

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1741

To establish tire fuel efficiency minimum performance standards, improve tire registration, help consumers identify recalled tires, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 9, 2015

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. BROWN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To establish tire fuel efficiency minimum performance standards, improve tire registration, help consumers identify recalled tires, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Tire Efficiency, Safety,  
5 and Registration Act of 2015” or the “TESR Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TIRE FUEL EFFICIENCY MINIMUM PERFORMANCE**  
7 **STANDARDS.**

8 Section 32304A of title 49, United States Code, is  
9 amended—

1 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND**  
2 **STANDARDS**” after “**CONSUMER TIRE INFORMA-**  
3 **TION**”;

4 (2) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) in the heading, by striking “**RULE-**  
6 **MAKING**” and inserting “**CONSUMER TIRE IN-**  
7 **FORMATION**”; and

8 (B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “(re-  
9 ferred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’)”  
10 after “Secretary of Transportation”;

11 (3) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e)  
12 as subsections (e) through (h), respectively; and

13 (4) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
14 lowing:

15 “(b) **PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS FOR TIRE**  
16 **FUEL EFFICIENCY MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STAND-**  
17 **ARDS.—**

18 “(1) **IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary, after con-  
19 sultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Ad-  
20 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency,  
21 shall promulgate regulations for tire fuel efficiency  
22 minimum performance standards for—

23 “(A) passenger car tires with a maximum  
24 speed capability equal to or less than 149 miles  
25 per hour or 240 kilometers per hour; and

1           “(B) passenger car tires with a maximum  
2           speed capability greater than 149 miles per  
3           hour or 240 kilometers per hour.

4           “(2) TIRE FUEL EFFICIENCY MINIMUM PER-  
5           FORMANCE STANDARDS.—

6           “(A) STANDARD BASIS AND TEST PROCE-  
7           DURES.—The minimum performance standards  
8           promulgated under paragraph (1) shall be ex-  
9           pressed in terms of the rolling resistance coeffi-  
10          cient measured using the test procedure speci-  
11          fied in section 575.106 of title 49, Code of Fed-  
12          eral Regulations (as in effect on the date of en-  
13          actment of this Act).

14          “(B) NO DISPARATE EFFECT ON HIGH  
15          PERFORMANCE TIRES.—The Secretary shall en-  
16          sure that the minimum performance standards  
17          promulgated under paragraph (1) will not have  
18          a disproportionate effect on passenger car high  
19          performance tires with a maximum speed capa-  
20          bility greater than 149 miles per hour or 240  
21          kilometers per hour.

22          “(C) APPLICABILITY.—

23                 “(i) IN GENERAL.—This subsection  
24                 applies to new pneumatic tires for use on  
25                 passenger cars.

1                   “(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—This subsection  
2                   does not apply to light truck tires, deep  
3                   tread tires, winter-type snow tires, space-  
4                   saver or temporary use spare tires, or tires  
5                   with nominal rim diameters of 12 inches or  
6                   less.

7                   “(c) PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS FOR TIRE  
8 WET TRACTION MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—

9                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall pro-  
10                  mulgate regulations for tire wet traction minimum  
11                  performance standards to ensure that passenger tire  
12                  wet traction capability is not reduced to achieve im-  
13                  proved tire fuel efficiency.

14                  “(2) TIRE WET TRACTION MINIMUM PERFORM-  
15                  ANCE STANDARDS.—

16                  “(A) BASIS OF STANDARD.—The minimum  
17                  performance standards promulgated under  
18                  paragraph (1) shall be expressed in terms of  
19                  peak coefficient of friction.

20                  “(B) TEST PROCEDURES.—Any test proce-  
21                  dure promulgated under this subsection shall be  
22                  consistent with any test procedure promulgated  
23                  under subsection (a).

24                  “(C) BENCHMARKING.—The Secretary  
25                  shall conduct testing to benchmark the wet

1 traction performance of tire models available  
2 for sale in the United States as of the date of  
3 enactment of this Act to ensure that the min-  
4 imum performance standards promulgated  
5 under paragraph (1) are tailored to—

6 “(i) tires sold in the United States;

7 and

8 “(ii) the needs of consumers in the  
9 United States.

10 “(D) APPLICABILITY.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—This subsection  
12 applies to new pneumatic tires for use on  
13 passenger cars.

14 “(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—This subsection  
15 does not apply to light truck tires, deep  
16 tread tires, winter-type snow tires, space-  
17 saver or temporary use spare tires, or tires  
18 with nominal rim diameters of 12 inches or  
19 less.

20 “(d) COORDINATION AMONG REGULATIONS.—

21 “(1) COMPATIBILITY.—The Secretary shall en-  
22 sure that the test procedures and requirements pro-  
23 mulgated under subsections (a), (b), and (c) are  
24 compatible and consistent.

1           “(2) COMBINED EFFECT OF RULES.—The Sec-  
2           retary shall evaluate the regulations promulgated  
3           under subsections (b) and (c) to ensure that compli-  
4           ance with the minimum performance standards pro-  
5           mulgated under subsection (b) will not diminish wet  
6           traction performance of affected tires.

7           “(3) RULEMAKING DEADLINES.—The Secretary  
8           shall promulgate —

9                   “(A) the regulations under subsections (b)  
10                  and (c) not later than 24 months after the date  
11                  of enactment of this Act; and

12                   “(B) the regulations under subsection (c)  
13                  not later than the date of promulgation of the  
14                  regulations under subsection (b).”.

15 **SEC. 3. TIRE REGISTRATION BY INDEPENDENT SELLERS.**

16           Section 30117(b) of title 49, United States Code, is  
17           amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the fol-  
18           lowing:

19           “(3) RULEMAKING.—

20                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
21                  initiate a rulemaking to require a distributor or  
22                  dealer of tires that is not owned or controlled  
23                  by a manufacturer of tires to maintain records  
24                  of—

1                   “(i) the name and address of tire pur-  
2                   chasers and lessors and information identi-  
3                   fying the tire that was purchased or leased;  
4                   and

5                   “(ii) any additional records the Sec-  
6                   retary considers appropriate.

7                   “(B) ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION.—The  
8                   rulemaking carried out under subparagraph (A)  
9                   shall require a distributor or dealer of tires that  
10                  is not owned or controlled by a manufacturer of  
11                  tires to electronically transmit the records de-  
12                  scribed in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph  
13                  (A) to the manufacturer of the tires or the des-  
14                  ignee of the manufacturer by secure means at  
15                  no cost to tire purchasers or lessors.

16                  “(C) SATISFACTION OF REQUIREMENTS.—  
17                  A regulation promulgated under subparagraph  
18                  (A) may be considered to satisfy the require-  
19                  ments of paragraph (2)(B).”.

20 **SEC. 4. TIRE RECALL DATABASE.**

21                  (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation  
22                  shall establish a publicly available and searchable elec-  
23                  tronic database of tire recall information that is reported  
24                  to the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic  
25                  Safety Administration.

1           (b) TIRE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.—The database  
2 established under subsection (a) shall be searchable by  
3 Tire Identification Number (TIN) and any other criteria  
4 that assists consumers in determining whether a tire is  
5 subject to a recall.

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