

HB 26-1032 - Fact Sheet

Short title: Fallen Firefighter Special License Plate Version: Introduced
Prime sponsors: Rep. Richardson; Rep. Velasco; Sen. Pelton B.



Overview

- Creates an optional specialty license plate recognizing firefighters who have died in the line of duty.
- Applicants qualify by providing a certificate from a designated nonprofit confirming a donation.
- Directs the Department of Revenue (DOR) to approve a plate design and issue plates for specified vehicle types.

Key policy elements

- Vehicle eligibility: motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, and noncommercial or recreational motor vehicles up to 16,000 pounds empty weight.
- Issuance timing: the earlier of January 1, 2027, or when DOR is able to issue the plates.
- Nonprofit designation: DOR designates one or more qualifying nonprofits at least once every five years; designated nonprofits file an annual statement verifying nonprofit status.
- Nonprofit criteria: Colorado-based; in existence at least 15 years; and provides support services or scholarships for families/children of firefighters who died in the line of duty.

Fees associated with the plate (in addition to standard registration fees)

- One-time special plate surcharge of \$25 credited to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account (C.R.S. 42-3-312).
- Additional one-time fee of \$25 credited to the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF) (new C.R.S. 42-3-272).
- Standard plate and tab production fee applies at registration (fiscal note assumption: \$14.80 per digital passenger plate set in FY 2026-27).
- Donation amount is set by the designated nonprofit and may include a minimum; this donation supports nonprofit services and is not state revenue.

Sources: HB 26-1032 (introduced).

Fiscal note highlights (Legislative Council Staff - Initial Fiscal Note, Jan 22, 2026)

The fiscal note assumes demand similar to the Fallen Heroes plate (1,549 plates issued in the first year; 1,668 in the second year).

Category	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28
State revenue (cash funds, subject to TABOR)	\$100,375	\$108,086
State expenditures (cash funds)	\$30,376	\$24,686
Appropriation required (DOR)	\$30,376	-
Estimated change in TABOR refunds	\$100,375	\$108,086
Change in state FTE	0.0	0.0

Estimated revenue components (FY 2026-27)

Revenue source	Amount	Notes
HUTF (one-time \$25 fee)	\$38,725	65% SHF; 26% counties; 9% municipalities
DRIVES Cash Fund (one-time \$25 surcharge)	\$38,725	Supports DRIVES vehicle services
License Plate Cash Fund (production fees)	\$22,925	Manufacturing costs
Total	\$100,375	

Estimated DOR cost components (from fiscal note)

Cost component	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28
Plate and tab production	\$23,175	\$24,686
DRIVES programming	\$7,201	\$0
Total	\$30,376	\$24,686

Sources: Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note for HB 26-1032 (Initial, Jan 22, 2026).