

**JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis**  
**House Appropriations Committee**

Concerning the creation of the wild horse special license plate.

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**Prime Sponsors:**

Representative Duran  
(None)

**Date Prepared:**

April 22, 2026

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**Fiscal Impacts**

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Appropriation Required, Amendments in Packet

TABOR Impact

**Fiscal Note Status**

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The most recent Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 04/01/26.

**No Change:** Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill.

**Amendments in This Packet**

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J.001 Staff-prepared appropriation amendment

L.001 Bill Sponsor amendment – changes fiscal impact

**Current Appropriations Clause in Bill**

The bill requires but does not contain an appropriation clause.

**Description of Amendments in This Packet**

**J.001**

Staff amendment **J.001** (attached) appropriates a total of \$152,611 cash funds to the Department of Revenue for FY 2026-27, including \$31,536 from the DRIVES Cash Fund and \$121,075 from the License Plate Cash Fund.

**L.001**

Bill Sponsor amendment **L.001** increases the required donation for specialty license plates by \$50 and temporarily eliminates the associated specialty plate fee for two fiscal years. The additional donation revenue is evenly split between the DRIVES Cash Fund and the Highway Users Tax Fund, with this allocation structure

remaining in effect through June 30, 2028. After that date, the standard \$50 specialty license plate fee is reinstated.

This amendment does not result in any change to expenditures. However, it eliminates the TABOR impact in FY 2026–27 and FY 2027–28. JBC Staff and Legislative Council Staff agree on the fiscal impact of the amendment.

If the Committee adopts **J.001**, it may also adopt **L.001**.

## Points to Consider

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The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) has proposed a budget package for FY 2026-27 based on the March 2026 Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSP) revenue forecast. The forecast does not anticipate a TABOR surplus liability for FY 2025-26, but does anticipate a surplus liability of \$711.1 million for FY 2026-27 to be refunded to taxpayers out of the General Fund. Legislation that increases non-exempt revenue (such as cash funds) will increase the TABOR refund from the General Fund.

The budget package includes \$57.3 million in set-asides for legislation outside of the package (see table below). The budget package accounts for the 13.0 percent reserve associated with the placeholders.

### General Fund Appropriation Placeholders for Other 2026 Legislation

| Item  | FY 2026-27          |
|---|---------------------|
| SB 26-149 (Pathways for Individuals with Mental Health Disorders) | \$23,222,868        |
| Competency services   | 20,000,000          |
| Potential prison capacity supplemental                            | 5,900,000           |
| Applied Behavioral Analysis Licensing                             | 5,000,000           |
| County Administration shared services                             | 3,100,000           |
| Medicaid Working Group  | 500,000             |
| HB 26-1331 (Modify 2026 Interim Committees)                       | -396,469            |
| <b>Total - Placeholders for other legislation</b>                 | <b>\$57,326,399</b> |

### TABOR/ Excess State Revenues Impact

The bill is estimated to increase cash fund revenue by \$878,825 in FY 2026-27 and by \$2.2 million in FY 2027-28. Of these amounts, \$499,825 in FY 2026-27 and \$1.0 million in FY 2027-28 is non-exempt revenue and will reduce the available General Fund in each fiscal year by an equal amount.

Bill Sponsor amendment **L.001** eliminates the TABOR impact in FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28.