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LC006107  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

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

Introduced By: Representatives Phillips, Bennett, Noret, Read, Hull, and J. Brien

Date Introduced: March 18, 2026

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 31-23.3-4 and 31-23.3-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-23.3  
2 entitled "Nontransparent Windshields and Windows" are hereby amended to read as follows:

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

4 (a) 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 immediately  
11 adjacent to the right and left of the operator's seat, the side windows immediately to the rear of the  
12 operator's seat and the front passenger seat or on the rear window if the vehicle is equipped with  
13 two (2) outside mirrors, one on each side, adjusted so that the driver has a clear view of the highway  
14 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) ~~▲~~ Except for the windshield area, as prohibited pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
8 section, a motor vehicle registered in this state in the name of a person, or the person's legal  
9 guardian, who has an affidavit signed by a physician or an optometrist licensed to practice in this  
10 state that states that the person has a physical condition that makes it necessary to equip the motor  
11 vehicle with a suncreening device which may exceed federal standards. The division of motor  
12 vehicles, upon application of the individual, which shall include the affidavit, shall issue a sticker  
13 to be applied to the driver's side window to identify this exemption.

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

18 (b) Except as specifically exempt pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this  
19 section, effective July 1, 2026, no motor vehicle to include, but not be limited to, motor vehicles  
20 subject to the provisions of subsection (a)(7) of this section, shall be operated on a public street,  
21 roadway, or highway in Rhode Island, which motor vehicle has front windshield window tinting  
22 except for the top six (6) inches of the front windshield. As used herein, the term "front windshield  
23 window tinting" means a thin film applied to the interior surface of the vehicle's front windows  
24 which darkens the windows to block UV light and reduce glare from the sun and headlights.

25 **31-23.3-5. Penalties.**

26 (a) Any person, firm, corporation, or other business entity that installs any sunscreening  
27 material which is not in compliance with the provisions of this chapter shall be fined not more than  
28 two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each offense.

29 (b) Any person who owns a motor vehicle which has installed on it any sunscreening device  
30 or material in violation of this chapter for a first or second offense shall be fined not more than two  
31 hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

32 (c) For a third and subsequent offenses a fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) and  
33 suspension of the motor vehicle's registration for a period of up to one year.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
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1           This act would remove the exemption for tinting of the windshield and impose fines of two  
2 hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for a first and second offense and subsequent offenses are punishable  
3 by a two hundred fifty dollar (\$250) fine and up to a one year suspension of the vehicle registration.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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