
HOUSE BILL 1486

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Hayes, Takko, Lytton, Orcutt, Vick, Tarleton, and Griffey

Read first time 01/21/15. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to maximum gross weights for vehicle tires;
2 amending RCW 46.44.042; creating a new section; and providing an
3 effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to
6 encourage industry to utilize new tire technologies with improved
7 side wall tire strength ratings that will reduce motor carrier costs
8 when replacing vehicles or tires. This will be accomplished by
9 allowing single tires to be utilized when historically four or more
10 tires are required when an axle is carrying more than ten thousand
11 pounds.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.44.042 and 2006 c 334 s 15 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1) Subject to the maximum gross weights specified in RCW
15 46.44.041, it is unlawful to operate any vehicle upon the public
16 highways with a gross weight, including load, upon (a) any tire
17 concentrated upon the surface of the highway in excess of ((six
18 hundred)) ten thousand pounds ((per inch width of such tire)) or (b)

19 any axle or tandem axle in excess of the manufacturer's side wall
20 tire rating (but not to exceed six hundred pounds per inch width)

1 multiplied by the sum of tire widths, in inches, of the wheels of the
2 axle or tandem axles. (~~An axle manufactured after July 31, 1993,~~
3 ~~carrying more than ten thousand pounds gross weight must be equipped~~
4 ~~with four or more tires. An axle carrying more than ten thousand~~
5 ~~pounds gross weight must have four or more tires, regardless of date~~
6 ~~of manufacture. Instead of the four or more tires per axle~~
7 ~~requirements of this section, an axle may be equipped with two tires~~
8 ~~limited to five hundred pounds per inch width of tire. This section~~
9 ~~does not apply to vehicles operating under oversize or overweight~~
10 ~~permits, or both, issued under RCW 46.44.090, while carrying a~~
11 ~~nonreducible load.))~~

12 (2) The following equipment may operate at six hundred pounds per
13 inch width of tire: ~~((1))~~ (a) A nonliftable steering axle or axles
14 on the power unit; ~~((2))~~ (b) a tiller axle on firefighting
15 apparatus; ~~((3))~~ (c) a rear booster trailing axle equipped with two
16 tires on a ready-mix concrete transit truck; and ~~((4))~~ (d) a
17 straddle trailer manufactured before January 1, 1996, equipped with
18 single-tire axles or a single axle using a walking beam supported by
19 two in-line single tires and used exclusively for the transport of
20 fruit bins between field, storage, and processing. A straddle trailer
21 manufactured after January 1, 1996, meeting this use criteria may
22 carry five hundred fifteen pounds per inch width of tire on sixteen
23 and one-half inch wide tires.

24 (3) For the purposes of this section, the width of the tire is
25 determined by measuring the cross section of the tread of a wheel,
26 the outer face of a track, or the runner of a sled, except (a) the
27 width of the tire in case of solid rubber or hollow center cushion
28 tires, so long as the use ~~((thereof may be))~~ is permitted by ~~((the))~~
29 law, ~~((shall be))~~ is measured between the flanges of the rim~~((For~~
30 the purpose of this section)), and (b) the width of the tire~~((s))~~ in
31 case of pneumatic tires ~~((shall be))~~ is the maximum overall normal
32 inflated width as stipulated by the manufacturer when inflated to the
33 pressure specified and without load thereon.

34 (4) The department of transportation, by rule with respect to
35 state highways, and a local authority, with respect to a public
36 highway under its jurisdiction, may extend the weight table in RCW
37 46.44.041 to one hundred fifteen thousand pounds. However, the
38 extension must be in compliance with federal law, and vehicles
39 operating under the extension must be in full compliance with the
40 1997 axle and tire requirements under this section.

1 (5) This section does not apply to vehicles operating under
2 oversize or overweight permits, or both, issued under RCW 46.44.090,
3 while carrying a nonreducible load.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect August 1, 2015.

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