

# Low-Speed Electric Self-Propelled Vehicles

*Senator Schwartz and Representative Marostica*  
SB-075

## **Background**

Low speed electric vehicles also known as neighborhood electric vehicles (NEV's) offer many benefits to Colorado. This legislation streamlines Colorado law to conform with Federal law and safety standards and makes driving these vehicles a viable option for Colorado's residents; in addition to giving local government the authority to determine what works best for their community.

## **Legislation Summary**

*Authorizes Low speed electric vehicles to travel on roads up to 35 mph; authorizes the vehicles to cross faster roads when the faster road intersects with a slower road.*

## **Economic Benefits**

- Promotes and creates emerging industry jobs in Colorado, including research and development and local businesses.
- By design NEV's travel short distances thereby encouraging residents to support the local economy and local businesses in their community.
- NEV's cost less than 3 cents/mile to operate ; when fully charged NEV's can travel 20-50 miles.
- NEV's plug into a standard 110 volt outlet and can take advantage of less expensive and alternative energy electricity during off-peak times.
- NEV's have low operating costs and require nominal repairs because they have zero emissions and are electric there is no financial burden for air filters, emission control systems, exhaust systems, or oil and fluid changes.
- By making NEV's a viable option in Colorado, NEV owners will have the opportunity to take advantage of Federal tax incentives thus lowering costs.

## **Environmental Benefits**

- NEV's produce zero emissions; reducing localized pollution.
- Improve air quality; no cold starts which are a leading contributor to air pollution in the form of ozone and smog.
- NEV's prevent over 12,000 pounds annually of tailpipe emissions for every replacement of a gas powered vehicle.
- Health benefits realized through better air quality, lowered risk of asthma and respiratory ailments.
- Reduces the reliance on foreign sources of oil for transportation needs; every 1000 miles in a NEV saves 39.5 gallons of gasoline which requires 2 barrels of crude oil to produce.
- Energy consumption of a NEV is 1/5 that of a conventional vehicle.
- NEV batteries are 98% recyclable.

## **Social Benefits**

- NEV use promotes community exploration and localized trips due to short travel distances.
- NEV's are very quiet; reducing noise pollution.
- NEV's provide a clean alternative form of transportation and increase community awareness of the choices available to them.



