



2023 AG REQUEST LEGISLATION STRENGTHEN WARRANTIES FOR USED CARS

What is the problem?

Since January 2021, Washingtonians have filed nearly one complaint per day with the Attorney General’s Office asserting that used car dealers sold them “lemons.”

Hundreds of Washingtonians share similar stories to the Attorney General’s Office. While the number is alarming, it undoubtedly underrepresents the problem.

Complaints highlight the frustration, anger, and despair of breakdowns on the interstate, the loss of a vehicle, and the financial strain of paying for repairs. Some are still making payments on a vehicle they cannot drive. In many of these cases, the dealer refused to provide the consumer restitution or refused to respond to the Attorney General’s Office.

Current law provides few consumer protections for Washingtonians who purchase used cars. Washington’s Lemon Law protections generally do not extend to sales of used cars.¹ [For example, as reported by KIRO 7’s Jesse Jones](#), one Washingtonian purchased a used car for \$13,700 and just days after purchase, he discovered the car needed another \$3,900 in repairs. He had to pay for those repairs himself.²

What’s the solution? **HB 1184**

The Used Motor Vehicles Express Warranties Act provides consumers with warranty protection when used cars break down shortly after purchase. This legislation requires dealers to cover most of the costs to repair these vehicles or provide consumers with a full refund.

The proposed law is a thoughtful approach consistent with other states. These protections do not apply to vehicles older than 20 years, vehicles with more than 125,000 miles on the odometer, or vehicles purchased for their parts or with the intent to repair. These protections also do not apply if the driver was irresponsible with the vehicle. By passing this Act, Washington will join eight other states that provide similar consumer protections for used car purchases.³

These protections operate on a sliding scale – the warranty lasts longer for vehicles with fewer miles.

Used Motor Vehicle Express Warranties Act Eligibility:

Number of Miles on Odometer	Length of Coverage under Warranty
Less than 40,000 miles	90 days or 3,750 miles
40,000 – 79,999 miles	60 days or 2,500 miles
80,000 – 124,999 miles	30 days or 1,250 miles
125,000 miles or more	No statutory warranty

Prime Sponsor:

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1: Washington’s Lemon Law applies only to a narrow category of newer used cars with low mileage purchased soon after the car was sold to the original purchaser.
2: Jones, J. (2022, May 24). *Does Washington need a used car lemon law?* KIRO 7 News. <https://www.kiro7.com/news/jesse-jones/does-washington-need-used-car-lemon-law/R6LEWCWSOZE0BC55QFFOTHCGSM/>
3: [Arizona](#), [Connecticut](#), [Hawaii](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Minnesota](#), [New Jersey](#), [New Mexico](#) and [New York](#) all have consumer protections for used car purchases.