

HB 1362 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

11Mar2026... 1022h

2026 SESSION

26-3082
06/08

HOUSE BILL **1362**

AN ACT relative to motor vehicle equipment specifications.

SPONSORS: Rep. T. Walsh, Merr. 10

COMMITTEE: Transportation

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes motor vehicle standards for tire tread depth and brake lining measurements and inspection standards for vehicle steering and suspension systems.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT relative to motor vehicle equipment specifications.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; Equipment of Vehicles; Tire Tread Depth. Amend RSA 266 by inserting after
2 section 48 the following new section:

3 266:48-a Tire Tread Depth; Measurement Requirements. No person shall drive a motor vehicle
4 upon any way unless each tire mounted thereon has a minimum tread depth of not less than 2/32 of
5 an inch.

6 2 New Section; Equipment of Vehicles; Brake Performance; Brake Lining Measurements.
7 Amend RSA 266 by inserting after section 28 the following new section:

8 266:28-a Brake Lining Measurement; Lining Thickness.

9 I. No person shall drive a motor vehicle upon any way unless the brake lining or friction
10 material at each wheel has a minimum thickness of 2/32 of an inch.

11 II. Brake lining measurements shall be performed using a brake gauge, caliper, or other
12 suitable measuring device calibrated in thirty-seconds of an inch.

13 (a) For brake shoes or disc brake pads with riveted linings, measurements shall be taken
14 to the top of any rivet head.

15 (b) For brake shoes or disc brake pads with bonded linings, measurements shall be
16 taken at the thinnest point of the friction material.

17 3 New Subdivision; Steering and Suspension. Amend RSA 266 by inserting after section 117 the
18 following new subdivision:

19 Steering and Suspension

20 266:118 Steering and Suspension Standards.

21 I. No vehicle shall be operated on the ways of this state if, upon inspection, any of the
22 following conditions are found:

23 (a) Steering linkage free-play exceeds the manufacturer's specifications or is:

24 (1) In excess of 1/4 inch for wheels 16 inches or less in diameter;

25 (2) In excess of 3/8 inch for wheels 17 or 18 inches in diameter; or

26 (3) In excess of 1/2 inch for wheels over 18 inches in diameter.

27 (b) Any wheel bearing that is not within the manufacturer's tolerance for looseness.

28 (c) Any ball joint is broken, cracked, or exceeds the manufacturer's specifications.

29 II. For purposes of this section, "manufacturer's specifications" means the tolerances and
30 standards established by the original equipment manufacturer for the safe operation of the specified
31 system or component.

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1 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.