

HOUSE BILL 353

By Russell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39 and Title 55, relative to the transportation of loose items in open beds or trailers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) This section is known and may be cited as "Sergeant Chris Jenkins Law."

(b) It is an offense for a person to operate a motor vehicle upon a public roadway while carrying an item in an open bed or trailer that is not firmly secured by adequate means to prevent the item from falling onto the roadway.

(c) An item with a weight of at least two and two-tenths pounds (2.2 lbs.) or at least one kilogram (1 kg) must be secured by a web-derived strap with a tensile strength having a minimum working load limit of half the weight of the item. Each strap must be fitted with end fasteners that are greater than or equal to the tensile strength of the strap. A motor vehicle that is specifically transporting a ladder for either residential or commercial purposes must be secured with two (2) lateral straps affixed at both ends of the ladder.

(d) A motor vehicle transporting loose items weighing less than one kilogram (1 kg) or less than two and two-tenths pounds (2.2 lbs.) must use a fiber netting or a web derived strap meeting the specifications in subsection (c) to contain the item in the open bed or trailer.

(e) This section does not alter or amend any requirements in § 65-15-111 pertaining to additional requirements for commercial motor vehicles.

(f) A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.