

2023 -- S 0886

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- NONTRANSPARENT WINDSHIELDS  
AND WINDOWS

Introduced By: Senators Ciccone, Britto, F. Lombardi, DiPalma, and Tikoian

Date Introduced: March 30, 2023

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-23.3-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-23.3 entitled  
2 "Nontransparent Windshields and Windows" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-23.3-4. Exemptions.**

4 The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

5 (1) Motor vehicles manufactured with windshields and window glass areas equipped in  
6 accordance with specifications of 49 CFR 571.205 as authorized by 15 U.S.C. § 1407.

7 (2) Motor vehicles owned or leased by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

8 (3) The use of nontransparent or sunscreen material or window application on motor  
9 vehicles which has a total visible light transmittance of not less than ~~seventy~~ thirty-five percent  
10 ~~(70%)~~ (35%) measured perpendicular to the surface of the glass on the windshield and side  
11 windows immediately adjacent to the right and left of the operator's seat, the side windows  
12 immediately to the rear of the operator's seat and the front passenger seat or on the rear window if  
13 the vehicle is equipped with two (2) outside mirrors, one on each side, adjusted so that the driver  
14 has a clear view of the highway behind the vehicle.

15 (4) The use of any transparent material limited to the uppermost six inches (6") along the  
16 top of the windshield, provided the strip does not encroach upon the driver's direct forward viewing  
17 area as more particularly described and defined in applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety  
18 Standards.

1 (5) Motor vehicles not required to be registered in this state.

2 (6) The use of sunscreen material on windows behind the driver in trucks, buses, trailers,  
3 mobile homes, campers, multipurpose vehicles, charter buses, funeral service vehicles, or  
4 limousines, provided that the vehicle is equipped with two (2) outside mirrors, one on each side, if  
5 those mirrors meet federal standards adjusted so the driver has a clear view of the highway behind  
6 the vehicle.

7 (7) A motor vehicle registered in this state in the name of a person, or the person's legal  
8 guardian, who has an affidavit signed by a physician or an optometrist licensed to practice in this  
9 state that states that the person has a physical condition that makes it necessary to equip the motor  
10 vehicle with a suncreening device which may exceed federal standards. The division of motor  
11 vehicles, upon application of the individual, which shall include the affidavit, shall issue a sticker  
12 to be applied to the driver's side window to identify this exemption.

13 (8) Any motor vehicle, registered and garaged within this state, whose sole purpose is to  
14 provide executive security to persons within this state. The owner(s) of the vehicle shall first seek  
15 and obtain written permission from the local police chief where the vehicle is garaged and  
16 registered before the waiver is granted.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would reduce the total visible light transmittance of motor vehicles regarding  
2 windshields and side windows from a minimum of seventy percent (70%) to thirty-five percent  
3 (35%) measured perpendicular to the glass surface.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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