

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 913

(Senator Mautz)

Judicial Proceedings

Motor Vehicles - Enhanced Tinted Windows - Medical Exemption

This bill authorizes an out-of-state physician licensed to practice medicine to issue a certification for a medical exemption for enhanced tinted motor vehicle windows. By repealing the general two-year time limit on the validity of these medical exemptions and the limited circumstances under which this exemption can be valid indefinitely, the bill establishes that all medical exemptions for enhanced tinted motor vehicle windows are valid indefinitely.

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 government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, a person may not operate certain types of vehicles on a highway in the State if the vehicle has affixed tinting materials to the windows after manufacture that do not allow a light transmittance through the window of at least 35%. This level of tinting is considered enhanced window tinting.

For any vehicle, enhanced window tinting is prohibited below the AS1 line or below five inches from the top of the front windshield. For a private passenger vehicle (*i.e.*, personal cars or trucks), the enhanced tinting is prohibited on any window of the

vehicle. For other affected vehicles (including for-hire vehicles, certain larger trucks, and multipurpose vehicles), the enhanced tinting is prohibited only on the windows to the immediate right or left of the driver.

A person who must be protected from the sun for medical reasons is exempt from the enhanced tinting prohibition if they carry a written certification from a physician licensed to practice medicine *in the State*. A written certification is valid for a period of time that the licensed physician determines the owner needs the enhanced tinted windows, but the timeframe generally *may not exceed two years*. However, under Chapters 452 and 453 of 2025, if the physician determines the owner's medical condition is *permanent*, the certification is valid *indefinitely*.

If a police officer observes a vehicle is being operated with window tinting that violates the prohibition, the officer may stop the driver of the vehicle and issue a safety equipment repair order.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 1507 (Delegate Adams, *et al.*) - Environment and Transportation.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Toni Heo

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510