



March 21, 2023

The Honorable D. Scott Dibble
Chair, Transportation Committee
Minnesota Senate
3107 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable John R. Jasinski
Ranking Minority Member, Transportation Committee
Minnesota Senate
2227 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

SF 624 – Salvage Title Disclosure Bill

Dear Chair Dibble, Ranking Minority Member Jasinski, and Members of the Committee:

Legal Aid writes to express its support for HF 581. While this bill makes a technical change, it has important substantive import and Legal Aid urges its passage.

Legal Aid provides civil legal services to enable low-income Minnesotans, Minnesotans with disabilities, and elder Minnesotans to address legal problems impeding their ability to meet their basic needs and provides legislative and administrative advocacy on behalf of our clients and all low-income Minnesotans.

Legal Aid was involved in the legislative discussions over several years that led to the formation of the Salvage Title Task Force and, ultimately, to the significant changes in titling to improve consumer protection and disclosure of prior damage for buyers contemplating the purchase of any used car. Representative Petersburg, the author of this bill, was instrumental in achieving reform of that law to make sure that every car declared a total loss was titled salvage or prior salvage to ensure transparency and increase protection for used car buyers.

When the Salvage Title Bill was passed in 2022, the amendments to one of the statutes affected – Minn. Stat. § 325F.6641 (Disclosure of Vehicle Damage) – it contained an ambiguity regarding requirements of the sales presentation in an online sale, which, if not corrected, could thwart the purpose of the protective changes made in the bill and result in disclosures of damage not being made as the Legislature intended.

SF 624 removes the ambiguity and ensures that what the law says what the Task Force and the Legislature meant. Legal Aid thanks Ranking Minority Member Jasinski for his attention to this important detail and for bringing this bill before the Committee.

We urge its adoption and thank the Committee for allowing us to offer our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Elwood".

Ron Elwood
Supervising Attorney

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