

Senate Transportation Committee

Kirsten Koch 271-3266

HB 224, relative to tinted windows on motor vehicles.

Hearing Date: April 20, 2021

Time Opened: 2:07 p.m.

Time Closed: 2:23 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Birdsell, Watters, Ricciardi, Ward and Sherman

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill allows for after market tinting of side windows.

Sponsors:

Rep. Yokela

Rep. Yakubovich

Rep. Abramson

Rep. Hill

Rep. O'Hara

Rep. Belanger

Who supports the bill: Rep. Josh Yokela, Rockingham 33; Rep. Judy Aron, Sullivan 7; Rep. Greg Hill, Merrimack 3; William Haynes, State Police and New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety; Bill Alleman; Dan Lindbom; D.B. Smit, International Window Film Association.

Who opposes the bill: John Drury; Gregory Walters; Mark Chase; Steven Russo; Domenic Richardi; Timothy Carpenter; David Goldstein; Mike Bilodeau; Jeff Sprankle; Brenda Fisher; Gary Fisher; Christine Maille; Victoria Lapointe; Richard Stillman; Jeanne McFadden; Anthony Bean Burpee; Joseph Mahoney; Charles Reynolds; Robert Krieger; Christopher Connelly; David Croft; David Noyes; Brian Levesque; John Parsons; Doug Hackett; John Bryfonski, NH Association Chiefs of Police; Patrick Sullivan; Bradley Osgood.

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of Testimony Presented:

Representative Josh Yokela, Rockingham 33

- Rep. Yokela said, this bill is relative to tinting to driver and passenger side windows. The proposed tint matches window tint levels allowed in Maine and Massachusetts. The tint proposed is 70% light transmittance.
- Rep. Yokela said, the logic currently is if you buy an SUV, or a larger vehicle, they already have standard stock with 70% window tint allowed. However, you would not be allowed to have additional tint. Smaller or older cars do not have that window tint allowed from the factory, or as an after market option. This bill levels the playing field between older and newer cars for tint.

- Sen. Ricciardi said, I had a constituent reach out to me about their vehicle that passed NH inspection for three years in a row and then it did not this year because of their tint. Then they could not find somewhere local to remove the tint, so they had to go to Massachusetts to have it done.
 - Rep. Yokela said, when I moved here, I had to remove my tint from my windows. It is common problem that happens if you buy cars from Massachusetts. The history of the car is not coming into play in the law, and it is an issue. NH is one of three states that does not allow tint on driver or passenger windows. This is an issue when buying cars across state lines. Tint businesses would be more likely to open up shop in NH if this bill passed.

Rep. Gregory Hill, Merrimack 3

- Rep. Hill said, the level of tint proposed in this bill has been deemed safe by the highway safety administration and it has been deemed safe when applied by the manufacturer.
- Rep. Hill said, what studies can anyone show that tinted windows are dangerous for the police? We certainly do not hear of attacks of vicious window tinting around the country.
- Rep. Hill said, window film blocks UV rays and prevents skin cancer.
- Sen Watters said, can I state for the record that you are introducing this as an important climate change bill?
 - Rep. Hill said, certainly, that’s a good one.

D.B. Smit, International Window Film Association

- Mr. Smit said he promotes reasonable standards for tint across the country.
- Mr. Smit said, reasonable window tint limits do not add to the risk of police officers.
- Mr. Smit said he supports 70% tint in passenger and driver windows and supports 35% in rear windows.
- Mr. Smit said, manufacturers make lower than 35% and the federal government standard for window tinting is 35%.
- Sen. Sherman said, as the husband of a dermatologist I have to ask this question: do all tints provide similar protection from UV individuals?
 - Mr. Smit said, yes, all tints provide UV protection.

William R. Haynes, State Police and NH Office of Highway Safety

- Mr. Haynes said he is in support of not having window tint.
- Mr. Haynes said this is about seeing around you as a driver while looking out the windows. Real dark tint prohibits that. It goes beyond police safety.
- Mr. Haynes said, there are clear film tints that provide UV tints to reduce skin cancer.
- Mr. Haynes said, from a highway safety prospective, for pedestrians and operators, it is important to not darken the passenger and driver windows.