

Senate Study Bill 3132 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON ZUMBACH)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to motor vehicles equipped with an excessively
2 dark or reflective front windshield, and making penalties
3 applicable.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 321.438, Code 2026, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. a. If a person operates on the highway
4 a motor vehicle equipped with a front windshield that meets
5 a minimum standard of transparency of less than fifty percent
6 light transmittance, a peace officer shall issue a citation for
7 a violation of subsection 2 and impound the motor vehicle. In
8 lieu of the officer impounding the motor vehicle, the person may
9 instead do any of the following:

10 (1) Immediately remove or modify the material that was
11 applied to the windshield until the windshield meets a minimum
12 standard of transparency of at least seventy percent light
13 transmittance.

14 (2) Remove the motor vehicle from the highway without
15 unreasonable delay by towing the vehicle or by having the vehicle
16 towed.

17 b. A person shall not operate on the highway a vehicle
18 that is impounded or towed pursuant to this subsection until
19 the vehicle's front windshield meets a minimum standard of
20 transparency of at least seventy percent light transmittance.

21 c. Paragraph "a" does not apply to a person who operates
22 a motor vehicle owned or leased by a federal, state, or local
23 law enforcement agency if the operation is part of the person's
24 official duties.

25 EXPLANATION

26 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
27 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

28 Under current law, a person is prohibited from operating a
29 motor vehicle equipped with a front windshield, a side window to
30 the immediate right or left of the driver, or a sidewing forward
31 of and to the left or right of the driver which is excessively
32 dark or reflective so that it is difficult for a person outside
33 the motor vehicle to see into the motor vehicle through the
34 window. Under rules adopted by the department of transportation
35 (DOT) (761 IAC 450.5), "excessively dark or reflective" means

1 the window does not meet a minimum standard of transparency of
2 70 percent light transmittance. However, the requirement does
3 not apply to a person who operates a motor vehicle owned or
4 leased by a federal, state, or local law enforcement agency if
5 the operation is part of the person's official duties.

6 This bill requires a peace officer to issue a citation and
7 impound a motor vehicle equipped with a front windshield that
8 meets a minimum standard of transparency of less than 50 percent
9 light transmittance. However, in lieu of the officer impounding
10 the motor vehicle, a person may instead immediately remove or
11 modify the material that was applied to the windshield until the
12 windshield meets a minimum standard of transparency of at least
13 70 percent light transmittance or remove the motor vehicle from
14 the highway without unreasonable delay by towing the vehicle or
15 by having the vehicle towed. The bill prohibits a person from
16 operating a motor vehicle that is impounded or towed pursuant
17 to the bill until the windshield meets a minimum standard of
18 transparency of at least 70 percent light transmittance.

19 The bill does not apply to a person who operates a motor
20 vehicle owned or leased by a federal, state, or local law
21 enforcement agency if the operation is part of the person's
22 official duties.

23 A violation of Code section 321.438 is punishable by a
24 scheduled fine of \$70.