
Transportation Committee

HB 2643

Brief Description: Allowing vehicles with aftermarket hydraulic systems to operate on public roadways.

Sponsors: Representatives Clements, Kenney, Upthegrove and Strow.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allowing the use of aftermarket vehicle hydraulics on public roads under certain conditions.

Hearing Date: 1/23/06

Staff: Teresa Berntsen (786-7301).

Background:

Vehicle hydraulic systems are sometimes installed on cars that have been lowered and have limited ground clearance. Hydraulics are used to temporarily raise the car to drive over speed bumps or rough roads, or for recreation or show.

Prior to November 2005, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) prohibited aftermarket vehicle hydraulic systems from being activated while the vehicle is driven on a public roadway. The 2005 Legislature passed Substitute House Bill 1381, which allowed the use of vehicle hydraulics on public roads under certain conditions. This bill was vetoed by the Governor due to technical concerns. The Governor directed the Washington State Patrol to implement the intent of the bill by WAC, which took effect in November 2005.

Summary of Bill:

Aftermarket vehicle hydraulic systems are allowed on public roads under the following conditions:

- The posted speed limit on the road is 25 miles per hour or less.
- The vehicle is traveling 15 miles per hour or less.
- No portion of the tire leaves the surface of the roadway.
- The hydraulic system does not cause or emit sparks.

Local jurisdictions may enact stricter regulations.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.