

Date of Hearing: April 3, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

AB 1303 (McCarty) – As Introduced February 17, 2017

SUBJECT: Vehicles: window tinting

SUMMARY: Authorizes a person to install transparent film material that screens ultraviolet (UV) rays by 99% or more and that maintains at least a 70% light transmittance to the windshield, side, or rear windows if the driver or passenger in the front seat has in his or her possession a document signed by a licensed dermatologist certifying that the person should not be exposed to UV rays because of a medical condition.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Prohibits a person from placing, installing, affixing, or applying any transparent material upon the windshield or side or rear windows of any motor vehicle if the material alters the color or reduces the light transmittance of the windshield or side windows, with specific exceptions, including the following:
 - a) Sun screening devices installed on the side windows on either side of the vehicle's front seat, if the driver or a passenger in the front seat has in his or her possession a document signed by a licensed physician or optometrist certifying that the person must be shaded from the sun due to a medical or visual condition;
 - b) Transparent material installed, affixed, or applied to the topmost portion of the windshield if the bottom edge of the material is at least 29 inches above the driver's seat, as specified, the material is not red or amber in color, there is no opaque lettering on the material and any other lettering does not affect primary colors or distort vision through the windshield, and the material does not reflect sunlight or headlight glare into the eyes of occupants of oncoming or following vehicles; or,
 - c) Clear, colorless, and transparent material installed, affixed, or applied to the front side windows located to the immediate left and right of the front seat if the material has a minimum visible light transmittance of 88%, the window glazing with the material applied meets all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS), the material is designed and manufactured to enhance the ability of the existing window glass to block ultraviolet rays, and the driver has in his or her possession a certificate signed by the installing company or material manufacturer certifying that the windows with the material installed meets applicable requirements.
- 2) Authorizes tinted safety glass to be installed in a vehicle if the glass complies with applicable FMVSS and the glass is installed in a location permitted by those standards for the particular type of glass used.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

COMMENTS: Certain medical conditions can cause sensitivity to UV light. Lupus, which afflicts 1.5 million people in the United States, is one such disease, as is xeroderma

pigmentosum, a rare genetic disorder diagnosed in 300 people in the United States. People suffering from xeroderma pigmentosum must cover their entire bodies from the sun to prevent UV light exposure, which can cause frequent malignant cancerous growths, blindness, and neurological diseases.

As the author notes, while existing law makes some exceptions for window tinting on medical grounds, existing exemptions do not offer sufficient protection for people suffering from diseases that cause severe UV sensitivity.

This bill would allow a person to install window tinting with a lower light transmittance rating than currently allowed on a vehicle with a signed note from a dermatologist. The bill also preserves the minimum light transmittance rating established by FMVSS.

Proposed amendment: In order to conform with other exemptions to restrictions on window tinting, the author proposes to amend the bill to provide that the film material applied must be “Clear, colorless, and transparent.”

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

XP Family Support Group

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Justin Behrens / TRANS. /