

SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 6112

As Passed Senate, February 8, 2012

Title: An act relating to the use of alternative traction devices on tires under certain conditions.

Brief Description: Concerning the use of alternative traction devices on tires under certain conditions.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Eide, King, Haugen, Fain and Shin).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 1/17/12, 1/23/12 [DPS].
Passed Senate: 2/08/12, 49-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6112 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Eide, Vice Chair; King, Ranking Minority Member; Fain, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Delvin, Ericksen, Frockt, Hill, Hobbs, Litzow, Prentice, Ranker, Rolfes, Sheldon, Shin and Swecker.

Staff: Clint McCarthy (786-7319)

Background: The definition of tire traction devices in RCW 46.37.420 includes tire chains or metal studs imbedded within a tire. All traction devices used on tires must conform to rules adopted by the Washington State Patrol (WSP.)

Summary of Substitute Bill: Alternative traction devices on tires, in addition to tire chains and metal studs, are allowed to prevent a vehicle from skidding in slippery conditions, subject to conformance with rules adopted by the WSP.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill: PRO: There have been over 2 million sets of autosocks (alternative traction devices to chains and studded tires) sold in 35 different countries. The autosock has been approved for use in the state of Colorado for semi-trucks when snow chains are required. McGee Company has data from testing in Germany, Austria, and Colorado that can be made available for review.

OTHER: This bill potentially opens the market to a number of devices. Testing of alternative traction devices could result in restrictions that are not currently provided for in state law, depending on the testing results. While this bill allows for the use of alternative traction devices, it is up to the State Patrol to determine whether or not a device can be used through test results.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Chuck McGee, Mike Groesch, McGee Company.

OTHER: Melissa Van Gorkom, WSP.