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State of Minnesota

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 2479

03/02/2023 Authored by West
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Finance and Policy
03/13/2023 Adoption of Report: Placed on the General Register
Read for the Second Time

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to motor vehicles; authorizing electronic signature to transfer ownership
1.3 of vehicle to insurer after payment of damages; amending Minnesota Statutes
1.4 2022, section 168A.151, subdivision 1.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 168A.151, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.7 Subdivision 1. Salvage and prior salvage brands. (a) When an insurer, licensed to
1.8 conduct business in Minnesota, acquires ownership of a vehicle, excluding a recovered
1.9 intact vehicle, through payment of damages, the insurer must:

1.10 (1) for a late-model or high-value vehicle, immediately apply for a certificate of title
1.11 that bears a "salvage" brand or stamp the existing certificate of title with "salvage" in a
1.12 manner prescribed by the department; or

1.13 (2) for a vehicle that is not subject to clause (1), immediately apply for a certificate of
1.14 title that bears a "prior salvage" brand or stamp the existing certificate of title with "prior
1.15 salvage" in a manner prescribed by the department.

1.16 (b) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, supporting documents used to transfer
1.17 ownership of a vehicle to an insurer after payment of damages do not require a notarized
1.18 signature and may be signed electronically. For purposes of this paragraph, supporting
1.19 documents include but are not limited to power of attorney forms. The insurer shall indemnify
1.20 and hold harmless the department for any claims resulting from issuing a certificate of title,
1.21 salvage title, or junking certificate pursuant to this section.

2.1 ~~(b)~~ (c) Within ten days of obtaining the title of a vehicle through payment of damages,
2.2 an insurer must notify the department in a manner prescribed by the department.

2.3 ~~(e)~~ (d) Except as provided in section 168A.11, subdivision 1, a person must immediately
2.4 apply for a certificate of title that bears a "salvage" brand if the person acquires a damaged
2.5 late-model or high-value vehicle that:

2.6 (1) was acquired by an insurer through payment of damages;

2.7 (2) will incur a cost of repairs that exceeds the value of the damaged vehicle;

2.8 (3) has an out-of-state salvage certificate of title as proof of ownership; or

2.9 (4) bears the brand "damaged," "repairable," "salvage," or any similar term on the
2.10 certificate of title.

2.11 ~~(d)~~ (e) Except as provided in section 168A.11, subdivision 1, a person must immediately
2.12 apply for a certificate of title that bears a "prior salvage" brand if the person acquires a
2.13 damaged vehicle and:

2.14 (1) a "salvage" brand is not required under paragraph (c); and

2.15 (2) the vehicle:

2.16 (i) bears the brand "damaged," "repairable," "salvage," "rebuilt," "reconditioned," or
2.17 any similar term on the certificate of title; or

2.18 (ii) had a salvage certificate of title or brand issued at any time in the vehicle's history
2.19 by any other jurisdiction.

2.20 ~~(e)~~ (f) A self-insured owner of a vehicle that sustains damage by collision or other
2.21 occurrence which exceeds 80 percent of its actual cash value must:

2.22 (1) for a late-model or high-value vehicle, immediately apply for a certificate of title
2.23 that bears a "salvage" brand; or

2.24 (2) for a vehicle that is not subject to clause (1), immediately apply for a certificate of
2.25 title that bears a "prior salvage" brand.