
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF
MOTOR VEHICLE SUN SCREENING REQUIRED TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS
WITH VITILIGO WHILE DRIVING.

1 WHEREAS, vitiligo is a skin condition, the cause of which
2 is not known, in which patches of skin lose their pigmentation
3 when the pigment-producing cells, or melanocytes, are attacked
4 and destroyed, affecting the skin and leaving white patches; and
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6 WHEREAS, it is believed that vitiligo is an autoimmune
7 disorder in which white blood cells direct the destruction of
8 the melanocytes, and it is also currently thought that people
9 with vitiligo are prone to other autoimmune diseases; and
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11 WHEREAS, this disease cuts across all ethnic origins and
12 both sexes and affects an estimated one percent of the world's
13 population; and
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15 WHEREAS, the lack of pigmentation in vitiligo-affected
16 areas of the skin causes individuals afflicted with the disease
17 to be sensitive to ultraviolet rays and though a number of
18 treatments are currently available, the condition cannot be
19 cured at present; and
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21 WHEREAS, individuals with vitiligo need to protect their
22 skin and especially areas of depigmentation against excessive
23 sun exposure by wearing protective clothing, applying sunscreen
24 daily, and avoiding prolonged sun exposure; and
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26 WHEREAS, the simple, everyday task of driving long
27 distances which many take for granted as a harmless part of
28 life, may subject individuals with vitiligo to potentially
29 damaging sun exposure; and
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31 WHEREAS, this health hazard could be mitigated by the use
32 of appropriately tinted automobile windows; and
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