

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6440**

---

**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1998 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Heavey, Prince, Haugen, Horn, Winsley and Jacobsen; by request of Department of Transportation)

Read first time 02/05/98. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to studded tires; amending RCW 46.37.420; adding a  
2 new section to chapter 46.04 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 46.37  
3 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 "Lightweight stud" means a stud intended for installation and use  
8 in a vehicle tire. As used in this title, this means a stud that is  
9 recommended by the manufacturer of the tire for the type and size of  
10 the tire and that:

11 (1) Weighs no more than 1.5 grams if the stud conforms to Tire Stud  
12 Manufacturing Institute (TSMI) stud size 14 or less;

13 (2) Weighs no more than 2.3 grams if the stud conforms to TSMI stud  
14 size 15 or 16; or

15 (3) Weighs no more than 3.0 grams if the stud conforms to TSMI stud  
16 size 17 or larger.

17 A lightweight stud may contain any materials necessary to achieve the  
18 lighter weight.

1       The state patrol may modify this definition by rule adopted under  
2 chapter 34.05 RCW. The effective date of any modification must allow  
3 a reasonable phase-in period.

4       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.37 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6       Beginning January 1, 1999, a person offering to sell to a tire  
7 dealer conducting business in the state of Washington, a metal flange  
8 or cleat intended for installation as a stud in a vehicle tire shall  
9 certify that the studs are lightweight studs as defined in section 1 of  
10 this act. Certification must be accomplished by clearly marking the  
11 boxes or containers used to ship and store studs with the designation  
12 "lightweight." This section does not apply to tires or studs in a  
13 wholesaler's existing inventory as of January 1, 1999.

14       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.37 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16       Beginning July 1, 2000, a person may not sell a studded tire or  
17 sell a stud for installation in a tire unless the stud qualifies as a  
18 lightweight stud under section 1 of this act.

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

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

26       (2) No tire on a vehicle moved on a highway may have on its  
27 periphery any block, flange, cleat, or spike or any other protuberance  
28 of any material other than rubber which projects beyond the tread of  
29 the traction surface of the tire, except that it is permissible to use  
30 farm machinery with tires having protuberances that will not injure the  
31 highway, and except also that it is permissible to use tire chains or  
32 metal studs imbedded within the tire of reasonable proportions and of  
33 a type conforming to rules adopted by the state patrol in accordance  
34 with section 1 of this act, upon any vehicle when required for safety  
35 because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to  
36 skid. It is unlawful to use metal studs imbedded within the tire

1 between April 1st and November 1st. The state department of  
2 transportation may, from time to time, determine additional periods in  
3 which the use of tires with metal studs imbedded therein is lawful.

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

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

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Section 4 of this act takes effect July 1,  
15 2004.

--- END ---