



CITY OF HOUSTON – CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: 6/30/26
Item Creation Date: 1/6/26

Proposition A Council Member Item: Load Securement

Summary: Ordinance to Amend Chapter 45 of the Code of Ordinances to create a local remedy to address the need for the load securement of motor vehicles in the City of Houston.

Background: Unsecured cargo and/or loads on cars, trucks, trailers, and other items pose a major safety hazard to the City of Houston. The City receives thousands of 3-1-1 requests concerning street hazards and prosecutes hundreds of violations each year involving items that ended up on the road because they were not properly secured in the vehicle transporting them. Personal incidents encountered by Councilmember Davis and countless other stories from people around Houston led him to collaborate with the police department and the legal department for the proposed ordinance below to address this area.

Specific Explanation: The proposed ordinance requires that motor vehicles, and/or any attached trailers, secure loads or cargo with a securement device of sufficient strength to prevent their loads from moving, thus preventing them from ending up on the roads and/or highways. See draft proposal below.

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Council Member Willie Davis, At-Large 2

DRAFT Proposal

Amendment to Establish Local Load Securement Standards for Passenger Cars and Trucks

Sec. 45-45. –Load Securement

(a) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section will have the meanings set forth in this subsection, except when the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- (1) Load or Cargo means any material, object, equipment, tool, debris, appliance, or goods transported in or on a motor vehicle or attached trailer, regardless of weight, but does not include live animals.
- (2) Securement Device means straps, tiedowns, ropes, nets, bungee cords, ratchet mechanisms, chains, containers, tarps, cargo boxes, or any manufacturer-approved means used to prevent movement of a load.
- (3) Movement means shifting, sliding, tipping, leaking, spilling, blowing, or falling from a motor vehicle in a manner that may create a hazard.

(b) *General Load Securement Requirements.*

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to transport, carry, or cause to be transported or carried any load or cargo in an unenclosed, open area of a motor vehicle or attached trailer unless such load or cargo is secured by a securement device sufficient to prevent its movement.
- (2) Any person who violates any provision of this article shall be guilty of an offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as provided in Section 1-6 of this Code. Each violation of this article shall constitute and be punishable as a separate offense.