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HOUSE BILL 2187

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Tom, Hudgins, Upthegrove, Williams and Kagi

Read first time 02/22/2005. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to recovery of costs of studded tire damage to  
2 highways; amending RCW 46.37.420; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that substantial  
5 pavement damage is caused by studded tire use. Wisconsin and Minnesota  
6 are among the states that have prohibited the use of studded tires for  
7 this reason. Therefore, to offset pavement maintenance and  
8 preservation costs, an annual fee is established to recognize and  
9 recover the cost of studded tire damage to the roadways.

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

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

17           (2) No tire on a vehicle moved on a highway may have on its  
18 periphery any block, flange, cleat, or spike or any other protuberance

1 of any material other than rubber which projects beyond the tread of  
2 the traction surface of the tire, except that it is permissible to use  
3 farm machinery equipped with pneumatic tires or solid rubber tracks  
4 having protuberances that will not injure the highway, and except also  
5 that it is permissible to use tire chains or metal studs imbedded  
6 within the tire of reasonable proportions and of a type conforming to  
7 rules adopted by the state patrol, upon any vehicle when required for  
8 safety because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a  
9 vehicle to skid. It is unlawful to use metal studs imbedded within the  
10 tire between April 1st and November 1st, or at any time without a  
11 permit. The state department of transportation may, from time to time,  
12 determine additional periods in which the use of tires with metal studs  
13 imbedded therein is lawful.

14 (3) It is unlawful to use metal studs imbedded within the tire at  
15 any time without a permit. Upon the payment of an additional fee of  
16 twenty-five dollars at the time the vehicle is licensed, the department  
17 of licensing shall issue a permit for the use of studded tires on a  
18 particular vehicle for the following year.

19 (4) The state department of transportation and local authorities in  
20 their respective jurisdictions may issue special permits authorizing  
21 the operation upon a highway of traction engines or tractors having  
22 movable tracks with transverse corrugations upon the periphery of the  
23 movable tracks or farm tractors or other farm machinery, the operation  
24 of which upon a highway would otherwise be prohibited under this  
25 section.

26 ((+4)) (5) Tires with metal studs imbedded therein may be used  
27 between November 1st and April 1st upon school buses and fire  
28 department vehicles, any law or regulation to the contrary  
29 notwithstanding.

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