

CENTER FOR AUTO SAFETY

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September 14, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1215 (Blumenfield) - Request to Sign

Dear Governor Brown:

You will soon have AB1215 before you for your consideration. AB 1215 will require new and used car dealers in California to obtain reports from the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) for each used vehicle they offer for sale, and provide a warning on those vehicles which meet one of the following criteria:

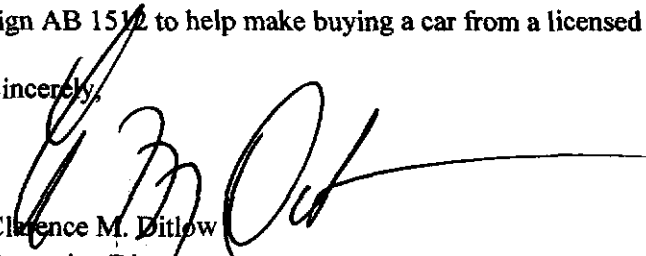
- When a NMVTIS vehicle history report indicates that the vehicle is or has been a junk or salvage automobile
- When the vehicle has been reported to NMVTIS as a junk or salvage automobile by a junk yard, salvage yard, or insurance carrier pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30504
- When the vehicle's certificate of title contains a brand, such as "salvage," "flood," or "lemon law buyback"

By requiring that the notice be posted on the vehicle itself, the bill helps ensure that prospective car buyers obtain crucial information about the vehicle's history prior to engaging in negotiations, rather than hours later, when the negotiations have already concluded. Thus, both parties to the transaction will tend to be on more equal footing, and the market can function as intended.

For a prospective purchaser, as they comparison shop among vehicles that often appear to be the same, to the untrained eye, the fact a vehicle was damaged so severely it was deemed to be a total loss may be the single most important piece of information about that particular vehicle. Awareness of prior damage history is especially important when the vehicle is intended for use by a teenager, as young drivers are already at inherently high risk of being killed or injured in a vehicle crash.

AB1215 will benefit car buyers, as well as those honest auto dealers who choose not to traffic in totaled, junk, and salvage vehicles. With the number of salvage vehicles increasing with every natural catastrophic, whether it be floods, hurricanes, tornadoes or earthquakes, this bill is needed now more than We urge you to sign AB 1512 to help make buying a car from a licensed dealer less risky and driving in California safer.

Sincerely,


Clarence M. Ditlow
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Robert Blumenfield