

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 25-0506.01 Clare Haffner x6137

HOUSE BILL 25-1036

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Velasco,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Danielson,

House Committees

Finance
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A MISSING AND MURDERED**
102 **INDIGENOUS RELATIVES LICENSE PLATE.**

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 missing and murdered Indigenous relatives license plate. An applicant becomes eligible to use the license plate by providing a certificate to the department of revenue confirming that the applicant has made a minimum donation of \$25 to the office of liaison for missing and murdered Indigenous relatives.

In addition to the normal fees for a license plate, a person must pay

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.

an additional one-time fee in the amount of \$25, which money is credited to the highway users tax fund.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 42-3-272 as follows:

42-3-272. Special plates - missing and murdered Indigenous relatives - legislative declaration - definitions. (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

(a) INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN COLORADO, INCLUDING THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN AND UTE MOUNTAIN UTE RESERVATIONS, AND ACROSS THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY THE CRISIS OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE. THIS CRISIS HAS AFFECTED THE SAFETY, WELL-BEING, AND CULTURAL FABRIC OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CONTINUES TO DEMAND URGENT ATTENTION AND ACTION.

(b) THERE IS SIGNIFICANT UNDERREPORTING OF CASES INVOLVING MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES, AND THE ABSENCE OF SPECIALIZED RESOURCES AND SERVICES TO ADDRESS THESE CASES CONTRIBUTES TO THE ONGOING VIOLENCE AND NEGLECT FACED BY INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES. FAMILIES AND TRIBAL NATIONS OFTEN FACE SYSTEMIC BARRIERS IN OBTAINING JUSTICE, SERVICES, AND RESOURCES TO ASSIST IN THE SEARCH FOR AND RECOVERY OF THEIR LOVED ONES.

(c) ADEQUATE FUNDING IS ESSENTIAL TO SUPPORT THE OFFICE OF LIAISON FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES AND TO STRENGTHEN INITIATIVES AIMED AT PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR AFFECTED FAMILIES, IMPROVING INVESTIGATION PROTOCOLS, FACILITATING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND RAISING

1 AWARENESS OF THIS CRITICAL ISSUE. INCREASED FUNDING WOULD ALSO
2 HELP PROVIDE CULTURALLY RELEVANT VICTIM SERVICES, SUPPORT THE
3 PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE, AND ENSURE A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO
4 THE CRISIS.

5 (d) COLORADO HAS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THE
6 SAFETY AND DIGNITY OF ALL ITS CITIZENS, INCLUDING INDIGENOUS
7 PEOPLES. THE CREATION OF SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO
8 ADDRESS THE EPIDEMIC OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS
9 RELATIVES IS A NECESSARY STEP IN HONORING THE LIVES AND
10 EXPERIENCES OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND ALIGNS WITH THE
11 STATE'S COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND THE WELL-BEING OF ALL
12 RESIDENTS.

13 (e) PUBLIC AWARENESS IS VITAL TO ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF
14 MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES, AND FUNDING FOR THE
15 OFFICE OF LIAISON FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES
16 WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED THROUGH A PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS
17 COLORADANS TO VOLUNTARILY CONTRIBUTE TO THIS CAUSE.

18 (f) ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE WILL CREATE A
19 DEDICATED FUNDING STREAM FOR THE OFFICE OF LIAISON FOR MISSING
20 AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES. PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF
21 THESE LICENSE PLATES WILL DIRECTLY SUPPORT INITIATIVES AIMED AT
22 PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS
23 RELATIVES, ENHANCING INVESTIGATION EFFORTS, AND IMPROVING
24 CULTURALLY COMPETENT VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES. A SPECIAL LICENSE
25 PLATE WILL HONOR THE LIVES OF INDIGENOUS INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE
26 GONE MISSING OR BEEN MURDERED AND ENSURE THAT THEIR FAMILIES
27 RECEIVE SUPPORT.

1 (g) A SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE WILL SERVE AS A POWERFUL SYMBOL
2 OF SOLIDARITY AND RECOGNITION FOR THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES OF
3 COLORADO. BY CREATING THIS LICENSE PLATE, THE STATE REAFFIRMS ITS
4 COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING EFFORTS AIMED AT ADDRESSING THE
5 VIOLENCE FACED BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND TO WORKING TOWARD THE
6 ERADICATION OF THIS VIOLATION.

7 (h) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALLS ON THE CITIZENS OF
8 COLORADO TO UNITE IN THE EFFORT TO COMBAT THE CRISIS OF MISSING
9 AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES. THROUGH THE PURCHASE AND
10 DISPLAY OF THE SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE, COLORADANS WILL HAVE THE
11 OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO AN IMPORTANT CAUSE AND
12 DEMONSTRATE THEIR COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND THE SAFETY
13 OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES.

14 (2) BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2026, OR WHEN THE DEPARTMENT
15 IS ABLE TO ISSUE THE PLATES, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE SPECIAL
16 LICENSE PLATES TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS
17 SECTION FOR MOTORCYCLES, PASSENGER CARS, TRUCKS, OR
18 NONCOMMERCIAL OR RECREATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLES THAT DO NOT
19 EXCEED SIXTEEN THOUSAND POUNDS EMPTY WEIGHT.

20 (3) (a) THERE IS ESTABLISHED THE MISSING AND MURDERED
21 INDIGENOUS RELATIVES LICENSE PLATE.

22 (b) (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL USE A DESIGN DEVELOPED BY AN
23 INTERESTED PERSON WITH TIES TO COLORADO, BUT THE DESIGN MUST
24 CONFORM TO DEPARTMENT STANDARDS AND BE APPROVED BY THE
25 DEPARTMENT.

26 (II) ON OR BEFORE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY, OCTOBER 13,
27 2025, THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER

1 INTERESTED PERSONS, SHALL COLLABORATE TO SELECT A DESIGN:

2 (A) ONE MEMBER OF THE OFFICE;

3 (B) AT LEAST TWO MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD, WHICH

4 MEMBERS MUST REPRESENT A UTE TRIBE; AND

5 (C) TWO ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD, TO BE

6 DETERMINED BY THE OFFICE.

7 (4) (a) THE OFFICE SHALL QUALIFY APPLICANTS TO BE ISSUED THE

8 MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES LICENSE PLATE.

9 (b) A PERSON MAY APPLY FOR A MISSING AND MURDERED

10 INDIGENOUS RELATIVES LICENSE PLATE IF THE PERSON PAYS THE TAXES

11 AND FEES REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION AND PROVIDES TO THE

12 DEPARTMENT OR AN AUTHORIZED AGENT A CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE

13 OFFICE CONFIRMING THAT THE APPLICANT HAS MADE A MINIMUM

14 DONATION OF TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS TO THE OFFICE. THE STATE

15 TREASURER SHALL CREDIT THE DONATION TO THE MISSING AND MURDERED

16 INDIGENOUS RELATIVES VICTIMS FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-2607.

17 THE OFFICE SHALL USE THE DONATION TO CARRY OUT THE OFFICE'S DUTIES

18 AND TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MISSING OR MURDERED

19 INDIGENOUS RELATIVES' FAMILIES.

20 (5) THE AMOUNT OF THE TAXES AND FEES FOR SPECIAL LICENSE

21 PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION IS THE SAME AS THE AMOUNT OF THE TAXES

22 AND FEES FOR REGULAR MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES; EXCEPT THAT

23 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COLLECT THE FEE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 42-3-312

24 AND AN ADDITIONAL ONE-TIME FEE OF TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS FOR

25 ISSUANCE OR REPLACEMENT OF THE LICENSE PLATE. THE STATE

26 TREASURER SHALL CREDIT THE ADDITIONAL ONE-TIME FEE TO THE

27 HIGHWAY USERS TAX FUND CREATED IN SECTION 43-4-201.

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

16 (7) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
17 REQUIRES:

18 (a) "ADVISORY BOARD" MEANS THE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER
19 ADVISORY BOARD ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-33.5-2603 (4).

20 (b) "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF LIAISON FOR MISSING AND
21 MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION
22 24-33.5-2603 (1).

23 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 24-33.5-2607 as
24 follows:

25 **24-33.5-2607. Missing and murdered Indigenous relatives**
26 **victims fund - creation - administration - definition.** (1) THE MISSING
27 AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES VICTIMS FUND IS CREATED IN THE

1 STATE TREASURY. THE FUND CONSISTS OF DONATIONS CREDITED TO THE
2 FUND PURSUANT TO SECTION 42-3-272 AND ANY OTHER MONEY THAT THE
3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE OR TRANSFER TO THE FUND.

4 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND
5 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE
6 FUND TO THE FUND.

7 (3) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY, THE OFFICE OF LIAISON FOR MISSING AND MURDERED
9 INDIGENOUS RELATIVES MAY EXPEND MONEY FROM THE FUND TO CARRY
10 OUT THE OFFICE'S DUTIES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-33.5-2603.

11 (4) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "FUND" MEANS THE MISSING AND
12 MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES VICTIMS FUND.

13 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 42-3-312 as
14 follows:

15 **42-3-312. Special license plate surcharge.** In addition to any
16 other fee imposed by this article 3, an applicant for a special license plate
17 created by rule in accordance with section 42-3-207, as the section existed
18 when the plate was created, personalized plates issued under section
19 42-3-211, or special license plates issued under sections 42-3-212 to
20 42-3-214, sections 42-3-217 to 42-3-218, sections 42-3-221 to 42-3-234,
21 sections 42-3-237 to 42-3-258, sections 42-3-260 to 42-3-265, and
22 sections 42-3-267 to ~~42-3-271~~ 42-3-272 shall pay an issuance fee of
23 twenty-five dollars; except that the fee is not imposed on special license
24 plates exempted from additional fees for the issuance of a military special
25 license plate by section 42-3-213 (1)(b)(II). The department shall transfer
26 the money from the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the
27 Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211

1 (2).

2 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
3 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
4 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
5 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
6 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
7 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
8 effect 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.