

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0658.01 Clare Haffner x6137

HOUSE BILL 25-1103

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Richardson,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees
Finance

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A FALLEN FIREFIGHTER LICENSE
102 PLATE.

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 fallen firefighter special license plate. An applicant becomes eligible to use the plate by providing a certificate to the department of revenue (department) confirming that the applicant has made a donation to a nonprofit organization (organization) chosen by the department based on the organization's provision of services to the families of firefighters who have been killed in the line of duty.

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.

In addition to the normal fees for a license plate, a person must pay 2 additional one-time fees in the amount of \$25, one of which is credited to the highway users tax fund and the other to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 42-3-272 as
3 follows:

4 **42-3-272. Special plates - fallen firefighter.** (1) BEGINNING ON
5 JANUARY 1, 2026, 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) THE FALLEN FIREFIGHTER LICENSE PLATE IS ESTABLISHED.

12 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL USE A DESIGN APPROVED BY THE
13 DEPARTMENT, WHICH DESIGN MUST CONFORM TO STANDARDS SET BY THE
14 DEPARTMENT.

15 (3) (a) AT LEAST ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT
16 SHALL DESIGNATE ONE OR MORE ORGANIZATIONS TO QUALIFY APPLICANTS
17 TO BE ISSUED THE FALLEN FIREFIGHTER LICENSE PLATE. AN ORGANIZATION
18 IS ELIGIBLE TO BE SELECTED AND RETAINED IF THE ORGANIZATION IS A
19 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION EXEMPT FROM TAXATION AND:

20 (I) IS LOCATED IN COLORADO;

21 (II) HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR AT LEAST FIFTEEN YEARS;

22 (III) PROVIDES COUNSELING, SUPPORT, LEGAL AID, EDUCATION
23 ASSISTANCE, AND JOB TRAINING TO THE FAMILIES OF FIREFIGHTERS WHO

1 HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY; AND

2 (IV) HAS GIVEN SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE CHILDREN OF FALLEN
3 FIREFIGHTERS.

4 (b) A PERSON MAY APPLY FOR A FALLEN FIREFIGHTER LICENSE
5 PLATE IF THE PERSON PAYS THE TAXES AND FEES REQUIRED UNDER THIS
6 SECTION AND PROVIDES TO THE DEPARTMENT OR AN AUTHORIZED AGENT
7 A CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE ORGANIZATION CHOSEN IN ACCORDANCE
8 WITH SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION CONFIRMING THAT THE
9 APPLICANT HAS MADE A DONATION TO THE ORGANIZATION. THE
10 ORGANIZATION MAY ESTABLISH A MINIMUM DONATION AMOUNT TO
11 QUALIFY FOR THE LICENSE PLATE.

12 (c) THE ORGANIZATION CHOSEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH
13 SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHALL FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT
14 AN ANNUAL STATEMENT VERIFYING THAT IT IS A NONPROFIT
15 ORGANIZATION.

16 (4) THE AMOUNT OF THE TAXES AND FEES FOR SPECIAL LICENSE
17 PLATES REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION IS THE SAME AS THE AMOUNT OF
18 THE TAXES AND FEES FOR REGULAR MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES;
19 EXCEPT THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COLLECT THE FEE SPECIFIED IN
20 SECTION 42-3-312 AND AN ADDITIONAL ONE-TIME FEE OF TWENTY-FIVE
21 DOLLARS FOR ISSUANCE OR REPLACEMENT OF THE LICENSE PLATES. THE
22 STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT THE ADDITIONAL ONE-TIME FEE TO THE
23 HIGHWAY USERS TAX FUND CREATED IN SECTION 43-4-201.

24 (5) AN APPLICANT MAY APPLY FOR PERSONALIZED FALLEN
25 FIREFIGHTER LICENSE PLATES. UPON PAYMENT OF THE ADDITIONAL FEE
26 REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) FOR PERSONALIZED LICENSE
27 PLATES, THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE THE PLATES IF THE APPLICANT

1 COMPLIES WITH SECTION 42-3-211. IF AN APPLICANT HAS EXISTING
2 PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE, THE APPLICANT
3 MAY TRANSFER THE COMBINATION OF LETTERS OR NUMBERS TO A NEW SET
4 OF FALLEN FIREFIGHTER LICENSE PLATES FOR THE VEHICLE UPON PAYING
5 THE FEE REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) AND UPON TURNING IN THE
6 EXISTING PLATES TO THE DEPARTMENT. A PERSON WHO HAS OBTAINED
7 THE PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION (5)
8 SHALL PAY THE ANNUAL FEE IMPOSED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(b) FOR
9 RENEWAL OF THE PERSONALIZED PLATES. THE FEES REQUIRED UNDER THIS
10 SUBSECTION (5) ARE IN ADDITION TO ALL OTHER APPLICABLE TAXES AND
11 FEES.

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

14 **42-3-312. Special license plate surcharge.** In addition to any
15 other fee imposed by this article 3, an applicant for a special license plate
16 created by rule in accordance with section 42-3-207, as the section existed
17 when the plate was created, personalized plates issued under section
18 42-3-211, or special license plates issued under sections 42-3-212 to
19 42-3-214, sections 42-3-217 to 42-3-218, sections 42-3-221 to 42-3-234,
20 sections 42-3-237 to 42-3-258, sections 42-3-260 to 42-3-265, and
21 sections 42-3-267 to ~~42-3-271~~ 42-3-272 shall pay an issuance fee of
22 twenty-five dollars; except that the fee is not imposed on special license
23 plates exempted from additional fees for the issuance of a military special
24 license plate by section 42-3-213 (1)(b)(II). The department shall transfer
25 the money from the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the
26 Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211
27 (2).

1 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
2 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
3 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
4 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
5 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
6 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
7 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
8 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
9 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.