

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

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 21-0982.01 Jery Payne x2157

**SENATE BILL 21-253**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Zenzinger and Danielson,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Carver and Michaelson Jenet,**

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**Senate Committees**

Finance  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING LICENSE PLATES FOR VETERANS WHO HAVE**  
102                    **DISABILITIES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING A**  
103                    **LICENSE PLATE TO HONOR WOMEN VETERANS WITH**  
104                    **DISABILITIES AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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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>.)*

Veterans who have disabilities may obtain a special license plate without paying taxes or fees. For additional vehicles, the veteran pays the normal fees plus 2 one-time fees of \$25, one of which goes to the

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

highway users tax fund and the other goes to the licensing services cash fund. The bill creates a license plate that honors United States women veterans who have disabilities. The requirements and benefits are substantially the same as they are for a disabled veteran license plate.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-213, **amend**  
3 (1)(a)(XXIX), (1)(a)(XXX), and (1)(b)(II) introductory portion; and **add**  
4 (1)(a)(XXXI), (1)(b)(II)(J), and (32) as follows:

5 **42-3-213. License plates - military veterans - rules -**  
6 **retirement.** (1) (a) The department shall issue one or more sets of license  
7 plates to the following persons who own a truck that does not exceed  
8 sixteen thousand pounds empty weight, a passenger car, a motorcycle, or  
9 a noncommercial or recreational vehicle:

10 (XXIX) An honorably discharged, retired, reserve, or active  
11 member of a submarine crew of the United States Navy; ~~or~~

12 (XXX) An honorably discharged or retired woman veteran of the  
13 United States armed forces; OR

14 (XXXI) A WOMAN VETERAN OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED  
15 FORCES WHO HAS A DISABILITY.

16 (b) (II) Notwithstanding ~~subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b)~~  
17 SUBSECTION (1)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION:

18 (J) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT CHARGE A FEE FOR ONE SET OF  
19 DISABLED WOMAN VETERAN LICENSE PLATES ISSUED UNDER SUBSECTION  
20 (32) OF THIS SECTION FOR A PASSENGER CAR, TRUCK, MOTORCYCLE, OR  
21 NONCOMMERCIAL OR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE.

22 (32) **Disabled women veterans.** (a) THE LICENSE PLATE THAT  
23 HONORS UNITED STATES WOMEN VETERANS WHO HAVE DISABILITIES MUST

1 INDICATE THAT AN OWNER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE TO WHICH THE PLATE IS  
2 ATTACHED IS A WOMAN VETERAN OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES  
3 WHO HAS A DISABILITY.

4 (b) A WOMAN VETERAN WHO HAS RECEIVED AN HONORABLE  
5 DISCHARGE FROM OR IS RETIRED FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMED  
6 FORCES AND MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 42-3-304 (3)(a) MAY  
7 USE A LICENSE PLATE THAT HONORS UNITED STATES WOMEN VETERANS  
8 WHO HAVE DISABILITIES. TO BE ISSUED THE LICENSE PLATE, AN APPLICANT  
9 MUST BE A WOMAN AND MUST SUBMIT A DD214 FORM ISSUED BY THE  
10 UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR OTHER EVIDENCE SUFFICIENT TO  
11 DEMONSTRATE THAT THE APPLICANT HAS AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE  
12 FROM OR IS RETIRED FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

13 (c) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN THE LICENSE PLATE ISSUED  
14 UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (32) TO INDICATE THAT THE LICENSE PLATE IS  
15 ISSUED TO A WOMAN VETERAN WHO HAS A DISABILITY. THE DEPARTMENT  
16 MAY ISSUE ADDITIONAL LICENSE PLATES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (32) TO  
17 ELIGIBLE PERSONS UPON THE PAYMENT OF ANY FEE REQUIRED BY THIS  
18 ARTICLE 3.

19 (d) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BEGIN ISSUING THE UNITED STATES  
20 DISABLED WOMAN VETERAN LICENSE PLATE ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1,  
21 2022.

22 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-104, **amend** (5)  
23 as follows:

24 **42-3-104. Exemptions - specific ownership tax - registration**  
25 **- domicile and residency - rules - definitions.** (5) (a) One Class B or  
26 Class C motor vehicle weighing less than sixteen thousand pounds empty  
27 weight owned by a person who is a veteran and has established rights to

1 benefits under the provisions of Public Law 663, 79th Congress, as  
2 amended, and Public Law 187, 82nd Congress, as amended, or is a  
3 veteran of the armed forces of the United States who incurred a disability  
4 and is receiving compensation from the veterans administration or any  
5 branch of the armed forces of the United States for a fifty percent or  
6 more, service-connected, permanent disability, or for loss of use of one  
7 or both feet or one or both hands, or for permanent impairment or loss of  
8 vision in both eyes that constitutes virtual blindness ~~shall be~~ IS exempt  
9 from the imposition of the annual specific ownership tax imposed by this  
10 ~~article~~ ARTICLE 3. Only one such Class B or Class C motor vehicle per  
11 veteran ~~shall be exempted~~ IS EXEMPT.

12 (b) A PERSON WHO HAS A LICENSE PLATE FOR A VETERAN WHO HAS  
13 A DISABILITY OR A WOMAN VETERAN WHO HAS A DISABILITY, AS EITHER  
14 PLATE IS ISSUED UNDER SECTION 42-3-213, QUALIFIES FOR THE EXEMPTION  
15 CREATED IN THIS SUBSECTION (5).

16 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-301, **amend**  
17 (2)(b) as follows:

18 **42-3-301. License plate cash fund - license plate fees.**

19 (2) (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 3,  
20 with the exception of special license plates issued pursuant to section  
21 42-3-213 for purple heart recipients, medal of valor recipients, former  
22 prisoners of war, survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor, ~~disabled~~  
23 veterans WHO HAVE DISABILITIES, WOMEN VETERANS WHO HAVE  
24 DISABILITIES, or recipients of a medal of honor, the fees imposed by this  
25 subsection (2) ~~shall~~ apply to all other special license plates issued in  
26 accordance with this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 3.

27 **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2021-22 state fiscal

1 year, \$5,481 is appropriated to the department of revenue for use by the  
2 division of motor vehicles. This appropriation consists of \$5,400 from the  
3 Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account in the highway users tax fund  
4 created in section 42-1-211 (2)(b)(I), C.R.S., and \$81 from the license  
5 plate cash fund created in section 42-3-301 (1)(b), C.R.S. To implement  
6 this act, the division may use this appropriation as follows:

7 (a) \$5,400 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account  
8 in the highway users tax fund for DRIVES maintenance and support; and

9 (b) \$81 from the license plate cash fund for license plate ordering.

10 **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
11 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
12 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
13 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
14 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
15 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
16 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
17 November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
18 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.