
HOUSE BILL 2233

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Heavey, R. Fisher, Flemming, Karahalios and Rust

Read first time 01/11/94. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to studded tires; amending RCW 46.37.420 and
2 47.36.250; and providing an effective date.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.37.420 and 1990 c 105 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) It is unlawful to operate a vehicle upon the public highways of
7 this state unless it is completely equipped with pneumatic rubber tires
8 except vehicles equipped with temporary-use spare tires that meet
9 federal standards that are installed and used in accordance with the
10 manufacturer's instructions.

11 (2) No tire on a vehicle moved on a highway may have on its
12 periphery any block, flange, cleat, or spike or any other protuberance
13 of any material other than rubber which projects beyond the tread of
14 the traction surface of the tire, except that it is permissible to use
15 farm machinery with tires having protuberances that will not injure the
16 highway, and except also that it is permissible to use tire chains or
17 metal studs imbedded within the tire of reasonable proportions and of
18 a type conforming to rules adopted by the state patrol, upon any
19 vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice, or other

1 conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid. It is unlawful to use
2 metal studs imbedded within the tire between April 1st and November 1st
3 anywhere in the state, and it is unlawful to use studded tires west of
4 the crest of the Cascade mountain range at any time other than when it
5 is snowing or the majority of the roadway is covered by snow or ice.
6 The state department of transportation may, from time to time,
7 determine additional periods in which the use of tires with metal studs
8 imbedded therein is lawful.

9 (3) The state department of transportation and local authorities in
10 their respective jurisdictions may issue special permits authorizing
11 the operation upon a highway of traction engines or tractors having
12 movable tracks with transverse corrugations upon the periphery of the
13 movable tracks or farm tractors or other farm machinery, the operation
14 of which upon a highway would otherwise be prohibited under this
15 section.

16 (4) Tires with metal studs imbedded therein may be used between
17 November 1st and April 1st upon school buses and fire department
18 vehicles, any law or regulation to the contrary notwithstanding.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.36.250 and 1987 c 330 s 747 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 If the department or its delegate determines at any time for any
22 part of the public highway system that the unsafe conditions of the
23 roadway require particular tires, tire chains, or traction equipment in
24 addition to or beyond the ordinary pneumatic rubber tires, the
25 department may establish the following recommendations or requirements
26 with respect to the use of such equipment for all persons using such
27 public highway:

28 (1) Dangerous road conditions, chains or other approved traction
29 devices recommended.

30 (2) Dangerous road conditions, chains or other approved traction
31 devices required.

32 (3) Dangerous road conditions, chains required.

33 Any equipment that may be required by this section shall be
34 approved by the state patrol as authorized under RCW 46.37.420.

35 The department shall place and maintain signs and other traffic
36 control devices on the public highways that indicate the tire, tire
37 chain, or traction equipment recommendation or requirement determined
38 under this section. Such signs or traffic control devices shall in no

1 event prohibit the use of studded tires from November 1st to April
2 1st(~~(, but when)~~) in any part of the state east of the crest of the
3 Cascade mountain range, or when it is snowing or a majority of the
4 roadway is covered by snow or ice west of the Cascade crest. If the
5 department determines that chains are required and that no other
6 traction equipment will suffice, the requirement is applicable to all
7 types of tires including studded tires. The signs or traffic control
8 devices may specify different recommendations or requirements for four
9 wheel drive vehicles in gear.

10 Failure to obey a requirement indicated by a sign or other traffic
11 control device placed or maintained under this section is a
12 misdemeanor.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 1996.

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