

2020 -- H 7203

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LC003318
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- NON-TRANSPARENT WINDSHIELD
AND WINDOWS EXEMPTION

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Lombardi, Vella-Wilkinson, Cassar, and
Almeida

Date Introduced: January 22, 2020

Referred To: House 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 percent (70%)
10 measured perpendicular to the surface of the glass on the windshield and side windows
11 immediately adjacent to the right and left of the operator's seat, the side windows immediately to
12 the rear of the operator's seat and the front passenger seat or on the rear window if the vehicle is
13 equipped with two (2) outside mirrors, one on each side, adjusted so that the driver has a clear
14 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
17 viewing area as more particularly described and defined in applicable Federal Motor Vehicle
18 Safety 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,
5 if those mirrors meet federal standards adjusted so the driver has a clear view of the highway
6 behind 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 (9) Any privately owned motor vehicle which is owned by an individual who is employed
18 as a municipal or state police officer, firefighter, judge of a state court, or any elected member of
19 the Rhode Island general assembly

20 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 exempt state or municipal police officers, firefighters, judges of state
2 court, and members of the Rhode Island general assembly from the requirement of transparent
3 windshields and windows.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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