

SENATE TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE met informally at 2:45 p.m. on February 26 for the purpose of examining a demonstration car with sun screening. The car was parked on the North side of the Statehouse. Those attending were Sen. Morris, Frey, Norvell, Hoferer, Thiessen, Vidricksen, Francisco and Steineger. Law enforcement officers were Capt. Don Pickert, Sgt. Bob Giffen and Trooper T.L. Maple of the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Mr. Dairl Bragg, Director, State Government Relations, Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association, Washington, D.C. had a demonstration automobile that had the 35% light transmission film. This vehicle had been viewed previously by other members of the Highway Patrol.

He said that 16 states now have legislation for this type of sheeting and 6 more have legislation introduced, including Kansas. He said vans and four-wheel drive vehicles are exempt by federal laws and they can have windows as dark as they want in back of the driver.

They have a screening for Lupus patients that is not dark but it is an orange color and stop lights cannot be observed. They are still working on this. It is experimental.

The reflective quality on the 35% light transmission glass is less than plain sheet glass.

There would be no law to prohibit an individual from putting this sheeting over a car that already had 70% sheeting coming from the factory.

Mr. Bragg submitted a draft bill from the Texas Legislature pertaining to the screening. He said he would be glad to provide any additional information or copies of what other states are doing in this area. (Attch. 1)

A copy of Mr. Bragg's letter to Sen. Steineger is attached. (Att. 2)

Information from New York State (Att. 3) and Massachusettes (Att. 4) was also given to the Committee for reference.

Texas

Texas

1 conjunction with safety glazing material, that:

2 (A) has a light transmission of not less than thirty-three
3 (33) percent;

4 (B) has a luminous reflectance of not more than thirty-five
5 (35) percent;

6 (C) is not red or amber in color; and

7 (D) does not extend downward beyond the AS-1 line or more
8 than five (5) inches from the top of the windshield, whichever is
9 closer to the top of the windshield;

10 (2) a front side wing vent or window that has a sunscreening
11 device, in conjunction with safety glazing material, that has a
12 light transmission of not less than thirty-five (35) percent and a
13 luminous reflectance of not more than thirty-five (35) percent;

14 (3) a side window to the rear of the driver, or a rear
15 window, that has a sunscreening device, in conjunction with safety
16 glazing material, that has a luminous reflectance of not more than
17 thirty-five (35) percent and a light transmission of not less than
18 thirty-five (35) percent;

19 (4) a rear window if the motor vehicle is equipped with
20 outside mirrors on both the left and right sides of the vehicle
21 that are located so as to reflect to the driver a view of the
22 highway through each mirror a distance of at least two hundred
23 (200) feet to the rear of the vehicle;

24 (5) a rearview mirror;

25 (6) an adjustable nontransparent sun visor mounted forward
26 of the side windows and not attached to the glass;

27 (7) a direction, destination, or termination sign on a

MOTOR AND EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

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FEDERAL EXPRESS

Sen. Jack Steineger
Room 136-N, Statehouse
Topeka, KS. 66612

Dear Senator Steineger:

It was so good to talk with you yesterday and to learn of your interest in the automotive sun screening issue. I am very pleased that you are willing to sponsor sun screening legislation this year. As we discussed, the legislation that I am proposing would limit light transmittance of sun screening devices to no less than 35%. This would prohibit the use of the excessive dark film now found on some vehicles back of the driver that precludes seeing in from the outside.

I am enclosing a draft containing the basic information for the legislative proposal. However, I'm not sure it is in the format acceptable for Kansas legislation. I am sure someone on your staff can take these basics and put them in the proper format and with the appropriate terminology. The basic information that is contained in the draft may be able to replace the language in the present Motor Vehicle Law Section 8-1749A.

There are more than a dozen states that now permit the reduction of light transmission to a minimum of 35% on windows to the right and left of the driver, and most but not all, have prohibited the use of darker film behind the driver. I am enclosing copies of some of this legislation.

Senate Transportation & Utilities
2/26/87 p.m.

Attachment 2

I was in Topeka about three weeks ago and had with me a demonstration car that had the 35% light transmission film. I met with and demonstrated the filmed car to numerous representatives from the Kansas Highway Patrol including Col. Burt Cantwell, Superintendent, Lt. Col. Moomau, Captain Pickert, Lt. Jacobs, Sgt. Giffin, Trooper Maple and other Highway Patrol officials. The vehicle demonstration included a number of test conditions such as viewing in daytime in bright sunlight, daytime overcast and nighttime out in a dark parking lot. The car was approached at night with bright automobile headlights as well as walking up to it with flashlights to see if there was bounce back of light or reflection from the lights of the patrol cars. The filmed car passed all these tests with flying colors.

I was very well received by all of the officials of the Kansas Highway Patrol and was given ample opportunity to demonstrate the film car. I did not leave Topeka with a firm commitment from the Highway Patrol to support the 35% film position. However, they all agreed to give it serious consideration. There was however, general agreement among all those in the Highway Patrol who viewed the demonstration that the 35% film all the way around, with the exception of the windshield, appeared to be a step in the right direction in terms of safety.

I am enclosing a copy of my correspondence to Col. Cantwell which provides some additional information on my visit to Kansas.

As we discussed, I have an identical legislative initiative ongoing in Missouri. Representative Gracia Backer is sponsoring the bill and Col. Hoffman, Superintendent of the Missouri Highway Patrol has agreed to support the legislative proposal. I have enclosed information on how each of them may be contacted should the need arise.

I hope I have provided you with sufficient information for filing a sun screen bill. However, if additional information is needed, please let me know. Rest assured that I will be responsive to any questions that may arise and will provide you any additional information you may need. I also will appear for any hearings that may be scheduled to provide information or defend the position taken in the bill.

With warm personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,



Dairl Bragg
Director
State Government Relations

enclosures

New York

New York

S. 7584--B

2

A. 9375--B

1 (b) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon any public highway,
2 road or street:

3 (1) the front windshield of which is composed of, covered by or
4 treated with any material which [has the effect of making such wind-
5 shield reflective or in any other way nontransparent] when tested has a
6 total light reflectance of more than thirty-five percent or a light
7 transmittance of less than thirty-five percent unless such materials are
8 limited to the uppermost six inches of the windshield; or

9 (2) the sidewings or side windows of which on either side forward of
10 or adjacent to the operator's seat are composed of, covered by or
11 treated with any material which [has the effect of making these glass
12 areas in any way nontransparent or which has a highly reflective or mir-
13 rored appearance and a total solar reflectance, when applied to automo-
14 tive glass, greater than thirty-five percent in the visible light range]
15 when tested has a total light reflectance of more than thirty-five per-
16 cent or a light transmittance of less than thirty-five percent; or

17 (3) the rear window of which is composed of, covered by or treated
18 with any material which [has a highly reflective or mirrored appearance
19 and which has a total solar reflectance, when applied to automotive
20 glass, greater than thirty-five percent in the visible light range un-
21 less the vehicle is equipped with side mirrors on both sides so adjusted
22 that the driver thereof shall have a clear and full view of the road and
23 condition of traffic behind such vehicle; or

24 (4) the rear window of which is composed of, covered by or treated
25 with any material which has the effect of making such rear window non-
26 transparent unless the vehicle is equipped with side mirrors on both
27 sides so adjusted that the driver thereof shall have a clear and full
28 view of the road and condition of traffic behind such vehicle; or

29 (5) any] when tested has a total light reflectance of more than
30 thirty-five percent or a light transmittance of less than thirty-five
31 percent. A rear window may have a total reflectance of greater than
32 thirty-five percent or a light transmittance of less than thirty-five
33 percent, or both, if the vehicle is equipped with side mirrors on both
34 sides of the vehicle so adjusted that the driver thereof shall have a
35 clear and full view of the road and condition of traffic behind such
36 vehicle.

37 (c) Any person required for medical reasons to be shielded from the
38 direct rays of the sun and/or any person operating a motor vehicle
39 belonging to such person or in which such person is an habitual pas-
40 senger shall be exempt from the provisions of [paragraphs] subparagraphs
41 one and two of paragraph (b) of this subdivision. Applications for such
42 exemption based upon such medical reason or reasons shall be made in
43 writing to the commissioner and shall be supported by the written at-
44 testation of a physician licensed to practice in this state of the
45 necessity therefor. Upon granting such exemption] provided the commis-
46 sioner has granted an exemption and notice of such exemption is affixed
47 to the vehicle as directed by the commissioner. If such exemption is
48 granted, the commissioner shall make a record thereof and shall dis-
49 tribute a sufficiently noticeable sticker to the applicant to be at-
50 tached to any window so shielded or altered pursuant to such exemption.

51 (d) Any windshield or window glass for a side window on either side
52 forward of or adjacent to the operator's seat or material to be affixed
53 to such a window or windshield designed for the purpose of reflecting
54 light or reducing the transmission of light, must be submitted to the
55 commissioner for approval unless such windshield, window glass or

(2) the use of draperies, louvers, or other special window treatments, except those specifically designated in this section, on the rear window, or a side window to the rear of the driver if the vehicle is equipped with two outside mirrors, one on each side, adjusted so that the driver has a clear view of the highway behind the vehicle.

(3) federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, watch guard or patrol agencies licensed under the provisions of section twenty-five of chapter one hundred and forty-seven and college, university and hospital police agencies appointed under the provisions of section ten G of said chapter one hundred and forty-seven utilizing K-9 teams in a motor vehicle while in the regular performance of their duties provided said motor vehicle is equipped with two outside mirrors, one on each side, adjusted so that the driver has a clear view of the highway behind the vehicle.

(4) the use of nontransparent or sunscreen material or window application which has a total visible light reflectance of not more than thirty-five per cent or a visible light transmittance of not less than thirty-five per cent on the side windows immediately adjacent to the right and left of the operator's seat, the side windows immediately to the rear of the operator's seat and the front passenger seat or on the rear window if the vehicle is equipped with two outside mirrors, one on each side, adjusted so that the driver has a clear view of the highway behind the vehicle.

(5) the use of any transparent material limited to the uppermost 8" along the top of the windshield, provided such strip does not encroach upon the driver's direct forward viewing area as more particularly described and defined in applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

(6) a vehicle registered in another state, territory or another country or province.

(7) the use of nontransparent or sunscreen material, window application, reflective film or nonreflective film used in any way to cover or treat the side windows immediately to the rear of the operator's seat and the front passenger seat and the rear window so as to make such window glass areas in any way nontransparent or obscured from either the interior or exterior thereof of a private passenger motor vehicle registered under the provisions of this chapter for public livery and hired for that purpose for any period of time which exclusion shall not include a taxicab.

Mass.

Mass.