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HB 1530 - H AMD 190 By Representative Kirby

ADOPTED 03/09/2009

- 1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the 2 following:
- "NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. (1) The purpose of this chapter is to provide a framework within which guaranteed asset protection waivers are defined and may be offered within this state.
 - (2) This chapter does not apply to:
 - (a) An insurance policy offered by an insurer under this title; or
 - (b) A federally regulated financial institution operating under 12 C.F.R. Part 37 of the office of the comptroller of the currency regulations or credit unions operating under 12 C.F.R. 721.3(g) of the national credit union administration regulations, or state regulated banks, credit unions, and financial institutions operating pursuant to chapter 63.14 RCW. However, an exempt federal or state chartered bank, credit union, or financial institution may elect to offer a guaranteed asset protection waiver that complies with sections 1, 2, and 4 through 7 of this act.
- 17 (3) Guaranteed asset protection waivers are governed under this 18 chapter and are exempt from all other provisions of this title, except 19 RCW 48.02.060 and 48.02.080, chapter 48.04 RCW, and as provided in this 20 chapter.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
- 23 (1) "Administrator" means a person, other than an insurer or 24 creditor that performs administrative or operational functions pursuant 25 to guaranteed asset protection waiver programs.
- 26 (2) "Borrower" means a debtor, retail buyer, or lessee, under a 27 finance agreement, or a person who receives a loan or enters into a 28 retail installment contract to purchase or lease a motor vehicle or 29 vessel under chapter 63.14 RCW.

1 (3) "Creditor" means:

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- (a) The lender in a loan or credit transaction;
- (b) The lessor in a lease transaction;
- (c) Any retail seller of motor vehicles that provides credit to retail buyers of motor vehicles provided the seller complies with this chapter;
 - (d) The seller in commercial retail installment transactions; or
- 8 (e) The assignees of any creditor under this subsection to whom the 9 credit obligation is payable.
 - (4) "Finance agreement" means a loan, lease, or retail installment sales contract for the purchase or lease of a motor vehicle.
 - (5) "Free look period" means the period of time from the effective date of the waiver until the date the borrower may cancel the waiver without penalty, fees, or costs to the borrower. This period of time must not be shorter than thirty days.
 - (6) "Guaranteed asset protection waiver" or "waiver" means a contractual agreement wherein a creditor agrees for a separate charge to cancel or waive all or part of amounts due that creditor on a borrower's finance agreement with that creditor in the event of a total physical damage loss or unrecovered theft of the motor vehicle, which agreement must be part of, or a separate addendum to, the finance agreement.
- 23 (7) "Insurer" means an insurance company licensed, registered, or 24 otherwise authorized to do business under the insurance laws of this 25 state.
 - (8) "Motor vehicle" means self-propelled or towed vehicles designed for personal or commercial use, including but not limited to automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, campers, boats, personal watercraft, and motorcycle, boat, camper, and personal watercraft trailers.
- 31 (9) "Motor vehicle dealer" has the same meaning as "vehicle dealer" 32 in RCW 46.70.011.
 - (10) "Person" includes an individual, company, association, organization, partnership, business trust, corporation, and every form of legal entity.
- 36 (11) "Retail buyer" means a person who buys or agrees to buy a 37 motor vehicle or obtain motor vehicle services or agrees to have motor 38 vehicle services rendered or furnished from a retail seller.

1 (12) "Retail seller" means a person engaged in the business of 2 selling motor vehicles or motor vehicle services to retail buyers.

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- (13) "Unregistered marketers" means persons who offer for sale and sell guaranteed asset protection waivers who are not registered under this chapter and who are not otherwise exempt under this chapter.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) This chapter applies only to guaranteed asset protection waivers for financing of motor vehicles as defined in this chapter. Any person or entity must register with the commissioner before marketing, offering for sale or selling a guaranteed asset protection waiver, and before acting as an obligor for a guaranteed asset protection waiver, in this state. However, a retail seller of motor vehicles that assigns more than eighty-five percent quaranteed asset protection waiver agreements within thirty days of such agreements' effective date, or an insurer authorized to transact such insurance business in this state, are not required to register pursuant to this section. Failure of any retail seller of motor vehicles to assign one hundred percent of guaranteed asset protection waiver agreements within forty-five days of such agreements' effective date will result in that retail seller being required to comply with the registration requirements of this chapter.
- (2) No person may market, offer for sale, or sell a guaranteed asset protection waiver, or act as an obligor on a guaranteed asset protection waiver in this state without a registration as provided in this chapter, except as set forth in subsection (1) of this section.
 - (3) The application for registration must include the following:
 - (a) The applicant's name, address, and telephone number;
- (b) The identities of the applicant's executive officers or other officers directly responsible for the waiver business;
- (c) An application fee of two hundred fifty dollars, which shall be deposited into the guaranteed asset protection waiver account;
- (d) A copy filed by the applicant with the commissioner of the waivers the applicant intends to offer in this state;
- (e) A list of all unregistered marketers of guaranteed asset protection waivers on which the applicant will be the obligor;
- 35 (f) Such additional information as the commissioner may reasonably 36 require.

(4) Once registered, the applicant shall keep the information required for registration current by reporting changes within thirty days after the end of the month in which the change occurs.

- 4 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 4.** (1) Waivers may be offered, sold, or provided to borrowers in this state in compliance with this chapter.
 - (2) Waivers may, at the option of the creditor, be sold for a single payment or may be offered with a monthly or periodic payment option.
 - (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any cost to the borrower for a guaranteed asset protection waiver entered into in compliance with the truth in lending act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 1601 et seq.) and its implementing regulations, as amended, must be separately stated and is not to be considered a finance charge or interest.
 - (4) Nothing in this chapter prohibits a person who is registered, or is otherwise exempt from registration or exempt from this chapter, from insuring its waiver obligation through the purchase of a contractual liability policy or other insurance policy issued by an insurer authorized to transact such insurance in this state.
 - (5) The waiver remains a part of the finance agreement upon the assignment, sale, or transfer of the finance agreement by the creditor.
 - (6) Neither the extension of credit, the term of credit, nor the term of the related motor vehicle sale or lease may be conditioned upon the purchase of a waiver.
 - (7) Any creditor that offers a waiver must report the sale of, and forward funds received on, all waivers to the designated party, if any, as prescribed in any applicable administrative services agreement, contractual liability policy, other insurance policy, or other specified program documents.
 - (8) Funds received or held by a creditor or administrator and belonging to an insurer, creditor, or administrator, under the terms of a written agreement, must be held by that creditor or administrator in a fiduciary capacity.
 - (9) If the guaranteed asset protection waiver is assigned, the name and address of the assignee must be mailed to the borrower within thirty days of the assignment. If at any time the name and address provided to the borrower by the initial creditor are no longer the valid point of contact to apply for waiver benefits, written notice

will be mailed to the borrower within thirty days of the change stating the new name and address of the person or entity the borrower should contact to apply for waiver benefits. No waiver may be assigned to an entity that is not registered pursuant to this chapter, unless such entity is exempt from registration or unless the commissioner specifically authorizes such assignment.

- (10) No person shall knowingly make, publish, or disseminate any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or advertising in the conduct of, or relative to, waiver business. Nor shall any person make, issue, or circulate, or cause to be made, issued, or circulated any misrepresentation of the terms or benefits of any waiver.
- (11) A person or entity engaged in the guaranteed asset protection waiver business in this state may not refuse to sell or issue any guaranteed asset protection waiver because of the sex, marital status, or sexual orientation as defined in RCW 49.60.040, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability of the borrower or prospective borrower. The type of benefits, or any term, rate, condition, or type of coverage may not be restricted, modified, excluded, increased, or reduced on the basis of the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability of the borrower or prospective borrower.
- <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 5.** (1) Contractual liability or other insurance policies insuring waivers must state the obligation of the insurer to reimburse or pay to the creditor any sums the creditor is legally obligated to waive under the waivers issued by the creditor and purchased or held by the borrower. Contractual liability insurance or other insurance policies insuring waivers must not be purchased by the creditor as part of, or a rider to, vendor single-interest or collateral protection coverages as defined in RCW 48.22.110(4).
 - (2) Coverage under a contractual liability or other insurance policy insuring a waiver must also cover any subsequent assignee upon the assignment, sale, or transfer of the finance agreement.
 - (3) Coverage under a contractual liability or other insurance policy insuring a waiver must remain in effect unless canceled or terminated in compliance with applicable insurance laws of this state.
 - (4) The cancellation or termination of a contractual liability or

- 1 other insurance policy must not reduce the insurer's responsibility for
- 2 waivers issued by the creditor prior to the date of cancellation or
- 3 termination and for which a premium has been received by the insurer.

- <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 6.** Guaranteed asset protection waivers must disclose, as applicable, in writing and in clear, understandable language that is easy to read, the following:
 - (1) The name and address of the initial creditor and the borrower at the time of sale, and the identity of any administrator if different from the creditor;
 - (2) The purchase price and the terms of the waiver, including without limitation, the requirements for protection, conditions, or exclusions associated with the waiver;
 - (3) That the borrower may cancel the waiver within a free look period as specified in the waiver, and will be entitled to a full refund of the purchase price, so long as no benefits have been provided; or in the event benefits have been provided, the borrower may receive a full or partial refund pursuant to the terms of the waiver;
 - (4) The procedure the borrower must follow, if any, to obtain waiver benefits under the terms and conditions of the waiver, including a telephone number and address where the borrower may apply for waiver benefits;
 - (5) Whether or not the waiver is cancellable after the free look period and the conditions under which it may be canceled or terminated including the procedures for requesting any refund due;
 - (6) That in order to receive any refund due in the event of a borrower's cancellation of the waiver agreement or early termination of the finance agreement after the free look period of the waiver, the borrower, in accordance with terms of the waiver, must provide a written request to cancel to the creditor, administrator, or such other party, within ninety days of the occurrence of the event terminating the finance agreement;
 - (7) The methodology for calculating any refund of the unearned purchase price of the waiver due, in the event of cancellation of the waiver or early termination of the finance agreement;
- (8) That any refund of the purchase price for a waiver that was included in the financing of the motor vehicle or vessel may be applied by the creditor as a reduction of the overall amount owed under the

finance agreement, rather than applying the refund strictly to the purchase price of the waiver. This disclosure must be conspicuously presented prior to the purchase of the waiver;

- (9) That neither the extension of credit, the terms of the credit, nor the terms of the related motor vehicle sale or lease, may be conditioned upon the purchase of the waiver;
- (10) That the guaranteed asset protection waiver is not credit insurance, nor does it eliminate the borrower's obligation to insure the motor vehicle as provided by laws of this state. Purchasing a guaranteed asset protection waiver does not eliminate the borrower's rights and obligations under the vendor single-interest and collateral protection coverage laws of this state.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. (1) Guaranteed asset protection waiver agreements may be cancellable or noncancellable after the free look period. Waivers must provide that if a borrower cancels a waiver within the free look period, the borrower will be entitled to a full refund of the purchase price, so long as no benefits have been provided; or in the event benefits have been provided, the borrower may receive a full or partial refund pursuant to the terms of the waiver.
- (2) In the event of a borrower's cancellation of the waiver or early termination of the finance agreement, after the agreement has been in effect beyond the free look period, the borrower may be entitled to a refund of any unearned portion of the purchase price of the waiver unless the waiver provides otherwise. In order to receive a refund, the borrower, in accordance with any applicable terms of the waiver, must provide a written request to the creditor, administrator, or other party, within ninety days of the event terminating the finance agreement.
- (3) If the cancellation of a waiver occurs as a result of a default under the finance agreement or the repossession of the motor vehicle associated with the finance agreement, any refund due may be paid directly to the creditor or administrator and applied as set forth in subsection (4) of this section.
- (4) Any cancellation refund under this section may be applied by the creditor as a reduction of the overall amount owed under the finance agreement, if the cost of the guaranteed asset protection waiver was included in the financing of the motor vehicle or vessel.

- 1 (5) Disclosure of how the refund may be applied by the creditor or 2 administrator must be made in accordance with the provisions of section 3 6(8) of this act.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. (1) The commissioner may, subject to chapter 48.04 RCW, take action that is necessary or appropriate to enforce this chapter and to protect guaranteed asset protection waiver holders in this state, which includes:

- (a) Suspending, revoking, or refusing to issue the registration of a person or entity if the registrant fails to comply with any provision of this chapter or fails to comply with any proper order or rule of the commissioner; and
- (b) After hearing or with the consent of the registrant, and in addition to or in lieu of the suspension, revocation, or refusal to issue any registration, imposing a penalty of not more than two thousand dollars for each violation of this chapter.
 - (2) The commissioner may adopt rules to implement this chapter.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. (1) Any person who markets, offers for sale or sells a guaranteed asset protection waiver, or acts as an obligor for a guaranteed asset protection waiver without a registration, unless otherwise exempt from registration or exempt from this chapter, is acting in violation of this section and is subject to the provisions of section 8 of this act. In addition, any person who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a class B felony punishable under chapter 9A.20 RCW.
 - (2) Any criminal penalty imposed under this section is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other civil or administrative penalty or sanction otherwise authorized under state law.
- (3) If the commissioner has cause to believe that any person has violated this section, the commissioner may assess a civil penalty of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars for each violation, after providing notice and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with chapter 48.04 RCW. Upon failure to pay this civil penalty when due, the attorney general may bring a civil action on behalf of the commissioner to recover the unpaid penalty.
- 35 (4) A person or entity that should have been registered at the time 36 of the sale of a waiver who was not so registered pursuant to this

- 1 chapter is personally liable for performance of the waiver. Any waiver
- 2 sold by a person or entity that should have been registered at the time
- 3 of the sale is voidable, except at the instance of the person or entity
- 4 who sold the waiver.

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- 5 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 10.** The guaranteed asset protection waiver
- 6 account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. The fees and
- 7 fines collected under this chapter must be deposited into the account.
- 8 Expenditures from the account may be used to implement, administer, and
- 9 enforce this chapter. Only the commissioner or the commissioner's
- 10 designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is
- 11 subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an
- 12 appropriation is not required for expenditures.
- 13 **Sec. 11.** RCW 63.14.010 and 2003 c 368 s 2 are each amended to read 14 as follows:
 - In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - (1) "Goods" means all chattels personal when purchased primarily for personal, family, or household use and not for commercial or business use, but not including money or, except as provided in the next sentence, things in action. The term includes but is not limited to merchandise certificates or coupons, issued by a retail seller, to be used in their face amount in lieu of cash in exchange for goods or services sold by such a seller and goods which, at the time of sale or subsequently, are to be so affixed to real property as to become a part thereof, whether or not severable therefrom;
 - (2) "Lender credit card" means a card or device under a lender credit card agreement pursuant to which the issuer gives to a cardholder residing in this state the privilege of obtaining credit from the issuer or other persons in purchasing or leasing property or services, obtaining loans, or otherwise, and the issuer of which is not: (a) Principally engaged in the business of selling goods; or (b) a financial institution;
 - (3) "Lender credit card agreement" means an agreement entered into or performed in this state prescribing the terms of retail installment transactions pursuant to which the issuer may, with the buyer's consent, purchase or acquire one or more retail sellers' indebtedness of the buyer under a sales slip or memorandum evidencing the purchase,

lease, loan, or otherwise to be paid in accordance with the agreement. The issuer of a lender credit card agreement shall not be principally engaged in the business of selling goods or be a financial institution;

- (4) "Financial institution" means any bank or trust company, mutual savings bank, credit union, or savings and loan association organized pursuant to the laws of any one of the United States of America or the United States of America, or the laws of a foreign country if also qualified to conduct business in any one of the United States of America or pursuant to the laws of the United States of America;
- (5) "Services" means work, labor, or services of any kind when purchased primarily for personal, family, or household use and not for commercial or business use whether or not furnished in connection with the delivery, installation, servicing, repair, or improvement of goods and includes repairs, alterations, or improvements upon or in connection with real property, but does not include services for which the price charged is required by law to be determined or approved by or to be filed, subject to approval or disapproval, with the United States or any state, or any department, division, agency, officer, or official of either as in the case of transportation services;
- (6) "Retail buyer" or "buyer" means a person who buys or agrees to buy goods or obtain services or agrees to have services rendered or furnished, from a retail seller;
- (7) "Retail seller" or "seller" means a person engaged in the business of selling goods or services to retail buyers;
- (8) "Retail installment transaction" means any transaction in which a retail buyer purchases goods or services from a retail seller pursuant to a retail installment contract, a retail charge agreement, or a lender credit card agreement, as defined in this section, which provides for a service charge, as defined in this section, and under which the buyer agrees to pay the unpaid principal balance in one or more installments or which provides for no service charge and under which the buyer agrees to pay the unpaid balance in more than four installments;
- (9) "Retail installment contract" or "contract" means a contract, other than a retail charge agreement, a lender credit card agreement, or an instrument reflecting a sale made pursuant thereto, entered into or performed in this state for a retail installment transaction. The term "retail installment contract" may include a chattel mortgage, a

- conditional sale contract, and a contract in the form of a bailment or a lease if the bailee or lessee contracts to pay as compensation for their use a sum substantially equivalent to or in excess of the value of the goods sold and if it is agreed that the bailee or lessee is bound to become, or for no other or a merely nominal consideration, has the option of becoming the owner of the goods upon full compliance with the provisions of the bailment or lease. The term "retail installment contract does not include: (a) A "consumer lease," heretofore or hereafter entered into, as defined in RCW 63.10.020; (b) a lease which would constitute such "consumer lease" but for the fact that: (i) It was entered into before April 29, 1983; (ii) the lessee was not a natural person; (iii) the lease was not primarily for personal, family, or household purposes; or (iv) the total contractual obligations exceeded twenty-five thousand dollars; or (c) a lease-purchase agreement under chapter 63.19 RCW;
 - (10) "Retail charge agreement," "revolving charge agreement," or "charge agreement" means an agreement between a retail buyer and a retail seller that is entered into or performed in this state and that prescribes the terms of retail installment transactions with one or more sellers which may be made thereunder from time to time and under the terms of which a service charge, as defined in this section, is to be computed in relation to the buyer's unpaid balance from time to time;

- (11) "Service charge" however denominated or expressed, means the amount which is paid or payable for the privilege of purchasing goods or services to be paid for by the buyer in installments over a period of time. It does not include the amount, if any, charged for insurance premiums, delinquency charges, attorneys' fees, court costs, any vehicle dealer administrative fee under RCW 46.12.042, any vehicle dealer documentary service fee under RCW 46.70.180(2), or official fees;
- (12) "Sale price" means the price for which the seller would have sold or furnished to the buyer, and the buyer would have bought or obtained from the seller, the goods or services which are the subject matter of a retail installment transaction. The sale price may include any taxes, registration and license fees, the cost of a quaranteed asset protection waiver, any vehicle dealer administrative fee, any

vehicle dealer documentary service fee, and charges for transferring vehicle titles, delivery, installation, servicing, repairs, alterations, or improvements;

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- (13) "Official fees" means the amount of the fees prescribed by law and payable to the state, county, or other governmental agency for filing, recording, or otherwise perfecting, and releasing or satisfying, a retained title, lien, or other security interest created by a retail installment transaction;
- 9 (14) "Time balance" means the principal balance plus the service 10 charge;
- (15) "Principal balance" means the sale price of the goods or 11 12 services which are the subject matter of a retail installment contract 13 less the amount of the buyer's down payment in money or goods or both, plus the amounts, if any, included therein, if a separate identified 14 charge is made therefor and stated in the contract, for insurance, any 15 vehicle dealer administrative fee, any vehicle dealer documentary 16 17 service fee, and official fees; and the amount actually paid or to be paid by the retail seller pursuant to an agreement with the buyer to 18 discharge a security interest or lien on like-kind goods traded in or 19 lease interest in the circumstance of a lease for like goods being 20 21 terminated in conjunction with the sale pursuant to a retail 22 installment contract;
- 23 (16) "Person" means an individual, partnership, joint venture, 24 corporation, association, or any other group, however organized;
- 25 (17) "Rate" means the percentage which, when multiplied times the 26 outstanding balance for each month or other installment period, yields 27 the amount of the service charge for such month or period.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 13. This act is applicable to all guaranteed asset protection waiver agreements entered into on or after January 1, 2010.

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 14. Sections 1 through 10, 12, and 13 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 48 RCW."
- 3 Correct the title.

EFFECT: This act does not automatically apply a federal or state-chartered bank, but an exempt federal or state-chartered bank may choose to participate in this act. Retail sellers of motor vehicles are not required to be registered under the act if they transfer 85 percent of their waiver agreements within thirty days and transfer all waiver agreements within forty-five days. A person who sells a waiver without registering with the commissioner: (1) Is subject to a \$25,000 penalty; (2) is personally liable for performance and the borrower may void the transaction; and (3) is guilty of a class B felony if the person is knowingly committing the violation. Retail sellers are not required to insure their waiver obligations. The definitions in the retail installment act are modified to include the cost of a waiver in the sale price. Additional disclosures to the borrower are required. Sellers cannot engage in false advertising or unfairly discriminate against borrowers or prospective borrowers. Penalties for violations of the act are increased from a \$500 fine to a \$2000 fine. The commissioner may adopt rules to implement the act.

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