
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 658 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY HARHAI, HEFFLEY, MULLERY, COHEN, MILLARD,
READSHAW, KINSEY, THOMAS, MATZIE, KORTZ, BROWNLEE, GOODMAN,
SNYDER, MURT AND MOUL, FEBRUARY 27, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FEBRUARY 27, 2015

AN ACT

1 Relating to the rights of purchasers and lessees of defective
2 recreational vehicles.

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2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Recreational
6 Vehicle Lemon Law.

7 Section 2. Definitions.

8 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
9 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
10 context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 "Dealer." A person in the business of buying, selling,
12 leasing or exchanging recreational vehicles.

13 "Department." The Department of Transportation of the
14 Commonwealth.

15 "Manufacturer." Any person engaged in the business of
16 constructing or assembling new and unused recreational vehicles
17 or engaged in the business of importing new and unused
18 recreational vehicles into the United States for the purpose of
19 selling or distributing new and unused recreational vehicles to
20 dealers in this Commonwealth.

21 "Manufacturer's express warranty" or "warranty." The written
22 warranty of the manufacturer of a new recreational vehicle of
23 its condition and fitness for use, including any terms or
24 conditions precedent to the enforcement of obligations under the
25 warranty.

26 "New recreational vehicle." Any new and unused recreational
27 vehicle driven upon public roads, streets or highways, which was
28 purchased or leased and is registered in this Commonwealth or
29 purchased or leased elsewhere and registered for the first time
30 in this Commonwealth and is used, leased or bought for use

1 exclusively for personal, family or household purposes,
2 including a vehicle used by a manufacturer or dealer as a
3 demonstrator or dealer recreational vehicle prior to its sale.

4 "Nonconformity." A defect or condition which substantially
5 impairs the use, value or safety of a new recreational vehicle
6 and does not conform to the manufacturer's express warranty.

7 "Purchaser." A person, or a successor or assign of the
8 person, who obtains possession or ownership of a new
9 recreational vehicle by lease, transfer or purchase or who
10 enters into an agreement or contract for the lease or purchase
11 of a new recreational vehicle which is used, leased or bought
12 for use exclusively for personal, family or household purposes.

13 "Recreational vehicle." A motor home, pickup truck with
14 attached camper or bus when used exclusively for personal
15 pleasure by individuals.

16 Section 3. Disclosure.

17 (a) Duty of Attorney General.--The Attorney General shall
18 prepare and publish in the Pennsylvania Bulletin a statement
19 which explains a purchaser's rights under this act.

20 (b) Duty of manufacturers.--A manufacturer shall provide to
21 each purchaser at the time of original purchase of a new
22 recreational vehicle a written statement containing a copy of
23 the Attorney General's statement and a listing of zone offices,
24 with addresses and telephone numbers, that the purchaser may
25 contact regarding the remedies provided for in this act.

26 Section 4. Repair obligations.

27 (a) Repairs required.--The manufacturer of a new
28 recreational vehicle sold or leased and registered in this
29 Commonwealth shall repair or correct, at no cost to the
30 purchaser, a nonconformity which substantially impairs the use,

1 value or safety of the recreational vehicle which may occur
2 within a period of one year following the actual delivery of the
3 recreational vehicle to the purchaser, within the first 12,000
4 miles of use or during the term of the warranty, whichever may
5 first occur.

6 (b) Delivery of recreational vehicle.--

7 (1) A purchaser shall deliver a nonconforming
8 recreational vehicle to the manufacturer's authorized service
9 and repair facility within this Commonwealth unless, due to
10 reasons of size and weight or method of attachment or method
11 of installation or nature of the nonconformity, delivery
12 cannot reasonably be accomplished.

13 (2) (i) Should the purchaser be unable to effect return
14 of the nonconforming recreational vehicle, the purchaser
15 shall notify the manufacturer or its authorized service
16 and repair facility.

17 (ii) Written notice of nonconformity to the
18 manufacturer or its authorized service and repair
19 facility shall constitute return of the recreational
20 vehicle when the purchaser is unable to return the
21 recreational vehicle due to the nonconformity.

22 (3) Upon receipt of notice of nonconformity, the
23 manufacturer shall, at its option, service or repair the
24 recreational vehicle at the location of nonconformity or pick
25 up the recreational vehicle for service and repair or arrange
26 for transporting the recreational vehicle to its authorized
27 service and repair facility.

28 (4) All costs of transporting the recreational vehicle
29 when the purchaser is unable to effect return, due to
30 nonconformity, shall be at the manufacturer's expense.

1 Section 5. Manufacturer's duty for refund or replacement.

2 (a) Replacement or return and refund.--

3 (1) If a manufacturer fails to repair or correct a
4 nonconformity after a reasonable number of attempts, the
5 manufacturer shall, at the option of the purchaser, replace
6 the recreational vehicle with a comparable recreational
7 vehicle of equal value or accept return of the recreational
8 vehicle from the purchaser and refund to the purchaser the
9 full purchase price or lease price, including all collateral
10 charges, less a reasonable allowance for the purchaser's use
11 of the recreational vehicle not exceeding 10¢ per mile driven
12 or 10% of the purchase price or lease price of the
13 recreational vehicle, whichever is less.

14 (2) Refunds shall be made to the purchaser and
15 lienholder, if any, as their interests may appear.

16 (3) A reasonable allowance for use shall be that amount
17 directly attributable to use by the purchaser prior to the
18 first report of the nonconformity to the manufacturer.

19 (b) Time for making refund.--In the event the consumer
20 elects a refund, payment shall be made within 30 days of the
21 election.

22 (c) Conditions precluding refund.--A consumer shall not be
23 entitled to a replacement or refund if the nonconformity does
24 not substantially impair the use, value or safety of the
25 recreational vehicle or the nonconformity is the result of
26 abuse, neglect or modification or alteration of the recreational
27 vehicle by the purchaser.

28 Section 6. Presumption of reasonable number of attempts.

29 It shall be presumed that a reasonable number of attempts
30 have been undertaken to repair or correct a nonconformity if:

1 (1) the same nonconformity has been subject to repair
2 three times by the manufacturer, its agents or authorized
3 dealers and the nonconformity still exists; or

4 (2) the recreational vehicle is out of service by reason
5 of any nonconformity for a cumulative total of 30 or more
6 calendar days.

7 Section 7. Itemized statement required.

8 (a) General rule.--A manufacturer or dealer shall provide to
9 the purchaser each time the purchaser's recreational vehicle is
10 returned from being serviced or repaired a fully itemized
11 statement indicating all work performed on the recreational
12 vehicle, including, but not limited to, parts and labor.

13 (b) Dealer duty to notify manufacturer.--A dealer shall
14 notify the manufacturer of the existence of a nonconformity
15 within seven days of the delivery by a purchaser of a
16 recreational vehicle subject to a nonconformity when it is
17 delivered to the same dealer for the second time for repair of
18 the same nonconformity. The notification shall be by certified
19 mail, return receipt requested.

20 Section 8. Civil cause of action.

21 The purchaser of a new recreational vehicle who suffers any
22 loss due to nonconformity of the new recreational vehicle as a
23 result of the manufacturer's failure to comply with this act may
24 bring a civil action in a court of common pleas and, in addition
25 to other relief, shall be entitled to recover reasonable
26 attorney fees and all court costs.

27 Section 9. Informal dispute settlement procedure.

28 If the manufacturer has established an informal dispute
29 settlement procedure which complies with 16 CFR Pt. 703
30 (relating to informal dispute settlement procedures), section 8

1 shall not apply to any purchaser who has not first resorted to
2 such procedure as it relates to a remedy for defects or
3 conditions affecting the substantial use, value or safety of the
4 recreational vehicle. The informal dispute settlement procedure
5 shall not be binding on the purchaser, and, in lieu of such
6 settlement, the purchaser may pursue a remedy under section 8.
7 Section 10. Resale of returned recreational vehicle.

8 (a) Prohibition.--If a recreational vehicle has been
9 repurchased under this act or a similar statute of another
10 state, it may not be resold, transferred or leased in this
11 Commonwealth unless:

12 (1) The manufacturer provides the same express warranty
13 it provided to the original purchaser, except that the term
14 of the warranty need only last for 12,000 miles or 12 months
15 after the date of resale, transfer or lease, whichever is
16 earlier.

17 (2) The manufacturer provides the purchaser, lessee or
18 transferee with a written statement on a separate piece of
19 paper, in ten-point all capital type, in substantially the
20 following form:

21 IMPORTANT: THIS RECREATIONAL VEHICLE WAS REPURCHASED BY
22 THE MANUFACTURER BECAUSE IT DID NOT CONFORM TO THE
23 MANUFACTURER'S EXPRESS WARRANTY, AND THE NONCONFORMITY
24 WAS NOT CURED WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME AS PROVIDED BY
25 PENNSYLVANIA LAW.

26 (3) The dealer, lessor or transferor clearly and
27 conspicuously discloses the manufacturer's written
28 notification prior to the resale or lease of the repurchased
29 recreational vehicle.

30 (4) The dealer, lessor or transferor obtains a signed

1 receipt certifying in a conspicuous and understandable manner
2 that the written statement required under this subsection has
3 been provided. Access to the receipt shall be maintained for
4 four years. The Attorney General shall approve the form and
5 content of the disclosure statement supplied by the
6 manufacturer.

7 (5) The manufacturer, dealer, lessor or transferor
8 applies for and receives the designation of a branded title
9 from the department.

10 (6) The department updates its records and issues a
11 title with a designation indicating that the recreational
12 vehicle was repurchased under this act. The department shall
13 forward to subsequent purchasers or lienholders, in
14 accordance with 75 Pa.C.S. §§ 1107 (relating to delivery of
15 certificate of title) and 1132.1 (relating to perfection of a
16 security interest in a vehicle), a certificate of title which
17 indicates that the recreational vehicle was branded under
18 this act. The department shall determine the exact form and
19 content of the title brand.

20 (b) Applicability and penalty.--

21 (1) This section applies to the resold, transferred or
22 leased recreational vehicle for the full term of the warranty
23 required under this subsection.

24 (2) Failure of the manufacturer, dealer, lessor or
25 transferor to notify its immediate purchaser of the
26 requirements of this section subjects the manufacturer,
27 dealer, lessor or transferor to pay to the Commonwealth a
28 civil penalty of \$2,000 per violation and, at the option of
29 the purchaser, to replace the recreational vehicle with a
30 comparable recreational vehicle of equal value or accept

1 return of the recreational vehicle from the purchaser and
2 refund to the purchaser the full purchase price, including
3 all collateral charges, less a reasonable allowance for the
4 purchaser's use of the recreational vehicle not exceeding 10¢
5 per mile driven or 10% of the purchase price of the
6 recreational vehicle, whichever is less.

7 (c) Returned recreational vehicles not to be resold.--
8 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), if a new
9 recreational vehicle has been returned under this act or a
10 similar statute of another state because of a nonconformity
11 resulting in a complete failure of the braking or steering
12 system of the new recreational vehicle likely to cause death or
13 serious bodily injury if the new recreational vehicle was
14 driven, the new recreational vehicle may not be resold in this
15 Commonwealth.

16 (d) Agreement waiving, limiting or disclaiming rights.--An
17 agreement entered into by a purchaser that waives, limits or
18 disclaims the rights stated in this act is void as contrary to
19 public policy. Where applicable, the rights stated in this act
20 shall extend to a subsequent purchaser, lessee or transferee of
21 the recreational vehicle.

22 Section 11. Application of unfair trade act.

23 A violation of this act is a violation of the act of December
24 17, 1968 (P.L.1224, No.387), known as the Unfair Trade Practices
25 and Consumer Protection Law.

26 Section 12. Construction.

27 Nothing in this act shall be construed to limit the purchaser
28 from pursuing any other rights or remedies under any other law,
29 contract or warranty.

30 Section 13. Nonwaiver of act.

1 The provisions of this act may not be waived.

2 Section 14. Applicability.

3 This act shall apply to new recreational vehicles purchased
4 after the effective date of this section.

5 Section 15. Effective date.

6 This act shall take effect in 60 days.