



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

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March 4, 2025

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary
State House
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: 2025 H-5644- AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES
– NONTRANSPARENT WINDSHIELD AND WINDOWS**

Dear Chair Craven:

The Division of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") writes to express support for House Bill 5644, An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Nontransparent Windshield and Windows.

The proposed bill would provide penalties for second and subsequent offenses of installing, or of owning or operating a vehicle with sunscreening materials which are prohibited by the General Laws.

The DMV routinely receives complaints from members of the public regarding excessive window tinting on vehicles. The DMV's authority in this area is limited however, to examining the vehicle at the time of its regularly scheduled safety inspection. While a vehicle might fail inspection for excessive tint, nothing prevents the vehicle's owner from removing the tint to bring the vehicle into compliance for the inspection, and then re-installing the tint as soon as the inspection is completed. The offending vehicle could then be operated on the roadways for possibly two years before it is subject to another safety inspection.

The increased penalties contained in the proposed bill may have a deterrent effect on repeat offenders who are cited for tint violations by law enforcement. Discretion for first-time offenders is maintained, with no mandatory penalties and a range of fines anywhere from zero up to \$250. Repeat offenders, however, would be subject to mandatory fines of \$375 for a second offense, and \$500 for third and subsequent offenses. These fines would continue to be subject to the jurisdiction of the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
March 4, 2025
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Walter R. Craddock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.

Walter R. Craddock, Esq.,
Administrator

Cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Matthew S. Dawson
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker
Thomas A. Verdi, Director, Department of Revenue