

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-eighth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**REREVISED**

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

LLS NO. 12-0150.01 Jery Payne

**HOUSE BILL 12-1038**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Looper, Barker, Brown, Priola, Ramirez, Scott, Williams A.**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Williams S.,**

---

**House Committees**

Transportation  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

Transportation  
Appropriations

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A MULTI-YEAR REGISTRATION FOR**  
102 **CLASS A TRAILERS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING**  
103 **AN APPROPRIATION.**

---

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

**Transportation Legislation Review Committee. Section 1** of the bill makes a legislative declaration. **Section 2** creates an alternate registration for interstate, commercial trailers and semitrailers if the owner is based in a jurisdiction other than Colorado or, if the owner is

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

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
May 9, 2012

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
May 8, 2012

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
April 24, 2012

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 23, 2012

based in Colorado, the trailer or semitrailer is at least 10 years old. The registration does not expire until the trailer is sold or transferred. The owner notifies the department when the trailer is sold or transferred. The department will issue a report in 2014, including the cost-effectiveness of this system of registration.

**Section 3** sets the specific ownership tax at \$95.50. **Section 4** sets the registration fee at \$24.50. Of the fee, the department or authorized agent that registers the vehicle retains \$2.00, the county gets \$1.50 for the county road and bridge fund, the statewide bridge enterprise special revenue fund is credited with \$5.00, the Colorado state titling and registration account is credited with \$0.50, the license plate cash fund is credited with \$2.50, and the highway users tax fund is credited with \$13.00.

---

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

2           **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) (a) The general  
3 assembly hereby determines that the restoration of Colorado's economy  
4 is one of the most critical tasks it must consider. To that end, Colorado  
5 needs to remain competitive with the western United States and the  
6 nation. An emerging issue dealing with the registration of commercial  
7 vehicles in Colorado threatens the state's competitiveness. Under current  
8 law and regulations, interstate commercial trailers can be licensed in any  
9 state regardless of whether the owner resides in that state. Twenty-six  
10 states have created some version of a permanent commercial trailer plate  
11 for commercial trailers.

12           (b) Permanent commercial trailer plates offer several advantages  
13 to the enacting state and to trailer owners. States enjoy the reduction in  
14 workload as a permanent plate does not need to be processed yearly and  
15 most states collect higher revenues with the initial registration because of  
16 the projected term of use. The transportation industry benefits as they do  
17 not have to locate their trailers across the nation each year to replace the  
18 registration on that trailer and they can shop for the best possible pricing

1 in the many states that offer these permanent plate options. In Colorado,  
2 the cost of commercial trailer registration is significantly higher than  
3 other states.

4 (2) The general assembly finds that there has been a decrease in  
5 both interstate truck and trailer registrations in Colorado over the past five  
6 years. The Colorado transportation industry reports a significant reduction  
7 not only in registrations and sales of commercial vehicles and trailers but  
8 the loss of thousands of jobs as well. The general assembly therefore  
9 seeks to create a competitive process for the registration of interstate  
10 commercial trailers in Colorado to accomplish two major goals by making  
11 the state competitive with other states:

12 (a) First, to generate new revenue for Colorado by drawing, to  
13 Colorado, registrations from other states with a permanent trailer  
14 registration option; and

15 (b) Second, to reduce the number of currently registered interstate  
16 commercial trailers that leave Colorado for another state by creating a  
17 permanent registration for Colorado.

18 (3) The general assembly finds that this legislation begins to  
19 address major policy issues dealing with the transportation industry in  
20 Colorado and helps to take a small step towards making Colorado  
21 competitive in the interstate transportation industry. This legislation  
22 honors the reality of our current budget situation in Colorado while  
23 moving into program options that both generate new revenue for  
24 Colorado and help to retain current revenue from the trailer registrations.

25 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-102, **add** (4) as  
26 follows:

27 **42-3-102. Periodic registration.** (4) (a) (I) IN LIEU OF

1 REGISTERING UNDER SUBSECTIONS (1) TO (3) OF THIS SECTION, AN  
2 APPLICANT MAY REGISTER A COMMERCIAL TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER  
3 UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH (a) IF:

4 (A) THE TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER QUALIFIES AS CLASS A  
5 PERSONAL PROPERTY;

6 (B) THE OWNER IS BASED OUTSIDE COLORADO IN ACCORDANCE  
7 WITH THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION PLAN; AND

8 (C) THE OWNER COMPLIES WITH THIS SECTION AND SECTIONS  
9 42-3-107 (28) AND 42-3-313.

10 (II) A TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER REGISTRATION ISSUED UNDER THIS  
11 SUBSECTION (4) DOES NOT EXPIRE EXCEPT WHEN THE VEHICLE CHANGES  
12 OWNERSHIP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE. THE REGISTRATION  
13 EXPIRES UPON THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF THE TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER.

14 (III) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A LICENSE PLATE TO A  
15 TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER REGISTERED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH (a), BUT  
16 A VALIDATING STICKER OR TAB IS NOT ISSUED NOR REQUIRED FOR THE  
17 LICENSE PLATE.

18 (b) (I) IN LIEU OF REGISTERING UNDER SUBSECTIONS (1) TO (3) OF  
19 THIS SECTION, AN APPLICANT MAY REGISTER A COMMERCIAL TRAILER OR  
20 SEMITRAILER UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH (b) IF:

21 (A) THE TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER QUALIFIES AS CLASS A  
22 PERSONAL PROPERTY;

23 (B) THE OWNER IS BASED IN COLORADO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
24 INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION PLAN;

25 (C) THE TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER IS IN AT LEAST ITS TENTH YEAR  
26 OF SERVICE; AND

27 (D) THE OWNER COMPLIES WITH THIS SECTION AND SECTIONS

1 42-3-107 (28) AND 42-3-313.

2 (II) A TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER REGISTRATION ISSUED UNDER THIS  
3 PARAGRAPH (b) DOES NOT EXPIRE EXCEPT WHEN THE VEHICLE CHANGES  
4 OWNERSHIP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE. THE REGISTRATION  
5 EXPIRES UPON THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF THE TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER.

6 (III) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A LICENSE PLATE TO A  
7 TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER REGISTERED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH (b), BUT  
8 A VALIDATING STICKER OR TAB IS NOT ISSUED NOR REQUIRED FOR THE  
9 LICENSE PLATE.

10 (c) UPON THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF A TRAILER OR  
11 SEMITRAILER REGISTERED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE OWNER SHALL  
12 NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SALE OR TRANSFER. UPON REGISTERING  
13 A TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER UNDER THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
14 NOTIFY THE OWNER OF THIS PROVISION. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALSO  
15 NOTIFY THE PUBLIC OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION ON ITS WEB  
16 PAGE.

17 (d) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE OR  
18 ARTICLE 6 OF THIS TITLE, A PERSON MAY REGISTER A TRAILER OR  
19 SEMITRAILER UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (4) WITH A VALID CERTIFICATE OF  
20 TITLE FROM ANOTHER JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT  
21 FILING FOR A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE IN COLORADO.

22 (e) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A REPORT TO THE  
23 TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE CREATED IN SECTION  
24 43-2-145, C.R.S., BY JULY 1, 2014, DETAILING THE NUMBER OF TRAILERS  
25 AND SEMITRAILERS REGISTERED UNDER PARAGRAPHS (a) AND (b) OF THIS  
26 SUBSECTION (4) AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE  
27 COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PERMANENT REGISTRATION.

1           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-107, **add** (28)  
2 as follows:

3           **42-3-107. Taxable value of classes of property - rate of tax -**  
4 **when and where payable - department duties - apportionment of tax**  
5 **collections - definitions.** (28) THE PREPAID ANNUAL SPECIFIC OWNERSHIP  
6 TAX FOR A REGISTRATION ISSUED UNDER SECTION 42-3-102 (4) IS  
7 NINETY-FIVE DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS.

8           **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-113, **add** (11)  
9 as follows:

10           **42-3-113. Records of application and registration.** (11) THE  
11 DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT PLACE AN EXPIRATION DATE ON THE  
12 REGISTRATION CARD FOR A CLASS A COMMERCIAL TRAILER OR  
13 SEMITRAILER REGISTERED IN COLORADO.

14           **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-201, **amend** (2);  
15 and **add** (7) as follows:

16           **42-3-201. Number plates furnished - style - periodic reissuance**  
17 **- tabs - rules.** (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (7) OF THIS  
18 SECTION, THE OWNER SHALL DISPLAY ON every number plate ~~shall have~~  
19 ~~displayed upon~~ it the registration number assigned to the vehicle and  
20 owner, the year number for which it is issued, the month in which it  
21 expires, and any other appropriate symbol, word, or words designated by  
22 the department. The department may adopt rules for the issuance of  
23 permanent number plates that do not display the year number for which  
24 it is issued or the month in which it expires. Such plate and the required  
25 letters and numerals, except the year number for which issued, ~~shall~~ **MUST**  
26 be of sufficient size to be plainly readable from a distance of one hundred  
27 feet during daylight.

1 (7) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTIONS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SECTION,  
2 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE LICENSE PLATES TO A CLASS A  
3 COMMERCIAL TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER REGISTERED IN COLORADO THAT  
4 DO NOT CONTAIN THE MONTH AND YEAR THE TRAILER EXPIRES, AND A  
5 VALIDATING STICKER OR TAB IS NOT ISSUED NOR REQUIRED FOR THE  
6 LICENSE PLATES.

7 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 42-3-313 as  
8 follows:

9 **42-3-313. Fee for long-term or permanent registration -**  
10 **trailers and semitrailers.** (1) IN LIEU OF ANY OTHER FEE IMPOSED FOR  
11 REGISTRATION, THE FEE FOR REGISTRATION ISSUED UNDER SECTION  
12 42-3-102 (4) IS TWENTY-FOUR DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS.

13 (2) (a) THE DEPARTMENT OR AUTHORIZED AGENT WHO  
14 REGISTERED THE COMMERCIAL TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER MAY RETAIN TWO  
15 DOLLARS OF THE REGISTRATION FEE.

16 (b) THE DEPARTMENT OR AUTHORIZED AGENT SHALL RETAIN ONE  
17 DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS OF THE FEE, WHICH THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
18 TRANSFER TO THE COUNTY, IF APPLICABLE, AND THE COUNTY SHALL  
19 ALLOCATE TO THE COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND.

20 (c) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSFER THE REMAINDER OF THE  
21 FEE TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE FOLLOWING  
22 AMOUNTS TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDS:

23 (I) FIFTY CENTS TO THE COLORADO STATE TITLING AND  
24 REGISTRATION ACCOUNT CREATED IN SECTION 42-1-211 (2) WITHIN THE  
25 HIGHWAY USERS TAX FUND;

26 (II) TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS TO THE LICENSE PLATE CASH  
27 FUND CREATED IN SECTION 42-3-301 (1) (b);

1 (III) FIVE DOLLARS TO THE STATEWIDE BRIDGE ENTERPRISE  
2 SPECIAL REVENUE FUND CREATED IN SECTION 43-4-805 (3) (a), C.R.S.;  
3 AND

4 (IV) THE REMAINDER OF THE FEE TO THE HIGHWAY USERS TAX  
5 FUND.

6 **SECTION 7. Appropriation.** (1) In addition to any other  
7 appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the  
8 Colorado state titling and registration account in the highway users tax  
9 fund created in section 42-1-211 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, not  
10 otherwise appropriated, to the department of revenue, for the fiscal year  
11 beginning July 1, 2011, the sum of \$118,000, or so much thereof as may  
12 be necessary, to be allocated to the information technology division for  
13 the purchase of computer center services.

14 (2) In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby  
15 appropriated to the governor - lieutenant governor - state planning and  
16 budgeting, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, the sum of  
17 \$118,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for allocation to the  
18 office of information technology, for the provision of computer center  
19 services for the department of revenue related to the implementation of  
20 this act. Said sum is from reappropriated funds received from the  
21 department of revenue out of the appropriation made in subsection (1) of  
22 this section.

23 **SECTION 8. Appropriation.** (1) In addition to any other  
24 appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the  
25 Colorado state titling and registration account of the highway users tax  
26 fund created in section 42-1-211 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, not  
27 otherwise appropriated, to the department of revenue, for the fiscal year



1 beginning July 1, 2012, the sum of \$45,147 and 0.3 FTE, or so much  
2 thereof as may be necessary, to be allocated for the implementation of this  
3 act as follows:

4 (a) \$13,147 and 0.3 FTE for the processing of vehicle  
5 registrations; and

6 (b) \$32,000 for the purchase of computer center services.

7 (2) In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby  
8 appropriated to the governor - lieutenant governor - state planning and  
9 budgeting, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, the sum of \$32,000,  
10 or so much thereof as may be necessary, for allocation to the office of  
11 information technology, for the provision of computer center services for  
12 the department of revenue related to the implementation of this act. Said  
13 sum is from reappropriated funds received from the department of  
14 revenue out of the appropriation made in paragraph (b) of subsection (1)  
15 of this section.

16 **SECTION 9. Applicability.** This act shall apply to registrations  
17 issued, and to applications made, on or after August 1, 2012.

18 **SECTION 10. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
19 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
20 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.