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SENATE BILL 5267

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State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      1999 Regular Session

By Senators Stevens, Haugen, Benton, Rossi, Roach and Eide

Read first time 01/18/1999. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to covering materials on vehicles; and amending RCW  
2 46.61.655.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.655 and 1990 c 250 s 56 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any public highway  
7 unless such vehicle is so constructed or loaded as to prevent any of  
8 its load from dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping  
9 therefrom, except that sand may be dropped for the purpose of securing  
10 traction. Any person operating a vehicle from which any glass or  
11 objects have fallen or escaped, which would constitute an obstruction  
12 or injure a vehicle or otherwise endanger travel upon such public  
13 highway shall immediately cause the public highway to be cleaned of all  
14 such glass or objects and shall pay any costs therefor.

15            (2) No person may operate on any public highway any vehicle with  
16 any load unless the load and such covering as required thereon by  
17 subsection (3) of this section is securely fastened to prevent the  
18 covering or load from becoming loose, detached, or in any manner a  
19 hazard to other users of the highway.

1           (3) Any vehicle operating on a paved public highway with a load of  
2 dirt, sand, or gravel susceptible to being dropped, spilled, leaked, or  
3 otherwise escaping therefrom shall be covered so as to prevent  
4 spillage. Covering of such loads is not required if the vehicle is  
5 being operated in counties of less than 200,000 population and six  
6 inches of freeboard is maintained within the bed.

7           (4) Any vehicle with deposits of mud, rocks, or other debris on the  
8 vehicle's body, fenders, frame, undercarriage, wheels, or tires shall  
9 be cleaned of such material before the operation of the vehicle on a  
10 paved public highway.

11           (5) The state patrol may make necessary rules to carry into effect  
12 the provisions of this section, applying such provisions to specific  
13 conditions and loads and prescribing means, methods, and practices to  
14 effectuate such provisions.

15           (6) Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit a public  
16 maintenance vehicle from dropping sand on a highway to enhance  
17 traction, or sprinkling water or other substances to clean or maintain  
18 a highway.

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