



Legal Services Advocacy Project
970 Raymond Avenue, Suite G-40
St. Paul, MN 55114

January 23, 2023

The Honorable Zack Stephenson
Chair, Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
449 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn
Vice Chair, Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
567 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Tim O’Driscoll
Republican Lead, Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
237 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 581 – Salvage Title Disclosure Bill

Dear Chair Stephenson, Vice Chair Kotyza-Witthuhn, Lead O’Driscoll, and Committee Members:

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 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.

HF 581 removes the ambiguity and ensures that what the law says what the Task Force and the Legislature meant. Legal Aid thanks Rep. Petersburg 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