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LD 1467: An Act to Ensure Accountability for Repairs Conducted by Independent Repair Facilities on Motor Vehicles Under Warranty

Sponsor: Representative Amanda Collamore
April 29, 2025

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Amanda Collamore and I have the great honor of representing House District 68, Pittsfield, Clinton, Burnham, and Troy. I stand before you today to present **LD 1467: An Act to Ensure Accountability for Repairs Conducted by Independent Repair Facilities on Motor Vehicles Under Warranty**.

This bill is about one fundamental principle: **accountability**.

It aims to close a clear gap in consumer protection by ensuring that **independent repair facilities are held responsible** when their work on vehicles under a manufacturer's warranty does not meet industry standards or causes further damage.

Let me be clear: this bill is **not an attack on independent repair facilities**. These businesses play a valuable role in our local economies and often provide more affordable, accessible repair services to Mainers. What this bill does is **establish a baseline of responsibility** when those services go wrong—especially when the vehicle in question is still under a manufacturer's warranty.

Here's what the bill does:

1. It **requires independent repair facilities to reimburse** consumers, manufacturers, or dealerships for the cost of correcting an improper or faulty repair.
2. It **ensures transparency** by requiring independent repair facilities to disclose—in *writing*—to consumers that they are not affiliated with the vehicle manufacturer or an authorized dealership and that improper repairs may result in added expenses or warranty conflicts.
3. It places the **burden of proof** on the manufacturer or dealership to demonstrate that a repair was performed improperly.
4. It creates **fair and limited exceptions**, such as when inaccurate information is provided by the consumer or if damage results from misuse or neglect.
5. And importantly, it designates noncompliance with these provisions as an **unfair trade practice** under the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.

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We are not mandating how independent facilities operate—we are simply saying that if they choose to work on vehicles under warranty, **they need to meet the same standards of care and responsibility** as their manufacturer-affiliated counterparts.

For Maine consumers, this bill provides peace of mind. For responsible repair businesses, it levels the playing field. And for manufacturers and dealerships, it ensures that the integrity of warranty agreements is preserved.

This is a **common-sense consumer protection measure** that supports fairness, transparency, and accountability. I respectfully urge the committee to vote **Ought to Pass** on this bill.

Thank you, and I'd be happy to answer any questions