

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0016

Restricted travel.

Sponsored by: Joint Transportation and Highways Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; creating requirements
2 for restricting travel on highways as specified; providing
3 definitions; providing for exceptions; repealing
4 inconsistent provisions; providing for penalties; and
5 providing for an effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 31-19-101 through 31-19-105 are
10 created to read:

11

12 CHAPTER 19

13 TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

14

15 **31-19-101. Definitions.**

16

1 (a) As used in this act:

2

3 (i) "Adequate snow tire" means a tire with a mud
4 and snow or all-weather rating from the manufacturer and
5 having a tread of sufficient abrasive or skid-resistant
6 design or composition and depth to provide adequate
7 traction;

8

9 (ii) "Extreme travel conditions" means ice,
10 snow, wind or other weather conditions or a combination of
11 weather conditions that cause limited visibility or
12 dangerous driving conditions without restrictions on
13 travel;

14

15 (iii) "Director" means the director of the
16 department of transportation;

17

18 (iv) "Local person" means a driver of a motor
19 vehicle whose destination is in proximity to the restricted
20 or closed area;

21

22 (v) "Tire chains" means metal chains which
23 consist of two (2) circular metal loops, one (1) on each
24 side of the tire, connected by not less than nine (9)

1 evenly spaced chains across the tire tread and any other
2 traction devices differing from metal chains in
3 construction, material or design but capable of providing
4 traction equal to or exceeding that of metal chains under
5 similar conditions;

6

7 (vi) "This act" means W.S. 31-19-101 through
8 31-19-105.

9

10 **31-19-102. Restricted highway travel.**

11

12 (a) In addition to the provisions of W.S. 24-1-107,
13 when the director or his designated representative
14 determines that extreme travel conditions exist, he may
15 restrict travel, depending on the severity of the
16 conditions on the affected highway, to:

17

18 (i) Motor vehicles equipped with adequate snow
19 tires, tire chains or motor vehicles that are all wheel
20 drive vehicles;

21

22 (ii) Motor vehicles equipped with tire chains or
23 motor vehicles that are all wheel drive vehicles;

24

1 (iii) Emergency vehicles as defined in W.S.
2 31-5-1302(a)(ii), including snow plows; or

3

4 (iv) No traffic except by express permission
5 given at the discretion of any peace officer present
6 pursuant to W.S. 24-1-107.

7

8 **31-19-103. Compliance.**

9

10 (a) An operator of a commercial vehicle with four (4)
11 or more drive wheels with spacing of five (5) feet or less
12 between axles shall affix tire chains to at least two (2)
13 of the drive wheels of the vehicle at opposite ends of the
14 same drive axle when the vehicle is required to be equipped
15 with tire chains under this act.

16

17 (b) A local person may be allowed to proceed
18 regardless of the provisions of this act if the highway
19 trooper or other peace officer present determines that
20 allowing travel to the local person's destination is
21 reasonable under existing extreme travel conditions.

22

23 **31-19-104. Closing or restricting use; public notice.**

24

1 (a) To notify the public that a highway is closed or
2 its use restricted pursuant to this act notification shall
3 be as provided for in W.S. 24-1-108.

4

5 (b) If a highway is closed or restricted, all motor
6 vehicles may be allowed to return to the nearest town, city
7 or municipality. A highway's use shall not be restricted
8 for the purposes of requiring tire chains pursuant to W.S.
9 31-19-102(a)(ii) unless adequate pull out areas are
10 available to put tire chains on motor vehicles at least
11 five (5) miles before the posting of the notification of
12 the road closure or restriction.

13

14 **31-19-105. Failure to observe signs and markers,**
15 **penalties.**

16

17 Any person who willfully fails to observe any sign, marker,
18 warning, notice, or direction, placed or given under this
19 act is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished
20 pursuant to the provisions of W.S. 31-5-1201.

21

22 **Section 2.** W.S. 24-1-109 is amended to read:

23

1 **24-1-109. Closing or restricting use; failure to**
2 **observe signs and markers.**

3

4 Any person who willfully fails to observe any sign, marker,
5 warning, notice, or direction, placed or given under W.S.
6 24-1-108 is guilty of a misdemeanor, ~~and upon conviction~~
7 ~~thereof by any court of competent jurisdiction, shall be~~
8 ~~subject to a fine of not more than one hundred dollars~~
9 ~~(\$100.00) or to imprisonment for a period not to exceed~~
10 ~~thirty (30) days, or to both such fine and imprisonment~~ and
11 shall be punished pursuant to the provisions of W.S.
12 31-5-1201. A conviction pursuant to this section shall
13 constitute a moving violation for purposes of title 31.

14

15 **Section 3.** W.S. 31-5-956(e) is repealed.

16

17 **Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2002.

18

19

(END)