

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 229 (Delegates Menes and Conroy)
Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws - Vehicle Equipment - Window Tinting

This bill adds motor vehicles registered as Class E trucks, not exceeding three-quarter ton capacity and 7,000 pounds, and Class M (multipurpose) vehicles to those that are prohibited from operating on a highway in the State if there is affixed to any window tinting materials added after the vehicle's manufacture that do not allow light transmittance of at least 35%.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be met with existing resources.

Local Effect: The bill's requirements can be met with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person may not operate a Class A passenger vehicle on any highway in the State if there is affixed to any window any tinting materials added to the window after the vehicle's manufacture that do not allow a light transmittance of at least 35%. A person may not operate a Class B (for hire) motor vehicle, a Class E truck (not exceeding three-quarter ton capacity and 7,000 pounds), or a Class M (multipurpose) motor vehicle on any highway in the State if there is affixed to any window to the driver's immediate right or left any window tinting materials added after vehicle manufacture that do not allow a light transmittance of at least 35%. If a police officer observes a vehicle being operated in violation of these provisions, the officer may cite the driver for the offense and issue a safety equipment repair order. A person who operates a motor vehicle with

prohibited window tinting materials is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a maximum fine of \$500. The fine currently imposed by the District Court is \$55.

An exemption from the prohibition against operating a vehicle with unlawfully tinted windows is provided if the owner has written certification from a licensed physician on the medical need for tinted windows. The person must have the written certification in the vehicle at the time the vehicle is stopped by a police officer. The prohibition does not apply to tinting materials that are affixed in such a manner as to be easily removed and are being used to protect a child less than 10 years old from the sun.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

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