

FINAL BILL REPORT

SHB 1478

C 431 L 05

Synopsis as Enacted

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

Sponsors: By House Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections (originally sponsored by Representatives Kagi, O'Brien, Simpson, Morrell, Lovick, Kenney, P. Sullivan, Nixon and Chase).

House Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections

House Committee on Appropriations

Senate Committee on Judiciary

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:

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, with criminal negligence, fails to secure all or part of a load to his or her vehicle and, as a result, causes substantial bodily harm to another. Failure to secure a load in the second degree is committed when a person, with criminal negligence, 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.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	96	0	
Senate	43	3	(Senate amended)
House	98	0	(House concurred)

Effective: July 24, 2005