

HOUSE BILL 353

By Russell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39  
and Title 55, relative to the transportation of loose  
items in open beds or trailers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

(a) This section is known and may be cited as "Sergeant Chris Jenkins Law."

(b) It is an offense for a person to operate a motor vehicle upon a public  
roadway while carrying an item in an open bed or trailer that is not firmly secured by  
adequate means to prevent the item from falling onto the roadway.

(c) An item with a weight of at least two and two-tenths pounds (2.2 lbs.) or at  
least one kilogram (1 kg) must be secured by a web-derived strap with a tensile strength  
having a minimum working load limit of half the weight of the item. Each strap must be  
fitted with end fasteners that are greater than or equal to the tensile strength of the strap.  
A motor vehicle that is specifically transporting a ladder for either residential or  
commercial purposes must be secured with two (2) lateral straps affixed at both ends of  
the ladder.

(d) A motor vehicle transporting loose items weighing less than one kilogram (1  
kg) or less than two and two-tenths pounds (2.2 lbs.) must use a fiber netting or a web  
derived strap meeting the specifications in subsection (c) to contain the item in the open  
bed or trailer.

(e) This section does not alter or amend any requirements in § 65-15-111  
pertaining to additional requirements for commercial motor vehicles.

(f) A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.