

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0085

Motor vehicle chain law.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Blake, Craft, Davison and Jaggi and Senator(s) Cooper, Hastert, Johnson and Martin

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; amending requirements
2 for use of tire chains on motor vehicles as specified;
3 providing penalties; providing a definition; and providing
4 for an effective date.

5

6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 31-5-956(e) and by creating new
9 subsections (j) and (k) is amended to read:

10

11 **31-5-956. Tires; restriction of travel under**
12 **hazardous conditions; penalties.**

13

14 (e) ~~Travel on a highway may be restricted to all~~
15 ~~wheel drive vehicles or motor vehicles equipped with tire~~
16 ~~chains or adequate snow tires~~ When the superintendent or

1 his authorized representative determines that travel is
2 sufficiently hazardous due to snow, ice or other conditions
3 travel on a highway may be restricted to use only by motor
4 vehicles equipped with adequate snow tires or tire chains,
5 motor vehicles that are all-wheel drive vehicles or
6 necessary emergency vehicles as defined in W.S.
7 31-5-1302(a)(iii), including snow plows. The superintendent
8 or his authorized representative may further restrict
9 travel in extremely hazardous conditions to use only by
10 necessary emergency vehicles as defined in W.S.
11 31-5-1302(a)(iii), including snow plows, and those vehicles
12 equipped with tire chains or to all-wheel drive vehicles
13 equipped with adequate snow tires with a mud and snow or
14 all-weather rating from the manufacturer having a tread of
15 sufficient abrasive or skid-resistant design or composition
16 and depth to provide adequate traction under existing
17 driving conditions. The prohibition or restriction of use
18 shall be effective when signs, including temporary or
19 electronic signs, giving notice thereof are erected upon
20 that portion of the highway, and it shall be unlawful to
21 proceed in violation of the notice. The operator of a
22 commercial vehicle with four (4) or more drive wheels with
23 spacing of five (5) feet or less between axles shall affix
24 tire chains to at least two (2) of the drive wheels of the

1 vehicle at opposite ends of the same drive axle when the
2 vehicle is required to be equipped with tire chains under
3 this subsection. The state highway patrol shall cooperate
4 with the department in the enforcement of any closing or
5 restriction of use under this subsection.

6
7 (j) Any person who operates a motor vehicle in
8 violation of restrictions imposed by the department or the
9 highway patrol under subsection (e) of this section is
10 guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be
11 subject to a penalty of not more than two hundred fifty
12 dollars (\$250.00). Any person who operates a motor vehicle
13 in violation of restrictions imposed by the department or
14 the highway patrol under subsection (e) of this section,
15 where the result of the violation is an incident that
16 causes the closure of all lanes in one (1) or both
17 directions of the highway, is guilty of a misdemeanor and
18 upon conviction shall be subject to a penalty of not more
19 than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00).

20
21 (k) As used in this section, "tire chains" means
22 metal chains which consist of two (2) circular metal loops,
23 one (1) on each side of the tire, connected by not less
24 than nine (9) evenly spaced chains across the tire tread

1 and any other traction devices differing from metal chains
2 in construction, material or design but capable of
3 providing traction equal to or exceeding that of metal
4 chains under similar conditions.

5

6 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2009.

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8

(END)