HB 961

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to motor vehicle repairs; requiring
3	collision centers, insurance claims centers, and insurance
4	adjusters' offices to display a disclosure relating to the
5	selection and ownership of repair facilities; requiring
6	certain repair facilities to submit a report to the Office
7	of Insurance Regulation; providing criteria for the
8	report; requiring the office to maintain the information
9	contained in the report; requiring the office to make such
10	information available to appropriate substantive
11	legislative committees; authorizing the office to penalize
12	repair facilities; providing civil penalties; providing
13	that no order of the office or court or holding of a
14	hearing will relieve or absolve a person from liability,
15	penalty, or forfeiture under law; providing an effective
16	date.
17	
18	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
19	
20	Section 1. Disclosure; conflict of interestThe
21	following disclosure is required by law to be posted in visible
22	sight in the customer area of any collision center, insurance
23	claims center, or insurance adjuster's office:
24	
25	A PERSON IN THIS STATE HAS THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE ANY
26	REPAIR FACILITY FOR THE REPAIR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
27	LOSS. IF AN INSURER PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT A
28	REPAIR FACILITY, THE INSURER SHALL INFORM THE PERSON

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29	OF THIS RIGHT AT THE SAME TIME AS PROVIDING THE								
30	INFORMATION. THIS SECTION DOES NOT CREATE A PRIVATE								
31	RIGHT OR CAUSE OF ACTION TO OR ON BEHALF OF ANY								
32	PERSON.								
33									
34	IF AN INSURED OR CLAIMANT SELECTS A REPAIR FACILITY TO								
35	REPAIR THE INSURED'S OR CLAIMANT'S MOTOR VEHICLE AND								
36	THE INSURER OWNS AN INTEREST IN THAT REPAIR FACILITY,								
37	THE ADJUSTER FOR THE MOTOR VEHICLE SHALL NOT BE								
38	EMPLOYED BY THE REPAIR FACILITY OR HAVE ANY DIRECT								
39	AUTHORITY OVER THAT FACILITY'S RECOMMENDATIONS OR								
40	DECISIONS RELATING TO THE REPAIR OF THE INSURED'S OR								
41	CLAIMANT'S MOTOR VEHICLE.								
42									
43	Section 2. Reports by insurer-owned repair facilities								
44	(1) Not later than January 10 each year, through January								
45	10, 2010, each repair facility that an insurer owns an interest								
46	in and that engages in the business of repairing or replacing								
47	the nonmechanical exterior or interior body parts of a damaged								
48	motor vehicle shall file a report with the Director of the								
49	Office of Insurance Regulation:								
50	(a) Providing the number of motor vehicles repaired,								
51	including the dollar amount of those repairs, by the repair								
52	facility in the previous calendar year in which the motor								
53	vehicle owners were insured by or claimants of the insurer that								
54	owns an interest in the repair facility.								
55	(b) Providing the number of motor vehicles repaired,								
56	including the dollar amount of those repairs, by the repair								

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57 facility in the previous calendar year in which the motor 58 vehicle owners were insured by or claimants of the insurer that 59 owns an interest in the repair facility as a percentage of the 60 total number of motor vehicles repaired, or the total dollar 61 amount of those repairs, by that repair facility for that 62 calendar year. 63 (2) The Office of Insurance Regulation shall maintain the 64 information received pursuant to subsection (1) and make this 65 information and any violations of this act available annually to 66 the appropriate substantive committees of the Senate and the 67 House of Representatives. Section 3. Cease and desist order for defined or 68 69 prohibited practices; civil penalty.--70 (1) If, after a hearing, the Office of Insurance 71 Regulation finds that a person or a repair facility has engaged 72 or is engaging in any illegal or unfair method of competition or 73 an unfair or deceptive act or practice under this act, the 74 office: 75 (a) Shall order such person or repair facility to cease 76 and desist from the proscribed acts or practices. 77 (b) May impose a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for 78 each act or violation but not to exceed an aggregate penalty of 79 \$50,000 in any 6-month period unless the person or repair 80 facility intentionally violates this subsection, in which case the office may impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 for each 81 82 act or violation but not to exceed an aggregate penalty of 83 \$100,000 in any 6-month period.

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84	(2) No order of the Office of Insurance Regulation
85	pursuant to this act, order of a court to enforce such order, or
86	holding of a hearing may in any manner relieve or absolve any
87	person affected by the order or hearing from any other
88	liability, penalty, or forfeiture under law.
89	Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.