

HB 1033 - DIGEST

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Finds that: (1) Environmental health hazards associated with lead wheel weights are a preventable problem. People are exposed to lead fragments and dust when lead wheel weights fall from vehicles on Washington roadways and are then abraded and pulverized by traffic. Lead wheel weights on and alongside roadways can contribute to soil, surface, and groundwater contamination and pose a hazard to downstream aquatic life;

(2) Lead negatively affects every bodily system. While injurious to individuals of all ages, it is especially harmful to children, fetuses, and adults of childbearing age. Effects of lead on a child's cognitive, behavioral, and developmental abilities may necessitate large expenditures of public funds for health care and special education. Irreversible damage to children and subsequent expenditures could be avoided if exposure to lead is reduced; and

(3) There are no federal regulatory controls governing use of lead wheel weights. The legislature recognizes the state's need to protect the public from exposure to lead hazards.

Requires the department of ecology to: (1) Establish an advisory committee, in consultation with the department of health, the traffic safety commission, and the department of general administration, to identify and make readily available to tire distributors, wholesalers, retailers, and auto manufacturers, by January 1, 2010, an approved list of environmentally preferred wheel weights that are available for purchase;

(2) Prepare and distribute information to persons in the tire and wheel weight manufacturing, distribution, wholesale, retail, and auto manufacturing industries, to the maximum extent practicable, to assist them in identifying environmentally preferred wheel weights;

(3) Issue a warning letter to a person in the tire distribution, wholesale, retail, auto manufacturing, or associated industry that violates the requirements of this act; and

(4) Offer information or other appropriate assistance to the person in (3) above.

Provides penalties.