

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1235 (Delegate McDermott)  
Environmental Matters

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Vehicle Laws - Law Enforcement Vehicles - Tinted Windows

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This bill exempts law enforcement vehicles from specified restrictions in the Maryland Vehicle Law pertaining to tinted windows.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** A person may not operate specified vehicle types on a highway in the State with window tints of specified grades, as follows:

- a Class A (passenger) vehicle if any window of the vehicle has tinting materials added to the window after manufacture that do not allow a light transmittance through the window of at least 35%; and
- a Class B (for hire), Class E (truck under a specified weight and capacity), or Class M (multipurpose) vehicle if any window to the immediate right or left of the driver has window tinting materials added after manufacture of the vehicle that do not allow a light transmittance through the window of at least 35%.

A person may not install on a vehicle window tinting material that does not comply with these light transmittance requirements.

If a police officer observes that a vehicle is being operated with an illegally tinted window, the officer may stop the driver of the vehicle and, in addition to a citation charging the driver with the offense, issue to the driver a safety equipment repair order.

A person who must be protected from the sun for medical reasons is exempt from these restrictions if the owner has, in the vehicle at the time the vehicle is stopped by a police officer, a written certification that details the owner's medical need for tinted windows from a physician. The window tint restrictions also do not apply to tinting materials that are affixed in such a manner so as to be easily removed and are being used to protect a child younger than age 10 from the sun. These exceptions do not apply to any tinting materials added to the windshield of a vehicle below a specified line or below five inches from the top of the windshield.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore, Carroll, Garrett, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, and St. Mary's counties; the cities of Bowie and Frederick; Town of Leonardtown; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 28, 2013

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