

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 26-0726.01 Jery Payne x2157

HOUSE BILL 26-1306

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Duran and Suckla, Brown, Carter, Lieder

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kipp,

House Committees

Finance
Appropriations

Senate Committees

Finance
Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE WILD HORSE SPECIAL 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 wild horse special license plate. To qualify for the plate, a person must make a donation of \$50 to the wild horse fund and make an annual donation of \$25 to renew the plate. In addition to the normal taxes and fees, the person must pay 2 one-time fees of \$25.

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.

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 28, 2026

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 27, 2026

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-77-102, **amend**
3 (6) as follows:

4 **24-77-102. Definitions.**

5 As used in this article 77, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 (6) "Gift" means something of value which is given to the state
7 voluntarily by any person or entity, regardless of whether such person or
8 entity specifies the purpose or purposes for which such thing of value is
9 to be used. "Gift" includes, but is not limited to, DONATIONS MADE TO THE
10 WILD HORSE FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 35-66-104, PURSUANT TO
11 SECTION 42-3-272 AND voluntary contributions received by the state as a
12 result of any state voluntary contribution program established pursuant to
13 article 22 of title 39. ~~C.R.S.~~ "Gift" does not include federal funds or any
14 pecuniary compensation received by the state from any other
15 governmental entity.

16 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-66-104, **amend**
17 (2)(a); and add (6) as follows:

18 **35-66-104. Wild horse fund - legislative declaration.**

19 (2) (a) (I) State money in the fund is continuously appropriated to
20 the department for use by the wild horse project to implement and
21 administer this article 66.

22 (II) (A) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I) OF THIS
23 SECTION, THE STATE MONEY IN THE FUND IS SUBJECT TO THE TRANSFERS
24 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 42-3-272 (4)(b)(II).

25 (B) THIS SUBSECTION (2)(a)(II) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
26 2028.

1 (6) (a) THE WILD HORSE LICENSE PLATE ACCOUNT IS CREATED IN
2 THE WILD HORSE FUND. THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT DONATIONS
3 MADE UNDER SECTION 42-3-272 (3)(a) TO THE ACCOUNT.

4 (b) The money in the wild horse license plate account may be used
5 by the wild horse project to implement and administer this article 66 in
6 accordance with this section, but the state treasure shall not transfer the
7 money in the account to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account,
8 created in section 42-1-211, the highway users tax fund, created in section
9 43-4-201, or the license plate cash fund, created in section 42-3-301, as
10 described in section 42-3-272 (4)(b)(II).

11 (c) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND
12 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE
13 WILD HORSE LICENSE PLATE ACCOUNT TO THE FUND.

14 (d) THIS SUBSECTION (6) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2028.

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

17 **42-3-272. Special plates - wild horses - legislative declaration**
18 **- repeal.**

19 (1) BEGINNING ON THE EARLIER OF JANUARY 1, 2027, OR WHEN
20 THE DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO ISSUE THE PLATE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
21 ISSUE SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS IN ACCORDANCE
22 WITH THIS SECTION FOR MOTORCYCLES, PASSENGER CARS, TRUCKS, OR
23 NONCOMMERCIAL OR RECREATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLES THAT DO NOT
24 EXCEED SIXTEEN THOUSAND POUNDS EMPTY WEIGHT.

25 (2) (a) THE WILD HORSE LICENSE PLATE IS ESTABLISHED.

26 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN THE PLATE IN COOPERATION
27 AND CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO

1 INDICATE THAT THE MOTOR VEHICLE TO WHICH THE PLATE IS ATTACHED
2 IS OWNED BY A PERSON THAT SUPPORTS THE HUMAN PRESERVATION OF
3 WILD HORSES.

4 (3) (a) (I) A PERSON MAY APPLY FOR A WILD HORSE LICENSE PLATE
5 IF THE PERSON PAYS THE TAXES AND FEES REQUIRED IN THIS SECTION AND
6 MAKES A DONATION OF:

7 (A) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2028, ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO THE
8 WILD HORSE FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 35-66-104, FOR USE BY THE WILD
9 HORSE POPULATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS
10 35-1-119 AND 35-66-108; OR

11 (B) ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2028, FIFTY DOLLARS TO THE WILD
12 HORSE FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 35-66-104, FOR USE BY THE WILD
13 HORSE POPULATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS
14 35-1-119 AND 35-66-108.

15 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (3)(a)(II) AND SUBSECTION (3)(a)(I)(A) OF
16 THIS SECTION ARE REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2028.

17 (b) TO RENEW A WILD HORSE LICENSE PLATE, THE OWNER MUST
18 MAKE AN ANNUAL DONATION OF FIFTY DOLLARS TO THE WILD HORSE
19 FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 35-66-104.

20 (c) THE AUTHORIZED AGENT SHALL COLLECT THE DONATION
21 REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (3)(a) OR (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION AND TRANSFER
22 THE DONATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE. THE STATE TREASURER
23 SHALL CREDIT THE DONATIONS TO THE WILD HORSE FUND, CREATED IN
24 SECTION 35-66-104.

25 (d) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT A
26 DONATION RECEIVED UNDER SUBSECTION (3)(a) OR (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION
27 IS A CUSTODIAL FUND AND, THEREFORE, IS NOT SUBJECT TO

1 APPROPRIATION OR TO SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THE STATE
2 CONSTITUTION.

3 (4) (a) THE AMOUNT OF THE TAXES AND FEES FOR A SPECIAL
4 LICENSE PLATE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION IS THE SAME AS THE
5 AMOUNT OF THE TAXES AND FEES FOR A REGULAR MOTOR VEHICLE
6 LICENSE PLATE; EXCEPT THAT, BEGINNING JULY 1, 2028, THE DEPARTMENT
7 SHALL COLLECT THE FEE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 42-3-312 AND AN
8 ADDITIONAL ONE-TIME FEE OF TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS FOR ISSUANCE OR
9 REPLACEMENT OF THE SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES. THE STATE TREASURER
10 SHALL CREDIT THE FEE TO THE HIGHWAY USERS TAX FUND, CREATED IN
11 SECTION 43-4-201.

12 (b) (I) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
13 NOTIFY THE STATE TREASURER OF THE NUMBER OF WILD HORSE LICENSE
14 PLATES SOLD. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE
15 COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE STATE TREASURER SHALL
16 JOINTLY DETERMINE THE FREQUENCY OF THE NOTIFICATIONS.

17 (II) UPON RECEIVING THE NOTIFICATION REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION
18 (4)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER:

19 (A) TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS FROM THE WILD HORSE FUND,
20 CREATED IN SECTION 35-66-104, TO THE COLORADO DRIVES VEHICLE
21 SERVICES ACCOUNT, CREATED IN SECTION 42-1-211; AND

22 (B) TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS FROM THE WILD HORSE FUND,
23 CREATED IN SECTION 35-66-104, TO THE HIGHWAY USERS TAX FUND,
24 CREATED IN SECTION 43-4-201.

25 (III) THIS SUBSECTION (4)(b) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
26 2028.

27 (5) AN APPLICANT MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR

1 PERSONALIZED WILD HORSE LICENSE PLATES. UPON PAYMENT OF THE
2 ADDITIONAL FEE REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) FOR
3 PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES, THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE THE PLATES
4 IF THE APPLICANT COMPLIES WITH SECTION 42-3-211. IF AN APPLICANT
5 HAS EXISTING PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE, THE
6 APPLICANT MAY TRANSFER THE COMBINATION OF LETTERS OR NUMBERS
7 TO A NEW SET OF WILD HORSE LICENSE PLATES FOR THE VEHICLE UPON
8 PAYING THE FEE REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) AND UPON
9 TURNING IN THE EXISTING PLATES TO THE DEPARTMENT. A PERSON THAT
10 HAS OBTAINED PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION
11 (5) MUST PAY THE ANNUAL FEE IMPOSED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(b) TO
12 RENEW THE PERSONALIZED PLATES. THE FEES ASSESSED UNDER THIS
13 SUBSECTION (5) ARE IN ADDITION TO ALL OTHER APPLICABLE TAXES AND
14 FEES.

15 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 42-3-312 as
16 follows:

17 **42-3-312. Special license plate surcharge.**

18 (1) In addition to any other fee imposed by this article 3, an
19 applicant for a special license plate created by rule in accordance with
20 section 42-3-207, as the section existed when the plate was created,
21 personalized plates issued under section 42-3-211, or special license
22 plates issued under sections 42-3-212 to 42-3-214, sections 42-3-217 to
23 42-3-218, sections 42-3-221 to ~~42-3-234~~ **42-3-229**, SECTIONS 42-3-231 TO
24 42-3-234, sections 42-3-237 to 42-3-258, sections 42-3-260 to 42-3-265,
25 and sections 42-3-267 to ~~42-3-271~~ shall pay an issuance fee of
26 twenty-five dollars; except that the fee is not imposed on special license
27 plates exempted from additional fees for the issuance of a military special

1 license plate by section 42-3-213 (1)(b)(II). The department shall transfer
2 the money from the fee to the state treasurer who shall credit it THE
3 MONEY FROM THE FEE to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account
4 created in section 42-1-211 (2).

5 (2) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER FEE IMPOSED BY THIS ARTICLE 3,
6 AN APPLICANT FOR SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES ISSUED UNDER SECTION
7 42-3-272 SHALL PAY THE FEE IMPOSED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION
8 ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2028, TO BE ISSUED THE SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES.

9 **SECTION 5. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2026-27 state fiscal
10 year, \$152,611 is appropriated to the department of revenue. This
11 appropriation consists of \$31,536 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle
12 services account in the highway users tax fund created in section
13 42-1-211 (2), C.R.S., and \$121,075 from the license plate cash fund
14 created in section 42-3-301 (1)(b), C.R.S. To implement this act, the
15 department may use this appropriation as follows:

16 (a) \$121,075 from the license plate cash fund for use by the
17 division of motor vehicles for license plate ordering;

18 (b) \$23,584 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account
19 for DRIVES maintenance and support;

20 (c) \$1,927 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account
21 for use by the division of motor vehicles for personal services related to
22 vehicle services;

23 (d) \$2,665 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account
24 for use by the executive director's office for personal services related to
25 administration and support; and

26 (e) \$3,360 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account
27 for payments to OIT.

1 **SECTION 6. 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 (August
4 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
5 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
6 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
7 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
8 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
9 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
10 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.