75th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2009 Regular Session MEASURE: HB 2268 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY CARRIER: Rep. Weidner

House Committee on Consumer Protection

REVENUE: No revenue impact FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 9 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Barton, Cowan, Gilliam, Matthews, Riley, Tomei, Weidner, Wingard, Holvey

Nays: 0 Exc.: Krieger

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 1/28, 3/18, 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires vehicle repair shop to prepare estimate for work expected to exceed \$200 on personal vehicles and obtain the owner's or owner designee's approval before proceeding with repairs. Allows consumer to waive approval after full disclosure. Requires shop to retain required documents for one year. Authorizes enforcement of violation as unlawful trade practice.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Authorization may take any form
- Applies only to repairs of \$200 or more
- Procedure for owner to waive authorization
- Authorization in cases where repairs will exceed estimate by 10% or more
- Exemption for frame and body repair shops covered under another statute
- Effort between Department of Justice and industry representatives on the measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Limits application to personal vehicles (not fleet vehicles) and exempts frame and body shops. Reduces estimate requirements and parts and warranty disclosures. Increases minimum cost for applicability from \$100 to \$200. Reduces record keeping requirement from three years to one year. Allows consumer to waive authorization requirements in writing after full disclosure.

BACKGROUND: Higher than anticipated bills for auto repairs constitute a large percentage of complaints to the Oregon Department of Justice. HB 2268-A addresses these complaints by requiring a vehicle repair shop to not only provide an estimate for repairs that exceeds \$200, but also obtain approval before proceeding with the work.