

THE MOTOR VEHICLE OWNER'S RIGHT TO REPAIR ACT

WHY THIS BILL IS NEEDED:

- Current automotive technology is being used to successfully “lock out” car owners from being able to repair and maintain their own vehicles. Modern automobiles contain many computers that control virtually every component such as the braking system, steering mechanism, air bags, ignition, and the climate control system.
- Lacking the ability to “talk” to the car’s computers, owners or their auto technicians cannot accurately diagnose mechanical problems or install safe and reliable replacement parts that are compatible with the vehicle’s computers.
- This means that later model cars can only be serviced and repaired at automobile dealerships, which makes shopping around for the best prices and most convenient service locations impossible.
- Without the ability to choose, consumers are denied competitive prices and the right to choose where, how, and when to have their vehicles repaired – at affordable prices and convenient locations.

WHAT THIS BILL DOES:

- Reaffirms the owners’ right to repair their automobile and keep their families safe.
- Promotes consumer safety by allowing owners or their auto technicians’ access to the computers that control the systems and components that affect the safe operation of their automobiles.
- Permits owners to choose the repair shop and the replacement parts to service and maintain their vehicles.
- Authorizes the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to promulgate regulations to protect consumers and to promote competition in auto maintenance and repair.
- Provides car owners a cause of action in federal court for violation of this Act.

WHAT THIS BILL DOES NOT DO:

- It does not unconstitutionally take the manufacturer’s intellectual property.
- It does not affect the dealer's warranty agreement with the vehicle manufacturers.
- It does not require manufacturers to disclose manufacturing processes or trade secrets.