

Empowering People to Lead Systemic Change

The Protection and Advocacy System for the State of Maryland

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House Environment and Transportation Committee Senate Bill 707 **Vehicle Laws - Medical Exemption for Enhanced Tinted Windows -**

Time Limitation March 20, 2025 **Position: Support**

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is the designated Protection and Advocacy agency in Maryland, mandated to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities. DRM submits this testimony in support of Senate Bill 707, which would remove the two-year time limitation on medical exemptions for enhanced window tinting on vehicles.

Currently, Maryland law requires individuals with a medical exemption for window tinting to renew their certification every two years, regardless of whether their condition is permanent. This is overly burdensome on individuals with chronic or lifelong medical conditions, forcing them to repeatedly seek physician documentation and navigate bureaucratic processes for an accommodation that is essential to their health and wellbeing. For individuals with medical conditions that require protection from ultraviolet exposure, tinted windows are a medical necessity. The existing renewal requirement fails to account for the fact that many of these conditions are permanent and do not require ongoing reassessment.

Senate Bill 707 will ensure that individuals with disabilities can maintain necessary window tinting for the duration needed, as certified by a physician, reducing unnecessary administrative barriers and supporting their daily accessibility needs. This bill will help ensure that Marylanders with chronic medical conditions can access the modifications they need without restrictions.

For these reasons, DRM requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 707. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at GabrielR@DisabilityRightsMD.org or (443) 692-2483.

Respectfully submitted,

Gabriel H. Rubinstein Managing Attorney Disability Rights Maryland