

April 10, 2003

**H 1196. AUTOMOBILE GLASS INSURANCE COVERAGE. TO REGULATE AUTOMOBILE GLASS REPLACEMENT AND THE INSURANCE COVERING IT.** Adds new subsection (m) to GS 20-279.21 (which generally sets out requirements for automobile liability insurance policies) to provide that any policy covering loss due to damaged automobile window glass must provide that (1) there may be no coercion for the owner to use any particular glass repairer, (2) payment may not be based on any condition that limits the owner's choice of repairer, and (3) payment to the owner's chosen repairer is to be based on a competitive price that is fair and reasonable within the local industry at large. A specific geographic area actually served is to be considered where facts establish that a different payment schedule is required by that market. The insurer may recommend a repairer, but must advise the owner that he has the right to chose any repairer.

Adds new GS 75-36 providing that no business that installs, repairs, or replaces automobile glass may offer to finance payment of a customer's deductible on terms different from terms offered to customers not making an insurance claim, to offer any credit or incentive in satisfaction of an insurance deductible or co-payment, to advertise that services are "free" if in fact an insurer will pay, or to offer to defer or not collect a customer's deductible. A violation of this section is an unfair trade practice.

**Intro. by Lewis.**

Ref. to Judiciary III	GS 20, 75
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