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H.622

Introduced by Representatives Townsend of South Burlington, Head of South Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, and Pugh of South Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Commerce and trade; consumer protection

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow the family of a deceased or permanently disabled lessee to return the vehicle to the lessor, assume payments, or purchase the vehicle.

An act relating to consumer protection and motor vehicle lessees

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. § 2466c is added to read:

§ 2466c. MOTOR VEHICLE LEASES; DECEASED PERSONS

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Immediate family member” means a spouse, parent, child, sibling, or member of the same household.

(2) “Motor vehicle” means a passenger vehicle leased or registered in the State of Vermont and used primarily for family or household purposes.

1        (b) Duty of lessor. If the lessee of a motor vehicle dies or suffers an injury  
2        resulting in permanent disability before the end of the lease term,  
3        notwithstanding any provision of the lease agreement to the contrary, the lessor  
4        shall allow an immediate family member of the lessee or other person with  
5        sufficient legal authority, not later than 45 days after the lessee's death or  
6        injury, to:

7                (1) make payments necessary to bring the lessee's account into good  
8                standing under the lease agreement; and

9                (2)(A) return the vehicle to the lessor; or

10               (B) transfer the vehicle to an immediate family member who  
11               agrees to:

12                        (i) assume payments for the remaining term of the lease; or

13                        (ii) purchase the vehicle.

14               (c) Violation. A lessor who violates this section commits an unfair and  
15               deceptive act in commerce in violation of section 2453 of this title.

16        Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

17               This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.