

SENATE BILL 1621  
By Clabough

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 47, Chapter 18, relative to consumer protection.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 47, Chapter 18, is amended by adding the following as a new part thereto:

Section 47-18-5101.

(a)

(1) Before beginning any repair work on a motor vehicle for which a customer is charged more than fifty dollars (\$50.00), an automotive repair facility shall give the customer on such customer's request a written statement that contains:

(A) The estimated completion date;

(B) The estimated price for labor and parts necessary to complete the work; and

(C) The estimated surcharge, if any.

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

(b) An automotive repair facility may not charge a customer without such customer's consent any amount that exceeds the written estimate by ten percent (10%).

(c) An automotive repair facility is not liable for breach of the written estimated completion date for a repair if the delay is caused by:

- (1) An act of God;
- (2) Strike;
- (3) Unexpected illness; or
- (4) Unexpected shortage of labor or parts.

(d) This section does not require an automotive repair facility to give a written estimate if the facility does not agree to perform the requested repair work.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.