

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1213

BY REPRESENTATIVE ST. BLANC

MTR VEHICLE/TRUCKS: Provides with respect to loads on vehicles

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:383(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 32:383(A)(5) and (6), relative to
3 regulations and violations regarding loads of vehicles, to provide for requirements
4 of loads on vehicles; to provide for exemptions for certain vehicles; to provide for
5 penalties; to provide for rule promulgation by the office of state police; and to
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 32:383(A)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
9 32:383(A)(5) and (6) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §383. Loads on vehicles; care required thereto; penalties; definition

11 A.(1)(a) ~~The load on a vehicle shall not drop, sift, leak, or otherwise escape~~
12 ~~therefrom, except that sand may be dropped on a highway to secure traction or a~~
13 ~~liquid substance may be dropped on a highway to clean or maintain such highway.~~

14 A vehicle shall not be driven on a highway unless constructed and loaded to prevent
15 contents from escaping. Vehicles shall have no openings that allow escape of
16 material, and closures shall be secured.

17 (b) The following vehicles shall be exempt from the provisions of
18 Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph:

19 (i) Authorized maintenance vehicles while in performance of official duties
20 related to emergencies or weather operations.

Proposed law establishes that any person who loads or unloads a vehicle with knowledge that it will be operated upon a hwy., where the loading or unloading causes a violation, constitutes prima facie evidence of liability.

Proposed law requires that any person who willfully and knowingly violates proposed law be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, be subject for each offense to a fine of not more than \$250 for each violation. Further specifies that for sugarcane harvest vehicles, corrective action be prioritized when violations result from unavoidable field conditions.

Proposed law specifies that proof of actual spillage is not required to establish a violation has occurred.

Proposed law authorizes the office of state police to adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 32:383(A)(1); Adds R.S. 32:383(A)(5) and (6))