

- SUBJECT:** Creating an offense for installation of unsafe motor vehicle tires
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Morrison, Martinez, Burkett, Y. Davis, Israel, Phillips, Pickett, E. Thompson, S. Thompson, Wray
- 0 nays
- 3 absent — Goldman, Minjarez, Simmons
- WITNESSES:** For — Nathan Facey, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.; Courtney Brooks, Rubber Manufacturers Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Anne O’Ryan, AAA Texas; Trent Townsend, Liberty Tire; Joe Woods, Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI); Beaman Floyd, Texas Coalition for Affordable Insurance Solutions)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jim Baxa)
- BACKGROUND:** Transportation Code, sec. 547.101 allows the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to adopt vehicle equipment standards to protect the public from unreasonable risk of death or injury and enforce federal safety standards.
- DIGEST:** HB 2774 would make the installation of unsafe tires for a vehicle used on a public street or highway and subject to state inspection a misdemeanor offense. The bill would define an unsafe tire as one that:
- had tire tread less than one-sixteenth of an inch deep;
 - had a localized worn spot that exposed the ply or cord through the tread;
 - had a tread or sidewall crack, cut, or snag as measured on the outside of the tire that was more than one inch long and deep enough to expose the body cords;
 - had any visible bump, bulge, or knot apparently related to tread or sidewall separation or partial failure of the tire structure, including bead area;
 - had been regrooved or recut below the original groove depth,

except for a special regroovable tire that had extra undertread rubber for that purpose and was identified as such;

- had been repaired temporarily by the use of a blowout patch or boot;
- had worn tread wear indicators that contacted the road in any two adjacent major grooves in the center or middle of the tire; or
- did not otherwise meet applicable DPS safety standards.

The bill would punish the installation of unsafe tires as a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 2774 would improve highway and motorist safety in Texas by creating an offense to deter the installation of unsafe used tires. When buying tires, many consumers rely upon the advice and guidance of the professionals who install them. Consumers expect that these tires will be safe, but some used tires may not be up to statewide safety standards and could put motorists or pedestrians at risk.

The bill would not prevent consumers from buying used tires. It merely would ensure that any tires installed on their vehicles had met the minimum safety standards, thereby reducing risks for everyone on the state's roads.

The bill would apply existing state inspection standards to the installation of used tires. Tires that would fail an annual Texas safety inspection should not be installed on any vehicles, which this bill would help accomplish.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

HB 2774 would be overly restrictive and could negatively impact Texans who may only be able to afford used tires. Specifically, prohibiting the sale of a tire because it had been patched would be unreasonable. Many people repair their own tires with a patch and drive on them safely.