

HCS HB 281 -- MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERSHIPS

SPONSOR: Dixon (Weter)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Transportation by a vote of 14 to 0.

This substitute requires any motor vehicle dealership which requires warranty work and repairs to be completed by a manufacturer-authorized dealership or repair facility and the dealership or repair facility discontinues this service and no other authorized dealership or repair facility is located within 75 miles of the dealership or repair facility to allow another dealership or repair facility that is certified by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence and is located within 75 miles to perform the warranty work and repairs.

Any dealership or repair facility completing warranty work is allowed to use aftermarket parts if original equipment parts will not arrive within five business days and the aftermarket parts will be available before the original equipment parts. The use of aftermarket parts will not void the manufacturer's warranty nor will aftermarket parts be covered by the manufacturer's warranty.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that when a dealership repair shop or the authorized repair shop closes, car owners are often forced to travel great distances for repairs that are covered under a warranty. Sometimes, the cars can't even be driven. Finding a manufacturer-authorized repair facility can become very costly in terms of time and money. The bill will make it easier for consumers to have warranty-covered repairs completed on their cars.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Weter.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.