
February 10, 2021

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 445 – Vehicle Equipment – Safety Glass –
Replacement Standards***

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 445 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

Senate Bill 445 would require the MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) to adopt regulations establishing standards and requirements for both aftermarket safety glass and its installation based at a minimum on the standards established by the Automotive Glass Safety Council. Additionally, the bill would impose a set of installation standards for the installation of replacement glass on a motor vehicle for uniformity and safety purposes.

MDOT MVA appreciates the intent of the bill to provide consumer protection and address potential safety issues. Under current federal rules, all glass installed on a motor vehicle must meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS). However, FMVSS does not address the installation process, just the materials. Senate Bill 445 would require the MDOT MVA to adopt regulations requiring the methods and procedures for installation of replacement motor vehicle glass.

It is important to note that MDOT MVA does not currently regulate auto glass installation and would not have the expertise, authority, or regulatory tools necessary to enforce these standards. Once the MDOT MVA adopts these standards, any remedies for improper installation would still have to be sought through private civil action.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 445.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Melissa Einhorn
State Legislative Officer
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1102