

House Bill Guarantees Choice of Auto Glass Repair Shops

The House passed legislation to guarantee that Iowans have the right to choose the auto glass repair shop they prefer instead of being forced to get repairs at a shop selected by an insurance company.

House File 2489 prohibits certain actions by auto insurance companies to steer customers to a specific glass repair shop. Insurers cannot require that the insured use a specific glass supplier or repair shop; or try to coerce the insured to use a specific glass supplier or repair shop.

This does not require an auto insurer to pay more for glass or glass repair services than what is reasonable in the local market area. This is meant to stop special deals with a few large suppliers and glass repair chains. It will also help maintain a competitive auto glass repair market.

The bill also requires the Iowa Insurance Commissioner to coordinate a study of auto glass insurance repair claim processing procedures. Other participants are the Iowa Insurance Institute, Iowa Retail Federation, insurers, and entities that handle claims for insurers. They must submit a report to the Legislature by January 15, 2011.

House File 2489 will now go to the Senate for its consideration.