A bill to be entitled

An act relating to motor vehicle repairs; requiring collision centers, insurance claims centers, and insurance adjusters' offices to display a disclosure relating to the selection and ownership of repair facilities; requiring certain repair facilities to submit a report to the Office of Insurance Regulation; providing criteria for the report; requiring the office to maintain the information contained in the report; requiring the office to make such information available to appropriate substantive legislative committees; authorizing the office to penalize repair facilities; providing civil penalties; providing that no order of the office or court or holding of a hearing will relieve or absolve a person from liability, penalty, or forfeiture under law; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. <u>Disclosure; conflict of interest.--The</u>

<u>following disclosure is required by law to be posted in visible</u>

<u>sight in the customer area of any collision center, insurance</u>

claims center, or insurance adjuster's office:

A PERSON IN THIS STATE HAS THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE ANY
REPAIR FACILITY FOR THE REPAIR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
LOSS. IF AN INSURER PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT A
REPAIR FACILITY, THE INSURER SHALL INFORM THE PERSON

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OF THIS RIGHT AT THE SAME TIME AS PROVIDING THE

INFORMATION. THIS SECTION DOES NOT CREATE A PRIVATE

RIGHT OR CAUSE OF ACTION TO OR ON BEHALF OF ANY

PERSON.

IF AN INSURED OR CLAIMANT SELECTS A REPAIR FACILITY TO REPAIR THE INSURED'S OR CLAIMANT'S MOTOR VEHICLE AND THE INSURER OWNS AN INTEREST IN THAT REPAIR FACILITY, THE ADJUSTER FOR THE MOTOR VEHICLE SHALL NOT BE EMPLOYED BY THE REPAIR FACILITY OR HAVE ANY DIRECT AUTHORITY OVER THAT FACILITY'S RECOMMENDATIONS OR DECISIONS RELATING TO THE REPAIR OF THE INSURED'S OR CLAIMANT'S MOTOR VEHICLE.

Section 2. Reports by insurer-owned repair facilities.-(1) Not later than January 10 each year, through January
10, 2010, each repair facility that an insurer owns an interest
in and that engages in the business of repairing or replacing
the nonmechanical exterior or interior body parts of a damaged
motor vehicle shall file a report with the Director of the
Office of Insurance Regulation:

(a) Providing the number of motor vehicles repaired, including the dollar amount of those repairs, by the repair facility in the previous calendar year in which the motor vehicle owners were insured by or claimants of the insurer that owns an interest in the repair facility.

(b) Providing the number of motor vehicles repaired, including the dollar amount of those repairs, by the repair

facility in the previous calendar year in which the motor vehicle owners were insured by or claimants of the insurer that owns an interest in the repair facility as a percentage of the total number of motor vehicles repaired, or the total dollar amount of those repairs, by that repair facility for that calendar year.

- (2) The Office of Insurance Regulation shall maintain the information received pursuant to subsection (1) and make this information and any violations of this act available annually to the appropriate substantive committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- Section 3. <u>Cease and desist order for defined or</u> prohibited practices; civil penalty.--
- (1) If, after a hearing, the Office of Insurance

 Regulation finds that a person or a repair facility has engaged

 or is engaging in any illegal or unfair method of competition or

 an unfair or deceptive act or practice under this act, the

 office:
- (a) Shall order such person or repair facility to cease and desist from the proscribed acts or practices.
- (b) May impose a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each act or violation but not to exceed an aggregate penalty of \$50,000 in any 6-month period unless the person or repair facility intentionally violates this subsection, in which case the office may impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 for each act or violation but not to exceed an aggregate penalty of \$100,000 in any 6-month period.

(2) No order of the Office of Insurance Regulation	
pursuant to this act, order of a court to enforce such order,	or
holding of a hearing may in any manner relieve or absolve any	
person affected by the order or hearing from any other	
liability, penalty, or forfeiture under law.	
Soution / This act shall take offect July 1 2005	