
**Criminal Justice & Corrections
Committee**

HB 1478

Brief Description: Increasing penalties for failure to secure a vehicle load on a public highway.

Sponsors: Representatives Kagi, O'Brien, Simpson, Morrell, Lovick, Kenney, P. Sullivan, Nixon and Chase.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates three levels of failure to secure a load to a vehicle and criminalizes those acts that rise to the level of first and second degree failure to secure a load.

Hearing Date: 2/8/05

Staff: Kathryn Leathers (786-7114).

Background:

A vehicle driven or moved on a public highway must be loaded in such a manner as to prevent any contents from escaping, except that dropping sand for the purpose of securing traction is permissible. Violations of this requirement are designated as traffic infractions, subject to a monetary penalty not to exceed \$250 per infraction.

Summary of Bill:

Failure to secure a load in the first or second degree is a gross misdemeanor and misdemeanor, respectively.

Failure to secure a load in the first degree is committed when a person negligently fails to secure all or part of a load to his or her vehicle and, as a result, causes bodily injury to another. Failure to secure a load in the second degree is committed when a person negligently fails to secure all or part of a load to his or her vehicle and, as a result, causes damage to the property of another. Other failures to secure a load to a vehicle that do not rise to the level of first or second degree continue to be designated as traffic infractions and are subject only to monetary penalties.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.