

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

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 23-0062.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

**SENATE BILL 23-145**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Danielson and Cutter,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Story,**

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**Senate Committees**  
Finance

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE TO**  
102              **COMMEMORATE THE STEGOSAURUS AS THE COLORADO STATE**  
103              **FOSSIL.**

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**Bill Summary**

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

The bill creates the stegosaurus state fossil license plate for motor vehicles. The department of revenue must designate a nonprofit organization to qualify applicants for issuance of the license plate. The organization must:

- Be headquartered in Colorado;

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

- Have been in existence for at least 5 years;
- Be a nonprofit organization;
- Provide educational services about the science and history of dinosaurs, dinosaur fossils, and related paleontology sites in the state;
- Support the stewardship and preservation of dinosaur fossils, tracks, and other natural resources;
- Manage land and paleontology sites that are registered as part of a national natural landmark; and
- Have been conducting preservation, stewardship, and management of dinosaur fossils, dinosaur tracks, paleontology sites, and other natural resources for at least 5 years.

An applicant qualifies for issuance of the license plate if the applicant makes a donation to the organization and pays all required taxes and fees. In addition to the standard motor vehicle fees, the applicant must pay 2 one-time fees of \$25 for issuance of the license plate. One fee is credited to the highway users tax fund and the other fee is credited to the licensing services cash fund.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 42-3-267 as  
 3 follows:

4           **42-3-267. Special plates - stegosaurus state fossil.** (1) ON  
 5 JANUARY 1, 2024, OR WHEN THE DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO ISSUE THE  
 6 PLATES, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES TO  
 7 QUALIFIED APPLICANTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION FOR  
 8 MOTORCYCLES, PASSENGER CARS, TRUCKS, OR NONCOMMERCIAL OR  
 9 RECREATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLES THAT DO NOT EXCEED SIXTEEN  
 10 THOUSAND POUNDS EMPTY WEIGHT.

11           (2) (a) THERE IS ESTABLISHED THE STEGOSAURUS STATE FOSSIL  
 12 LICENSE PLATE.

13           (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL USE A DESIGN FROM AN  
 14 ORGANIZATION DESIGNATED UNDER SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION,

1 BUT THE DESIGN MUST CONFORM TO DEPARTMENT STANDARDS AND BE  
2 APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

3 (3) (a) AT LEAST ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT  
4 SHALL DESIGNATE AN ORGANIZATION TO QUALIFY APPLICANTS TO BE  
5 ISSUED THE STEGOSAURUS STATE FOSSIL LICENSE PLATE. THE  
6 ORGANIZATION MUST:

7 (I) BE HEADQUARTERED IN COLORADO;

8 (II) HAVE BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS;

9 (III) BE A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION EXEMPT FROM TAXATION;

10 (IV) PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ABOUT THE SCIENCE AND  
11 HISTORY OF DINOSAURS, DINOSAUR FOSSILS, AND RELATED  
12 PALEONTOLOGY SITES IN COLORADO;

13 (V) SUPPORT THE STEWARDSHIP AND PRESERVATION OF DINOSAUR  
14 FOSSILS, TRACKS, AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES;

15 (VI) MANAGE LAND AND PALEONTOLOGY SITES THAT ARE  
16 REGISTERED AS PART OF A NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK; AND

17 (VII) HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING PRESERVATION, STEWARDSHIP,  
18 AND MANAGEMENT OF DINOSAUR FOSSILS, DINOSAUR TRACKS,  
19 PALEONTOLOGY SITES, AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES FOR AT LEAST  
20 FIVE YEARS.

21 (b) A PERSON MAY APPLY FOR A STEGOSAURUS STATE FOSSIL  
22 LICENSE PLATE IF THE PERSON PAYS THE TAXES AND FEES REQUIRED  
23 UNDER THIS SECTION AND PROVIDES TO THE DEPARTMENT OR AN  
24 AUTHORIZED AGENT A CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE ORGANIZATION  
25 DESIGNATED UNDER SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION CONFIRMING  
26 THAT THE APPLICANT HAS MADE A DONATION TO THE ORGANIZATION. THE  
27 ORGANIZATION MAY ESTABLISH A MINIMUM DONATION AMOUNT TO

1 QUALIFY FOR THE LICENSE PLATE. THE ORGANIZATION SHALL USE EACH  
2 DONATION TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ABOUT DINOSAURS TO  
3 CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND OTHERS AND PRESERVE DINOSAUR FOSSILS,  
4 DINOSAUR TRACKS, AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT PREHISTORIC SITES IN THE  
5 STATE.

6 (c) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO QUALIFY APPLICANTS FOR THE  
7 STEGOSAURUS STATE FOSSIL LICENSE PLATE, THE ORGANIZATION  
8 DESIGNATED UNDER SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION MUST FILE WITH  
9 THE DEPARTMENT AN ANNUAL STATEMENT VERIFYING THAT IT IS A  
10 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

11 (4) THE AMOUNT OF THE TAXES AND FEES FOR SPECIAL LICENSE  
12 PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION IS THE SAME AS THE AMOUNT OF THE TAXES  
13 AND FEES FOR REGULAR MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES; EXCEPT THAT  
14 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COLLECT AN ADDITIONAL ONE-TIME FEE OF  
15 TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS FOR ISSUANCE OR REPLACEMENT OF THE LICENSE  
16 PLATE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSMIT THE ADDITIONAL ONE-TIME  
17 FEE TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE FEE TO THE  
18 HIGHWAY USERS TAX FUND CREATED IN SECTION 43-4-201.

19 (5) AN APPLICANT MAY APPLY FOR PERSONALIZED STEGOSAURUS  
20 STATE FOSSIL LICENSE PLATES. UPON PAYMENT OF THE ADDITIONAL FEE  
21 REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) FOR PERSONALIZED LICENSE  
22 PLATES, THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE THE PLATES IF THE APPLICANT  
23 COMPLIES WITH SECTION 42-3-211. IF AN APPLICANT HAS EXISTING  
24 PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE, THE APPLICANT  
25 MAY TRANSFER THE COMBINATION OF LETTERS OR NUMBERS TO A NEW SET  
26 OF STEGOSAURUS STATE FOSSIL LICENSE PLATES FOR THE VEHICLE UPON  
27 PAYING THE FEE REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) AND UPON

1 TURNING IN THE EXISTING PLATES TO THE DEPARTMENT. A PERSON WHO  
2 HAS OBTAINED PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION  
3 (5) MUST PAY THE ANNUAL FEE IMPOSED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(b) TO  
4 RENEW THE PERSONALIZED PLATES. THE FEES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (5)  
5 ARE IN ADDITION TO ALL OTHER APPLICABLE TAXES AND FEES.

6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 42-3-312 as  
7 follows:

8 **42-3-312. Special license plate surcharge.** In addition to any  
9 other fee imposed by this article 3, an applicant for a special license plate  
10 created by rule in accordance with section 42-3-207, as the section existed  
11 when the plate was created, or special license plates issued pursuant to  
12 sections 42-3-211 to 42-3-214, sections 42-3-217 to 42-3-218, sections  
13 42-3-221 to 42-3-234, sections 42-3-237 to 42-3-258, **and** sections  
14 42-3-260 to 42-3-265, **AND** SECTION 42-3-267 shall pay an issuance fee  
15 of twenty-five dollars; except that the fee is not imposed on special  
16 license plates exempted from additional fees for the issuance of a military  
17 special license plate by section 42-3-213 (1)(b)(II). The department shall  
18 transfer the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the Colorado  
19 DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211 (2).

20 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
21 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
22 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
23 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
24 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
25 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
26 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

- 1 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.