

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 13, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1603

Introduced by Assembly Member Bates

February 26, 1999

An act to ~~add Section 9880.3 to the Business and Professions Code~~, relating to automotive technicians.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1603, as amended, Bates. Automotive technicians.

Existing law, the Automotive Repair Act, generally requires persons engaged in automotive repair *as automotive repair dealers* to register with the Director of Consumer Affairs, unless exempt from the requirement.

This bill would state legislative intent ~~that automotive technicians in this state increase their technological skills through professional certification and ongoing vocational education~~ and require the Department of Consumer Affairs and the California Automotive Repair Advisory Committee to prepare a report and submit recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor on or before September 1, 2000, concerning enhancement of automotive technician education and performance standards, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~—yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 9880.3 is added to the Business~~
2 *SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares the*
3 *following:*

4 *California, with 26 million registered motor vehicles is*
5 *home to the largest fleet of vehicles in the United States,*
6 *and the improper mechanical and electrical operation of*
7 *these vehicles can endanger the health, safety, and*
8 *welfare of California’s 32 million residents.*

9 *The effectiveness of California’s enhanced vehicle*
10 *inspections and maintenance program in reducing an*
11 *additional 112 tons of harmful emissions per day from “on*
12 *road” vehicles relies entirely upon the proper inspection,*
13 *maintenance, diagnosis, and repair of our state’s 26*
14 *million vehicles by automotive repair technicians.*

15 *Rapid technological advances and design changes in*
16 *automobiles have made it more difficult for automotive*
17 *technicians alike to keep up-to-date with the latest*
18 *automotive development.*

19 *Competent and effective automotive repair services*
20 *can be affected by inadequate training, lack of continuing*
21 *education, and the unavailability or high cost of*
22 *appropriate tools, equipment, and technical information*
23 *to automotive repair service providers.*

24 *SEC. 2. (a) The Department of Consumer Affairs,*
25 *working with the California Automotive Repair Advisory*
26 *Committee established pursuant to Executive Order*
27 *W-188-98, shall submit a written report and*
28 *recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor*
29 *on appropriate avenues for the enhancement of*
30 *automotive technician education and performance*
31 *standards on or before September 1, 2000. The*
32 *committee’s reports shall, at minimum, identify strategies*
33 *to improve the competency levels for automotive repair*
34 *technicians in California. The department and the*
35 *committee shall consider, but not limit their*
36 *recommendations to, the following:*

37 *(1) Repair performance standards.*

38 *(2) Standards of practice.*



1 (3) *Suitable framework for ongoing education.*

2 (4) *Preparatory education.*

3 (5) *Continuing education.*

4 (b) *The department and the committee shall consult*
5 *and seek comments from stakeholders including, but not*
6 *limited to, the public, consumer groups, the State*
7 *Department of Education, the Board of Governors of the*
8 *California Community Colleges, the Employment*
9 *Development Department, the California State Attorney*
10 *General, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and any*
11 *other appropriate agencies, prior to submitting its report*
12 *and recommendations. The department and the*
13 *committee shall schedule and conduct public meetings in*
14 *the performance of these duties. At the request and on*
15 *behalf of the committee, the department, when budget*
16 *appropriations permit, may contract with independent*
17 *entities to assist in the committee's evaluations.*

18 ~~and Professions Code, to read:~~

19 ~~9880.3. It is the intent of the Legislature that~~
20 ~~automotive technicians in this state increase their~~
21 ~~technological skills through professional certification and~~
22 ~~ongoing vocational education.~~

