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To: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Finance Committee

From: Steven M. Sakamoto-Wengel
Consumer Protection Counsel for Regulation, Legislation and Policy

Re: Senate Bill 793 – Consumer Protection – Motor Vehicle Glass Repair or Replacement -
Driver Assistance System Recalibration (LETTER OF INFORMATION)

The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General submits the following letter of information concerning Senate Bill 793, sponsored by Senators West, Feldman, Beidle, and Klausmeier, which would help to inform consumers who need to have their windshields that contain advanced safety features replaced about the nature of those repairs. New cars now contain safety features that are designed to help prevent accidents. Many of those safety features involve sensors in the windshield or other auto glass that must be accurately calibrated in order to work properly and that significantly increase the cost and technical skills necessary to properly replace the auto glass. Failure to properly calibrate the safety features can result in accidents if drivers rely upon improperly functioning features.¹

Senate Bill 793 would require an automotive repair facility to:

- Inform the customer whether auto glass replacement will require that an advanced driver assistance system be recalibrated;
- Provide a statement that the work to be performed will meet or exceed original equipment manufacturer specifications; and
- Disclose to the customer if the recalibration was not performed or successfully completed.

Each of these disclosures is a material fact that would need to be disclosed to consumers even if the disclosure was not specified in the bill. Section 13-301(3) of the Consumer Protection Act,

¹ See, e.g., U.S. Regulator Questions Tesla on the Lack of a Recall After an Update to Autopilot, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/13/business/tesla-autopilot-recall-safety.html>.

Md. Code Ann., Com. Law § 13-301(3) requires disclosure of material facts to consumers if failure to disclose those facts would deceive or tend to deceive consumers. “An omission is material if a significant number of unsophisticated consumers would find that information important in determining a course of action.”²

Last session, in addition to the above disclosures, Senate Bill 428/House Bill 1460 would have required the automotive repair facility to also inform consumers whether the auto glass repair or replacement and recalibration would be covered by insurance and, if so, the amount the insurer would pay. However, this year’s legislation is silent as to the cost of the repair and recalibration to the consumer and whether any or all of those costs would be covered by the consumer’s insurance.

The Consumer Protection Division believes information about cost and insurance coverage would also be important to consumers in determining a course of action as to whether and where to have automobile glass repaired and recalibrated and, therefore, would be a material fact that the Consumer Protection Act would require to be disclosed to consumers whether or not expressly required in Senate Bill 793.³

Accordingly, the Consumer Protection Division requests that the Finance Committee take the above information into consideration as it reviews Senate Bill 793.

cc: The Honorable Chris West
The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
The Honorable Pamela Beidle
The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier
Members, Finance Committee

² *Green v. H & R Block*, 355 Md. 488, 524 (1999).

³ *See State v. Cottman Transmissions Systems*, 86 Md. App. 714, 725 (1991).