
SENATE BILL 5331

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Swecker, Pflug, Haugen, Delvin and Hatfield; by request of Washington State Patrol

Read first time 01/17/2007. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to a window tint exemption for law enforcement
2 vehicles; and amending RCW 46.37.430.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.37.430 and 1993 c 384 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) No person may sell any new motor vehicle as specified in this
7 title, nor may any new motor vehicle as specified in this title be
8 registered unless such vehicle is equipped with safety glazing material
9 of a type that meets or exceeds federal standards, or if there are
10 none, standards approved by the Washington state patrol. The foregoing
11 provisions apply to all passenger-type motor vehicles, including
12 passenger buses and school buses, but in respect to trucks, including
13 truck tractors, the requirements as to safety glazing material apply to
14 all glazing material used in doors, windows, and windshields in the
15 drivers' compartments of such vehicles except as provided by subsection
16 (4) of this section.

17 (2) The term "safety glazing materials" means glazing materials so
18 constructed, treated, or combined with other materials as to reduce

1 substantially, in comparison with ordinary sheet glass or plate glass,
2 the likelihood of injury to persons by objects from exterior sources or
3 by these safety glazing materials when they may be cracked or broken.

4 (3) The director of licensing shall not register any motor vehicle
5 which is subject to the provisions of this section unless it is
6 equipped with an approved type of safety glazing material, and he or
7 she shall suspend the registration of any motor vehicle so subject to
8 this section which the director finds is not so equipped until it is
9 made to conform to the requirements of this section.

10 (4) No person may sell or offer for sale, nor may any person
11 operate a motor vehicle registered in this state which is equipped
12 with, any camper manufactured after May 23, 1969, unless such camper is
13 equipped with safety glazing material of a type conforming to rules
14 adopted by the state patrol wherever glazing materials are used in
15 outside windows and doors.

16 (5) No film sunscreening or coloring material that reduces light
17 transmittance to any degree may be applied to the surface of the safety
18 glazing material in a motor vehicle unless it meets the following
19 standards for such material:

20 (a) The maximum level of film sunscreening material to be applied
21 to any window, except the windshield, shall have a total reflectance of
22 thirty-five percent or less, plus or minus three percent, and a light
23 transmission of thirty-five percent or more, plus or minus three
24 percent, when measured against clear glass resulting in a minimum of
25 twenty-four percent light transmission on AS-2 glazing where the
26 vehicle is equipped with outside rearview mirrors on both the right and
27 left. Installation of more than a single sheet of film sunscreening
28 material to any window is prohibited. The same maximum levels of film
29 sunscreen material may be applied to windows to the immediate right and
30 left of the driver on limousines and passenger buses used to transport
31 persons for compensation and vehicles identified by the manufacturer as
32 multi-use, multipurpose, or other similar designation. All windows to
33 the rear of the driver on such vehicles may have film sunscreening
34 material applied that has less than thirty-five percent light
35 transmittance, if the light reflectance is thirty-five percent or less
36 and the vehicle is equipped with outside rearview mirrors on both the
37 right and left. A person or business tinting windows for profit who
38 tints windows within restricted areas of the glazing system shall

1 supply a sticker to be affixed to the driver's door post, in the area
2 adjacent to the manufacturer's identification tag. Installation of
3 this sticker certifies that the glazing application meets this
4 chapter's standards for light transmission, reflectance, and placement
5 requirements. Stickers must be no smaller than three-quarters of an
6 inch by one and one-half inches, and no larger than two inches by two
7 and one-half inches. The stickers must be of sufficient quality to
8 endure exposure to harsh climate conditions. The business name and
9 state tax identification number of the installer must be clearly
10 visible on the sticker.

11 (b) A greater degree of light reduction is permitted on all windows
12 and the top six inches of windshields of a vehicle operated by or
13 carrying as a passenger a person who possesses a written verification
14 from a licensed physician that the operator or passenger must be
15 protected from exposure to sunlight for physical or medical reasons.

16 (c) Windshield application. A greater degree of light reduction is
17 permitted on the top six-inch area of a vehicle's windshield. Clear
18 film sunscreening material that reduces or eliminates ultraviolet light
19 may be applied to windshields.

20 (d) When film sunscreening material is applied to any window except
21 the windshield, outside mirrors on both the left and right sides shall
22 be located so as to reflect to the driver a view of the roadway,
23 through each mirror, a distance of at least two hundred feet to the
24 rear of the vehicle.

25 (e) The following types of film sunscreening material are not
26 permitted:

- 27 (i) Mirror finish products;
- 28 (ii) Red, gold, yellow, or black material; or
- 29 (iii) Film sunscreening material that is in liquid preapplication
30 form and brushed or sprayed on.

31 Nothing in this section prohibits the use of shaded or heat-
32 absorbing safety glazing material in which the shading or heat-
33 absorbing characteristics have been applied at the time of manufacture
34 of the safety glazing material and which meet federal standards and the
35 standards of the state patrol for such safety glazing materials.

36 (6) It is a traffic infraction for any person to operate a vehicle
37 for use on the public highways of this state, if the vehicle is

1 equipped with film sunscreening or coloring material in violation of
2 this section.

3 (7) Owners of vehicles with film sunscreening material applied to
4 windows to the rear of the driver, prior to June 7, 1990, must comply
5 with the requirements of this section and RCW 46.37.435 by July 1,
6 1993.

7 (8) The side and rear windows of law enforcement vehicles are
8 exempt from the requirements of subsection (5) of this section.
9 However, when law enforcement vehicles are sold to private individuals
10 the film sunscreening or coloring material must comply with the
11 requirements of subsection (5) of this section or documentation must be
12 provided to the buyer stating that the vehicle windows must comply with
13 the requirements of subsection (5) of this section before operation of
14 the vehicle.

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