
SENATE BILL 6112

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators Eide, King, Haugen, Fain, and Shin

Read first time 01/11/12. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the use of alternative traction devices on tires
2 under certain conditions; and amending RCW 46.37.420.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.37.420 and 2007 c 140 s 2 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
13 ((protuberance)) device of any material other than rubber which
14 projects beyond the tread of the traction surface of the tire, except
15 that it is permissible to use farm machinery equipped with pneumatic
16 tires or solid rubber tracks having protuberances that will not injure
17 the highway, and except also that it is permissible to use tire chains,
18 alternative traction devices, or metal studs imbedded within the tire
19 of reasonable proportions and of a type conforming to rules adopted by

1 the state patrol, upon any vehicle when required for safety because of
2 snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid. It
3 is unlawful to use metal studs imbedded within the tire between April
4 1st and November 1st, except that a vehicle may be equipped year-round
5 with tires that have retractable studs if: (a) The studs retract
6 pneumatically or mechanically to below the wear bar of the tire when
7 not in use; and (b) the retractable studs are engaged only between
8 November 1st and April 1st. Retractable studs may be made of metal or
9 other material and are not subject to the lightweight stud weight
10 requirements under RCW 46.04.272. The state department of
11 transportation may, from time to time, determine additional periods in
12 which the use of tires with metal studs imbedded therein is lawful.

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

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

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