

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0322.01 Eden Rolland x2373

**HOUSE BILL 26-1032**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Richardson and Velasco,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Pelton B.,**

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**House Committees**

Finance

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

**101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A FALLEN FIREFIGHTER SPECIAL**

**102 LICENSE PLATE.**

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**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 fallen firefighter special license plate. An applicant becomes eligible to use the plate by providing a certificate to the department of revenue (department) confirming that the applicant has made a donation to a nonprofit organization (organization) designated by the department based on the organization's provision of services to the families of firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

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.

In addition to the normal fees for a license plate, a person must pay 2 additional one-time fees in the amount of \$25, one of which is credited to the highway users tax fund and the other to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account.

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

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

4           **42-3-272. Special plates - fallen firefighter.**

5           (1) BEGINNING ON THE EARLIER OF JANUARY 1, 2027, OR WHEN  
6 THE DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO ISSUE THE PLATES, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
7 ISSUE SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS IN ACCORDANCE  
8 WITH THIS SECTION FOR MOTORCYCLES, PASSENGER CARS, TRUCKS, OR  
9 NONCOMMERCIAL OR RECREATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLES THAT DO NOT  
10 EXCEED SIXTEEN THOUSAND POUNDS EMPTY WEIGHT.

11           (2) (a) THE FALLEN FIREFIGHTER SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE IS  
12 ESTABLISHED.

13           (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPROVE AND USE A DESIGN FOR THE  
14 LICENSE PLATE, WHICH DESIGN MUST CONFORM TO STANDARDS SET BY THE  
15 DEPARTMENT.

16           (3) (a) AT LEAST ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT  
17 SHALL DESIGNATE ONE OR MORE ORGANIZATIONS TO QUALIFY APPLICANTS  
18 TO BE ISSUED THE FALLEN FIREFIGHTER SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE. AN  
19 ORGANIZATION IS ELIGIBLE TO BE DESIGNATED IF THE ORGANIZATION IS A  
20 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION EXEMPT FROM TAXATION AND:

21           (I) IS LOCATED IN COLORADO;  
22           (II) HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR AT LEAST FIFTEEN YEARS; AND  
23           (III) PROVIDES COUNSELING, SUPPORT, LEGAL AID, EDUCATION

1 ASSISTANCE, OR JOB TRAINING TO THE FAMILIES OF FIREFIGHTERS WHO  
2 HAVE DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY OR OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE  
3 CHILDREN OF FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS.

4 (b) A PERSON MAY APPLY FOR A FALLEN FIREFIGHTER SPECIAL  
5 LICENSE PLATE IF THE PERSON PAYS THE TAXES AND FEES REQUIRED  
6 UNDER THIS SECTION AND PROVIDES TO THE DEPARTMENT A CERTIFICATE  
7 ISSUED BY THE ORGANIZATION DESIGNATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
8 SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION CONFIRMING THAT THE APPLICANT  
9 HAS MADE A DONATION TO THE ORGANIZATION. THE ORGANIZATION MAY  
10 ESTABLISH A MINIMUM DONATION AMOUNT TO QUALIFY FOR THE LICENSE  
11 PLATE.

12 (c) THE ORGANIZATION DESIGNATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
13 SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHALL FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT  
14 AN ANNUAL STATEMENT VERIFYING THAT THE ORGANIZATION IS A  
15 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

16 (4) THE AMOUNT OF THE TAXES AND FEES REQUIRED FOR SPECIAL  
17 LICENSE PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION IS THE SAME AS THE AMOUNT OF THE  
18 TAXES AND FEES FOR REGULAR MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES; EXCEPT  
19 THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COLLECT THE FEE SPECIFIED IN SECTION  
20 42-3-312 AND AN ADDITIONAL ONE-TIME FEE OF TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS  
21 FOR ISSUANCE OR REPLACEMENT OF THE SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES. THE  
22 DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSMIT THE ADDITIONAL ONE-TIME FEE TO THE  
23 STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE FEE TO THE HIGHWAY USERS  
24 TAX FUND CREATED IN SECTION 43-4-201.

25 (5) AN APPLICANT MAY APPLY FOR PERSONALIZED FALLEN  
26 FIREFIGHTER SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES. UPON PAYMENT OF THE  
27 ADDITIONAL FEE REQUIRED BY SECTION 42-3-211 (6)(a) FOR

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

13 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 42-3-312 as  
14 follows:

15 **42-3-312. Special license plate surcharge.**

16 In addition to any other fee imposed by this article 3, an applicant  
17 for a special license plate created by rule in accordance with section  
18 42-3-207, as the section existed when the plate was created, personalized  
19 plates issued under section 42-3-211, or special license plates issued  
20 under sections 42-3-212 to 42-3-214, sections 42-3-217 to 42-3-218,  
21 sections 42-3-221 to ~~42-3-234~~ 42-3-229, ~~42-3-231 TO 42-3-234~~,  
22 sections 42-3-237 to 42-3-258, sections 42-3-260 to 42-3-265, and  
23 sections 42-3-267 to ~~42-3-271~~ 42-3-272 shall pay an issuance fee of  
24 twenty-five dollars; except that the fee is not imposed on special license  
25 plates exempted from additional fees for the issuance of a military special  
26 license plate by section 42-3-213 (1)(b)(II). The department shall transfer  
27 the money from the fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit it to the

1 Colorado DRIES vehicle services account created in section 42-1-211  
2 (2).

3 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
4 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
5 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
6 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a  
7 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
8 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
9 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
10 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
11 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
12 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.