

1 **Tail Light Obstruction Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Scott H. Chew**

Senate Sponsor:

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2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill addresses vehicle lighting requirements relating to cargo carriers and bicycle racks.

5 **Highlighted Provisions:**

6 This bill:

7 ▶ prohibits operating a motor vehicle when a cargo carrier obscures required tail lights  
8 unless auxiliary lighting equipment or reflectors are installed;

9 ▶ establishes compliance requirements for operators;

10 ▶ provides standards for auxiliary lighting equipment and reflectors;

11 ▶ establishes exemptions for certain vehicles; and

12 ▶ provides penalties for violations.

13 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

14 None

15 **Other Special Clauses:**

16 None

17 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

18 ENACTS:

19 **41-6a-1647**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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20 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

21 Section 1. Section **41-6a-1647** is enacted to read:

22 **41-6a-1647 . Tail light obstruction prohibited -- Cargo carriers and bicycle racks.**

23 (1) As used in this section:

24 (a) "Bicycle rack" means any device attached to a vehicle for the purpose of transporting  
25 bicycles.

26 (b) "Cargo carrier" means any device attached to a vehicle for the purpose of  
27 transporting cargo, luggage, or equipment, including:

28 (i) a hitch-mounted cargo carrier;

- 31           (ii) a bicycle rack;  
32           (iii) a cargo tray; and  
33           (iv) a cargo basket.
- 34           (c) "Reflector" means a device designed to reflect light from another light source to  
35           provide visibility of the device.
- 36           (d) "Tail light" or "tail lamp" means the rear lighting equipment required under Section  
37           41-6a-1603.
- 38           (2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), an individual may not operate a vehicle  
39           to which a cargo carrier is attached on a highway if the cargo carrier obscures,  
40           obstructs, or blocks a required tail light such that the tail light is not clearly visible  
41           from a distance of 500 feet to the rear of the vehicle.
- 42           (b) An individual may operate a vehicle as described in Subsection (2)(a) if the  
43           individual installs auxiliary lighting equipment or reflectors in accordance with  
44           Subsection (3).
- 45           (3)(a) If an individual operates a vehicle on a highway with a cargo carrier that obscures,  
46           obstructs, or blocks a tail light, the individual shall install auxiliary lighting  
47           equipment or reflectors installed as described in Subsection (3)(b).
- 48           (b) An individual required to install auxiliary lighting or reflectors required under  
49           Subsection (3)(a) shall:
- 50           (i) mount or attach the auxiliary light or reflector onto the cargo carrier;  
51           (ii) if auxiliary lighting equipment is installed, ensure that the auxiliary lighting:  
52           (A) is wired to activate simultaneously with the vehicle's standard tail lights and  
53           brake lights;  
54           (B) is red in color and visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the rear; and  
55           (iii) meet or exceed the standards established by the Department of Public Safety  
56           under Section 41-6a-1601;
- 57           (c) if reflectors are installed, ensure that the reflectors:  
58           (i) are red in color;  
59           (ii) are visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the rear when illuminated by the  
60           headlights of a motor vehicle; and  
61           (iii) meet or exceed the standards established by the Department of Public Safety  
62           under Section 41-6a-1601; or
- 63           (d) install both auxiliary lighting and reflectors that meet the requirements of  
64           Subsections (3)(b) and (c).

65     (4)(a) A violation of this section is an infraction punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100  
66             for a first offense.

67             (b) A second or subsequent violation within three years is punishable by a fine not to  
68             exceed \$200.

69             Section 2. **Effective Date.**

70             This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.