



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Unit
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: March 12, 2026
BILL NUMBER: House Bill 1507 **POSITION:** Letter of Information
BILL TITLE: Motor Vehicles – Enhanced Tinted Windows – Medical Exemption

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

This legislation seeks to alter Maryland’s motor vehicle law governing medical exemptions for enhanced window tinting. It authorizes an out-of-state doctor to provide a letter exempting a vehicle owner from Maryland’s window tint restrictions. The bill further repeals the two-year limitation on a doctor’s authorization.

Under current law, a vehicle owner may obtain a medical exemption allowing darker window tint than otherwise permitted if a Maryland-licensed physician certifies that the individual has a medical condition requiring protection from sunlight. The certification is currently limited in duration, generally not exceeding two years unless the condition is deemed permanent. The tint may not be placed on the front windshield under any circumstances.

House Bill 1507 expands the exemption by authorizing out-of-state licensed physicians to issue medical certifications for use in states where they are not licensed, and repeals the time limitation applicable to the exemption. As a result of this proposed change, any individual could obtain certification from physicians outside Maryland, and the exemption would no longer require periodic review or renewal. This does not account for the fact that many window tint waivers are temporary and granted only for short-term health issues. Ultimately, this bill allows a vehicle owner to permanently operate a vehicle with a window tint darker than Maryland’s statutory requirements.

Expanded exemptions allowing darker window tint may create additional safety concerns for law enforcement. Reduced visibility into vehicles can limit officers’ ability to observe occupants or threats during traffic stops. More vehicles with enhanced tint may heighten risks, especially at night or in low-visibility conditions.

Allowing out-of-state certification complicates verification for officers by introducing varied medical document formats and standards, making compliance harder to verify and increasing the risk of fraud. This also inconveniences drivers, as it may prolong detentions while officers validate out-of-state certifications. The legislation further removes time limits on certifications, ending periodic medical exemption reviews. Although sun protection and other health issues can change over time, the exemption could now remain valid indefinitely. Eliminating renewal reviews removes a key check on ongoing medical necessity.

State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Unit
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

House Bill 1507 will require the Maryland State Police to update window tint inspection regulations and provide guidance to inspection stations. These changes would require statewide communication to ensure compliance with the revised law.

The Maryland Department of State Police respectfully urges the Committee to consider this information as you deliberate on House Bill 1507.