



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

600 New London Avenue

Cranston, RI 02920-3024

Phone: 401-462-4368

[www.dmv.ri.gov](http://www.dmv.ri.gov)

March 13, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley  
Chair, House Committee on State Government and Elections  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: 2025 H-5728- AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES –  
NONTRANSPARENT WINDSHIELDS AND WINDOWS**

Dear Chair Shanley:

The Division of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") writes to express strong concerns with House Bill 5728, An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Nontransparent Windshields and Windows.

The proposed bill would adopt new standards for nontransparent windshields and windows on motor vehicles and would also abolish the DMV's authority to promulgate rules and regulations which provide for those standards.

Currently, the allowable tint in Rhode Island for passenger cars is 70% light transmittance for all windows. This is sometimes known as "factory tint" due to it being the standard mandated by Federal Law for vehicle manufacture. Many vehicles other than passenger cars, such as pickup trucks and sport-utility vehicles, are permitted to have higher tint on the windows behind the driver and the passenger, as well as the rear window. Certain government vehicles, as well as individuals who have a physical condition as verified by a licensed physician or optometrist, are exempt from these standards, but medical exemptions are typically limited to 35% light transmittance on all windows, except for the windshield. Under no circumstance is anything lower than 70% light transmittance allowable for the windshield, except for a small strip at the top of the windshield.

The proposed bill would allow light transmittance on all windows of all vehicles, other than the windshield, to be not less than 32%, as measured with a light transmittance meter having an accuracy of plus or minus 3%. This would permit vehicle windows to be tinted at a much darker level than what is currently allowed. Due to the number of complaints that the DMV receives regarding excessively tinted windows, the DMV recently supported House Bill 5644, which would increase the penalties which may be imposed by the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal for excessive tint. That bill also received the backing of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association due to the dangers that excessively tinted windows pose to members of law enforcement.

Finally, while the explanation provided by the legislative council indicates that the proposed bill would "adopt the provisions of Connecticut law pertaining to nontransparent windshields and windows," the Connecticut standards are slightly different than those

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley  
March 13, 2025  
2025 H-5728  
Page 2

included in the proposed bill. Connecticut General Statutes §14-99g permits a minimum allowable light transmittance on windows other than the windshield of 35%, plus or minus 3%. The proposed bill would allow light transmittance of 32%, plus or minus 3%.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Walter R. Craddock", is written over the typed name.

Walter R. Craddock, Esq.  
Administrator

Cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and  
Elections  
The Honorable Deborah A. Fellela  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Thomas A. Verdi, Director, Department of Revenue