

**MCPA\_MSA SB 913 Window Tint Exemption OPPOSE.pdf**

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# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith Jr., Chair and  
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: March 10, 2026

RE: **SB 913 – Motor Vehicles - Enhanced Tinted Windows - Medical Exemption**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE** SB 913. This bill expands the existing medical exemption for enhanced vehicle window tinting by allowing certifications from out-of-state physicians and by removing the current time limits that apply to those certifications. Under current law, individuals may already obtain a medical exemption allowing darker tint when medically necessary, but the certification must come from a physician licensed in Maryland and is subject to periodic review.

MCPA and MSA are concerned that expanding the exemption in this manner will create practical enforcement challenges for officers conducting traffic stops. Window tint laws exist in part to ensure officer safety by allowing officers to see into vehicles during roadside interactions. Allowing certifications from out-of-state physicians and eliminating the time limits for those certifications makes it more difficult for officers to verify the validity of exemptions in real time and increases the potential for misuse of the medical exemption.

Additionally, the current framework already provides a reasonable pathway for individuals with legitimate medical needs to obtain darker window tint while maintaining appropriate oversight through time-limited certifications. Removing these safeguards could undermine the intent of Maryland's window tint laws and complicate enforcement for officers in the field. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **OPPOSE** SB 913 and respectfully request an **UNFAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 913.

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Position: INFO



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

**POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**DATE:** March 10, 2026  
**BILL NUMBER:** Senate Bill 913      **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.

Senate Bill 913 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.

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**POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Senate Bill 913 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 Senate Bill 913.