

## CHAPTER 358

---

**MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATION**


---

## SENATE BILL 23-212

BY SENATOR(S) Danielson, Bridges, Buckner, Cutter, Gardner, Kolker, Marchman, Pelton B., Priola, Sullivan, Winter F.;  
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Parenti and McCormick, Duran, Joseph, Lindsay, Michaelson Jenet, Snyder, Story.

**AN ACT**

**CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A SEABEES LICENSE PLATE TO HONOR THE SEABEES TRADITION,  
AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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

**SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** The general assembly recognizes the unique role that the United States Naval Construction Battalions serve in the nation's armed forces. This act creates a commemorative license plate to honor the service of Seabees veterans and actively serving Seabees. The "Seabees" take their name from United States Naval Construction Battalions, or "CBs". Since World War II, the Seabees have provided essential engineering and construction services prior to and during combat all over the globe. Their ingenuity and dedication have made critical differences in combat efforts from Normandy and Okinawa to Iraq and Afghanistan. They have a "can do" attitude and an ability to drop their tools and take up arms to fight. They have been a dependable force for more than 75 years and continue to serve our nation. Seabees service people have a motto: "We build, we fight".

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-213, **amend** (1)(a)(XXXI) and (1)(a)(XXXII); and **add** (1)(a)(XXXIII), (1)(b)(II)(K), and (34) as follows:

**42-3-213. License plates - military veterans - rules - retirement.** (1) (a) The department shall issue one or more sets of license plates to the following persons who own a truck that does not exceed sixteen thousand pounds empty weight, a passenger car, a motorcycle, or a noncommercial or recreational vehicle:

(XXXI) A woman veteran of the United States armed forces who has a disability;  
~~or~~

---

*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.*

(XXXII) A serving member of, honorably discharged or discharged veteran of, discharged LGBT veteran of, or retired member of any component of the United States Space Force; OR

(XXXIII) AN HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERAN OR RETIRED, ACTIVE, OR RESERVE MEMBER OF A CONSTRUCTION BATTALION OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

(b) (II) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(b)(I) of this section:

(K) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT CHARGE A FEE FOR ONE SET OF SEABEES LICENSE PLATES ISSUED UNDER SUBSECTION (34) OF THIS SECTION FOR A PASSENGER CAR, TRUCK, MOTORCYCLE, OR NONCOMMERCIAL OR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE.

**(34) Honorably discharged veteran or retired, active, or reserve member of the Seabees.** (a) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN THE SEABEES LICENSE PLATE TO INDICATE THAT AN OWNER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE TO WHICH THE PLATE IS ATTACHED IS AN HONORABLY DISCHARGED, RETIRED, ACTIVE, OR RESERVE MEMBER OF A CONSTRUCTION BATTALION OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

(b) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, OR WHEN THE DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO ISSUE THE PLATES DESIGNED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (34)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE THE SEABEES LICENSE PLATE TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS RECEIVED AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM, IS RETIRED FROM, OR IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OR A RESERVE MEMBER OF ANY CONSTRUCTION BATTALION OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

(c) TO QUALIFY FOR A SEABEES LICENSE PLATE, AN APPLICANT MUST SUBMIT A DD214 FORM ISSUED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR OTHER EVIDENCE SUFFICIENT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE APPLICANT WAS HONORABLY DISCHARGED FROM, IS RETIRED FROM, OR IS AN ACTIVE OR A RESERVE MEMBER OF A CONSTRUCTION BATTALION OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

**SECTION 3. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2023-24 state fiscal year, \$8,684 is appropriated to the department of revenue for use by the division of motor vehicles. This appropriation consists of \$6,653 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account in the highway users tax fund created in section 42-1-211 (2), C.R.S., and \$2,031 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) \$ 6,653 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account for DRIVES maintenance and support; and

(b) \$2,031 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.

Approved: June 5, 2023