

CHAPTER 530

(House Bill 1057)

AN ACT concerning

Commercial Law – Automotive Repair Facilities – Invoices, Written Estimates, and Forms for Authorization of Repairs

FOR the purpose of requiring an invoice, a written estimate for repair work, and a form for authorization of repairs from an automotive repair facility to state that while a customer's motor vehicle is on the premises of the automotive repair facility, the automotive repair facility ~~is not responsible for any damage to the customer's motor vehicle that is caused by an individual not employed by the automotive repair facility~~ may not be responsible for damage to the customer's motor vehicle under certain circumstances, and that the customer should ask a representative of the automotive repair facility about the extent of its responsibility, including the extent of the insurance coverage of the automotive repair facility; making a stylistic change stylistic changes; and generally relating to automotive repair facilities and invoices.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Commercial Law
Section ~~14-1002(a) and~~ 14-1003
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Commercial Law
Section 14-1008(e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Commercial Law

14-1002.

(a) (1) Before beginning any repair work on a motor vehicle for which a customer is charged more than \$50, an automotive repair facility shall give the customer on [his] **THE CUSTOMER'S** request a written statement which contains:

(i) The estimated completion date; [and]

(ii) The estimated price for labor and parts necessary to complete the work; [and]

(III) A CLEAR STATEMENT THAT WHILE THE CUSTOMER'S MOTOR VEHICLE IS ON THE PREMISES OF THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR FACILITY, THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR FACILITY MAY NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGE TO THE CUSTOMER'S MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THAT THE CUSTOMER SHOULD ASK A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR FACILITY ABOUT THE EXTENT OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY, INCLUDING THE EXTENT OF THE INSURANCE COVERAGE OF THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR FACILITY; AND

[(iii)] (IV) The estimated surcharge, if any.

(2) If the fee is disclosed to the customer before the estimate is made, the automotive repair facility may charge a reasonable fee for making the estimate.

14-1003.

(a) An automotive repair facility shall prepare an invoice which describes:

- (1) All work done by it, including all warranty work; and
- (2) All parts supplied by it.

(b) The invoice shall state clearly [if]:

(1) **IF** any used, rebuilt, or reconditioned parts have been supplied or if a part of a component system supplied is composed of used, rebuilt, or reconditioned parts; **AND**

(2) THAT WHILE A CUSTOMER'S MOTOR VEHICLE IS ON THE PREMISES OF THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR FACILITY, THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR FACILITY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE TO THE CUSTOMER'S MOTOR VEHICLE THAT IS CAUSED BY AN INDIVIDUAL NOT EMPLOYED BY THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR FACILITY MAY NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGE TO THE CUSTOMER'S MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THAT THE CUSTOMER SHOULD ASK A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR FACILITY ABOUT THE EXTENT OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY, INCLUDING THE EXTENT OF THE INSURANCE COVERAGE OF THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR FACILITY.

(c) The invoice shall include the following notice:

“Manufacturer Special Policy Adjustment Programs

Federal law requires manufacturers to furnish the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (N.H.T.S.A.) with bulletins describing any defects in their vehicles. You may obtain copies of these bulletins from either the manufacturer or N.H.T.S.A. In addition, certain consumer publications or organizations publish this information, which may be available for a fee or for free.”

(d) After the customer signs the invoice, the automotive repair facility shall give [him] **THE CUSTOMER** a copy of it and retain a copy.

14-1008.

(E) THE AUTHORIZATION FORM SHALL INCLUDE A CLEAR STATEMENT THAT WHILE THE CUSTOMER’S MOTOR VEHICLE IS ON THE PREMISES OF THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR FACILITY, THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR FACILITY MAY NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGE TO THE CUSTOMER’S MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THAT THE CUSTOMER SHOULD ASK A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR FACILITY ABOUT THE EXTENT OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY, INCLUDING THE EXTENT OF THE INSURANCE COVERAGE OF THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR FACILITY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2008.