



## **RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT**

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March 4, 2025

**Via Electronic Mail (HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)**

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Jr.  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
Rhode Island State House  
House Lounge  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**Re: House Bill #5644: An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Non-Transparent Windshields**

Dear Chairman Craven:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Judiciary and the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal (RITT) to express support for House Bill #5644, scheduled to be heard this evening before the House Judiciary Committee. This legislation, submitted by the Department of Revenue and the Division of Motor Vehicles, seeks to amend RIGL § 31-23.3-5 by increasing the penalties for installing, possessing, and driving a motor vehicle with tinted windows and sun screening materials that are prohibited by law.

RIGL § 31-23.3-5 was enacted in 1993 to address the motor safety risks associated with tinted windows. Tinting windows, especially the front windshield and front side windows, can reduce visibility, particularly at night and in low-light situations. Reduced visibility increases the risk of accidents with other motor vehicles and pedestrians. Tinted windows also hinder the ability of emergency responders to assess the situation inside a motor vehicle during a traffic stop, accident, or other emergency. Yet, since first enacted, compliance with the law has been sporadic at best. Many motorists continually violate the law and openly admit they consider the current fine of \$85.00 worth the price of tinted windows.

In an effort to expand compliance with the law, this legislation increases the penalties for violating RIGL § 31-23.3-5, in particular for repeat offenders. I ask the House Judiciary Committee to consider passage of this legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary's support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Kelly  
General Counsel