

House Bill 1173: I-70 Winter Traction Equipment Requirements Representative Diane Mitsch Bush and Representative Bob Rankin



The Problem:

Colorado's winter beauty, recreational opportunities, and positive economic activity along the I-70 mountain corridor

can also be the source of great frustration and **negative economic impacts** to our state due to closures or impassable conditions caused by **lack of understanding of proper winter traction equipment needed by motorists and lack of clarity in current statute.**

Under current statute, traction equipment requirements for passenger vehicles apply only when the "chain law" is in effect. This stipulation has proved to be confusing for motorists and law enforcement. It is not consistent with date and mile marker stipulations for commercial vehicles. Passenger vehicles without proper traction equipment have caused lane closures and full closures of I-70.

HB 1173 Clarifies Current Statute and Aligns it with Existing Regulations in Order to:

- Inform the traveling public of their responsibility to be properly equipped.
- Help reduce travel times, road congestion and highway closures along the I-70 corridor during winter

HB 1173 Does Not:

- Establish any new fines or increase existing fines. The \$100 fine for causing an accident and the \$500 fine for closing a lane are already established under the current statute when the chain law is in effect.
- Create check points. As under current statute, compliance checks and fines occur **ONLY** when the vehicle is involved in an accident and/ or closes a lane or the entire highway.

How HB 1173 Aims to Prevent Closures of I-70:

- Clarifies existing state statutes regarding passenger vehicle winter traction requirements,
- Aligns statute with existing regulations
- Provides new specificity about the time frame and mile markers within which motorists must be in compliance with the traction law
- Directs CDOT to undertake an effort to communicate to motorist's their responsibilities under HB 1173.

Section 2 of the bill clarifies existing law, especially "chain law" at 42-4-106

Section 3 of the bill adds a new section, 42-4-242 that specifies:

- Compliance is required November 1-May 15
- Mile markers from Dotsero to Morrison on the I 70 Mountain Corridor
- Definitions of several traction equipment options that comply
- CDOTs responsibility to educate the public

THESE ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT HB1173

Colorado Hotel/Lodging Assoc.
Colorado Motor Carriers Association
Colorado State Patrol
Colo-Wyo Petroleum Marketers Assn
Denver Metro Chamber Commerce

Eagle County
I-70 Coalition (counties, towns, and businesses)
Town of Vail
Vail Resorts

We respectfully ask for your support for HB1173. Thank you for considering the bill.

