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## DIGEST

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HB 1213 Original

2026 Regular Session

St. Blanc

**Abstract:** Provides for regulations and violation requirements for loads on vehicles.

Present law requires that loads on vehicles not drop, sift, leak, or escape, except that sand may be dropped on a hwy. to secure traction or a liquid substance may be dropped on a hwy. to cleaning or maintenance.

Proposed law removes present law and adds the prohibition that vehicles not travel on hways. unless constructed and loaded to prevent contents from escaping. Further requires vehicles have no openings that allow escape of material and closures to be secured. Additionally provides that certain vehicles be exempted as follows:

- (1) Authorized maintenance vehicles while performing official duties related to emergencies or weather operations.
- (2) Vehicles that drop incidental agricultural residue and incidental sugarcane harvest residue that does not create a hazard.

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))