

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To require the Secretary of Transportation to revise certain Federal motor vehicle safety standards to advance tire technologies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation to revise certain Federal motor vehicle safety standards to advance tire technologies, 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 Safety Moderniza-
5 tion Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. ADVANCING TIRE TECHNOLOGIES.**

7 (a) ELIMINATION OF OUTDATED TESTING REQUIRE-
8 MENTS FOR TIRE PERFORMANCE IN FMVSS No. 139.—
9 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this

1 Act, the Secretary of Transportation (referred to in this
2 section as the “Secretary”) shall revise section 571.139
3 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to remove the
4 sample provision, testing, and performance requirements
5 that relate to tire strength and tubeless tire bead unseat-
6 ing resistance for passenger car and light truck radial
7 tires, as described in S6.5 and S6.6 of that section.

8 (b) DEFINITION OF CHUNKING IN FMVSS No.
9 139.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
10 of this Act, the Secretary shall—

11 (1) revise the definition of “chunking” in S3 of
12 section 571.139 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-
13 tions, by striking “sidewall.” and inserting “sidewall,
14 except that, in the case of a snow tire, chunking
15 means the breaking away of pieces of the tread or
16 sidewall exposing reinforcing materials of the tire.”;
17 and

18 (2) conduct a review of the definition of
19 “chunking” in S3 of that section to determine
20 whether the definition requires further revision or
21 clarification with respect to non-snow tires, including
22 all-season tires, taking into account—

23 (A) international definitions and stand-
24 ards, current industry best practices, and test-

1 ing standards for modern passenger car and
2 light truck radial tires; and

3 (B) currently available data on motor vehi-
4 cle safety and tire performance.

5 (c) PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR TIRE EN-
6 DURANCE AND LOW PRESSURE UNDER FMVSS No.
7 139.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
8 of this Act, the Secretary shall revise section 571.139 of
9 title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to clarify that visual
10 evidence of chunking constitutes a failure under the per-
11 formance requirements for tire endurance and low pres-
12 sure described in that section.

13 (d) ELIMINATION OF OUTDATED TESTING REQUIRE-
14 MENTS FOR TIRE PERFORMANCE IN FMVSS No. 119.—
15 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this
16 Act, the Secretary shall revise section 571.119 of title 49,
17 Code of Federal Regulations, to remove the testing and
18 performance requirements for, and references to, tire
19 strength as applied to radial light truck tires and radial
20 commercial tires as specified in S6.2 of that section.

21 (e) HIGH-SPEED TESTING PROTOCOLS FOR TIRE
22 PERFORMANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date
23 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate
24 regulations establishing uniform high-speed performance
25 testing protocols for passenger car and light truck tires,

1 which shall be consistent with sections 3.6.1.4 through
2 3.6.1.7 and section 3.6.2.2 of Amendment 2 to the United
3 Nations Global Technical Regulation on Tyres (numbered
4 GTR No. 16), including requirements for speed symbols
5 and sustained operation at incrementally increasing speeds
6 under specified load, pressure, and temperature conditions
7 sufficient to verify structural integrity and safety margins.

8 (f) GAO STUDY.—Not earlier than 3 years and not
9 later than 5 years after the date of the publication in the
10 Federal Register of the final rules as promulgated pursu-
11 ant to subsections (a) through (e), or 8 years after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, whichever is sooner, the
13 Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to
14 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
15 of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Com-
16 merce of the House of Representatives a report that—

17 (1) evaluates the implementation of this section
18 and its impact on the market for passenger car and
19 light truck tires, including the safety and availability
20 of passenger car and light truck tires;

21 (2) examines international definitions and
22 standards, current industry best practices, and test-
23 ing standards for modern passenger car and light
24 truck radial tires with respect to chunking of non-
25 snow tires, including all-season tires; and

1 (3) provides recommendations to the Secretary
2 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
3 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on
4 Energy and Commerce of the House of Representa-
5 tives for any additional measures to improve the
6 safety and availability of passenger car and light
7 truck tires.