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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 22-0309
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Danielson

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Bill Status: Senate Finance
Fiscal Analyst: Will Clark | 303-866-4720
Will.Clark@state.co.us

Bill Topic: **UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill creates the United States Space Force special license plate. The bill increases state and local revenue and state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2022-23, the bill requires an appropriation of \$23,278 to the Department of Revenue.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 22-190

		Budget Year FY 2022-23	Out Year FY 2023-24
Revenue	Cash Funds	\$34,720	\$8,651
	Total Revenue	\$34,720	\$8,651
Expenditures	General Fund	\$18,258	-
	Cash Funds	\$5,020	\$1,201
	Total Expenditures	\$23,278	\$1,201
Transfers		-	-
Other Budget Impacts	TABOR Refund	\$34,720	\$8,651
	General Fund Reserve	\$2,739	-

Summary of Legislation

This bill creates the United States Space Force special license plate. By January 1, 2023, the license plate is available to applicants who pay one-time special license plate fees of \$50 and submit a U.S. government-issued form or other evidence to demonstrate that they are a veteran, reserve member, or active member of the U.S. Space Force.

Assumptions

Expected demand for the plate is based on the actual demand for the U.S. Coast Guard group special license plate.

State Revenue

The bill is anticipated to increase state cash fund revenue by \$34,720 in FY 2022-23 and \$8,651 in FY 2023-24, as shown in Table 2. This revenue is subject to TABOR.

Table 2
Revenue Under SB 22-190

	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
License Plate Sets Issued	598	149
License Plate Cash Fund (\$8.06)	\$4,820	\$1,201
Highway Users Tax Fund (\$25)	\$14,950	\$3,725
License Services Cash Fund (\$25)	\$14,950	\$3,725
Total Cost	\$34,720	\$8,651

Standard license plate fees. Upon registration, all vehicle owners must pay a plate and tab production fee of \$8.06 for a digital passenger vehicle plate set, \$4.73 for an embossed passenger vehicle plate set, or \$3.01 for a motorcycle plate set. All specialty plates are manufactured as digital plates, and the fiscal note assumes motorcycle issuance will be minimal. Fees from plate and tab production are credited to the License Plate Cash Fund (LPCF).

Special license plate fees. Applicants for the U.S. Space Force special license plate are also required to pay an additional \$50 in fees, of which \$25 is credited to the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF) and \$25 is credited to the Licensing Services Cash Fund.

Colorado Department of Transportation. Of the HUTF revenue, 65 percent is credited to the State Highway Fund (SHF) for expenditure by the department, 26 percent is credited to counties, and 9 percent is credited to municipalities. Table 3 outlines the estimated HUTF revenue generated under this bill.

**Table 3
 Estimated HUTF Distributions Under SB 22-190**

	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
State Highway Fund (65 percent)	\$9,717	\$2,421
Counties (26 percent)	\$3,887	\$969
Municipalities (9 percent)	\$1,346	\$335
Total HUTF Distribution	\$14,950	\$3,725

State Expenditures

State expenditures in the DOR will increase by \$23,278 in FY 2022-23 and \$1,201 in FY 2023-24, as shown in Table 4 and detailed below.

**Table 4
 Expenditures Under SB 22-190**

	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
Department of Revenue		
Plate and Tab Production Cost	\$4,820	\$1,201
Computer Programming	\$18,258	-
License Plate Design Fee	\$200	-
Total Expenditures	\$23,278	\$1,201

Department of Revenue. As discussed in the State Revenue section, plate tab and production costs for special group plates are \$8.06 per license plate set. This fiscal note assumes that 598 license plates will be issued in FY 2022-23 and 149 will be issued in FY 2023-24. In FY 2022-23, one-time programming costs of \$14,400 are required to update the Driver License, Record, Identification and Vehicle Enterprise Solutions (DRIVES) system. Programming costs, to be paid from the General Fund, are based on 64 hours of programming at a rate of \$225 per hour, as well as \$3,858 in other implementation costs, which include implementation support to the vendor from DOR staff and quality assurance support from the Office of Information Technology. License plate and tab production costs and design assistance are expended from the LPCF.

In addition, the DOR will be required to update rules, forms, manuals, and the department's website to reflect the change in law, and to provide training to authorized agents, Title and Registration Section staff, and law enforcement. Any workload increases or costs associated with these activities can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Other Budget Impacts

TABOR refunds. The bill is expected to increase the amount of state revenue required to be refunded to taxpayers by the amounts shown in the State Revenue section above. This estimate assumes the December 2021 LCS revenue forecast. A forecast of state revenue subject to TABOR is not available beyond FY 2023-24. Because TABOR refunds are paid from the General Fund, increased cash fund revenue will reduce the amount of General Fund available to spend or save.

General Fund reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve beginning in FY 2022-23. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by \$2,739 in FY 2022-23, which will decrease the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

Local Government

This bill will increase local government HUTF revenue by the amounts shown in Table 3. HUTF revenue generated by license plate fees is distributed to counties (26 percent) and municipalities (9 percent) for transportation needs.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2022-23, the bill requires appropriations of \$23,278 to the Department of Revenue. Of this total:

- \$18,258 is from the General Fund; of which, \$2,426 is reappropriated to the Office of Information Technology; and,
- \$5,020 is from the License Plate Cash Fund.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections
Information Technology

Counties
Revenue

County Clerks
Transportation