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Alaska State Legislature

Senate Transportation Committee



Sen. John B. (Jack) Coghill, Chairman
Sen. Paul Fischer, Vice-chairman
Sen. Mitch Abood
Sen. Jan Finks
Sen. Joe Josephson

Douch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

April 14, 1986

TO: All Committee Members

FROM: Committee Staff

RE: SB 424, Snow Tires

Last Wednesday the committee heard a committee substitute for SB 424, requiring snow tires on rental vehicles.

This CS reflects the concerns of the committee. It was observed that the committee is concerned about safety, but also desired setting up a workable structure for the rental owner.

In Sec. 1 (f) the CS reflects the dates now used throughout the state when snow tires can be used. The sponsor's original language is maintained, "shall equip vehicles from the rental fleet at each rental location," but no percentage or minimum number of vehicles is required to comply with this law.

"Rental fleet" is defined as unrented vehicles and those already rented. This provision would insure that the renter would not be penalized because he or she does not have a car available with snow tires.

STATE OF ALASKA 1986 LEGISLATIVE SESSION FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date : _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. : SB 424
 Title : "An Act relating to studded tires or chains on rented motor vehicles."
 Sponsor : Senator Sackett
 Requestor : Senate Transportation
 Date of Request : 4/03/86

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected : PUBLIC SAFETY
 BRU : DPS Administration
 Components : _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES : (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING : (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS :

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : Attach a separate page if necessary

Prepared by : *K Niles* Kathy Niles, Admin Assistant Phone : 465-4336
 Division : Commissioner's Office Date : 4/03/86
 Approved by Commissioner : *J* *Wm JBS* Date : 4/3/86
 Agency : Public Safety

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

Ford
4/16/86 ✓

Original sponsor: Sackett

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 424 (Transportation)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to studded tires or chains on rented
7 motor vehicles."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 28.35.024 is amended by adding a new subsection to
10 read:11 (f) Except for that period when studded tires or chains are
12 prohibited under AS 28.35.155, a person who rents motor vehicles to
13 others shall, upon request of the person to whom the vehicle is to be
14 rented, provide a vehicle equipped with studded tires or chains
15 adequate to inhibit skidding or loss of control of the vehicle. This
16 subsection does not apply to a person who rents motor vehicles to
17 others if all available motor vehicles equipped with studded tires or
18 chains are temporarily not at the rental location because they have
19 been rented to a customer.
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Car and Truck Renting and Leasing Association

State Wide Headquarters
P.O. Box 190028
Anchorage, Alaska 99519
Telephone (907) 243 - 4300



March 17, 1986
MAR 20 1986

Senator John B. (Jack) Coghill
Chairman, Senate Transportation Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Coghill:

I'm now writing under a different hat as President of the Car and Truck Rental and Leasing Association (CATRALA) of Alaska. Representing that organization, I am most concerned about Senate Bill No. 424 - "An Act relating to studded tires or chains on rented motor vehicles.". We don't understand what triggered this, but here are our concerns:

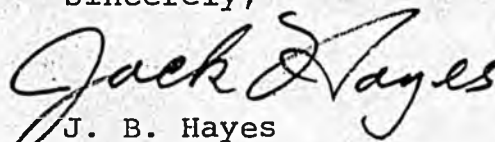
- None of us are aware of any identified safety problem that requires this legislation. Indeed, knowledgeable Alaskan drivers know that under some winter conditions, the use of chains can be more rather than less hazardous -- or at best, offer no greater degree of safety.
- As a matter of policy, chains are not provided for local city travel or travel to nearby locations. Experience has shown that chains encourage some customers to try to go where they shouldn't during winter months or drive faster than is safe. The proposed bill could inadvertently result in unsafe use of our vehicles.
- Most rental agencies provide studded snow tires on the majority of rental vehicles, on the drive-wheels. However, at least one rental agency does not use them. The customer thus can make the choice.
- Certain of the high-quality radial tires are all-weather and are used year-round on some makes of cars.
- Thus, the bill imposes an added cost for no apparently justifiable reason.
- In general, such specificity in the law is poor practice and to the degree justified should be left to regulation.
- To the best of our knowledge, rental car operators are providing customers with cars that drive adequately under winter conditions. For example, chains are often provided as a matter of course to intercity travelers.

March 17, 1986

I understand that a hearing has been scheduled at 3:30 p.m., March 26, using the teleconference room here in Anchorage. Mr. Bob Vitale of Holiday Payless in Fairbanks would also like to testify at your Fairbanks teleconference center if that is possible. Please ask your staff to let me know.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



J. B. Hayes
President
CATRALA

:cm

cc Senator John C. Sackett

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR

John C. Sackett

CO-CHAIRMAN
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEMBER

LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE
BUDGET & AUDIT COMMITTEE
SENATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES



Senate

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WHILE IN JUNEAU
POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
TELEPHONE 465-3753

ANCHORAGE
TELEPHONE 272-3404

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 9, 1986

To: Senator Sackett

From: Max Gifford,
Administrative Aide

Subj: SB-424. relating to studded tires or chains on
rental motor vehicles

The proposed Sen. Transportation Committee CS effectively kills the purpose and intent of your original bill. A rental agency would be happy to rent any vehicle to anyone who wanted studded tires or chains if they had them available. The fact is (and testimony to the committee verified that fact) rental agencies do not have studded tires or chains readily available for those who request them. Your bill simply requires that rental agencies make the effort to have such equipment on hand during certain months so that those who want them may request the equipment for the rental vehicle. If all the equipment is being used, then the potential customer has the choice to accept a vehicle without studded tires or chains or move on to another rental agency.

I talked with Mike Ford, Legal Services, and he said that the CS effectively makes the intent of the bill, moot.

MEMO - Gifford to Sackett
Effect of Trns. CS

Original sponsor: Sackett

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 424 (Transportation)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to studded tires or chains on rented
7 motor vehicles."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 28.35.024 is amended by adding a new subsection to
10 read:

11 (f) During the period from October 1 to April 1 of each year, a
12 person who rents motor vehicles to others shall, upon request of the
13 person to whom the vehicle is to be rented, provide a vehicle equipped
14 with studded tires or chains adequate to inhibit skidding or loss of
15 control of the vehicle, if the person has a vehicle equipped with
16 studded tires or chains available for rental.
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Alaska State Legislature

Senate Transportation Committee



Sen. John B. (Jack) Coghill, Chairman
Sen. Paul Fischer, Vice-Chairman
Sen. Mitch Abood
Sen. Jan Fuiks
Sen. Joe Josephson

Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

March 26, 1986

TO: All Committee Members
FROM: Committee Staff
RE: Today's meeting

Today the committee will hear SB 424, "An Act relating to studded tires or chains on rented motor vehicles." This bill, sponsored by Senator Sackett, would add a new section to Chapter 35, the miscellaneous provisions of the motor vehicle code. This bill would make it mandatory for car rental agencies to supply cars with studded tires or chains from October 1 to April 1 upon the request of the renter.

Mr. Jack Hayes, president of the Car and Truck Renting and Leasing Association and Mr. Bob Vitale of Holiday Payless in Fairbanks will be testify via teleconference.

Mr. Max Gifford of Senator Sackett's office will testify on the merits of the bill.

On another subject, the committee substitute for SB 428, the prepared rights of way bill, will be up for consideration.

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR

John C. Sackett

CO-CHAIRMAN
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEMBER
LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE
BUDGET & AUDIT COMMITTEE
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Senate

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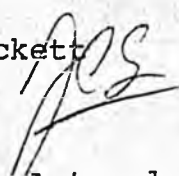
WHILE IN JUNEAU
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JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
TELEPHONE 485-3753

ANCHORAGE
TELEPHONE 272-3404

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 26, 1986

To: Senator Jack Coghill
Chair - Senate Transportation Committee

From: John C. Sackett
Senator 

Subj: SB-424, an Act relating to studded tires or chains on rented motor vehicles

As a result of a personal experience which happened to me last Fall, I have introduced SB-424, which adds a new subsection to AS 28.35.024, pertaining to the rental of motor vehicles.

I rented a vehicle in Anchorage last year on the day snow first fell last Fall. I inquired about having studded tires but was informed that the vehicle was equipped with adequate tires for the icy road conditions. Shortly after leaving the rental facility I attempted to brake and found that I had little or no control over the rental car. I bumped into the rear of another vehicle. Following the mishap I inquired as to the laws pertaining to renting vehicles and whether it was required to provide studded tires or chains when weather conditions warranted. I learned that such a law did not exist.

My staff contacted the National Safety Council and learned that chains and studded tires provided greater safety to motorists when ice and snow make road conditions dangerous. With this information at hand I decided it would be in the best interest of the driving public that they at least have the option of having studded tires or chains on vehicles they may rent. The facts seem clear, all-weather radial tires do not provide the driver of a vehicle with any additional safeguards while driving in snow or ice. The attached fact sheet from the National Safety Council supports the conclusion that the statutes should be amended to include provisions for studded tires or chains for those drivers who desire them.

FANCY SNOW TIRES STILL SPIN: All that fancy tread work on snow tires doesn't do a heck of a lot for winter drivers, according to a National Safety Council study. In fact, the average snow tire performed worse than regular tires on glare-ice braking tests. Adding metal (i.e. studs or chains) to their rubber is the best safeguard for winter drivers, the study concludes. Here's the test results, based on percent improvement over regular tires:

TRACTION ON GLARE ICE:

snow tires 28 percent
 studded snow tires 218 percent
 tire chains 630 percent

TRACTION ON LOOSELY PACKED SNOW:

snow tires 51 percent
 studded tires no data
 tire chains 313 percent

BRAKING ON GLARE ICE:

snow tires -1 percent
 studded tires 19 percent
 tire chains 49 percent

BRAKING ON LOOSELY PACKED SNOW:

snow tires 13 percent
 studded tires no data
 tire chains 37 percent

TRACTION RATING

ON GLARE ICE at 25°F							
REGULAR TIRES	100						% IMPROVEMENT OVER REG. TIRE
SNOW TIRES	128						28%
STUDED SNOW TIRES			318				218%
REINFORCED TIRE CHAINS						730	630%
ON LOOSELY PACKED SNOW							
SNOW TIRES	151						51%
REINFORCED TIRE CHAINS				413			313%
RATING 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700							

BRAKING DISTANCE

FROM 20 MPH—AFTER YOU GET YOUR FOOT ON THE PEDAL
(REACTION TIME ADDS ANOTHER 22 FEET TO THE FIGURES SHOWN)

ON GLARE ICE at 25°F							
REGULAR TIRES						150	% IMPROVEMENT OVER REG. TIRE
SNOW TIRES						151	-1%
STUDED SNOW TIRES			120				19%
REINFORCED TIRE CHAINS					75		50%
ON LOOSELY PACKED SNOW							
REGULAR TIRES		60					—
SNOW TIRES			52				13%
REINFORCED TIRE CHAINS				38			37%
FEET 0 25 50 75 100 125 150 175							



National Safety Council

444 North Michigan Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60611