
SENATE BILL 6019

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Sutherland, Winsley and Heavey

Read first time 02/23/95. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to studded tires; amending RCW 46.37.420; and
2 adding a new section to chapter 46.37 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.37.420 and 1990 c 105 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) It is unlawful to operate a vehicle upon the public highways of
7 this state unless it is completely equipped with pneumatic rubber tires
8 except vehicles equipped with temporary-use spare tires that meet
9 federal standards that are installed and used in accordance with the
10 manufacturer's instructions.

11 (2) No tire on a vehicle moved on a highway may have on its
12 periphery any block, flange, cleat, or spike or any other protuberance
13 of any material other than rubber which projects beyond the tread of
14 the traction surface of the tire, except that it is permissible to use
15 farm machinery with tires having protuberances that will not injure the
16 highway, and except also that it is permissible to use tire chains or
17 metal studs imbedded within the tire of reasonable proportions and of
18 a type conforming to rules adopted by the state patrol, upon any
19 vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice, or other

1 conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid. Beginning November 1,
2 1995, a vehicle using tires imbedded with metal studs must display a
3 valid permit issued under section 2 of this act. It is unlawful to use
4 metal studs imbedded within the tire between April 1st and November
5 1st. The state department of transportation may, from time to time,
6 determine additional periods in which the use of tires with metal studs
7 imbedded therein is lawful.

8 (3) The state department of transportation and local authorities in
9 their respective jurisdictions may issue special permits authorizing
10 the operation upon a highway of traction engines or tractors having
11 movable tracks with transverse corrugations upon the periphery of the
12 movable tracks or farm tractors or other farm machinery, the operation
13 of which upon a highway would otherwise be prohibited under this
14 section.

15 (4) Tires with metal studs imbedded therein may be used between
16 November 1st and April 1st upon school buses and fire department
17 vehicles, any law or regulation to the contrary notwithstanding.

18 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 46.37 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 (1) Beginning November 1, 1995, it is unlawful to operate a vehicle
21 having tires with metal studs imbedded in them without a valid permit
22 issued by the department authorizing the use of such tires. A
23 violation of this section is a traffic infraction.

24 (2) Beginning July 1, 1995, the department shall issue permits for
25 the operation of vehicles using tires with metal studs imbedded in them
26 upon payment of an annual fee of one hundred sixty dollars. The
27 department may adjust the fee from time to time as necessary, but shall
28 not increase the fee in any fiscal year in excess of the amount allowed
29 under RCW 43.135.055.

30 (3) The department shall transmit permit fees collected under this
31 section to the state treasurer for deposit in the motor vehicle fund to
32 defray the cost of maintenance and repair to state highways caused by
33 the use of studded tires.

34 (4) The permit issued by the department must consist of a decal of
35 such substance, size, and quality and be affixed to the outside of the
36 vehicle in a visible location as determined by the department in
37 consultation with the state patrol.

1 (5) The state patrol may enter into agreements with law enforcement
2 agencies of other states for the purpose of establishing reciprocity
3 agreements concerning the waiver of enforcement of this section on
4 nonresident motorists primarily traveling through the state of
5 Washington.

6 (6) The department may adopt such other rules as are necessary to
7 carry out the purposes of this section.

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