

**NOTE: This bill has been prepared for the signatures of the appropriate legislative officers and the Governor. To determine whether the Governor has signed the bill or taken other action on it, please consult the legislative status sheet, the legislative history, or the Session Laws.**



SENATE BILL 23-145

BY SENATOR(S) Danielson and Cutter, Bridges, Priola;  
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Story and Titone, Brown, deGruy Kennedy,  
Duran, Joseph, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Michaelson Jenet, Velasco, Willford.

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE TO  
COMMEMORATE THE STEGOSAURUS AS THE COLORADO STATE FOSSIL,  
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** 42-3-269 as follows:

**42-3-269. Special plates - stegosaurus state fossil.** (1) 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 ESTABLISHED THE STEGOSAURUS STATE FOSSIL

*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.*

LICENSE PLATE.

(b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL USE A DESIGN FROM AN ORGANIZATION DESIGNATED UNDER SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION, BUT THE DESIGN MUST CONFORM TO DEPARTMENT STANDARDS AND BE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

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

(I) BE HEADQUARTERED IN COLORADO;

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

(III) BE A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION EXEMPT FROM TAXATION;

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

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

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

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

(b) A PERSON MAY APPLY FOR A STEGOSAURUS STATE FOSSIL LICENSE PLATE IF THE PERSON PAYS THE TAXES AND FEES REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION AND PROVIDES TO THE DEPARTMENT OR AN AUTHORIZED AGENT A CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE ORGANIZATION DESIGNATED UNDER SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION CONFIRMING THAT THE APPLICANT HAS MADE A DONATION TO THE ORGANIZATION. THE ORGANIZATION MAY ESTABLISH A MINIMUM DONATION AMOUNT TO QUALIFY FOR THE LICENSE PLATE. THE ORGANIZATION SHALL USE EACH DONATION TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ABOUT DINOSAURS TO CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND

OTHERS AND PRESERVE DINOSAUR FOSSILS, DINOSAUR TRACKS, AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT PREHISTORIC SITES IN THE STATE.

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

(4) 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 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.

(5) AN APPLICANT MAY APPLY FOR PERSONALIZED STEGOSAURUS STATE FOSSIL 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 STEGOSAURUS STATE FOSSIL 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 (5) MUST PAY THE ANNUAL FEE IMPOSED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(b) TO RENEW THE PERSONALIZED PLATES. THE FEES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (5) 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, or special license plates issued pursuant to sections 42-3-211 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 42-3-269 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, \$39,151 is appropriated to the department of revenue for use by the division of motor vehicles. This appropriation consists of \$5,492 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account in the highway users tax fund created in section 42-1-211 (2), C.R.S., and \$33,659 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) \$5,492 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account for DRIVES maintenance and support; and

(b) \$33,659 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.

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Steve Fenberg  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Julie McCluskie  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Cindi L. Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

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Robin Jones  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date and Time)

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Jared S. Polis  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO