

2024 -- H 7470

LC004411

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES -- SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS

Introduced By: Representatives Cardillo, Azzinaro, Noret, Finkelman, Shanley, Felix,  
Phillips, Serpa, O'Brien, and Handy

Date Introduced: February 02, 2024

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

(Dept. of Transportation)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-25-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-25 entitled "Size,  
2 Weight, and Load Limits" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-25-10. Fastening of load and covering.**

4 (a) No person shall operate on any highway any vehicle with any load unless the load and  
5 any covering on it is securely fastened so as to prevent the covering or load from becoming loose,  
6 detached, or in any manner a hazard to other users of the highway.

7 (b) No motor truck trailer or semitrailer which is used for the purpose of hauling logs,  
8 pulpwood, lumber, or other materials which by their very nature may shift or roll so as to be likely  
9 to fall from the vehicle, shall be operated or moved over any highway unless its load is securely  
10 fastened to the vehicle by chains, cables, or other approved devices as will effectively prevent the  
11 shifting of the load or any part of it falling from the vehicle. The ends of the chains, cables, or other  
12 devices and any tire chains shall be tied securely, whether the vehicle is loaded or unloaded, so that  
13 loose ends shall not endanger pedestrians or other vehicles encountered on the highway.

14 (c) This section shall not be construed to include a truck transporting lumber, wood, or  
15 sawmill wastes, when transported in a box type body with solid sides, provided that the truck is not  
16 loaded higher than its side-boards.

17 (d) A person who violates the provisions of this section shall be fined:

18 (1) Not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) for the first violation; and

19 (2) Not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500) for

1 any subsequent violations.

2 (e) No person shall operate a motor truck or other vehicle carrying or transporting any  
3 rubbish, refuse, or other debris or loose material on any highway without first securely fastening a  
4 covering on it to prevent the contents from falling to the highway. No person shall operate on any  
5 highway any vehicle with any load unless the load and any covering on it is securely fastened so  
6 as to prevent that covering or load from becoming loose, detached, or in any manner a hazard to  
7 other users of the highway. The covering must remain in place and secured during travel on any  
8 highway until the contents have been properly cleaned and purged from the vehicle.

9 (f) No person shall operate an open motor truck or other similar vehicle while carrying or  
10 transporting any child under sixteen (16) years of age without securely fastening the child to prevent  
11 them from becoming loose or detached in any manner.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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- 1           This act would add "loose material" to the contents of a vehicle that must be covered by a
- 2 covering that must remain in place until the vehicle's contents are purged from the vehicle.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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