STATE OF NEW YORK

4026

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 30, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. SANTABARBARA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to enacting the "New York state window tinting safety and enforcement act"; and making an appropriation therefor

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New York state window tinting safety and enforcement act".

§ 2. Legislative intent. The legislature finds that non-compliant window tinting presents a safety hazard by reducing visibility for drivers and law enforcement officers. Although New York state currently limits the allowable level of tint on vehicle windows, enforcement of this law has proven inconsistent. The intent of this legislation is to increase compliance through enhanced enforcement measures, stiffer penalties, and public awareness campaigns, with the goal of reducing dangerous driving conditions and improving law enforcement safety.

§ 3. Subdivision 12-a of section 375 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding two new paragraphs (g) and (h) to read as follows:

(g) Any person convicted of a violation of this subdivision shall for a first conviction thereof be punished by a fine of up to two hundred dollars; for a conviction of a second or subsequent violation such person shall be punished by a fine of up to five hundred dollars; upon conviction of a third or subsequent violation, all of which were committed within a period of two years, such person shall be subject to a vehicle registration suspension until such time as such person is in compliance with this subdivision.

(h) Law enforcement agencies shall conduct quarterly window tint enforcement sweeps in high traffic areas to enforce compliance with this subdivision. Law enforcement agencies shall use light transmission meters during such window tint enforcement sweeps to assess compliance

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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with this subdivision. Law enforcement agencies may use light transmission meters during routine traffic stops to assess compliance with this subdivision.

§ 4. Paragraph 1 of subdivision (c) of section 301 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subparagraph (c) to read as follows:

(c) A light transmission meter shall be used during the course of a safety inspection to determine whether any front side window is composed of, covered by or treated with any material which has a light transmittance of less than seventy percent pursuant to subparagraph (a) of this paragraph. A determination that any front side window is composed of, covered by or treated with any material which has a light transmittance of less than seventy percent in violation of section three hundred seventy-five of this title shall be a reason for automatic failure of this inspection.

§ 5. (a) The department of motor vehicles shall conduct a public education campaign to inform vehicle owners about the updated penalties and enforcement procedures for violations of subdivision 12-a of section 375 and subdivision (c) of section 301 of the vehicle and traffic law. Such campaign shall include, but not be limited to, digital media, mailers, and updates on such department's website to educate drivers on the dangers of illegal tint and the current tint laws pursuant to subdivision 12-a of section 375 of the vehicle and traffic law.

(b) The department of motor vehicles shall provide free tint cards to vehicle owners to allow such vehicle owners to independently check the compliance of their window tints with state law.

(c) The department of motor vehicles shall prepare and submit a report to the legislature on an annual basis. Such report shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) the number of safety inspection failures due to non-compliance with window tint requirements pursuant to section 301 of the vehicle and traffic law; and

(ii) the number of violations issued for non-compliance with window tint requirements pursuant to section 375 of the vehicle and traffic law, including data from quarterly window tint enforcement sweeps.

§ 6. The sum of two million dollars ($2,000,000) or so much thereof as may be deemed necessary, is hereby appropriated to law enforcement agencies out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of such law enforcement agencies, not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this act, including providing light transmission meters to such law enforcement agencies and training law enforcement officers on the use of such meters to effectively enforce window tint laws. Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner of motor vehicles in the manner prescribed by law.

§ 7. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.