

AAMVA Legislative & Regulatory Alerts



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House Energy and Commerce Committee to Consider Mandating DMV Notification of Recall Status

On Wednesday, October 21, the United States House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade will hold [a hearing](#) called "Examining Ways to Improve Vehicle and Roadway Safety." This hearing will address a legislative [discussion draft](#) that includes sections with serious implications for the AAMVA membership.

Of particular concern is language that would require a state government at the time of vehicle registration to notify the motor vehicle owner/lessee of open motor vehicle recall information. AAMVA has shared its concerns with the committee, including:

- This legislation would place additional requirements on states participating in the National Driver Register (49 USC 30303). The bill adds a requirement that to participate in NDR a state shall notify owners of open recall information at the time of vehicle registration. This language could cause some states to become non-participants with NDR, creating the potential to disrupt a state's ability to issue any driver's license.
- The National Driver Register does not currently carry any associated vehicle data. It also is not integrated into state vehicle transactions.
- This section constitutes an unfunded mandate. No funding mechanism for the mandated program is included in the legislation.
- This section has significant implications for transferring liability concerns onto the states.
- This section relieves the legally obligated responsible party, vehicle manufacturers, from their notification obligations under current law. It transfers that responsibility, in part or in full, to state government.

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- Vehicle data, owner data, and vehicle identification numbers associated with an open motor vehicle recall reside in exclusively separate data systems. Integration of these systems for notification purposes would be costly. This legislation does not include any associative funding mechanism to integrate these systems or for compliance and maintenance of effort.

The discussion draft under consideration is not the first attempt by manufacturers to transfer the obligation of consumer notification of recall status onto motor vehicle agencies. AAMVA continues to be heavily involved in discussions that led to alternative proposals being dropped in both chambers and we will continue to educate lawmakers on the serious implications the proposal would have on the AAMVA membership.
