

JULY 15, 1976

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 1518 -- Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act Amendments of 1976. This bill authorizes appropriations for fiscal years 1976-1978 for the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act; to authorize DOT to require automobile dealers to distribute certain information to prospective buyers; to extend and revise demonstration projects for motor vehicle diagnostic equipment; and to provide additional authority for enforcing prohibitions against motor vehicle odometer tampering. The bill will authorize a total of \$29 million in appropriations for fiscal years 1976-1978 for programs authorized under the four Titles of this Act. Title II of the Act directs DOT to study methods for determining several characteristics of vehicles, including their damage susceptibility and ease of diagnosis and repair, and to furnish the public with information on these characteristics and on vehicle operating costs as a means of assisting consumers in purchasing vehicles.

Title III of the Act requires DOT to establish demonstration projects for the diagnostic inspection of motor vehicles. The bill will require that at least three such projects be continued through September 30, 1977.

Title IV of the Act prohibits tampering with motor vehicle odometers. Under current law, DOT is limited to seeking injunctions against violators of the odometer-tampering provision; civil suits for damages may also be brought by private persons.

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The President has signed H.R. 4829 -- For the relief of Leah Maureen Anderson. This bill waives the applicable statute of limitations to permit the Secretary of the Army to consider the claims of Leah Maureen Anderson for injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

The bill provides that, notwithstanding any time limitations, the Secretary of the Army shall receive and consider Leah Anderson's claims arising from a 1971 accident, provided such claims are presented in writing within six months of the date of enactment. It would further permit a suit to be filed in a United States District Court, in accordance with otherwise applicable law, if such action is begun within six months after final denial of her claims or if an offer of settlement is not accepted.

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