



Automotive Service Association®

LEGISLATIVE NEWS



A bimonthly news update from ASA's legislative activities.

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TakingTheHill.com

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Recent activities of ASA's Washington, D.C., office ...

ASA Fights for Vehicle Safety Inspection Programs

Utah Representative Norman Thurston, R-64, has introduced House Bill (HB) 319 that would repeal the requirement that certain vehicles obtain a safety inspection certificate to be registered and operate on a highway. Under current law, vehicles registered in Utah must undergo safety inspections based on the age of the vehicle. Vehicles with model years 10 years old and older must pass safety inspections every year.

The Automotive Service Association (ASA) opposes HB 319 and encourages Utah's repair shops to visit ASA's legislative website, www.TakingTheHill.com, and send a letter to their state legislators in opposition to the legislation (select "Alerts").

ASA will host its third annual Vehicle Safety Inspection and Maintenance Forum in Texas this fall. We'll make a formal announcement on dates and location soon.

Mississippi Bill Seeks to Cap Labor Rates

Mississippi Rep. Videt Carmichael, R-33, has introduced House Bill (HB) 2187 that would prohibit motor vehicle repair shops from charging labor rates above the national average for like-kind work. The bill also stipulates that shops seeking to charge above the average must have the express approval of the Commissioner of Insurance.

ASA opposes HB 2187 and asks Mississippi collision shops to go to ASA's legislative website, www.TakingTheHill.com, and send a letter to their state legislators in opposition to the legislation.

OEM Information Resource Launched

In conjunction with the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, ASA has launched a new information resource for automotive repairers. The Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) Resource website (ORepairinfo.com) will serve as a consolidated hub for manufacturer-specific scan tool information, calibration and reprogramming updates; training materials; and service information.

Developed by repairers for repairers, the new resource also features direct input from manufacturers. Since its debut, it has been one of the more popular aftermarket items on social media.

ASA Testifies on Parts Act

The U.S. House Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet, under the Judiciary Committee, recently held a hearing on House Resolution (HR) 1057, the Promoting Automotive Repair, Trade, and Sales (PARTS) Act. The PARTS Act limits the term of protection for patented designs of automotive repair parts used to restore automobiles.

ASA President Dan Risley testified on behalf of the

automotive repair industry.

During the hearing, members addressed the costs and benefits of the current time restrictions on design patents for collision car parts. The main point of contention centered on the protection of intellectual property vs. the perceived need for increased competition within the replacement parts marketplace.

"A free and open marketplace does not entail enacting a law that states an aftermarket part is equal to an OEM part, Risley said following the hearing. "This should be decided by the party making the purchase."

New Vehicle Technology Policies Discussed

In addition to educational and industry discussions relative to telematics and new vehicle technologies, ASA continues to engage with policymakers on those issues related to both mechanical and collision repairers.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) brought together vehicle manufacturers, suppliers, technology companies, industry experts, security researchers and government agencies to discuss the industry's development and adoption of vehicle cybersecurity standards.

The majority of the panelists, at the NHTSA meeting, agreed on the necessity of an industry-wide set of minimum, verifiable cybersecurity standards. However, due to the continually changing nature of emerging technologies, they also suggested that these standards could only serve as a baseline.

A number of members of Congress have introduced vehicle cybersecurity legislation. Vehicle cybersecurity has been an issue discussed in past NACE | CARS events, sponsored by ASA, and will be a significant part of the NACE | CARS 2016 program. ASA also has hosted several automotive industry meetings related to new vehicle technologies and cybersecurity.

Dominick Ruggerio, Rhode Island Senate majority leader, introduced Senate Bill (SB) 2055 that would regulate the generation, collection, analysis, dissemination and sharing of connected car vehicle data. This legislation seeks to protect consumer rights relating to the access and sharing of that data. SB 2055 has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee for further consideration.

To view the text of SB 2055 and related items, please go to ASA's legislative website, www.TakingTheHill.com.

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