

Tinted Window Provisions in 2024 Act 165 and 2025 Motor Vehicle Bill

February 28, 2025

Section	2024 Act 165	2025 Motor Vehicle Bill
<p>23 V.S.A. § 1125</p>	<p>§ 1125. OBSTRUCTING WINDSHIELDS; <u>AND</u> WINDOWS</p> <p>(a) <u>Prohibition.</u> Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person <u>an individual</u> shall not operate a motor vehicle on which material or items have been painted or adhered on or over, or hung in back of, any transparent part of a motor vehicle windshield, vent windows, or side windows located immediately to the left and right of the operator. The prohibition of this section on hanging items shall apply only to shading or tinting material or when a hanging item materially obstructs the driver’s view.</p> <p>(b) <u>General exemptions.</u> Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a person <u>an individual</u> may operate a motor vehicle with material or items painted or adhered on or over, or hung in back of, the windshield, vent windows, or side windows:</p> <p>(1) in a space not over four inches high and 12 inches long in the lower right-hand corner of the windshield;</p> <p>(2) in such space as the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may specify for location of any sticker required by governmental regulation;</p> <p>(3) in a space not over two inches high and two and one-half inches long in the upper left-hand corner of the windshield;</p> <p>(4) if the operator is a person <u>an individual</u> employed by the federal, State, or local government or a volunteer emergency responder operating an authorized emergency vehicle, who places any necessary equipment in back of the windshield of the vehicle, provided the equipment does not interfere with the operator’s control of the driving mechanism of the vehicle;</p> <p>(5) on a motor vehicle that is for sale by a licensed automobile dealer prior to the sale of the vehicle, in a space not over three inches high and six inches long in the upper</p>	<p>§ 1125. OBSTRUCTING WINDSHIELDS; <u>AND</u> WINDOWS</p> <p>(a) <u>Prohibition.</u> Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person <u>an individual</u> shall not operate a motor vehicle on which material or items have been painted or adhered on or over, or hung in back of, any transparent part of a motor vehicle windshield, vent windows, or side windows located immediately to the left and right of the operator. The prohibition of this section on hanging items shall apply only to shading or tinting material or when a hanging item materially obstructs the driver’s view.</p> <p>(b) <u>General exemptions.</u> Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a person <u>an individual</u> may operate a motor vehicle with material or items painted or adhered on or over, or hung in back of, the windshield, vent windows, or side windows:</p> <p>(1) in a space not over four inches high and 12 inches long in the lower right-hand corner of the windshield;</p> <p>(2) in such any <u>any</u> space as the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may specify for location of any sticker required by governmental regulation;</p> <p>(3) in a space not over two inches high and two and one-half inches long in the upper left-hand corner of the windshield;</p> <p>(4) if the operator is a person <u>an individual</u> employed by the federal, State, or local government or a volunteer emergency responder operating an authorized emergency vehicle, who places any necessary equipment in back of the windshield of the vehicle, provided the equipment does not interfere with the operator’s control of the driving mechanism of the vehicle;</p> <p>(5) on a motor vehicle that is for sale by a licensed automobile dealer prior to the sale of the vehicle, in a space not over three inches high and six inches long in the upper</p>

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<p>left-hand corner of the windshield, and in a space not over four inches high and 18 inches long in the upper right-hand corner of the windshield; or</p> <p>(6) if the object is a rearview mirror; or is an electronic toll-collection transponder located either between the roof line and the rearview mirror post or behind the rearview mirror; or</p> <p>(7) if the object is shading or tinting material and the visible light transmission of that shading or tinting material is not less than the level of visible light transmission required under 49 C.F.R. § 571.205, as amended.</p> <p>(c) <u>Medical exemption.</u> The Commissioner may grant an exemption to the prohibition of this section upon application from a person <u>an individual</u> required for medical reasons to be shielded from the rays of the sun and who attaches to the application a document signed by a licensed physician or optometrist certifying that shielding from the rays of the sun is a medical necessity. The physician or optometrist certification shall be renewed every four years. However, when a licensed physician or optometrist has previously certified to the Commissioner that an applicant's condition is both permanent and stable, the exemption may be renewed by the applicant without submission of a form signed by a licensed physician or optometrist. Additionally, the window shading or tinting permitted under this subsection shall be limited to the vent windows or side windows located immediately to the left and right of the operator. The exemption provided in this subsection shall terminate upon the transfer of the approved vehicle and at that time the applicable window tinting shall be removed by the seller. Furthermore, if the material described in this subsection tears or bubbles or is otherwise worn to prohibit clear vision, it shall be removed or replaced.</p> <p>(d) <u>Rear side window obstructions.</u> The rear side windows and the back window may be obstructed only if the motor</p>	<p>left-hand corner of the windshield, and in a space not over four inches high and 18 inches long in the upper right-hand corner of the windshield; or</p> <p>(6) if the object is a rearview mirror; or is an electronic toll-collection transponder located either between the roof line and the rearview mirror post or behind the rearview mirror.</p> <p>(c) <u>Medical exemption.</u> The Commissioner may grant an exemption to the prohibition of this section upon application from a person <u>an individual</u> required for medical reasons to be shielded from the rays of the sun and who attaches to the application a document signed by a licensed physician or optometrist certifying that shielding from the rays of the sun is a medical necessity. The physician or optometrist certification shall be renewed every four years. However, when a licensed physician or optometrist has previously certified to the Commissioner that an applicant's condition is both permanent and stable, the exemption may be renewed by the applicant without submission of a form signed by a licensed physician or optometrist. Additionally, the window shading or tinting permitted under this subsection shall be limited to the vent windows or side windows located immediately to the left and right of the operator. The exemption provided in this subsection shall terminate upon the transfer of the approved vehicle and at that time the applicable window tinting shall be removed by the seller. Furthermore, if the material described in this subsection tears or bubbles or is otherwise worn to prohibit clear vision, it shall be removed or replaced.</p> <p>(d) <u>Rear side window obstructions.</u> The rear side windows and the back window may be obstructed only if the motor</p>
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	<p>vehicle is equipped on each side with a securely attached mirror, which <u>that</u> provides the operator with a clear view of the roadway in the rear and on both sides of the motor vehicle.</p> <p><u>(e) Removal. Any shading or tinting material that is painted or adhered on or over, or hung in back of, the windshield, vent windows, or side windows in accordance with subdivision (b)(7) or subsection (c) of this section shall be removed if it tears, bubbles, or is otherwise worn to prohibit clear vision.</u></p> <p><u>(f) Definition. As used in this section, “visible light transmission” means the amount of visible light that can pass through shading, tinting, or glazing material applied to or within the transparent portion of a window or windshield of a motor vehicle.</u></p>	<p>vehicle is equipped on each side with a securely attached mirror, which <u>that</u> provides the operator with a clear view of the roadway in the rear and on both sides of the motor vehicle.</p> <p><u>(e) Removal. Any shading or tinting material that is painted or adhered on or over, or hung in back of, the windshield, vent windows, or side windows in accordance with subsection (c) of this section shall be removed if it tears, bubbles, or is otherwise worn to prohibit clear vision.</u></p>
<p>LEGISLATIVE INTENT; TINTED WINDOWS</p>	<p><u>It is the intent of the General Assembly that a motor vehicle with shading or tinting material that is not allowed under 23 V.S.A. § 1125, as amended by Sec. 14 of this act, poses a danger to the individual operating the motor vehicle, any passengers in the motor vehicle, and other highway users and that such a motor vehicle shall fail the annual safety inspection required under 23 V.S.A. § 1222.</u></p>	<p><u>It is the intent of the General Assembly that a motor vehicle with shading or tinting material that is not allowed under 23 V.S.A. § 1125, as amended by Sec. 36 of this act, poses a danger to the individual operating the motor vehicle, any passengers in the motor vehicle, and other highway users and that such a motor vehicle shall fail the annual safety inspection required under 23 V.S.A. § 1222.</u></p>
<p>RULEMAKING; PERIODIC INSPECTION MANUAL; TINTED WINDOWS; OUTREACH</p>	<p><u>(a) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall, unless extended by the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, adopt amendments to Department of Motor Vehicles, Inspection of Motor Vehicles (CVR 14-050-022) consistent with the legislative intent in Sec. 15 of this act to be effective not later than the effective date of Sec. 14 of this act. The amendments shall include what level of visible light transmission is required for windshields and the windows to the immediate right and left of the driver under 49 C.F.R. § 571.205 as of the effective date of the amendments.</u></p>	<p><u>(a) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall, unless extended by the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, adopt amendments to Department of Motor Vehicles, Inspection of Motor Vehicles (CVR 14-050-022) consistent with the legislative intent in Sec. 37 of this act to be effective not later than the effective date of Sec. 36 of this act. The amendments shall include the level of visible light transmission required for windshields and the windows to the immediate right and left of the driver as of the effective date of the amendments.</u></p>

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(b) The Department of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, shall implement a public outreach campaign on window tinting to provide information on the prohibitions and exceptions under 23 V.S.A. § 1125, as amended by Sec. 14 of this act, and the requirements of the Inspection of Motor Vehicles (CVR 14-050-022), with amendments adopted under the Administrative Procedure Act consistent with subsection (a) of this section, including what level of visible light transmission is currently required for windshields and the windows to the immediate right and left of the driver under 49 C.F.R. § 571.205. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall start to disseminate information as required under this subsection (b) not later than two months prior to the effective date of Sec. 14 of this act and shall disseminate information on window tinting through e-mail, bulletins, software updates, and the Department of Motor Vehicles' website.

(b) The Department of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, shall implement a public outreach campaign on window tinting to provide information on the prohibitions and exceptions under 23 V.S.A. § 1125, as amended by Sec. 36 of this act, and the requirements of the Inspection of Motor Vehicles (CVR 14-050-022), with amendments adopted under the Administrative Procedure Act consistent with subsection (a) of this section, including what level of visible light transmission is currently required for windshields and the windows to the immediate right and left of the driver. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall start to disseminate information as required under this subsection (b) not later than two months prior to the effective date of Sec. 36 of this act and shall disseminate information on window tinting through e-mail, bulletins, software updates, and the Department of Motor Vehicles' website.