February 18, 2016 – Introduced by Representatives TRANEL, TITT, MURPHY, NOVAK and KULP. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

AN ACT relating to: modifying administrative rules related to tinting of motor vehicle windows.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill changes the motor vehicle window tinting limitations contained in the administrative code, allowing more opaque vent, side, and rear windows than under current law.

Under current law, the Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for enforcing motor vehicle equipment restrictions and may promulgate rules relating to vehicle equipment standards. DOT rules include provisions detailing the extent to which motor vehicle windows may be tinted. Among these rules, tinting of the vent, side, and rear windows is permitted by the application of tinting film to the inside of the glass provided that the combination of the glass and tinting film permits passage through the windows of at least 35 percent of the visible light striking the windows. This bill lowers the percentage of visible light that must be able to pass through the glass and tinting film to 17 percent.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Trans 305.32 (4) (b) 3. of the administrative code is amended to read:

Trans 305.32 (4) (b) 3. The windows are tinted, upon the recommendation of a physician or a Christian Science practitioner treating the owner, or an immediate
family member of the owner of the vehicle, by the application of tinting film to the
inside of the glazing provided that the combination of the glazing and tinting film
permits passage through the windows of at least 35% 17 percent of the visible light
striking the windows. Tinting films permitted under this subdivision may not be
reflective. A written statement from the treating physician or Christian Science
practitioner which identifies the patient, the medical condition justifying the
recommendation, whether the condition is temporary or permanent and the vehicle
to which the recommendation applies, including the make, model, year and vehicle
identification number, shall be carried in the vehicle at all times. Tinting film
applied under this subparagraph shall be removed when a vehicle covered by the
recommendation is sold, when the person for whom a recommendation was made no
longer resides in the household of the owner of the vehicle or when the duration of
a temporary condition which is the basis for a recommendation has expired.

SECTION 2. TRANS 305.32 (5) (b) 2. of the administrative code is amended to
read:

TRANS 305.32 (5) (b) 2. The window is tinted by the application of tinting film
to the inside of the glazing provided that the combination of the glazing and tinting
film permits passage through the window of at least 35% 17 percent of the visible
light striking the window. The tinting films permitted under this subdivision may
not be reflective.

SECTION 3. TRANS 305.32 (6) (b) of the administrative code is amended to read:

TRANS 305.32 (6) (b) The windows are tinted by the application of tinting film
to the inside of the glazing provided that the combination of the glazing and tinting
film permits passage through the windows of at least 35% 17 percent of the visible
light striking the window. The tinting films permitted under this subdivision may not be reflective.