

CHAPTER 314

MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATION

SENATE BILL 23-025

BY SENATOR(S) Baisley, Rich, Liston, Lundeen, Pelton B., Pelton R., Smallwood, Van Winkle, Will;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Bird and Bottoms, Armagost, Bradfield, Evans, Frizell, Marshall, Weinberg, Wilson, Winter T.,
Bradley, DeGraaf, Duran, Hamrick, Joseph, Lynch, Pugliese, Soper, Taggart.

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE "IN GOD WE TRUST" LICENSE PLATE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 42-3-268 as follows:

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.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

(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.

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

42-3-312. Special license plate surcharge. 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 pursuant to UNDER sections ~~42-3-211~~ **42-3-212** to 42-3-214, sections 42-3-217 to 42-3-218, sections 42-3-221 to 42-3-234, sections 42-3-237 to 42-3-258, and sections 42-3-260 to 42-3-265, AND SECTION 423-3-268 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 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).

SECTION 3. Appropriation. (1) For the 2023-24 state fiscal year, \$31,212 is appropriated to the department of revenue for use by the division of motor vehicles. This appropriation consists of \$4,293 from the general fund and \$26,919 from the license plate cash fund created in section 42-3-301 (1)(b), C.R.S. To implement this act, the division may use this appropriation as follows:

- (a) \$4,293 from general fund, for DRIVES maintenance and support; and
- (b) \$26,919 from the license plate cash fund for use by vehicle services for license plate ordering.

SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: June 2, 2023