| Τ | Senate Bill No. 459 |
|----|--|
| 2 | (By Senators Carmichael and D. Hall) |
| 3 | |
| 4 | [Introduced March 6, 2013; referred to the Committee on the |
| 5 | Judiciary.] |
| 6 | |
| 7 | |
| 8 | |
| 9 | |
| 10 | A BILL to amend and reenact §46A-6-107 of the Code of West |
| 11 | Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to disclaimers of |
| 12 | warranties with respect to goods which are the subject of or |
| 13 | are intended to become the subject of a consumer transaction; |
| 14 | prohibition against exclusion, modification or limitation of |
| 15 | any warranty or remedy; waiver of warranty on used motor |
| 16 | vehicle as to a particular defect or malfunction which dealer |
| 17 | has disclosed; conditions permitting as-is sale of used motor |
| 18 | vehicle; conspicuous disclosure of as-is sale; as-is sale does |
| 19 | not waive express warranties made by dealer; and dealer to |
| 20 | conform to federal regulations. |
| 21 | Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia: |
| 22 | That §46A-6-107 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as |
| 23 | amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows: |

- 1 ARTICLE 6. GENERAL CONSUMER PROTECTION.
- 2 §46A-6-107. Disclaimer of warranties and remedies prohibited.
- 3 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary
- 4 Except in the case of certain used motor vehicles as otherwise
- 5 provided in this section, with respect to goods which are the
- 6 subject of or are intended to become the subject of a consumer
- 7 transaction, no merchant shall may:
- 8 (1) Exclude, modify or otherwise attempt to limit any
- 9 warranty, express or implied, including the warranties of
- 10 merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose; or
- 11 (2) Exclude, modify or attempt to limit any remedy provided by
- 12 law, including the measure of damages available, for a breach of
- 13 warranty, express or implied.
- 14 Any such exclusion, modification or attempted limitation shall
- 15 be is void.
- 16 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an agreement
- 17 entered into by a consumer for the purchase of a used motor vehicle
- 18 that excludes, modifies or attempts to limit any warranty, express
- 19 or implied, including the warranties of merchantability and fitness
- 20 for a particular purpose is void as contrary to public policy, and
- 21 the dealer nevertheless shall be considered, as a matter of law, to
- 22 have given the warranty.
- 23 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b)

- 1 of this section, a consumer who purchases a used motor vehicle may
- 2 waive a warranty as to a particular defect or malfunction which the
- 3 dealer has disclosed in writing to the consumer. No such waiver is
- 4 effective unless the waiver:
- 5 <u>(1) Is in writing;</u>
- 6 (2) Is conspicuous and is in plain language;
- 7 (3) Identifies the particular disclosed defect or malfunction
- 8 in the used motor vehicle for which the warranty is to be waived;
- 9 (4) Describes any additional defects or malfunctions, if any;
- 10 (A) Disclosed to the dealer by a previous owner of the used
- 11 motor vehicle; (B) discoverable by the dealer through an inspection
- 12 of the used motor vehicle; and (C) that must be repaired before the
- 13 used motor vehicle can comply with the motor vehicle inspection and
- 14 test laws set forth in article sixteen, chapter seventeen-c of this
- 15 code.
- 16 (5) States what warranty, if any, applies to any disclosed
- 17 defect or malfunction; and
- 18 (6) Is signed by both the consumer and the dealer before the
- 19 sales contract is executed.
- 20 (d) A motor vehicle may be sold "as is" and the prohibition
- 21 against exclusion, modification or limitation of any warranty or
- 22 remedy, as set forth in this section, does not apply to:
- 23 (1) A used motor vehicle sold for less than \$2,500;

- 1 (2) A used motor vehicle that has been driven more than eighty
- 2 thousand actual miles at the time sold;
- 3 (3) A used motor vehicle that is seven years of age or older,
- 4 calculated from January 1, of the designated model year of the
- 5 vehicle;
- 6 (4) A vehicle that has been custom built or modified for show
- 7 purposes or racing; or
- 8 (5) A vehicle that is inoperable and a total loss.
- 9 For the purpose of this subsection, a vehicle is a "total
- 10 loss" only if there is material damage to the vehicle's frame,
- 11 unitized structure or suspension system, and the projected cost of
- 12 repairing the damage exceeds the market value of the vehicle at the
- 13 time of the incident causing it to be declared a total loss.
- 14 (e) A used motor vehicle may be sold "as is" by a dealer only
- 15 if it falls within one or more of the exemptions set out in
- 16 subsection (d) of this section. No "as is" disclaimer by a dealer
- 17 is enforceable unless all of the following conditions are met:
- 18 (1) A disclaimer must appear on the front page of the contract
- 19 of sale, and must read as follows:
- 20 **"AS IS"**
- 21 THIS VEHICLE IS SOLD "AS IS". YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR ANY REPAIRS
- 22 NEEDED AFTER THE SALE. IF WE HAVE MADE ANY PROMISES TO YOU, THE
- 23 LAW SAYS WE MUST KEEP OUR PROMISES EVEN IF WE SELL "AS IS". TO

1 PROTECT YOURSELF, ASK US TO PUT ALL PROMISES IN WRITING.

- 2 (2) The text of the disclaimer must be printed in twelve-point
- 3 boldfaced type, except the heading, which must be in sixteen-point
- 4 extra boldfaced type. The entire notice must be boxed.
- 5 (3) The consumer shall sign the consumer's name and the date
- 6 within the box containing the disclaimer prior to the sale.
- 7 (4) An "as is" sale of a used motor vehicle waives implied
- 8 warranties, but does not waive any express warranties, either oral
- 9 or written, upon which the consumer relied in entering into the
- 10 transaction.
- 11 (5) In selling or offering to sell any used motor vehicle, and
- 12 in providing an express warranty, a dealer shall comply in all
- 13 respects with the Federal Trade Commission's "Used Motor Vehicle
- 14 Trade Regulation Rule," 16 C.F.R. § 455.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the exclusion, modification or limitation of any warranty or remedy in the sale of used motor vehicles; to allow a consumer to waive a warranty on used motor vehicle as to a particular defect or malfunction only if the dealer has disclosed the particular defect; to identify conditions permitting "as is" sales of used motor vehicles; to require conspicuous disclosure of "as is" sales; to clarify that "as is" sales do not waive express warranties made by a dealer; and to require dealers to conform to federal regulations concerning used motor vehicle sales.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.