
HOUSE BILL 1894

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Mielke, Dunn, Lovick, Boldt and Keiser

Read first time 02/08/2001. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the time for using studded tires; and amending
2 RCW 46.37.420 and 47.36.250.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.37.420 and 1999 c 208 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 equipped with pneumatic tires or solid rubber tracks
16 having protuberances that will not injure the highway, and except also
17 that it is permissible to use tire chains or metal studs imbedded
18 within the tire of reasonable proportions and of a type conforming to
19 rules adopted by the state patrol, upon any vehicle when required for

1 safety because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a
2 vehicle to skid. For a vehicle registered in a county east of the
3 crest of the Cascade mountain range, it is unlawful to use metal studs
4 imbedded within the tire between April 1st and November 1st. For a
5 vehicle registered in a county west of the crest of the Cascade
6 mountain range, it is unlawful to use metal studs imbedded within the
7 tire between March 1st and December 1st. The state department of
8 transportation may, from time to time, determine additional periods in
9 which the use of tires with metal studs imbedded therein is lawful.

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (3) Dangerous road conditions, chains required.

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

36 The department shall place and maintain signs and other traffic
37 control devices on the public highways that indicate the tire, tire
38 chain, or traction equipment recommendation or requirement determined

1 under this section. Such signs or traffic control devices shall in no
2 event prohibit the use of studded tires (~~(from November 1st to April~~
3 ~~1st))~~ when used in accordance with RCW 46.37.420, but when the
4 department determines that chains are required and that no other
5 traction equipment will suffice, the requirement is applicable to all
6 types of tires including studded tires. The signs or traffic control
7 devices may specify different recommendations or requirements for four
8 wheel drive vehicles in gear.

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

--- END ---