
SENATE BILL 5827

State of Washington 56th Legislature 1999 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Fraser, Kohl-Welles and Long

Read first time 02/10/1999. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to load covering for vehicles on public highways;
2 and amending RCW 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 six inches of~~
5 ~~freeboard is maintained within the bed.~~)

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

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

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

--- END ---