

VEHICLE LOAD PENALTIES AMENDMENTS

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jani Iwamoto

House Sponsor: Mike Winder

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to penalties for operating a vehicle with an unsecured load.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

▶ ~~§→ [makes any repeat violator subject to an increased fine.]~~ extends the time period for which a subsequent violation is subject to an increased fine. ←§

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

72-7-409, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2017, Chapter 150

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

Section 1. Section **72-7-409** is amended to read:

72-7-409. Loads on vehicles -- Limitations -- Confining, securing, and fastening load required -- Penalty.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Agricultural product" means any raw product which is derived from agriculture,

S.B. 152



59 (a) being transported in a manner which is not a hazard or a potential hazard to the safe
60 operation of the vehicle or to other highway users; and

61 (b) loaded in a manner that only allows minimal spillage.

62 (5) (a) An authorized vehicle performing snow removal services on a highway is
63 exempt from the requirements of this section.

64 (b) This section does not prohibit the necessary spreading of any substance connected
65 with highway maintenance, construction, securing traction, or snow removal.

66 (6) (a) Any person suspected of operating a vehicle with an unsecured load on a
67 highway may be issued a warning.

68 (b) Any person who violates this section is guilty of:

69 (i) an infraction, if the violation creates a hazard but does not lead to a motor vehicle
70 accident;

71 (ii) a class B misdemeanor, if the violation creates a hazard that leads to a motor
72 vehicle accident; or

73 (iii) a class A misdemeanor, if the violation creates a hazard that leads to a motor
74 vehicle accident that results in the serious bodily injury or death of a person.

75 (c) A person who violates a provision of this section shall be fined not less than:

76 (i) \$200 for a violation; or

77 (ii) \$500 for a second or subsequent violation ~~§→ [within three years of a previous~~
78 ~~violation]~~ within §→ [10] six ←§ years of a previous violation ←§ of this section.

79 (d) A person who violates a provision of this section while operating a commercial
80 vehicle as defined in Section 72-9-102 shall be fined:

81 (i) not less than \$500 for a violation; or

82 (ii) \$1,000 for a second or subsequent violation ~~§→ [within three years of a previous~~
83 ~~violation]~~ within §→ [10] six ←§ years of a previous violation ←§ of this section.

84 (7) As resources and opportunities allow, the department shall implement programs or
85 activities that increase public awareness on the importance of properly securing loads.