
SENATE BILL 6320

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Winsley, Kohl-Welles and Carlson; by request of Department of Transportation

Read first time 01/16/2004. Referred to Committee on Highways & Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to studded tires; amending RCW 46.37.420;
2 reenacting and amending RCW 47.36.250; and providing an effective date.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.36.250 and 2003 c 356 s 1 and 2003 c 53 s 259 are
5 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 (1) If the department or its delegate determines at any time for
7 any part of the public highway system that the unsafe conditions of the
8 roadway require particular tires, tire chains, or traction equipment in
9 addition to or beyond the ordinary pneumatic rubber tires, the
10 department may establish the following recommendations or requirements
11 with respect to the use of such equipment for all persons using such
12 public highway:

13 (a) Traction advisory - oversize vehicles prohibited.

14 (b) Traction advisory - oversize vehicles prohibited. Vehicles
15 over 10,000 GVW - chains required.

16 (c) Traction advisory - oversize vehicles prohibited. All vehicles
17 - chains required, except all wheel drive.

18 (2) Any equipment that may be required by this section shall be
19 approved by the state patrol as authorized under RCW 46.37.420.

1 (3) The department shall place and maintain signs and other traffic
2 control devices on the public highways that indicate the tire, tire
3 chain, or traction equipment recommendation or requirement determined
4 under this section. ~~((Such signs or traffic control devices shall in
5 no event prohibit the use of studded tires from November 1st to April
6 1st, but when the department determines that chains are required and
7 that no other traction equipment will suffice, the requirement is
8 applicable to all types of tires including studded tires.))~~ The
9 Washington state patrol or the department may specify different
10 recommendations or requirements for four wheel drive vehicles in gear.

11 (4) Failure to obey a requirement indicated under this section is
12 a traffic infraction under chapter 46.63 RCW subject to a penalty of
13 five hundred dollars including all statutory assessments.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.37.420 and 1999 c 208 s 1 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

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

21 (2) No tire on a vehicle moved on a highway may have on its
22 periphery any block, flange, cleat, or spike or any other protuberance
23 of any material other than rubber which projects beyond the tread of
24 the traction surface of the tire, except that it is permissible (a) to
25 use farm machinery equipped with pneumatic tires or solid rubber tracks
26 having protuberances that will not injure the highway, and ~~((except
27 also that it is permissible))~~ (b) to use tire chains ~~((or metal studs
28 imbedded within the tire of reasonable proportions and of a type
29 conforming to rules adopted by the state patrol, upon any vehicle when
30 required for safety because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending
31 to cause a vehicle to skid. It is unlawful to use metal studs imbedded
32 within the tire between April 1st and November 1st. The state
33 department of transportation may, from time to time, determine
34 additional periods in which the use of tires with metal studs imbedded
35 therein is lawful))~~.

36 (3) The state department of transportation and local authorities in
37 their respective jurisdictions may issue special permits authorizing

1 the operation upon a highway of traction engines or tractors having
2 movable tracks with transverse corrugations upon the periphery of the
3 movable tracks or farm tractors or other farm machinery, the operation
4 of which upon a highway would otherwise be prohibited under this
5 section.

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

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2004.

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