

Senate Bill 577

Sponsored by Senator THOMSEN

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Adds specifications for service contracts and vehicle protection products that are subject to regulation.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to methods for protecting property; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 646A.154
3 and 646A.430.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 646A.154 is amended to read:

6 646A.154. (1)(a) For the purposes of this section, a service contract is a contract or agreement
7 to perform or indemnify for a specific duration the repair, replacement or maintenance of property
8 for operational or structural failure [*due to*] **that results from** a defect in materials, workmanship
9 or normal wear and tear, with or without **an** additional **incidental** provision [*for incidental payment*
10 *of*] **to pay** indemnity under limited circumstances, including but not limited to rental and emergency
11 road service. A service contract may also provide for:

12 (A) [*the repair, replacement or maintenance of*] **Repairing, replacing or maintaining** property
13 for damage [*resulting*] **that results** from lightning, power surges or accidental damage from
14 handling[.];

15 (B) **Repairing or replacing tires or wheels on a motor vehicle damaged as a result of**
16 **contacting a road hazard;**

17 (C) **Removing dents, dings, creases or other damage on a motor vehicle that a process**
18 **of paintless dent removal can repair without affecting an existing paint finish or replacing**
19 **vehicle body panels, sanding, bonding or repainting;**

20 (D) **Repairing chips or cracks in motor vehicle windshields or replacing motor vehicle**
21 **windshields because of damage that results from road hazards;**

22 (E) **Replacing motor vehicle keys or key fobs that become inoperable or that are lost or**
23 **stolen; and**

24 (F) **Other services the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services**
25 **specifies by rule.**

26 (b) **For the purposes of this section, a service contract does not include coverage for**
27 **repairing damage to or replacing components of a motor vehicle's interior or exterior paint**
28 **or finish unless the service contract provides the services described in this paragraph in**
29 **connection with the sale of a vehicle protection product, as defined in ORS 646A.430.**

30 (c) Consideration for a service contract must be stated separately from the price of the con-
31 sumer product.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **(d) For purposes of this section, a service contract** [*The term “service contract”*] does not
 2 include insurance policies [*issued by*] **that** insurers **issue** under the Insurance Code[,] or mainte-
 3 nance agreements.

4 (2) An obligor may not issue, sell or offer for sale a service contract in this state unless the
 5 obligor has complied with the provisions of this section and ORS 646A.156 and 646A.158.

6 (3) All obligors of service contracts issued, sold or covering property located in this state shall
 7 file a registration with the [*Director of the*] Department of Consumer and Business Services on a
 8 form, at a fee and at a frequency [*prescribed by*] **that** the director [*pursuant to*] **specifies under** ORS
 9 646A.168.

10 (4) An obligor shall keep accurate accounts, books and records concerning transactions [*involv-*
 11 *ing*] **that involve** service contracts.

12 (5) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, to ensure the faithful performance of an
 13 obligor’s obligations to [*its*] **the obligor’s** contract holders, each obligor shall provide the director
 14 with one of the following as proof of financial stability:

15 (a) A copy of the obligor’s [*or, if the obligor’s financial statements are consolidated with those of*
 16 *its parent company, the obligor’s parent company’s*] most recent Form 10-K **that the obligor or the**
 17 **obligor’s parent company, if the obligor consolidates financial statements with a parent**
 18 **company, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. A Form 10-K that the obligor or**
 19 **the obligor’s parent company filed within the last calendar year must show that the obligor**
 20 **or the obligor’s parent company has** [*which shows*] a net worth of [*the obligor or its parent com-*
 21 *pany of*] at least \$100 million [*provided the Form 10-K was filed with the Securities and Exchange*
 22 *Commission within the last calendar year*]. If the obligor’s parent [*company’s*] **company files the**
 23 Form 10-K [*is filed*] to meet the obligor’s financial stability requirement, [*then*] the parent company
 24 shall agree to guarantee the obligations [*of the obligor relating to*] **the obligor has in** service con-
 25 tracts [*sold by the obligor*] **the obligor sells** in this state.

26 (b) Evidence of a reimbursement insurance policy described in ORS 742.390 that [*is obtained*
 27 *by*] **an authorized insurer issues to** the obligor and [*issued by an authorized insurer*] that insures
 28 all service contracts [*issued by*] the obligor **sells**.

29 (6)(a) An obligor of a home service agreement as defined in ORS 731.164 shall file with the di-
 30 rector a surety bond executed to the State of Oregon in the sum of \$25,000. The surety bond
 31 [*shall*] **must** be issued by a surety company authorized to do business in this state. An obligor of a
 32 home service agreement [*is not required*] **does not need** to file proof of financial stability under
 33 subsection (5) of this section.

34 (b) The surety bond **described in paragraph (a) of this subsection must** [*shall*] be issued on
 35 the condition that the obligor comply with all provisions of ORS 646A.150 to 646A.172 and fully
 36 perform on all contracts or agreements [*entered*] into **which the obligor enters**.

37 (c) The surety bond [*shall*] **must** be continuous until canceled and [*shall*] **must** remain in full
 38 force and unimpaired at all times to comply with this section. The surety shall give the director at
 39 least 30 days’ written notice by registered or certified mail before the surety cancels or terminates
 40 [*its*] **the surety’s** liability under the bond.

41 (d) Any person who suffers damage as a result of a violation of any provision of ORS 646A.150
 42 to 646A.172 or any rule [*adopted by*] the director **adopts** pursuant to ORS 646A.150 to 646A.172
 43 [*shall have*] **has** a right of action under the bond. [*An action under the bond may be brought by*] The
 44 state or [*by any*] a person with a right of action **may bring an action under the bond** by filing a
 45 complaint in a court of competent jurisdiction not later than one year after the surety bond is

1 canceled or terminated. The court may award the prevailing plaintiff reasonable attorney fees and
2 costs in an action under the bond.

3 (e) The aggregate liability of the surety *[shall]* **may** not exceed the principal sum of the bond.

4 (7) Filing requirements are as follows:

5 (a) The obligor shall file with the director proof of financial stability or a surety bond as re-
6 quired by subsection (5) or (6) of this section.

7 (b) The director **by rule** may *[adopt rules concerning]* **specify** the procedure for filing the proof
8 of financial stability or the surety bond.

9 (c) A person may not file or cause to be filed with the director any article, certificate, report,
10 statement, application or any other information required or permitted to be filed under this sub-
11 section that the person knows *[to be]* **is** false or misleading in any material respect.

12 (8) Service contract sellers and *[their employees marketing, selling or offering]* **employees of**
13 **service contract sellers that market, sell or offer** to sell service contracts for obligors who
14 comply with this section and ORS 646A.156 and 646A.158 are exempt from the requirements of the
15 Insurance Code including, but not limited to, the requirement to belong to the Oregon Insurance
16 Guaranty Association.

17 (9) Obligor *[complying]* **that comply** with ORS 646A.156 and 646A.158 *[are not required]* **do not**
18 **need** to comply with the Insurance Code including, but not limited to, the requirement to belong to
19 the Oregon Insurance Guaranty Association.

20 (10) If a service contract seller is not the same person as the obligor under the service contract,
21 the service contract seller shall remit the agreed-upon consumer purchase price of the service con-
22 tract to the obligor within 30 days *[of the sale of such]* **after selling the** service contract or *[upon*
23 *such]* **in accordance with** terms and conditions *[as may be agreed to in writing between]* **to which**
24 the service contract seller and obligor **agree in writing**.

25 **SECTION 2.** ORS 646A.430 is amended to read:

26 646A.430. As used in ORS 646A.430 to 646A.450:

27 (1) "Consumer" means a person in this state who purchases a vehicle protection product or who
28 possesses a vehicle protection product and is entitled to enforce a warranty for the product by
29 reason of the person's possession.

30 (2) "Reimbursement insurance policy" means an insurance policy issued to a warrantor that:

31 (a) Reimburses the warrantor for expenses or other obligations the warrantor incurs in com-
32 plying with the terms and conditions in a vehicle protection product warranty; or

33 (b) Pays on a warrantor's behalf all obligations due under the terms and conditions of the
34 warrantor's vehicle protection product warranty.

35 (3) "Reimbursement insurer" means an insurer that issues a reimbursement insurance policy.

36 (4) "Seller" means a person engaged in the business of offering a vehicle protection product for
37 sale to a consumer.

38 *[(5) "Vehicle protection product" means a product, system or service that is designed to prevent a*
39 *particular type of loss or damage to a vehicle from theft, and that is:]*

40 *[(a) Provided as a product or system that is installed on or applied to a vehicle or provided as a*
41 *service for a specific vehicle; and]*

42 *[(b) Accompanied by a written warranty.]*

43 **(5)(a) "Vehicle protection product" means:**

44 **(A) A protective chemical, substance, device, product, system or service that is:**

45 **(i) Designed to prevent loss or damage to a vehicle from a specific cause; and**

1 (ii) Accompanied by a written warranty that provides that if the vehicle protection
2 product fails to prevent loss or damage to a motor vehicle from a specific cause, the
3 warrantor will reimburse a consumer for costs the consumer incurs as a result of the vehicle
4 protection product's failure to perform in accordance with the terms of the vehicle pro-
5 tection product warranty, if the consumer purchases a physical product that is designed or
6 formulated to make the incidental costs less likely to occur;

7 (B) An alarm system;

8 (C) A product to mark motor vehicle body parts;

9 (D) A lock for a motor vehicle steering wheel, pedal or ignition;

10 (E) A product to etch motor vehicle windows;

11 (F) A kill switch for motor vehicle ignitions or fuel systems;

12 (G) A tracking system that uses satellites, radio or electronic means; or

13 (H) Other similar or related chemicals, substances, devices, products, systems or ser-
14 vices that are designed to prevent loss or damage to a motor vehicle from a specific cause.

15 (b) "Vehicle protection product" does not include:

16 (A) A fuel or oil additive; or

17 (B) Other chemical products that are applied to a motor vehicle's engine, transmission
18 or fuel system.

19 (6)(a) "Warrantor" means a person [named under the terms of] **that** a vehicle protection product
20 warranty **names** as the contractual obligor to the consumer.

21 (b) "Warrantor" does not include an authorized insurer that provides a warranty reimbursement
22 insurance policy.

23 **SECTION 3.** The amendments to ORS 646A.154 and 646A.430 by sections 1 and 2 of this
24 2013 Act apply to service contracts into which a consumer enters and vehicle protection
25 product warranties that go into effect on or after the effective date of this 2013 Act.
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