

**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. 23-0448.01 Jery Payne x2157

SENATE BILL 23-025

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Baisley, Rich

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bird and Soper, Armagost, Bradfield, Evans, Frizell, Marshall, Weinberg, Wilson, Winter T.

Senate Committees

Transportation & Energy
Finance
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE "IN GOD WE TRUST" LICENSE**
102 **PLATE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN**
103 **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 "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 of \$25 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 Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account.

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.

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 - "In God We Trust".** (1) BEGINNING
5 ON 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 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 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 SPECIAL
21 LICENSE PLATE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSMIT THE ADDITIONAL
22 ONE-TIME FEE TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE FEE TO
23 THE HIGHWAY USERS TAX FUND CREATED IN SECTION 43-4-201.

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

1 PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES, THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE THE PLATES
2 IF THE APPLICANT COMPLIES WITH SECTION 42-3-211. IF AN APPLICANT
3 HAS EXISTING PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE, THE
4 APPLICANT MAY TRANSFER THE COMBINATION OF LETTERS OR NUMBERS
5 TO A NEW SET OF "IN GOD WE TRUST" LICENSE PLATES FOR THE VEHICLE
6 UPON PAYING THE FEE REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) AND UPON
7 TURNING IN THE EXISTING PLATES TO THE DEPARTMENT. A PERSON WHO
8 HAS OBTAINED PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION
9 (4) MUST PAY THE ANNUAL FEE IMPOSED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(b) TO
10 RENEW THE PERSONALIZED PLATES. THE FEES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (4)
11 ARE IN 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, PERSONALIZED PLATES ISSUED UNDER
18 SECTION 42-3-211, or special license plates issued ~~pursuant to~~ UNDER
19 sections ~~42-3-211~~ **42-3-212** to 42-3-214, sections 42-3-217 to 42-3-218,
20 sections 42-3-221 to 42-3-234, sections 42-3-237 to 42-3-258, ~~and~~
21 sections 42-3-260 to 42-3-265, AND SECTION 42-3-267 shall pay an
22 issuance fee of twenty-five dollars; except that the fee is not imposed on
23 special license plates exempted from additional fees for the issuance of
24 a military special license plate by section 42-3-213 (1)(b)(II). The
25 department shall transfer the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it
26 to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section
27 42-1-211 (2).

1 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2023-24 state fiscal
2 year, \$31,212 is appropriated to the department of revenue for use by the
3 division of motor vehicles. This appropriation consists of \$4,293 from the
4 general fund and \$26,919 from the license plate cash fund created in
5 section 42-3-301 (1)(b), C.R.S. To implement this act, the division may
6 use this appropriation as follows:

7 (a) \$4,293 from general fund, for DRIVES maintenance and
8 support; and

9 (b) \$26,919 from the license plate cash fund for use by vehicle
10 services for license plate ordering.

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