

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 32 (Delegate McDermott)
Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws - Law Enforcement Vehicles - Tinted Windows

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

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.

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 from a physician that details the owner's medical need for tinted windows.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1235 of 2013 received a hearing in the House Environmental Matters Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Caroline, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 23, 2014
mm/ljm

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