
Transportation Committee

SB 5881

Brief Description: Addressing the installation of safety glazing or film sunscreening materials.

Sponsors: Senators King, Hobbs, Takko, Wellman, Saldaña, Rivers, Holy and Keiser.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modifies the penalties applicable to unlawfully installing safety glazing or film sunscreening material on motor vehicles.
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Hearing Date: 3/18/19

Staff: Beth Redfield (786-7140).

Background:

Under current law, motor vehicles must be equipped with safety glazing material that meets certain federal standards. Safety glazing material is material that reduces substantially the likelihood of injury by objects from exterior sources or by the materials when they may be cracked or broken.

Generally, it is unlawful to apply film sunscreening or coloring material to the surface of the safety glazing material that reduces light transmittance to any degree. However, various exceptions exist in law. For example, a single sheet of film sunscreening may be applied to any window, except the windshield, if the film sunscreening has no more than a 35 percent total reflectance and a light transmission of at least 24 percent, where the vehicle is equipped with outside rearview mirrors on both the right and left. Additionally, certain specific exceptions apply to hearses, collector vehicles, limousines, ambulances, and other vehicles.

Persons or businesses tinting windows for profit who tint windows within restricted areas of the glazing system must supply a sticker to be affixed to the driver's door post, certifying that the glazing application meets legal standards for light transmission, reflectance, and placement requirements.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The following types of film sunscreening material are not permitted:

- mirror finish products;
- red, gold, yellow, or black material; or
- material in liquid form that is brushed or sprayed on.

It is a traffic infraction to operate a vehicle on public highways if the vehicle is in violation of the film sunscreening or coloring material requirements. It is a misdemeanor to unlawfully install safety glazing or film sunscreening materials. A misdemeanor carries a penalty of imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 90 days, or by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by both imprisonment and fine.

Summary of Bill:

A mechanic or commercial installer of safety glazing or film sunscreening material, who, for monetary or commercial gain, unlawfully installs safety glazing or film sunscreening material, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and is subject to a fine of \$500.

A person who is not a mechanic or commercial installer of safety glazing or film sunscreening material, who unlawfully installs safety glazing or film sunscreening material, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and is subject to a fine of \$100.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.