

TRANSPORTATION  
FILED FEB 16 1999

SENATE FILE 159  
BY VEENSTRA

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to motor vehicle lighting equipment and windows  
2 and making penalties applicable.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 159  
TRANSPORTATION

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 321.404A LIGHT-RESTRICTING  
2 DEVICES PROHIBITED.

3 1. A person shall not operate a motor vehicle, motorcycle,  
4 or motorized bicycle on the highways of this state if it is  
5 equipped with a device that restricts the light output of a  
6 head lamp required under section 321.385 or 321.386, a rear  
7 lamp required under section 321.387, a signal lamp or signal  
8 device required under section 321.404, or a directional signal  
9 device as described in section 321.317.

10 2. A person who violates this section shall be subject to  
11 a scheduled fine under section 805.8, subsection 2, paragraph  
12 "d".

13 Sec. 2. Section 321.438, subsection 2, Code 1999, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 2. A person shall not operate on the highway a motor  
16 vehicle equipped with a front windshield, ~~a-side-window-to-the~~  
17 ~~immediate-right-or-left-of-the-driver, or a-side-wing-forward~~  
18 ~~of-and-to-the-left-or-right-of-the-driver~~ front side window to  
19 the right or left of the driver, or rear window which is  
20 excessively dark or reflective so that it is difficult for a  
21 person outside the motor vehicle to see into the motor vehicle  
22 through the windshield, ~~window, or siding~~ front side window,  
23 or rear window, unless the person requires dark windows for  
24 medical reasons and has been exempted pursuant to rule adopted  
25 by the department. The department shall adopt rules  
26 establishing a minimum measurable standard of transparency  
27 which shall apply to violations of this subsection. For  
28 purposes of this subsection, "excessively dark or reflective"  
29 means that the level of light transmittance is less than  
30 seventy percent.

31 Sec. 3. Section 805.8, subsection 2, paragraph d, Code  
32 1999, is amended to read as follows:

33 d. For improper equipment under section 321.404A or  
34 section 321.438, subsection 2, the scheduled fine is fifteen  
35 dollars.

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EXPLANATION

This bill, in new Code section 321.404A, prohibits the use of devices on motor vehicles, motorcycles, or motorized bicycles which restrict the light output of head lamps, rear lamps, signal lamps or devices which give a signal of intention to stop, or turning signals. A violation of the prohibition subjects the violator to a scheduled fine of \$15 under Code section 805.8.

The bill also amends Code section 321.438 to require that the windshield, front side windows, and rear window of a motor vehicle have a light transmittance level of at least 70 percent. A violation of the requirement subjects the violator to a scheduled fine of \$15 under Code section 805.8. A person may be exempted from the requirement for medical reasons pursuant to rule adopted by the department of transportation. Currently, Code section 321.438 requires motor vehicle windshields, front side windows, and rear windows to comply with a minimum measurable standard of transparency adopted by rule of the state department of transportation.

This bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code section 25B.3.