

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-0016.01 Jery Payne x2157

HOUSE BILL 22-1048

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

**Baisley**, Holtorf, Pico, Rich, Van Beber

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

**Kirkmeyer**, Hisey, Priola, Woodward

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**House Committees**  
Finance

**Senate Committees**

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE "IN GOD WE TRUST" LICENSE  
102 PLATE.

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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>.)*

The bill creates the "In God We Trust" license plate for motor vehicles. In addition to the normal fees for a license plate, a person must pay 2 additional one-time fees for the issuance of the plate. One of these fees is credited to the highway users tax fund and the other fee is credited to the licensing services cash fund.

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.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 42-3-261 as  
3 follows:

4           **42-3-261. Special plates - In God We Trust.** (1) BEGINNING ON  
5 THE EARLIER OF JANUARY 1, 2023, OR WHEN THE DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO  
6 ISSUE THE PLATES, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE SPECIAL LICENSE  
7 PLATES TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION  
8 FOR 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 HEREBY ESTABLISHED THE "IN GOD WE TRUST"  
12 LICENSE PLATE.

13           (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN THE PLATE IN COOPERATION  
14 AND CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED PERSONS AND TO FEATURE THE  
15 STATEMENT "IN GOD WE TRUST".

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

24           (4) AN APPLICANT MAY APPLY FOR PERSONALIZED "IN GOD WE  
25 TRUST" LICENSE PLATES. UPON PAYMENT OF THE ADDITIONAL FEE  
26 REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) FOR PERSONALIZED LICENSE

1 PLATES, THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE THE PLATES IF THE APPLICANT  
2 COMPLIES WITH SECTION 42-3-211. IF AN APPLICANT HAS EXISTING  
3 PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE, THE APPLICANT  
4 MAY TRANSFER THE COMBINATION OF LETTERS OR NUMBERS TO A NEW SET  
5 OF "IN GOD WE TRUST" LICENSE PLATES FOR THE VEHICLE UPON PAYING  
6 THE FEE REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) AND UPON TURNING IN THE  
7 EXISTING PLATES TO THE DEPARTMENT. A PERSON WHO HAS OBTAINED  
8 PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (4) MUST PAY  
9 THE ANNUAL FEE IMPOSED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(b) TO RENEW THE  
10 PERSONALIZED PLATES. THE FEES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (4) ARE IN  
11 ADDITION TO ALL OTHER APPLICABLE TAXES AND 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, or special license plates issued pursuant to  
18 sections 42-3-211 to 42-3-214, sections 42-3-217 to 42-3-218, sections  
19 42-3-221 to 42-3-234, sections 42-3-237 to 42-3-258, and ~~section~~  
20 ~~42-3-260~~ SECTIONS 42-3-260 AND 42-3-261 shall pay an issuance fee of  
21 twenty-five dollars; except that the fee is not imposed on special license  
22 plates exempted from additional fees for the issuance of a military special  
23 license plate by section 42-3-213 (1)(b)(II). The department shall transfer  
24 the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the licensing services  
25 cash fund created in section 42-2-114.5.

26 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
27 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the

1 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
2 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
3 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
4 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
5 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
6 November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
7 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.