable, except for hours of operation and curfews.

(c) Routes designated by the patrol in accordance with this part 3 do not apply to motor vehicles when used to transport to or from the farm or ranch site products necessary for agricultural production.

(d) No city, county, or city and county may impose restrictions on hours of operation on designated routes; except that this paragraph (d) does not apply to any city, county, or city and county that, by resolution or ordinance, had routes or hours of operation restrictions in effect on July 1, 1985.

(2) The patrol may approve route designations only for those materials listed in table 1 of 49 CFR 172.504, in any quantities, and those materials listed in table 2 of 49 CFR 172.504, when carried in quantities of five hundred gallons or more; except that the patrol may not accept or approve route designations for those materials listed in table 2 when packaged in containers of five gallons or less or when packaged as consumer commodities as defined in 49 CFR 173.1200.

(3) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part 3 or part 1 or 2 of this article 20 to the contrary, the transportation commission may regulate hours of operation of the Eisenhower-Johnson tunnels, structure numbers F13Y and F13X, respectively, on interstate 70.

(b) The patrol may conform hazardous materials routing regulations made pursuant to this section to transportation commission regulations made pursuant to subsection (3)(a) of this section.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2525, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (3) amended, p. 963, § 26, effective May 25. **L. 99:** (3) amended, p. 45, § 1, effective August 4. **L. 2011:** (1) amended, (HB 11-1176), ch. 56, p. 149, § 2, effective August 10. **L. 2023:** (3) amended, (SB 23-280), ch. 404, p. 2421, § 8, effective August 7.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-301 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-20-302. Application for route designation - procedure - approval.**

(1) Petitions for new route designations or for a change in an existing route designation may be submitted to the patrol no more than once a year:

(a) By a county, with respect to any public road maintained by the county, upon approval of the petition by the board of county commissioners of such county;

(b) By a town, city, or city and county, with respect to any public road located within such town, city, or city and county, including any portion of a county primary road designated pursuant to section 43-2-110 (1.5), C.R.S., that is subsequently annexed by a town or city, upon approval of the petition by the governing body of such town, city, or city and county;

(c) By the department of transportation, with respect to any public road maintained by the state, except for any public road located within a town, city, or city and county, upon approval of the petition by the transportation commission;

(d) By a public highway authority created pursuant to part 5 of article 4 of title 43 with respect to any public highway, as defined in section 43-4-503 (12), that it maintains, either directly or indirectly through a concession agreement or other agreement with a third party, upon approval of the petition by the board of directors of the public highway authority; or

(e) By any governmental entity that is a partner in a public-private partnership with respect to any highway, road, or street that it maintains, either directly or indirectly through a concession

agreement or other agreement with a private partner, upon approval by the governing body of the governmental entity.

(2) A county, town, city, or city and county, with approval of the patrol, may adopt and enforce regulations or ordinances concerning the parking of motor vehicles, if such regulations and ordinances, as enforced or applied, do not prohibit or exclude motor vehicles carrying hazardous materials from the enforcing jurisdiction and do not unreasonably limit parking on or near the designated routes through the enforcing jurisdiction or for pickup and delivery.

(3) The petition shall describe specifically the designation sought, shall identify any local business or industry which is known to be significantly reliant on hazardous materials transportation and which would be affected by the designation, and shall include any other information which is necessary for the patrol to act upon the petition and which is required by rule and regulation of the patrol.

(4) Upon the filing of a complete petition with the patrol, the patrol shall give adequate public notice of such petition, including at least the following:

(a) Notification by certified mail to the governing body of any county, town, city, or city and county which would be affected by the route designation; and

(b) Publication in a newspaper having general circulation in each affected community once each week for three consecutive weeks.

(5) If the petitioner is not the department of transportation, the patrol shall provide a copy of the petition to the department of transportation for its review and comment.

(6) No sooner than thirty days after the requirements of subsections (3) and (4) of this section have been met and after reasonable notice to the petitioner, to the department of transportation, and to any persons requesting such notice, the patrol shall hold an informal public conference on the petition. At such conference, representatives of the petitioner and the department of transportation and any interested persons shall be afforded the opportunity to comment on the petition, and the petitioner shall have the opportunity to amend the petition. The patrol shall approve the designation if there is no opposition to the petition and if the requirements of subsection (8) of this section have been met.

(7) If there is opposition to the petition at the informal public conference and no agreement can be reached, the patrol shall hold a formal public hearing and act on the petition in accordance with the provisions of article 4 of title 24, C.R.S.

(8) No route designation shall be approved by the patrol unless it finds that:

(a) The routes available for the transportation of hazardous materials by motor vehicle:

(I) Are feasible, practicable, and not unreasonably expensive for such transportation;

- (II) Are continuous within a jurisdiction and from one jurisdiction to another;
  - (III) Provide greater safety to the public than other feasible routes; and
  - (IV) Do not unreasonably burden interstate or intrastate commerce;
- (b) The designation is not arbitrary or intended by the petitioner merely to divert the transportation of hazardous materials to other communities;
- (c) Reasonable provision is made for signs along the affected public roads giving adequate notice of the designation to the public, to affected industry, and to transporters of hazardous materials. Such signs shall not be required in jurisdictions where the governmental authority has provided the patrol with professional quality maps which indicate the route designations in that jurisdiction.
- (d) The designation will not interfere with the pickup or delivery of hazardous materials; and
- (e) The designation is consistent with all applicable federal laws and regulations.
- (9) Any town, city, city and county, or county may request the department of transportation to submit a petition to the patrol for a route designation on any highway maintained by the state within the jurisdiction of said local entity.
- (10) The patrol shall make a final decision to approve or deny any petition for a route designation within six months of the filing of the petition.
- (11) (a) The patrol shall base the approval or denial of a petition to exempt crude oil upon due consideration of the factors listed in subsection (8) of this section.
- (b) The patrol shall approve route designations for gasoline, diesel fuel, and liquefied petroleum gas requested by petitioning authorities under section 42-20-301 (1) where the designations follow routes approved by the patrol for other hazardous materials under this section.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2525, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2011:** (11) amended, (HB 11-1176), ch. 56, p. 150, § 3, effective August 10. **L. 2016:** (1)(b) amended, (HB 16-1155), ch. 134, p. 386, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2019:** (1)(d) and (1)(e) added, (SB 19-032), ch. 81, p. 290, § 1, effective April 8.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-302 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-303. Road signs required - uniform standards.**

Signs giving adequate notice of route designations shall be placed and maintained along public roads affected by such designations. In accordance with part 6 of article 4 of this title and section 42-4-105, the department of transportation shall adopt uniform standards for highway signs giving notice of route designations. The requirements of this section shall not apply to jurisdictions in which the governmental authority has provided the patrol with professional quality maps which indicate the route designations in that jurisdiction.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2527, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-303 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-304. Emergency closure of public roads.**

Nothing in part 1, 2, or 3 of this article 20 limits the authority of state and local authorities to close public roads temporarily if necessary because of any road construction or maintenance, an accident or crash, a natural disaster, the weather conditions, or any other emergency circumstances resulting in making road conditions unsafe for travel by motor vehicles transporting hazardous materials.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2528, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** Entire section amended, (HB 26-1237), ch. 117, p. 496, § 92, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-304 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-305. Deviation from authorized route - penalty.**

(1) No person shall transport hazardous materials by motor vehicle contrary to any route designation approved by the patrol pursuant to this part 3 unless such action is necessary to service a motor vehicle or to make a local pickup or delivery of hazardous materials or unless such action is so required by emergency conditions which would make continued use of authorized routes unsafe or by the closure of an authorized route pursuant to section 42-20-304, and, in such circumstances, the motor vehicle shall remain on authorized routes whenever possible and shall minimize the distance traveled on restricted routes. A person transporting



hazardous materials by motor vehicle may make successive local pickups and deliveries without returning to the authorized route between each pickup or delivery when such return would be unreasonable. A person transporting hazardous materials shall not utilize residential streets unless there is no other reasonable route available to reach the destination.

(2) Any person who transports hazardous materials by motor vehicle in a manner inconsistent with the provisions of subsection (1) of this section commits a misdemeanor traffic offense and shall be assessed a penalty of five hundred dollars for each separate violation in accordance with the procedure set forth in section 42-20-105 (2). A person who commits a second or subsequent violation within a twelve-month period of transporting hazardous materials by motor vehicle in a manner inconsistent with the provisions of subsection (1) of this section commits a misdemeanor traffic offense and shall be issued a summons and complaint in accordance with the provisions of section 42-4-1707 (1) and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars.

(3) All penalties collected pursuant to this section by a state agency or by a court shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the hazardous materials safety fund created in section 42-20-107.

(4) Every court having jurisdiction over offenses committed under subsection (2) of this section shall forward to the chief a record of the conviction of any person in said court for a violation of any said laws within forty-eight hours after such conviction. The term "conviction" means a final conviction.

**Source:** L. 94: Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2528, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2026:** (2) amended, (SB 26-035), ch. 178, p. 1023, § 6, effective August 12.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 43-6-305 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Section 8(2) of chapter 178 (SB 26-035), Session Laws of Colorado 2026, provides that the act changing this section applies to traffic infractions committed on or after August 12, 2026.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 26-035, see section 1 of chapter 178, Session Laws of Colorado 2026.

**42-20-306. Transportation of hazardous materials through Eisenhower-Edwin C Johnson Memorial Tunnels - study - definitions - repeal. (Repealed)**

**Source: L. 2019:** Entire section added, (SB 19-032), ch. 81, p. 290, § 2, effective April 8.

**Editor's note:** Subsection (5) provided for the repeal of this section, effective July 1, 2021. (See L. 2019, p. 290.)

**PART 4**

**NUCLEAR MATERIALS - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**42-20-401. Legislative declaration.**

It is hereby determined and declared that nuclear materials create a potential risk to the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state of Colorado. As an origination point of nuclear waste and a corridor state through which nuclear materials pass, the state has a duty to protect its citizens and environment from all hazards created by the transportation of nuclear materials within its borders. State and public participation in planning for the transport of nuclear materials and in the development of a plan to cope with all phases of the nuclear materials problem is essential in order to adequately prepare for potential nuclear incidents. To that end, it is the purpose of this part 4 and part 5 of this article to require safe and environmentally acceptable methods of transporting nuclear materials within this state in a manner consistent with the laws of the United States and the rules and regulations promulgated by agencies of the United States.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2529, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 95:** Entire section amended, p. 963, § 27, effective May 25.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-401 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-402. Definitions.**

As used in this part 4 and part 5 of this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Carrier" means any person transporting goods or property on the public roads of this state in, to, from, or through this state, whether or not such transportation is for hire.

(2) Repealed.

(3) (a) "Nuclear materials" means highway route controlled quantities of radioactive materials as defined in 49 CFR 173.403 (l).

(b) "Nuclear materials" does not include nuclear materials used for research or medical purposes within Colorado. For the purpose of this paragraph (b), highway route controlled quantities of radioactive materials used to irradiate medical supplies and equipment are not considered to be used for medical purposes.

(c) (I) "Nuclear materials" includes radioactive materials being transported to the waste isolation pilot plant in New Mexico and radioactive materials being transported to any facility provided pursuant to section 135 of the federal "Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982", 42 U.S.C. sec. 10101 et seq., or any repository licensed by the United States nuclear regulatory commission that is used for the permanent deep geologic disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel.

(II) Except as provided in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (c), "nuclear materials" does not include radioactive materials utilized in national security activities under the direct control of the United States department of defense, nor does it include radioactive materials under the direct control of the United States department of energy which are utilized in carrying out atomic energy defense activities, as defined in the federal "Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982", 42 U.S.C. sec. 10101 et seq., or wastes from mining, milling, smelting, or similar processing of ores and mineral-bearing material.

(III) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (c), "nuclear materials" does not include ores or products from mining, milling, smelting, or similar processing of ores, or the transportation thereof.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2529, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** IP amended, p. 963, § 28, effective May 25. **L. 2020:** (2) repealed, (SB 20-118), ch. 155, p. 664, § 5, effective January 1, 2021.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-402 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-403. Chief to promulgate rules and regulations - motor vehicles.**

The chief shall promulgate rules and regulations for the safe transportation of nuclear materials by motor vehicle. Such rules shall not be inconsistent with any federal rule or regulation governing the transportation of the nuclear materials subject to parts 4 and 5 of this article. Such rules shall be applicable to any person who transports or ships, or who causes to be transported or shipped, a nuclear material by motor vehicle.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2530, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-403 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-404. Inspections.**

All vehicles carrying nuclear materials entering the state on the public highways shall be inspected by a Colorado state patrol officer or a port of entry officer, as defined in section 42-8-102 (3), at the nearest point at which the shipment enters the state or at a location specified by the Colorado state patrol. For all shipments originating within the state, inspection shall be made at the point of origination by a Colorado state patrol officer or a port of entry officer. Inspections conducted by Colorado state patrol officers or port of entry officers shall be in accordance with the rules promulgated pursuant to sections 42-4-235, 42-20-108 (2), and 42-20-403.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2530, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** Entire section amended, p. 963, § 29, effective May 25. **L. 2010:** Entire section amended, (HB 10-1113), ch. 244, p. 1084, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** Entire section amended, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 473, § 23, effective July 1.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-404 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-405. Violations - criminal penalties - definition.**

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 40-7-107, any person who violates any provision of this part 4 or part 5 of this article 20 or rule or regulation promulgated by the chief pursuant to this part 4 and part 5 of this article 20 commits a class 2 misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501. No conviction pursuant to this section shall bar

enforcement by the public utilities commission of any provision of title 40 with respect to violations by persons subject to said title.

(2) Every court having jurisdiction over offenses committed under subsection (1) of this section shall forward to the chief a record of the conviction of any person in said court for a violation of any provision of part 4 or 5 of this article or any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant thereto within forty-eight hours after such conviction. As used in this subsection (2), "conviction" means a final conviction.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2530, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1) amended, p. 963, § 30, effective May 25. **L. 2002:** (1) amended, p. 1565, § 385, effective October 1. **L. 2020:** (1) amended, (SB 20-118), ch. 155, p. 664, § 6, effective January 1, 2021.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-405 as it existed prior to 1994.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration contained in the 2002 act amending subsection (1), see section 1 of chapter 318, Session Laws of Colorado 2002.

#### **42-20-406. Violations - civil penalties - motor vehicles.**

(1) Any person who violates any provision of this part 4 or part 5 of this article 20 or a rule or regulation promulgated by the chief pursuant to this part 4 and part 5 of this article 20, except for the violations enumerated in subsection (3) of this section and section 42-20-505, is subject to a civil penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars per day for each day during which the violation occurs. The penalty shall be assessed by the chief upon receipt of a complaint by any Colorado state patrol officer and after written notice and an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to section 24-4-105. Payment of a civil penalty under this section does not relieve any person from liability pursuant to article 11 of title 25, part 3 of article 15 of title 25, or article 22 of title 29. Any person who is assessed a penalty pursuant to this subsection (1) has the right to appeal the chief's decision by filing a notice of appeal with the court of appeals as specified in section 24-4-106 (11).

(2) Any person who commits any of the acts enumerated in subsection (3) of this section is subject to the civil penalty listed in said subsection (3). Officers of the Colorado state patrol have the authority to issue civil penalty assessments for the enumerated violations. At any time that a person is cited for a violation enumerated in subsection (3) of this section, the person in charge

of or operating the motor vehicle involved shall be given a notice in the form of a civil penalty assessment notice. The notice shall be tendered by the officer of the Colorado state patrol and must contain the name and address of the person, the license number of the motor vehicle involved, if any, the number of the person's driver's license, the nature of the violation, the amount of the penalty prescribed for the violation, the date of the notice, a place for the person to execute a signed acknowledgment of his or her receipt of the civil penalty assessment notice, a place for the person to execute a signed acknowledgment of liability for the cited violation, and such other information as may be required by law to constitute the notice as a complaint to appear in court should the prescribed penalty not be paid within ten days. Every cited person shall execute the signed acknowledgment of his or her receipt of the civil penalty assessment notice. The acknowledgment of liability shall be executed at the time the cited person pays the prescribed penalty. The person cited shall pay the civil penalty specified in subsection (3) of this section for the violation involved at the office of the department of revenue either in person or by postmarking such payment within ten days of the citation. The department of revenue shall accept late payment of any penalty assessment up to twenty days after the payment becomes due. If the person cited does not pay the prescribed penalty within ten days of the notice, the civil penalty assessment notice shall constitute a complaint to appear in court unless payment for the penalty assessment has been accepted by the department of revenue as evidenced by receipt, and the person cited shall, within the time specified in the civil penalty assessment notice, file an answer to this complaint with the county court for the county in which the penalty assessment was issued. The attorney general shall represent the Colorado state patrol if so requested by the Colorado state patrol.

(3) The following penalties apply only to the transportation of nuclear materials by motor vehicle and shall be assessed against drivers, shippers, carriers, operators, brokers, and other persons, as appropriate:

(a) Any person who operates a motor vehicle without a driver's log book in his or her possession, as required by 49 CFR 395.8, shall be assessed a civil penalty of one hundred dollars.

(b) Any person who operates a motor vehicle without maintaining a driver's log book in current condition, in accordance with 49 CFR 395.8, shall be assessed a civil penalty of one hundred dollars.

(c) Any person who enters false information in a driver's log book in violation of 49 CFR 395.8 (e) shall be assessed a civil penalty of two hundred fifty dollars.

(d) Any person who exceeds maximum driving or on duty time, as established by 49 CFR 395.3, shall be assessed a civil penalty of two hundred fifty dollars.

(e) Any person who fails to produce his or her driver's log book on demand of any law enforcement official or port of entry personnel in violation of 49 CFR 395.8 shall be assessed a civil penalty of two hundred fifty dollars.

(f) Any person who fails to have a valid medical certificate in his or her possession, in accordance with 49 CFR 391.43, shall be assessed a civil penalty of one hundred dollars.

(g) Any person who operates a motor vehicle without meeting driver qualifications, as established in 49 CFR 177.800 (c) and section 42-20-501, shall be assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars.

(h) Any person who carries an unauthorized passenger, as defined in 49 CFR 392.60, shall be assessed a civil penalty of one hundred dollars.

(i) Any person who operates a motor vehicle while that person is declared to be out of service, as defined in 49 CFR 395.13, shall be assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars.

(j) Any person who operates an unsafe vehicle, as described in 49 CFR 396.7, shall be assessed a civil penalty of one hundred fifty dollars.

(k) Any person who operates a motor vehicle without correcting defects as noted on a safety inspection report in violation of 49 CFR 396.9 shall be assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars.

(l) Any person who operates a motor vehicle while that vehicle is declared to be out of service, as defined in 49 CFR 396.9 (c)(2), shall be assessed a civil penalty of one thousand dollars.

(m) Any person who transports nuclear materials without proper visibility and display of placards in violation of 49 CFR 172.504 shall be assessed a civil penalty of two hundred dollars.

(n) Any person who transports nuclear materials without proper placards, as provided in 49 CFR 172.504, shall be assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars.

(o) Any person who displays nuclear materials placards on vehicles not transporting nuclear materials in violation of 49 CFR 172.502 shall be assessed a civil penalty of one hundred dollars.

(p) Any person who fails to have hazardous materials shipping papers in conformance with 49 CFR 177.817 shall be assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars.

(q) Any person who parks a motor vehicle transporting nuclear materials in violation of 49 CFR 397.7 shall be assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars.

(r) Any person who violates a provision of section 42-20-508 or the rules adopted pursuant thereto shall be assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars.

(s) Any person who improperly fills out the shipping papers required by 49 CFR 172, subpart C, shall be assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars.

(t) Any person who fails to report a nuclear incident, or fails to take necessary response actions, as required by 49 CFR 171.15 and 171.16 and 49 CFR 177.861, shall be assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars.

(u) Any person who supplies inaccurate information in, or who fails to comply with, the route plan required by 49 CFR 397.101 (d) shall be assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars.

(v) Any person who transports nuclear materials in violation of the radiation level limitations established in 49 CFR 173.441 shall be assessed a civil penalty of one thousand dollars.

(w) Any person who transports nuclear materials in excess of the maximum permissible transport index, as provided in 49 CFR 173, shall be assessed a civil penalty of one thousand dollars.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2530, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 95:** (1) amended, p. 964, § 31, effective May 25. **L. 96:** (2) amended, p. 639, § 5, effective May 1. **L. 2000:** (2) amended, p. 1651, § 48, effective June 1. **L. 2010:** (1) and (2) amended, (HB 10-1113), ch. 244, p. 1084, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2020:** (1), (2), IP(3), and (3)(e) amended, (SB 20-118), ch. 155, p. 665, § 7, effective January 1, 2021. **L. 2022:** (3)(g), (3)(j), and (3)(u) amended, (SB 22-212), ch. 421, p. 2987, § 93, effective August 10.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-406 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-20-407. Repeat violations - civil penalties.**

(1) If any person receives two penalty assessments within one year for a violation of section 42-20-406 and the first penalty assessment has not been reversed by a court of competent jurisdiction, the penalty for the second violation shall be two times the amount of the penalty listed for the violation in section 42-20-406.

(2) If any person receives three or more penalty assessments within one year for a violation of section 42-20-406 and if two or more of the previous penalty assessments have not been reversed by a court of competent jurisdiction, the penalty for each of the third and subsequent violations shall be three times the amount of the penalty listed for the violation in section 42-20-406.

**Source:** **L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2533, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.



**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-407 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-408. Compliance orders - penalty.**

(1) Whenever the chief finds that any person is in violation of any rule, regulation, or requirement of part 4 or 5 of this article, the chief may issue an order requiring such person to comply with any such rule, regulation, or requirement and may request the attorney general to bring suit for injunctive relief or for penalties pursuant to section 42-20-406.

(2) Any person who violates any compliance order of the chief which is not subject to a stay pending judicial review and which has been issued pursuant to this part 4 shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars per day for each day during which such violation occurs.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2533, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-408 as it existed prior to 1994.

## PART 5

### NUCLEAR MATERIALS PERMIT SYSTEM

**42-20-501. Nuclear materials transportation permit required - application.**

(1) No transportation of nuclear materials shall take place in, to, from, or through this state until the department of transportation issues a permit, in accordance with the provisions of this section, which is not inconsistent with federal law, authorizing the applicant to operate or move upon public roads of this state a motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles which carry nuclear materials.

(2) Each carrier desiring to transport nuclear materials shall submit a permit application, in the form designated by the department of transportation, to the department before beginning such transportation.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2534, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2020:** Entire section amended, (SB 20-118), ch. 155, p. 666, § 8, effective January 1, 2021.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-501 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-502. Permits - fees.**

Each permit issued pursuant to section 42-20-501 shall be valid for one year following its issuance and shall be issued after approval of the carrier's permit application and upon payment of a five-hundred-dollar permit fee. In addition to the permit fee, each carrier shall pay a two-hundred-dollar fee for each shipment. The shipment fee shall be paid either by mail, in which case it must be postmarked at least seven days before the shipment is to be made, or at the time the shipment enters the state at the port of entry weigh station nearest the point at which the shipment enters the state. If the shipment originates in this state, payment shall be made at the port of entry weigh station nearest the point of origination of the shipment.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2534, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-502 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-503. Carrying of shipping papers.**

Any person transporting nuclear materials in this state shall carry a copy of the shipping papers required in 49 CFR part 172, subpart C.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2534, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-503 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-504. Rules and regulations.**

The chief is authorized to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations which are necessary or desirable in governing the issuance of permits if such rules and regulations are not in conflict with or inconsistent with federal rules and regulations.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2534, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-504 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-20-505. Penalties - permit system.**

(1) A Colorado state patrol officer or a port of entry officer, as defined in section 42-8-102 (3), may assess a civil penalty of one thousand dollars against a carrier who transports nuclear materials without first obtaining a nuclear materials transportation permit.

(2) A carrier who misrepresents information in the carrier's application for a nuclear materials transportation permit, violates the terms of the permit, or commits a second violation of subsection (1) of this section within one calendar year shall be assessed a civil penalty of not less than five hundred dollars nor more than three thousand dollars.

(3) The penalties in subsection (1) of this section shall be assessed upon an action brought by the Colorado state patrol in accordance with the procedure set forth in section 42-20-406.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2534, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2000:** (3) amended, p. 1654, § 51, effective June 1. **L. 2012:** Entire section amended, (HB 12-1019), ch. 135, p. 473, § 24, effective July 1. **L. 2020:** (1) and (3) amended, (SB 20-118), ch. 155, p. 666, § 9, effective January 1, 2021.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-505 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-20-506. Permit suspension and revocation.**

In addition to any other civil or criminal penalties, the department of transportation may suspend the nuclear materials transportation permit of any carrier for a period not to exceed six months or revoke the permit for failure to comply with the permit terms, misrepresentation of information in the permit application, failure to pay a civil penalty assessed pursuant to section 42-20-406, or failure to comply with the regulations promulgated pursuant to parts 4 and 5 of this article 20. The permit may be suspended or revoked only for good cause shown after due notice and opportunity for a hearing pursuant to section 24-4-105, if requested by the carrier.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2535, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.  
**L. 2020:** Entire section amended, (SB 20-118), ch. 155, p. 666, § 10, effective January 1, 2021.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-506 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-20-507. Local government preemption.**

No county, city and county, city, or town shall establish any permit or fee system for the transportation of nuclear materials by motor vehicle or railcar in, to, from, or through this state.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2535, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-507 as it existed prior to 1994.

#### **42-20-508. Route designation - motor vehicles.**

(1) The chief of the Colorado state patrol shall have the authority to adopt rules to designate which state highways shall be used and which shall not be used by motor vehicles transporting nuclear materials in this state.

(2) The carrier shall not deviate from the routes designated pursuant to subsection (1) of this section except in order to make local pickups and deliveries and in cases of emergency conditions which would make continued use of the designated route unsafe, or to refuel, or when the designated route is closed due to road conditions, road construction, or maintenance operations. When making local pickups and deliveries or when refueling, the carrier shall remain on the routes designated by the Colorado state patrol and shall minimize the distance traveled on nondesignated routes.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2535, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-508 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-509. Strict liability for nuclear incidents.**

Any person who causes the release of any nuclear material being transported shall be strictly liable for all injuries and damages resulting therefrom. The conduct of the claimant shall not be a defense to liability; except that this section does not waive any defense based on the claimant's failure to mitigate damages or related to any injury or damage to the claimant or the claimant's property which is intentionally sustained by the claimant or which results from the release of any nuclear material being transported intentionally and wrongfully caused by the claimant.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2535, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-509 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-510. Statute of limitations.**

No person who has been injured or damaged as a result of a nuclear incident shall be precluded from bringing a suit against the person or persons responsible for causing the nuclear incident if such suit is instituted within three years after the date on which the injured person first knew, or reasonably could have known, of his or her injury or damage and the cause thereof; except that such suit must be brought within forty years after the date of the nuclear incident.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2535, § 1, effective January 1, 1995.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 43-6-510 as it existed prior to 1994.

**42-20-511. Nuclear materials transportation fund.**

(1) All money collected pursuant to parts 4 and 5 of this article 20 shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the money to the nuclear materials transportation fund, which fund is hereby created. The money in the fund is subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly for the direct and indirect costs of the administration of parts 4 and 5 of this article 20.

(2) Repealed.

**Source: L. 94:** Entire title amended with relocations, p. 2536, § 1, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 2006:** Entire section amended, p. 1095, § 6, effective August 7. **L. 2020:** Entire section amended, (SB 20-118), ch. 155, p. 667, § 11, effective January 1, 2021. **L. 2025:** Entire section amended, (SB 25-264), ch. 129, p. 510, § 49, effective April 25.

**Editor's note:** (1) This section is similar to former § 43-6-511 as it existed prior to 1994.

(2) Subsection (2)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (2), effective July 1, 2026. (See L. 2025, p. 510.)

## **VEHICLE VALUE PROTECTION AGREEMENTS**

### **ARTICLE 21**

#### **Vehicle Value Protection Agreements**

|            |                                                                             |            |                                                                                 |
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#### **42-21-101. Definitions.**

As used in this article 21, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Administrator" means the person that is responsible for the administrative or operational functions of a vehicle value protection agreement. These functions include the adjudication of benefit requests by contract holders.

(2) "Contract holder" means a person that is the purchaser of or holder of a vehicle value protection agreement.

(3) "Covered vehicle" means a vehicle that is the subject of a vehicle value protection agreement.

(4) "Dealer" means:

- (a) A motor vehicle dealer as defined in section 44-20-102 (18);
  - (b) A powersports vehicle dealer as defined in section 44-20-402 (12);
  - (c) A used motor vehicle dealer as defined in section 44-20-102 (26); or
  - (d) A used powersports vehicle dealer as defined in section 44-20-402 (20).
- (5) "Finance agreement" means a loan agreement for the purchase or refinancing of a vehicle; a retail installment sales contract for the purchase, refinancing, or lease of a vehicle; or an agreement to lease a vehicle.
- (6) "Insurer" means a licensed insurance company authorized to issue contractual liability insurance under title 10.
- (7) "Provider" means a person that is obligated to provide a benefit in accordance with a vehicle value protection agreement.
- (8) "Secure bill of sale" is an agreement between a dealer and a contract holder that:
- (a) Identifies the vehicle by year, make, and VIN or by other identifying information;
  - (b) Shows the time and date of sale; and
  - (c) Is signed by both the buyer and the seller.
- (9) "Vehicle" means:
- (a) A motor vehicle as defined in section 42-1-102 (58);
  - (b) A powersports vehicle as defined in section 44-20-402 (11);
  - (c) A camper coach as defined in section 42-1-102 (13); or
  - (d) A camper trailer as defined in section 42-1-102 (14).
- (10) (a) "Vehicle value protection agreement" means a contractual agreement between a provider and a contract holder that provides benefits applied toward:
- (I) The value of the contract holder's covered vehicle upon the occurrence of the following:
    - (A) An adverse event, including damage incurred and reported on a vehicle history report, causing the covered vehicle to decrease in value;
    - (B) The total loss or unrecovered theft of the covered vehicle that, at the time of the loss or theft, had decreased in value compared to the value of the vehicle at the time it was purchased; or
    - (C) Events covered by a contractual agreement between a dealer and a contract holder that provide the contract holder a loyalty benefit when the contract holder returns to the dealer to

purchase or lease a replacement vehicle after a total loss, unrecovered theft, or trade-in of the covered vehicle; or

(II) The finance agreement for or secure bill of sale on a replacement vehicle upon the occurrence of an event described in subsections (10)(a)(I)(A) to (10)(a)(I)(C) of this section.

(b) "Vehicle value protection agreement" includes a trade-in agreement, diminished value agreement, cash down payment protection agreement, or depreciation benefit agreement.

(c) "Vehicle value protection agreement" does not include a debt waiver or a motor vehicle service contract as defined in section 42-11-101 (3).

**Source: L. 2023:** Entire article added, (SB 23-015), ch. 36, p. 126, § 1, effective August 7.

#### **42-21-102. Requirements for offering vehicle value protection agreements.**

(1) A provider shall not offer a vehicle value protection agreement unless the agreement meets the requirements of this article 21. A provider shall not condition the extension of credit, the terms of credit, or the terms of the related vehicle sale or lease upon the purchase of a vehicle value protection agreement.

(2) To comply with this section, a vehicle value protection agreement must:

(a) Provide a benefit to the contract holder upon the trade-in, total loss, or unrecovered theft of a covered vehicle. The benefit may be:

(I) A credit toward the purchase or lease of a subsequent or replacement vehicle; or

(II) An amount applied to the cash value of the covered vehicle at the time of trade-in.

(b) Identify, in the contract, the administrator or provider, the dealer, the contract holder, and the terms of the sale;

(c) (I) Guarantee the provider's obligations by an insurance policy that complies with section 42-21-105; and

(II) Conspicuously state that the provider's obligations are guaranteed by an insurance policy, issued by an insurer, that pays the contract holder if the provider fails to perform its obligations under the vehicle value protection agreement;

(d) Outline the terms, including the purchase price of the covered vehicle and any eligibility requirements, conditions of coverage, or exclusions, of the vehicle value protection agreement;

(e) Notify the contract holder of the following:



(I) Whether the vehicle value protection agreement is cancellable and the procedures for requesting any refund of the unearned purchase price of the agreement paid by the contract holder;

(II) The methodology for calculating any refund of the unearned purchase price of the vehicle value protection agreement after the agreement is canceled;

(III) Any procedures the contract holder must follow to obtain a benefit under the terms and conditions of the vehicle value protection agreement and, if applicable, a telephone number, website, and address where the contract holder may apply for a benefit; and

(IV) That neither the extension of credit, the terms of credit, nor the terms of the related vehicle sale or lease may be conditioned upon the purchase of the vehicle value protection agreement; and

(f) State the terms, restrictions, and conditions governing cancellation of the vehicle value protection agreement prior to the termination date of the agreement by either the provider or the contract holder.

**Source: L. 2023:** Entire article added, (SB 23-015), ch. 36, p. 128, § 1, effective August 7.

**42-21-103. Requirements for a provider to cancel a vehicle value protection agreement.**

(1) (a) To cancel a vehicle value protection agreement, the provider must mail a written notice to the contract holder at the last-known address of the contract holder contained in the records of the provider at least five days prior to cancellation by the provider; except that the cancellation takes effect immediately upon the provider sending the notice to the contract holder if the reason for the cancellation is:

(I) Nonpayment of any provider fee required to be paid by the contract holder;

(II) A material misrepresentation by the contract holder to the provider; or

(III) A substantial breach of duties by the contract holder relating to the covered vehicle or its use.

(b) The notice must state the effective date of the cancellation and the reason for the cancellation.

(2) (a) If a vehicle value protection agreement is canceled by the provider for a reason other than nonpayment of the provider fee, the provider shall refund to the contract holder, on a pro rata basis, any unearned provider fee paid by the contract holder; except that the provider may charge a reasonable administrative fee of up to seventy-five dollars.

(b) If coverage under the vehicle value protection agreement continued after a benefit was paid under the agreement, the provider may deduct the amount of the benefit paid from the refund to the contract holder.

**Source: L. 2023:** Entire article added, (SB 23-015), ch. 36, p. 129, § 1, effective August 7.

**42-21-104. Third-party administrator.**

A provider may perform as an administrator or retain the services of a third-party administrator. An administrator has the same powers and duties established under this article 21 as a provider.

**Source: L. 2023:** Entire article added, (SB 23-015), ch. 36, p. 130, § 1, effective August 7.

**42-21-105. Vehicle value protection agreements - contractual liability insurance policies.**

(1) A provider shall guarantee the provider's obligations by an insurance policy, issued by an insurer, that pays the contract holder if the provider fails to perform the obligations in accordance with the vehicle value protection agreement.

(2) To comply with this section, an insurance policy required in subsection (1) of this section must provide that:

(a) If the provider fails to perform its obligations under the vehicle value protection agreement, the contractual liability insurer will pay all covered amounts that the provider is legally obligated to pay according to the agreement; and

(b) The contract holder may file directly with the insurer for reimbursement if the payment due under the terms of the vehicle value protection agreement is not made by the provider within sixty days after proof of loss or trade-in of the covered vehicle has been filed in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

**Source: L. 2023:** Entire article added, (SB 23-015), ch. 36, p. 130, § 1, effective August 7.

**42-21-106. Vehicle value protection agreements not insurance.**

A vehicle value protection agreement that complies with this article 21 is not insurance and is exempt from regulation as insurance pursuant to title 10.

**Source: L. 2023:** Entire article added, (SB 23-015), ch. 36, p. 130, § 1, effective August 7.