1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to motor vehicle repair work; 3 providing a short title; amending s. 559.905, F.S.; 4 requiring a motor vehicle repair shop to request a 5 written crash report from a customer under certain circumstances; requiring a motor vehicle repair shop 6 7 to prepare a transaction form under certain 8 circumstances; requiring the Department of Agriculture 9 and Consumer Services to approve the design and format 10 of the transaction form; specifying requirements for 11 the transaction form; requiring a motor vehicle repair 12 shop to record specified information on the transaction form; requiring a motor vehicle repair 13 14 shop to maintain a copy of the transaction form for a 15 specified timeframe; requiring a motor vehicle repair 16 shop to deliver transaction forms to the appropriate law enforcement agency within a specified timeframe; 17 providing an exception; authorizing a motor vehicle 18 19 repair shop to use certain evidence in court under 20 certain circumstances; requiring the electronic 21 transfer of transaction forms to the appropriate law 22 enforcement agency by a motor vehicle repair shop 23 under certain circumstances; authorizing the 24 appropriate law enforcement agency to provide certain 25 equipment to a motor vehicle repair shop; specifying

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ownership and maintenance of such equipment; specifying that a motor vehicle repair shop is not required to deliver original or copies of transaction forms under certain circumstances; authorizing the appropriate law enforcement agency to request an original transaction form from a motor vehicle repair shop under certain circumstances; requiring a motor vehicle repair shop to respond to such request within a certain timeframe; providing criminal penalties; authorizing the department to revoke a motor vehicle repair shop's registration under certain circumstances; revising the items required in a written repair estimate; making technical changes; amending s. 559.909, F.S.; conforming a crossreference; making technical changes; reenacting s. 559.907(1)(b), F.S., relating to charges for motor vehicle repair estimate and requirement of waiver of rights prohibited, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 559.905, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing an effective date. Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: This act may be cited as the "Lilly Glaubach Section 1.

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Section 2. Section 559.905, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

559.905 <u>Crash report or transaction form required for</u>

<u>accident or collision repair work;</u> written motor vehicle repair estimate; and disclosure statement required.—

- (1) (a) If a customer requests that a motor vehicle repair shop perform work to restore a motor vehicle damaged in an accident or a collision, and such work is estimated to cost \$5,000 or more, the motor vehicle repair shop must, before preparing the written repair estimate required by subsection (2), request that the customer provide a written crash report as specified under s. 316.066.
- (b) If the customer does not provide a written crash report, the motor vehicle repair shop must prepare an accident or collision repair work transaction form before preparing the written repair estimate required by subsection (2). The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services must approve the design and format of the transaction form, which must be 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches in size and elicit the information required under this paragraph. In completing the transaction form, the motor vehicle repair shop shall record the following information, which must be typed or written indelibly and legibly in English:
  - 1. The name and address of the motor vehicle repair shop.
  - 2. The vehicle identification number, year, license tag

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number, make, model, and color of the damaged vehicle and the name, phone number, physical description, and address of the owner of the vehicle or the person in possession of the vehicle.

- 3. A detailed description of the damage to the vehicle.
- (c) A motor vehicle repair shop shall maintain a copy of each completed transaction form on its premises for at least 1 year after the date of the transaction. On or before the end of each business day, the motor vehicle repair shop shall deliver to the appropriate law enforcement agency the original transaction forms for each of the transactions occurring during the previous business day, unless other arrangements have been agreed upon between the motor vehicle repair shop and the appropriate law enforcement agency. If the original transaction form is lost or destroyed by the appropriate law enforcement agency, a copy may be used by the motor vehicle repair shop as evidence in court.
- (d) If the appropriate law enforcement agency supplies the necessary software and the motor vehicle repair shop has the computer capability, transaction forms must be electronically transferred. If a motor vehicle repair shop does not have the computer capability, the appropriate law enforcement agency may provide the motor vehicle repair shop with the necessary equipment for the purpose of electronically transferring accident or collision repair work transaction forms. The appropriate law enforcement agency shall retain ownership of the

equipment, unless otherwise agreed upon. The motor vehicle repair shop shall maintain the equipment in good working order, ordinary wear and tear excepted. If a motor vehicle repair shop transfers accident or collision repair work transaction forms electronically, the motor vehicle repair shop is not required to also deliver to the appropriate law enforcement agency the original or copies of the transaction forms. The appropriate law enforcement agency may, for the purposes of a criminal investigation, request that the motor vehicle repair shop produce the original of a transaction form that has been electronically transferred. The motor vehicle repair shop shall deliver this form to the appropriate law enforcement agency within 24 hours after the request.

- (e) Any person who violates this subsection commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. If the department finds a motor vehicle repair shop in violation of this subsection, it may revoke the motor vehicle repair shop's registration under s. 559.904.
- (2) When any customer requests a motor vehicle repair shop to perform repair work on a motor vehicle, the cost of which repair work will exceed \$150 to the customer, the shop shall prepare a written repair estimate, which is a form setting forth the estimated cost of repair work, including diagnostic work, before effecting any diagnostic work or repair. The written repair estimate must also include all of the following items:

(a) The name, address, and telephone number of the motor vehicle repair shop.

- (b) The name, address, and telephone number of the customer.
  - (c) The date and time of the written repair estimate.
- (d) The <u>vehicle identification number</u>, year, make, model, odometer reading, and license tag number of the motor vehicle.
  - (e) The proposed work completion date.

- (f) A general description of the customer's problem or request for repair work or service relating to the motor vehicle.
- (g) A statement as to whether the customer is being charged according to a flat rate or an hourly rate, or both.
- (h) The estimated cost of repair which must include any charge for shop supplies or for hazardous or other waste removal and, if a charge is included, the estimate must include the following statement:

"This charge represents costs and profits to the motor vehicle repair facility for miscellaneous shop supplies or waste disposal."

If a charge is mandated by state or federal law, the estimate must contain a statement identifying the law and the specific amount charged under the law.

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(i) The charge for making a repair price estimate or, if the charge cannot be predetermined, the basis on which the charge will be calculated.

(j) The customer's intended method of payment.

- (k) The name and telephone number of another person who may authorize repair work, if the customer desires to designate such person.
- (1) A statement indicating what, if anything, is guaranteed in connection with the repair work and the time and mileage period for which the guarantee is effective.
- (m) A statement allowing the customer to indicate whether replaced parts should be saved for inspection or return.
- (n) A statement indicating the daily charge for storing the customer's motor vehicle after the customer has been notified that the repair work has been completed. However, storage charges may not accrue or be due and payable for a period of 3 working days from the date after such notification.
- $\underline{(3)}$  (2) If the cost of repair work will exceed \$150, the shop must present to the customer a written notice conspicuously disclosing, in a separate, blocked section, only the following statement, in capital letters of at least 12-point type:
- PLEASE READ CAREFULLY, CHECK ONE OF THE STATEMENTS BELOW, AND SIGN:
  - I UNDERSTAND THAT, UNDER STATE LAW, I AM ENTITLED TO A

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176	WRITTEN ESTIMATE IF MY FINAL BILL WILL EXCEED \$150.
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178	I REQUEST A WRITTEN ESTIMATE.
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180	I DO NOT REQUEST A WRITTEN ESTIMATE AS LONG AS THE
181	REPAIR COSTS DO NOT EXCEED \$ THE SHOP MAY NOT EXCEED THIS
182	AMOUNT WITHOUT MY WRITTEN OR ORAL APPROVAL.
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184	I DO NOT REQUEST A WRITTEN ESTIMATE.
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186	SIGNEDDATE
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188	(4) (3) The information required by paragraphs $(2)$ (h) and
189	$\underline{\text{(i)}}$ $\underline{\text{(1)}}$ $\underline{\text{(h)}}$ and $\underline{\text{(i)}}$ need not be provided if the customer waives
190	in writing her or his right to receive a written estimate.
191	(5) $(4)$ Except as provided in subsection $(6)$ $(5)$ , a
192	copy of the written repair estimate required by subsection $(2)$
193	$\overline{\text{(1)}}$ and the disclosure statement required by subsection $\underline{\text{(3)}}$ must
194	(2) shall be given to the customer before repair work commences
195	is begun. The disclosure statement may be provided on the same
196	form as the written repair estimate.
197	(6) (5) If the customer leaves her or his motor vehicle at
198	a motor vehicle repair shop during hours when the shop is not
199	open or if the customer permits the shop or another person to
200	deliver the motor vehicle to the shop, there $\underline{\text{is}}$ $\underline{\text{shall be}}$ an

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implied partial waiver of the written estimate; however, upon completion of diagnostic work necessary to estimate the cost of repair, the shop shall notify the customer as required in s. 559.909(1).

(7) (6) Nothing in This section may not shall be construed to require a motor vehicle repair shop to give a written estimated price if the motor vehicle repair shop does not agree to perform the requested repair.

## Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 559.909, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

559.909 Notification of charges in excess of repair estimate; unlawful charges; refusal to return vehicle prohibited; inspection of parts.—

(1) In the event that:

- (a) The written repair estimate contains only an estimate for diagnostic work necessary to estimate the cost of repair and such diagnostic work has been completed;
- (b) A determination is made by a motor vehicle repair shop that the actual charges for the repair work will exceed the written estimate by more than \$10 or 10 percent, whichever is greater, but not to exceed \$50; or
- (c) An implied partial waiver exists for diagnostic work, as described in  $\underline{s.559.905(6)}$   $\underline{s.559.905(5)}$ , and such diagnostic work has been completed,

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the customer <u>must shall</u> be promptly notified <u>by the motor</u>

<u>vehicle repair shop</u> by telephone, telegraph, mail, or other

means of the additional repair work and estimated cost thereof.

A customer so notified shall, orally or in writing, authorize,

modify, or cancel the order for repair.

Section 4. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 559.905, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 559.907, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

559.907 Charges for motor vehicle repair estimate; requirement of waiver of rights prohibited.—

- (1) No motor vehicle repair shop shall charge for making a repair price estimate unless, prior to making the price estimate, the shop:
- (b) Obtains authorization on the written repair estimate, in accordance with s. 559.905, to prepare an estimate. No motor vehicle repair shop shall impose or threaten to impose any such charge which is clearly excessive in relation to the work involved in making the price estimate.
  - Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

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