

HB 1178 -- RIGHT TO REPAIR

SPONSOR: McCreery

This bill prohibits consumer product manufacturers that sell diagnostic, service, or repair information to independent third party providers with terms and conditions more favorable than the terms provided for an authorized repair provider, from requiring authorized repair providers to continue purchasing their diagnostic services or repair information not in a standardized format from the manufacturer.

Manufacturers are then obligated to openly provide all of their diagnostic repair tools to both consumers and independent repair providers on fair and reasonable terms. Consumer products sold for security-related purposes may not be programed to exclude diagnostic, service, or repair methods to reset a security-related electronic function. Manufacturers are not legally responsible for the content and functionality of such diagnostic repair tools so long as the manufacturers comply with the rest of the bill, but nothing in the bill requires the divulgence of a trade secret.

The bill also provides a complaint provision for consumers and independent repair providers for violations of the bill, and directs the Attorney General to enforce its provisions.