

HB 834 -- Licensing of Auto Body Repair Facilities and Damage Appraisers

Sponsor: Hobbs

This bill establishes licensing requirements for auto body repair facilities and auto body physical damage appraisers. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Establishes the Board of Auto Body Repair within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration and specifies its membership, powers, and duties;
- (2) Creates the Board of Auto Body Repair Fund within the state treasury for the deposit of license fees;
- (3) Requires the board to establish and administer a licensing program for auto body repair facilities;
- (4) Establishes criteria in order to qualify for a license, which include paying an annual licensing fee, having all required federal and state licenses and permits, providing proof of insurance, providing proof of compliance with federal Environmental Protection Agency and Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements, and providing proof that employees are trained and certified;
- (5) Exempts certain specialty businesses from licensure;
- (6) Allows for the issuance of a temporary license for up to 90 days in order for an auto body repair facility to comply with certain licensing requirements;
- (7) Requires a temporary paintless dent repair business to be licensed;
- (8) Authorizes the board to file complaints, seek injunctions, and impose civil penalties;
- (9) Requires the board to establish and administer a licensing program for auto body physical damage appraisers;
- (10) Establishes criteria in order to qualify for an appraiser's license which include paying a licensing fee, having certain damage estimating certification, and providing proof that the individual will prepare estimates for an entity licensed to do business in the state;
- (11) Allows for the issuance of a provisional license for appraisers;

(12) Allows licensees from other states to work in Missouri in the case of catastrophic losses;

(13) Requires estimates of damages to be based on a published flat rate manual or automated appraisal system; and

(14) Requires estimates for damage claims written on behalf of an insurer to include a written notice that the vehicle owner has the right to choose a repair facility of his or her choice and no one can use intimidation or coercive tactics to alter the owner's choice.