

Letter in support of SB701.pdf

Uploaded by: Barry Leese

Position: FAV



Maryland Investigators and Security Association Inc.

P.O. Box 1053, Mt Airy, MD 21771,
Email Inquiry@misahq.com



March 3, 2022

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 701 Vehicle Laws - Window Tinting Materials - Private Detectives

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

For the past two years, I have been the president of the Maryland Investigators and Security Association. I am also the owner of RESOLUTE CSI, LLC a private detective agency licensed by the Maryland State Police.

Private investigators serve an important function in our economy and society. Many private investigators are employed in the insurance industry, investigating liability claims and helping to reduce the more than \$90 billion in annual insurance fraud costs—costs which flow down to all consumers. We also provide services to attorneys, businesses, and individuals who need a professional investigator to gather information and conduct surveillance to document activities that may benefit our client. Private investigators have always worked hand in hand with law enforcement. They support and facilitate each other's efforts. Enabling private investigators to effectively pursue their work in uncovering insurance fraud and other misdeeds, whether it is through exceptions to window tint laws or other common-sense measures, benefits everyone.

Private investigators must be cautious when working in areas as they can become attractive targets to criminal opportunists. An unfamiliar vehicle parked in a neighborhood may draw some attention but when a person is seen sitting in the vehicle for long periods of times the community may become alarmed. The use of window tinting can aid us in our investigation by remaining undetected and prevent alarming law-abiding residents. They are other reasons for requesting an exemption from current window tinting regulations. Private investigators carry a great deal of equipment in their vehicles to support their surveillance activity. However, many times we may have to leave the vehicle quickly to follow someone on foot. There is no time to secure our equipment so the window tinting may prevent unwanted prying eyes and theft. In most situations we cannot keep our engines running to provide air conditioning on warm days. The window tinting helps reduce temperatures inside the vehicle and block harmful UV rays.

I urge you to give a Favorable Report to SB 701.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barry E. Leese
President
Maryland Investigators and Security Association, Inc.
9008 Tarr Drive, New Windsor, MD 21776
410-645-0428

SB 701 written testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Caitlin Kelley

Position: FAV

OLD LINE INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

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March 2, 2022

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401**

RE: SB 701 Vehicle Laws - Window Tinting Materials - Private Detectives

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

My name is Caitlin Kelley and I live in Owings Mills, which is the district for Senator Shelly Hettleman. I own a Private Investigative agency and my office is located in the old Baltimore County jail, now known as Bosley Hall in Towson, which is Senator Chis West's district. Currently, I have the privilege of serving as the Vice President of Investigations for the Maryland Investigators and Security Association. I have been a private investigator for many years and started my agency in 2016; therefore, I have learned that the most valuable tool to be safe and effective while doing my job is the dark tint on my vehicle windows.

While there is a somewhat cinematic perception of what Private Investigators do, our actual day-to-day entails playing a critical role in our judicial system. This includes locating missing persons, witnesses, or defendants; surveillance for domestic investigations when there is suspicion of child abuse/neglect or infidelity; surveillance on individuals with personal injury claim lawsuits when there is suspicion of fraud. Many times, we are called upon to help serve the public where the state and local governments run short of time and resources.

Private investigators often work solo due to client budget limitations and are often in areas where they are attractive targets to criminal opportunists. Private Investigators can all relate to surveilling a residence on a given case or watching for subjects who are evading service of process, with the hope of serving them court documents. Without our vehicles having the darkest level of tint, these are situations where the observation of a stranger sitting in an unfamiliar vehicle in the neighborhood can be enough for some people to warrant acts of aggression. Having the dark window tint can also be an aid to going about our investigations without alarming the otherwise law-abiding residents of an area who look upon strangers and unknown vehicles with concern. While our organization understands and agrees with the basic fact that we are not law enforcement and therefore do not have law enforcement powers or the safety supports of law enforcement

OLD LINE INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

officials, we believe that some small steps can be taken to ensure our safety on the job and mitigate the risk of danger and conflict throughout the course of our work.

I could reference many examples of situations that I have personally experienced while doing surveillance where either having or not having the dark tint on my vehicle impacted my ability to do my job safely, but since I am sensitive to your time, I will share only one example with you. One day in 2019, while doing surveillance on a suspected infidelity case in the Park Heights area of Baltimore, about 6 adult men that presumably lived in the area, surrounded by vehicle that was parked on the street. I had the darkest level of tint possible on my side and back windows and sunshades across my front window, with the intention of not being visible inside my vehicle. The men surrounding my vehicle were making comments to each other wanting to know who the vehicle belonged to and if anyone was inside. They began pressing their face against the windows attempting to see inside. I was in the back seat of my vehicle at this point. In that moment, I prayed to myself that these men would not be able to see me through the tinted windows, as I instinctively knew that I was in a very dangerous situation. After what seemed like forever, I heard the men commenting about how they couldn't see anything through the tint, and the men eventually dispersed and walked away. I do not like to think about how that scenario could have played out if I didn't have the dark tint on my vehicle.

With no current window tint exemption, Private Investigators still must get the dark tint on their windows to safely and effectively do surveillance, knowing that they are at risk for being pulled over and given a repair order to remove that tint. And should that happen, Private Investigators will have to go through removing the tint to satisfy the repair order, all to inevitably have tint placed immediately back on the windows so they can continue to do their job.

We believe that SB701, which will grant an exemption from the state's window tinting regulations for Licensed Private Investigators, is a small step that will go a long way to granting us protection and discretion during our critical work. Legislation to this effect has been passed in states such as Massachusetts, Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee, and we hope Maryland will also take this step and add to the tint exemption laws we currently have.

I want to thank Chairman Smith and the rest of the Committee for all your historic work throughout this legislative session and please contact myself or our association if you have any further questions on this issue.

OLD LINE INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

I urge you to give a Favorable Report to SB 701.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Kelley

Owner of Old Line Investigative Services

VP of Investigations for the MD Investigators and Security Association

443-536-1785

info@oldlinepi.com

SB 701 written statement.pdf

Uploaded by: Evan Avnet

Position: FAV

March 3, 2022

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401**

RE: SB 701 Vehicle Laws - Window Tinting Materials - Private Detectives

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

As a former law enforcement officer of over 15 years, I have an acute understanding of personal security. I have owned a security and investigation agency for the past 7 years with a prior 5 years of experience owning another security company.

One of the main issues facing private detectives is personal safety and security. Many times I have been tasked by a workman's comp issue or a criminal defense issue where I must surveil persons. It makes it increasingly difficult and hazardous to our safety if we can be readily seen and identified. Investigating workmans compensation claims keeps everyone's premiums low by identifying fraudulent claims. Fraudulent claims drive up insurance rates for business, which then must be passed along to the businesses clients in increased fees for services and products.

Therefore, allowing an exception for private detectives to have window tinting seems a reasonable request and exception to the Maryland motor vehicle code.

I urge you to give a Favorable Report to SB 701.

Thank you.

**Sincerely,
Evan Avnet
Tactical American Security Consulting, LLC.
2029 Northwood Drive
Salisbury, MD 21801**

MISASB701KM-22.pdf

Uploaded by: Kathy Morris

Position: FAV



Maryland Investigators and Security Association Inc.

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March 3, 2022

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

2 East

Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 701 Vehicle Laws - Window Tinting Materials - Private

Detectives

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

I am the Legislative Committee Co-Chair of the Maryland Investigators and Security Association, the only association of investigative and security professionals in Maryland since 1954. I have been a MD licensed private detective since 1985.

The safety impact to investigators working in areas where lone individuals, whether they be male or female, are attractive targets to criminal opportunists, that could result in a tragic ending like that of the late Officer Keona Holley.

Other states have exempted licensed private detectives from being fined or stopped for having darker window tinting.

Window tinting helps reduce temperatures inside the vehicle which is especially helpful for those private investigators who have search and rescue or drug dogs inside.

MISA has been working with MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration and MD State Police representatives to develop a flagging system to enable law enforcement to identify licensed private detectives' vehicles without having to stop them.

I urge you to give a Favorable Report to SB 701.

Thank you.

**Sincerely,
Kathy Morris
Kathy Morris**

SB0701 testimony - Paul Bressler.pdf

Uploaded by: Paul Bressler

Position: FAV



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March 3, 2022

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 701 Vehicle Laws - Window Tinting Materials - Private Detectives

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

My name is Paul Bressler. I am a resident of Havre de Grace in Harford County, Maryland. I have been a licensed private investigator since 1991. I am the owner of Castle Security Group, a detective agency in Baltimore County, which employs ten people. The bulk of my clients are law firms in downtown Baltimore.

Surveillance is an important part of my business, particularly in personal injury fraud cases. Things changed after 9/11 and the D.C. Sniper Attacks. We are now in the era of "See Something, Say Something." Surveillance vans draw attention. More so in residential areas where there may be schools and daycare providers nearby. There are things my company does in anticipation of this. We notify regional police departments when we will be in the area. My agents are instructed to identify themselves to the public if they are approached.

There is a segment of the public who do not approach strangers. They simply call the police, who then have to respond. This is a waste of police manpower, taxpayer money and may result in officers not being where they could be desperately needed. In my line of work, blending into a neighborhood is invaluable. A common vehicle, such as a Honda Accord or a Toyota Corolla, with darkly-tinted windows, is an everyday sight. This would allow me to do my job, while reducing unnecessary calls to police.

I urge you to give a Favorable Report to SB 701.

Sincerely,

Paul Bressler
Director of Investigations
Castle Security Group
9719 Pulaski Highway
Baltimore, MD 21220
410-788-7800