

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the Second House*

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.

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
May 11, 2026

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
5 BE USED BY THE WILD HORSE PROJECT TO IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER
6 THIS ARTICLE 66 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION, BUT THE STATE
7 TREASURE SHALL NOT TRANSFER THE MONEY IN THE ACCOUNT TO THE
8 COLORADO DRIVES VEHICLE SERVICES ACCOUNT, CREATED IN SECTION
9 42-1-211, THE HIGHWAY USERS TAX FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 43-4-201,
10 OR THE LICENSE PLATE CASH FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 42-3-301, AS
11 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 42-3-272 (4)(b)(II).

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

15 (d) THIS SUBSECTION (6) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2028.

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

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

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

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

27 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN THE PLATE IN COOPERATION

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

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

8 (A) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2028, ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO THE
9 WILD HORSE FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 35-66-104, FOR USE BY THE WILD
10 HORSE POPULATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS
11 35-1-119 AND 35-66-108; OR

12 (B) ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2028, FIFTY DOLLARS TO THE WILD
13 HORSE FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 35-66-104, FOR USE BY THE WILD
14 HORSE POPULATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS
15 35-1-119 AND 35-66-108.

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

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

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

26 (d) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT A
27 DONATION RECEIVED UNDER SUBSECTION (3)(a) OR (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION

1 IS A CUSTODIAL FUND AND, THEREFORE, IS NOT SUBJECT TO
2 APPROPRIATION OR TO SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THE STATE
3 CONSTITUTION.

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

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

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

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

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

26 (C) FIFTEEN DOLLARS AND NINETY-FOUR CENTS FROM THE WILD
27 HORSE FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 35-66-104, TO THE LICENSE PLATE

1 CASH FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 42-3-301.

2 (III) ON DECEMBER 30, 2026, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL
3 TRANSFER TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS FROM THE
4 WILD HORSE FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 35-66-104, TO THE LICENSE
5 PLATE CASH FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 42-3-301.

6 (IV) ON JUNE 30, 2028, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER
7 TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS FROM THE LICENSE
8 PLATE CASH FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 42-3-301, TO THE WILD HORSE
9 FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 35-66-104.

10 (V) THIS SUBSECTION (4)(b) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
11 2028.

12 (5) AN APPLICANT MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR
13 PERSONALIZED WILD HORSE LICENSE PLATES. UPON PAYMENT OF THE
14 ADDITIONAL FEE REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) FOR
15 PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES, THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE THE PLATES
16 IF THE APPLICANT COMPLIES WITH SECTION 42-3-211. IF AN APPLICANT
17 HAS EXISTING PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE, THE
18 APPLICANT MAY TRANSFER THE COMBINATION OF LETTERS OR NUMBERS
19 TO A NEW SET OF WILD HORSE LICENSE PLATES FOR THE VEHICLE UPON
20 PAYING THE FEE REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) AND UPON
21 TURNING IN THE EXISTING PLATES TO THE DEPARTMENT. A PERSON THAT
22 HAS OBTAINED PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION
23 (5) MUST PAY THE ANNUAL FEE IMPOSED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(b) TO
24 RENEW THE PERSONALIZED PLATES. THE FEES ASSESSED UNDER THIS
25 SUBSECTION (5) ARE IN ADDITION TO ALL OTHER APPLICABLE TAXES AND
26 FEES.

27 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-301, add (3) as

1 follows:

2 **42-3-301. License plate cash fund - license plate fees - repeal.**

3 (3) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, THE
4 DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT COLLECT THE FEE IMPOSED IN THIS SECTION FOR
5 THE ISSUANCE OF THE WILD HORSE LICENSE PLATE CREATED IN SECTION
6 42-3-272.

7 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (3) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2028.

8 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 42-3-312 as
9 follows:

10 **42-3-312. Special license plate surcharge.**

11 (1) In addition to any other fee imposed by this article 3, an
12 applicant for a special license plate created by rule in accordance with
13 section 42-3-207, as the section existed when the plate was created,
14 personalized plates issued under section 42-3-211, or special license
15 plates issued under sections 42-3-212 to 42-3-214, sections 42-3-217 to
16 42-3-218, sections 42-3-221 to ~~42-3-234~~ **42-3-229**, SECTIONS 42-3-231 TO
17 42-3-234, sections 42-3-237 to 42-3-258, sections 42-3-260 to 42-3-265,
18 and sections 42-3-267 to ~~42-3-271~~ shall pay an issuance fee of
19 twenty-five dollars; except that the fee is not imposed on special license
20 plates exempted from additional fees for the issuance of a military special
21 license plate by section 42-3-213 (1)(b)(II). ~~The department shall transfer~~
22 ~~the money from the fee to the state treasurer who shall credit it~~ **THE**
23 **MONEY FROM THE FEE to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account**
24 **created in section 42-1-211 (2).**

25 (2) **IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER FEE IMPOSED BY THIS ARTICLE 3,**
26 **AN APPLICANT FOR SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES ISSUED UNDER SECTION**
27 **42-3-272 SHALL PAY THE FEE IMPOSED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION**

1 ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2028, TO BE ISSUED THE SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES.

2 **SECTION 6. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2026-27 state fiscal
3 year, 143,412 is appropriated to the department of revenue. This
4 appropriation consists of 22,337 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle
5 services account in the highway users tax fund created in section
6 42-1-211 (2), C.R.S., and \$121,075 from the license plate cash fund
7 created in section 42-3-301 (1)(b), C.R.S. To implement this act, the
8 department may use this appropriation as follows:

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

11 (b) 16,552 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account
12 for DRIVES maintenance and support;

13 (c) \$1,394 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account
14 for use by the division of motor vehicles for personal services related to
15 vehicle services;

16 (d) \$1,927 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account
17 for use by the executive director's office for personal services related to
18 administration and support; and

19 (e) \$2,464 from the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account
20 for payments to OIT.

21 **SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
22 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
23 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
24 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
25 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
26 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
27 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect

1 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
2 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
3 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.