

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 2432

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As of February 19, 1996

**Title:** An act relating to disclosure of branded titles to vehicle purchasers.

**Brief Description:** Requiring disclosure of branded titles to vehicle buyers.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Dyer, B. Thomas and K. Schmidt.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Labor, Commerce & Trade: 2/20/96.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & TRADE

**Staff:** Katie Healy (786-7403)

**Background:** Insurers and uninsured vehicle owners are required to provide the Department of Licensing with the title of vehicles that have been declared a total loss. If the vehicle is subsequently rebuilt and the vehicle is under four years of age, a new title containing the brand "rebuilt" is issued. Auto dealers are subject to a fine of \$1,000 or loss of their licenses if they sell a vehicle with knowledge that the title to the vehicle contains a "rebuilt" brand, or that the vehicle has been declared a total loss and then rebuilt, without disclosing that fact clearly in writing. However, the dealer is not required to disclose other title brands, including "former taxicab," "former for hire," "former exempt" (e.g. police vehicle), "former rental," and brands from other states, such as salvage, junk and destroyed.

Previous legislation allowed auto dealers to renegotiate the trade-in allowance of a vehicle if the buyer failed to disclose that the vehicle being traded in had a title which was branded for any reason.

**Summary of Bill:** The statute requiring vehicle dealers to disclose in writing whether a vehicle being purchased has been rebuilt is expanded to require disclosure if the vehicle's title contains any brand.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.