

'Auto Lemon' bill passes House

The work took months, but passage of the Auto Lemon Bill in the state House of Representatives came easily — 85-4.

"It was a compromise," said Rep. Maxine Berman, D-Southfield, who with Rep. Justine Barnes of Westland was one of the 14 Democratic cosponsors.

"We worked with the auto companies and hammered it out so everyone could come out relatively well," said Berman, a vice chairwoman of the House consumers committee.

THE IDEA had been pushed by ALO — Aid to Lemon Owners — a Southfield-based group of people unhappy with repair jobs to their new and used cars.

"ALO did testify one afternoon. There were some parts they didn't like," said Berman.

"There were some parts I didn't like. And there were some parts the auto companies didn't like."

"Chrysler endorsed it," she said, "and the auto companies did not lobby against it."

The bill was sent to the state Senate.

HOUSE BILL 4888 would require the manufacturer to "repair any defect or condition which impairs the use or value of the new motor vehicle" if the buyer has reported it in time.

The time period is 1) within the warranty period, 2) within two years or 3) during the first 18,000

miles of operation, whichever comes first.

A key provision says the manufacturer must make the repairs even if the warranty has expired provided the buyer reported the defect promptly.

And if the defect can't be repaired in four tries over two years, the manufacturer must provide the buyer either a new or comparable vehicle, or else refund the full purchase price — at the buyer's option.

The terms also apply if the vehicle is out of service for repairs a total of 30 or more days during the term of the warranty, two years or 18,000 miles, whichever comes first.

THE MANUFACTURER must provide the buyer a written statement in 10-point boldface type (slightly larger than this newspaper's type) at the time of purchase. The statement begins:

"Important: If this vehicle is defective you may be entitled under state law to replacement of it or a refund of its purchase price. You should first report the defect to the manufacturer or its authorized dealer."

The statement advises buyers to keep copies of all correspondence to and from the manufacturer and dealer, as well as copies of work orders.

The buyer must follow all terms of the warranty, "including any requirement that the repairs must be done by an authorized dealer."

The buyer may not waive his/her rights. A buyer

If the defect can't be repaired in four tries over two years, the manufacturer must provide the buyer either a new or comparable vehicle, or else refund the full purchase price — at the buyer's option.

who successfully enforces the law is entitled to recover attorney's fees.

The four votes against the bill came from out-state Republicans — all freshmen.

Monday, December 19, 1983 O&E (F-6A, Po-28X07A)

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OU offers 2 new doctorates

The Oakland University Board of Trustees has approved two new areas of specialization in its doctoral programs in biomedical sciences.

University officials said the new areas of study will take advantage of a need for more specialists in these fields. No nearby university offers similar

programs of study, OU officials said.

The specializations are 1) cellular biology of aging and 2) health and environmental chemistry. Both programs were approved by the board in August.

The programs will begin when the university gets enough money.

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