



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

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April 7, 2026

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

**RE: 2026 H-8312- AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES  
– NONTRANSPARENT WINDSHIELD AND WINDOWS**

Dear Chair Shanley:

The Division of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") writes to express support for House Bill 8312, An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Nontransparent Windshield and Windows.

The proposed bill would remove the exemption for tinting of the windshield and would also provide increased penalties for owning a vehicle with prohibited sunscreening materials, to include suspension of the vehicle's registration for third and subsequent offenses.

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. Tinting of the windshield can be particularly hazardous, especially at night. Dark tint cuts down incoming light, which can impair the driver's ability to see pedestrians, cyclists and other road hazards.

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 and second-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 a mandatory fine of \$250 and suspension of the vehicle's registration for a period of up to one year.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Walter R. Craddock, Esq.,  
Administrator

Cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government  
and Elections  
The Honorable Robert D. Phillips  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Jane E. Cole, Interim Director, Department of Revenue