
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5250

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Heavey and Winsley)

Read first time 02/28/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to studded tires; amending RCW 46.37.420; adding a
2 new section to chapter 46.04 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 46.37
3 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 "Lightweight stud" means a metallic stud intended for installation
8 and use in a vehicle tire that is at least thirty-five percent lighter
9 than metal studs most commonly used in the tire industry in this state
10 as of January 1, 1997. A lightweight stud may contain any materials
11 necessary to achieve the lighter weight.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.37 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 Beginning January 1, 1999, a person offering to sell to a tire
15 dealer conducting business in the state of Washington, a metal flange
16 or cleat intended for installation as a stud in a vehicle tire shall
17 certify that the studs are lightweight studs as defined in section 1 of
18 this act. Certification must be accomplished by clearly marking the

1 boxes or containers used to ship and store studs with the designation
2 "lightweight."

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.37 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 Beginning July 1, 2000, a person may not sell a studded tire or
6 sell a stud for installation in a tire unless the stud qualifies as a
7 lightweight stud under section 1 of this act.

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

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

15 (2) No tire on a vehicle moved on a highway may have on its
16 periphery any block, flange, cleat, or spike or any other protuberance
17 of any material other than rubber which projects beyond the tread of
18 the traction surface of the tire, except that it is permissible to use
19 farm machinery with tires having protuberances that will not injure the
20 highway, and except also that it is permissible to use tire chains or
21 metal studs imbedded within the tire of reasonable proportions and of
22 a type conforming to (~~rules adopted by the state patrol~~) section 1 of
23 this act, upon any vehicle when required for safety because of snow,
24 ice, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid. It is
25 unlawful to use metal studs imbedded within the tire between April 1st
26 and November 1st. The state department of transportation may, from
27 time to time, determine additional periods in which the use of tires
28 with metal studs imbedded therein is lawful.

29 (3) The state department of transportation and local authorities in
30 their respective jurisdictions may issue special permits authorizing
31 the operation upon a highway of traction engines or tractors having
32 movable tracks with transverse corrugations upon the periphery of the
33 movable tracks or farm tractors or other farm machinery, the operation
34 of which upon a highway would otherwise be prohibited under this
35 section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department of transportation shall study
5 the various types of light-weight studs for performance, durability,
6 and pavement wear, and forward its recommended stud types to
7 representatives of the tire industry no later than June 30, 1998. The
8 study may consist of materials testing, interviews with manufacturers,
9 dealers, and vehicle operators, and monitoring the implementation and
10 progress of similar light-weight stud laws in other states.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Section 4 of this act takes effect July 1,
12 2003.

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