

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6066

As of February 26, 2009

Title: An act relating to studded tires.

Brief Description: Prohibiting the use and sale of studded tires.

Sponsors: Senators Marr, Ranker, Jarrett and Brown.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/26/09.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Dory Nicpon (786-7321)

Background: Under current law it is a traffic infraction, punishable by a fine of \$124, to use studded tires between April 1 and November 1. It is unlawful to sell studded tires other than those with lightweight or retractable studs.

Estimates suggest that studded tires cause nearly \$9 million worth of damage to roadways in Washington each year.

Summary of Bill: Effective January 1, 2010, the sale of studded tires is prohibited.

Effective January 1, 2014, the use of studded tires is prohibited.

A Pavement Account is created. On August 1, 2014, \$10 million is transferred from the Motor Vehicle Account to the Pavement Account. Every even-numbered year after 2014, an amount equal to \$10 million inflated by the construction cost index is transferred from the Motor Vehicle Account to the Pavement Account.

Funds in the Pavement Account may only be used for a grant program to assist counties with pavement repairs due to damage from studded tires. By September 15 of every even-numbered year beginning in 2014, the Department of Transportation (DOT) must submit a prioritized list of all projects requesting grant funding to the Legislature. DOT must report annually to the Legislature on the status of funded grant projects.

Appropriation: None.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 24, 2009.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: The bill contains several effective dates. Please refer to the bill.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Technological advances such as front wheel drive, all wheel drive, traction control, and traction tires surpass the performance of studded tires. Banning studded tires is the socially responsible choice.

CON: Some new tires are fairly good, but studs are most effective at stopping under circumstances. Banning studded tires raises safety concerns. Citizens should have the choice to equip their vehicles with studded tires.

OTHER: Seniors rely on studded tires as a safety precaution.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Joe Tortorelli, Spokane Area Good Roads Association.

CON: Howard Briggs, Joanne Briggs, citizens

OTHER: Bruce Reeves, Senior Citizens Lobby.