
SENATE BILL 5046

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Snyder, Madsen, Jesernig, McMullen, Murray, Stratton, A. Smith and Conner.

Read first time January 17, 1991. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to spare tires; and amending RCW 46.37.425.

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

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.37.425 and 1990 c 105 s 2 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 No person shall drive or move or cause to be driven or moved any
6 vehicle, the tires of which have contact with the driving surface of
7 the road, subject to registration in this state, upon the public
8 highways of this state unless such vehicle is equipped with tires in
9 safe operating condition in accordance with requirements established by
10 this section or by the state patrol.

11 The state patrol shall ~~((promulgate))~~ adopt rules ~~((and~~
12 ~~regulations))~~ setting forth requirements of safe operating condition of
13 tires capable of being employed by a law enforcement officer by visual
14 inspection of tires mounted on vehicles including visual comparison

1 with simple measuring gauges. These rules shall include effects of
2 tread wear and depth of tread.

3 A tire shall be considered unsafe if it has:

4 (1) Any ply or cord exposed either to the naked eye or when cuts or
5 abrasions on the tire are probed; or

6 (2) Any bump, bulge, or knot, affecting the tire structure; or

7 (3) Any break repaired with a boot; or

8 (4) A tread depth of less than 2/32 of an inch measured in any two
9 major tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the
10 circumference of the tire, or for those tires with tread wear
11 indicators, a tire shall be considered unsafe if it is worn to the
12 point that the tread wear indicators contact the road in any two major
13 tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the
14 circumference of the tire; or

15 (5) A legend which indicates the tire is not intended for use on
16 public highways such as, "not for highway use" or "for racing purposes
17 only"; or

18 (6) Such condition as may be reasonably demonstrated to render it
19 unsafe; or

20 (7) If not matched in tire size designation, construction, and
21 profile to the other tire ((and/or)) or tires on the same axle(~~(~~
22 ~~except for temporary use spare tires that meet federal standards that~~
23 ~~are installed and used in accordance with the manufacturer's~~
24 ~~instructions))~~). All new passenger cars sold in this state after
25 December 31, 1993, must have as standard equipment a spare tire that is
26 matched in tire size designation, construction, and profile to the
27 other tires on the vehicle.

28 No person, firm, or corporation shall sell any vehicle for use on
29 the public highways of this state unless the vehicle is equipped with
30 tires that are in compliance with the provisions of this section. If

1 the tires are found to be in violation of the provisions of this
2 section, the person, firm, or corporation selling the vehicle shall
3 cause such tires to be removed from the vehicle and shall equip the
4 vehicle with tires that are in compliance with the provisions of this
5 section.

6 It is a traffic infraction for any person to operate a vehicle on
7 the public highways of this state, or to sell a vehicle for use on the
8 public highways of this state, which is equipped with a tire or tires
9 in violation of the provisions of this section or the rules ((~~and~~
10 ~~regulations promulgated~~)) adopted by the state patrol hereunder:
11 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That if the violation relates to items (1) to (7)
12 inclusive of this section then the condition or defect must be such
13 that it can be detected by a visual inspection of tires mounted on
14 vehicles, including visual comparison with simple measuring gauges.