

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 23-0062.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

SENATE BILL 23-145

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Danielson and Cutter,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Story,

Senate Committees

Finance
Appropriations

House Committees

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, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN**
104 **APPROPRIATION.**

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

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.

organization must:

- Be headquartered in Colorado;
- 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

1 ORGANIZATION DESIGNATED UNDER SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION,
2 BUT THE DESIGN MUST CONFORM TO DEPARTMENT STANDARDS AND BE
3 APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

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

8 (I) BE HEADQUARTERED IN COLORADO;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2023-24 state fiscal
22 year, \$39,151 is appropriated to the department of revenue for use by the
23 division of motor vehicles. This appropriation consists of \$5,492 from the
24 Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account in the highway users tax fund
25 created in section 42-1-211 (2), C.R.S., and \$33,659 from the license
26 plate cash fund created in section 42-3-301 (1)(b), C.R.S. To implement
27 this act, the division may use this appropriation as follows:

1 (a) \$5,492 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account
2 for DRIVES maintenance and support; and

3 (b) \$33,659 from the license plate cash fund for use by vehicle
4 services for license plate ordering.

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