

Model State Right-to-Repair Law Updated April, 2024

An Act to promote consumer choice and competition by requiring manufacturers of digital electronic equipment to make available to owners and independent repair providers, on fair and reasonable terms, the documentation, parts, and tools used to diagnose, maintain, and repair such equipment.

Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Digital Fair Repair Act.

Section 2. Definitions. In this Act:

(a) “Authorized repair provider” means, with respect to an original equipment manufacturer, an individual or business who has an arrangement with the original equipment manufacturer under which the original equipment manufacturer grants to the individual or business a license to use a trade name, service mark, or other proprietary identifier for the purposes of offering the services of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of digital electronic equipment under the name of the original equipment manufacturer, or other arrangement with the original equipment manufacturer to offer such services on behalf of the original equipment manufacturer. An original equipment manufacturer who offers the services of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of digital electronic equipment manufactured by it or on its behalf, or sold or otherwise supplied by it, and who does not have an arrangement described in this subsection with an unaffiliated individual or business, shall be considered an authorized repair provider with respect to such equipment.

(b) “Digital electronic equipment” means any product that depends for its functioning, in whole or in part, on digital electronics embedded in or attached to the product.

(c) “Documentation” means any manual, functional and wiring diagram, reporting output, service code description, circuit board schematic, security code or password, maintenance procedure, training material, troubleshooting information, list of required tools, parts list, or other guidance used in effecting the services of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of digital electronic equipment.

(d) “Embedded software” means any programmable software instructions delivered with or loaded onto equipment, or a part of such equipment, to allow the equipment or part to operate or communicate with other computer hardware. Embedded software includes all relevant patches and fixes that the manufacturer makes for purposes of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of equipment.

(f) “Fair and reasonable terms” for obtaining a part or tool or documentation means —

1. In general – at costs and terms that are equivalent to the most favorable costs and terms under which the original equipment manufacturer offers the part, tool, or documentation to an authorized repair provider

(A) accounting for any discount, rebate, convenient and timely means of delivery, means of enabling fully restored and updated functionality, rights of use, or other incentive or preference the original equipment manufacturer offers to an authorized repair provider, or any additional cost, burden, or impediment the original equipment manufacturer imposes on an owner or independent repair provider; and

(B) not conditioned on having an arrangement described in subsection (a).

2. With respect to documentation, including any relevant updates, “fair and reasonable terms” also means at no charge, except that, when the documentation is requested in physical printed form, a charge may be included for the reasonable actual costs of preparing and sending the copy.

3. with respect to tools, made available by the original equipment manufacturer

(a) at no charge, except that, when a tool is requested in physical form, a charge may be included for the reasonable, actual costs of preparing and sending such tool;

(b) without requiring authorization or internet access for the use or operation of such tools, or imposing impediments to access or use of the tools to diagnose, maintain, or repair and enable full functionality of digital electronic equipment; and

(c) not in a manner that impairs the efficient and cost-effective performance of any such diagnosis, maintenance, or repair.

4. with respect to parts, made available by the original equipment manufacturer, either directly or through an authorized repair provider, in a manner that:

(a) is not conditioned on or imposing a substantial obligation or restriction, [suggested] including but not limited to a minimum or reasonable maximum quantity of parts that owners and independent repair providers can purchase [/suggested], that is not reasonably necessary for enabling the owner or independent repair provider to engage in the diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of digital electronic equipment made by or on behalf of the original equipment manufacturer; and

(b) does not condition access to parts on any additional contract other than a purchase order.

(e) “Independent repair provider” means, with respect to an original equipment manufacturer, an individual or business operating in this State, who does not have an arrangement described in subsection (a) with the original equipment manufacturer, and who is not affiliated with any

individual or business who has such an arrangement with the original equipment manufacturer, when that individual or business is engaged in the services of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of digital electronic equipment. An original equipment manufacturer or, with respect to that original equipment manufacturer, an individual or business who has such an arrangement with that original equipment manufacturer, or who is affiliated with an individual or business who has such an arrangement with that original equipment manufacturer, shall be considered an independent repair provider when engaging in the services of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of digital electronic equipment that is not manufactured by or on behalf of, or sold or otherwise supplied by, that original equipment manufacturer.

(f) “Manufacturer of motor vehicle equipment” means a business engaged in the business of manufacturing or supplying components that are used in the manufacture, maintenance, or repair of a motor vehicle.

(g) “Motor vehicle” means a vehicle that is designed for transporting persons or property on a street or highway and is certified by the manufacturer under all applicable federal safety and emissions standards and requirements for distribution and sale in the United States. Motor vehicle does not include: 1. a motorcycle; or 2. a recreational vehicle or an auto home equipped for habitation.

(h) “Motor vehicle dealer” means an individual or business who is engaged in the business of selling or leasing new motor vehicles to an individual or business pursuant to a franchise agreement, has obtained a license under the [cite to applicable state law], and is engaged in the services of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of motor vehicles or motor vehicle engines pursuant to that franchise agreement.

(i) “Motor vehicle manufacturer” means a business engaged in the business of manufacturing or assembling new motor vehicles.

(j) “Original equipment manufacturer” means a business engaged in the business of selling, leasing, or otherwise supplying new digital electronic equipment, or parts of equipment, manufactured by or on behalf of itself, to any individual or business.

(k) “Owner” means an individual or business who owns or leases digital electronic equipment purchased or used in this State.

(l) “Part” means any replacement part, either new or used, made available by or to an original equipment manufacturer for purposes of effecting the services of maintenance or repair of digital electronic equipment manufactured by or on behalf of, sold or otherwise supplied by the original equipment manufacturer.

(m) “Parts Pairing” refers to the practice by manufacturers of using software to identify component parts through a unique identifier.

(n) "Tool" means any software program, hardware implement, embedded software, or other apparatus used for diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of digital electronic equipment, including software or other mechanisms that provision, program, or pair a part, calibrate functionality, or perform any other function required to bring the product back to fully functional condition.

(o) "Trade secret" has the meaning given it in [cite to definition in state law, or if no state definition, to 18 U.S.C. 1839].

Section 3. Requirements.

(a) An original equipment manufacturer shall, for digital electronic equipment, or parts for such equipment, manufactured by it or on its behalf, or sold or otherwise supplied by it, and sold or used in this State, make available to owners of such equipment and to independent repair providers, on fair and reasonable terms, documentation, parts, and tools, inclusive of any updates, for purposes of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of such equipment. Nothing in this subsection requires an original equipment manufacturer to make available a part that is no longer available to the original equipment manufacturer.

(b) For digital electronic equipment that contains an electronic security lock or other security-related function, the original equipment manufacturer shall make available to the owner and to independent repair providers, on fair and reasonable terms, any special documentation, tools, and parts needed to disable the lock or function, and to reset it when disabled through a secure release system.

(c) An original equipment manufacturer shall not use parts pairing or any other mechanism to:

- (i) prevent the installation or functioning of any otherwise-functional part, including a non-manufacturer approved replacement part or component;
- (ii) inhibit or reduce the functioning of any part, such that replacement by an independent repair provider or the device owner would cause the device to operate with reduced functionality or performance;
- (iii) create false, misleading, deceptive, or undismisable alerts or warnings about parts;
- (iv) charge additional fees or increased prices for future repairs; or
- (v) limit who can purchase parts or perform repair services.

Section 4. Enforcement by Attorney General.

Violation of any of the provisions of this Act is an unlawful practice under the [cite to relevant state fraudulent and deceptive practices act]. All remedies, penalties, and authority granted to the Attorney General by that Act shall be available to him or her for the enforcement of this Act.

Section 5. Limitations.

(a) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require an original equipment manufacturer to divulge a trade secret to an owner or to an independent repair provider, except as necessary to provide documentation, parts, and tools on fair and reasonable terms.

(b) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to alter the terms of any arrangement described in section 2(a) in force between an authorized repair provider and an original equipment manufacturer, including the performance or provision of warranty or recall repair work by an authorized repair provider on behalf of an original equipment manufacturer pursuant to such arrangement, except that any provision in such terms that purports to waive, avoid, restrict, or limit the original equipment manufacturer's obligations to comply with this Act shall be void and unenforceable.

(c) No original equipment manufacturer or authorized repair provider shall be liable for any damage or injury to any digital electronic equipment caused by an independent repair provider or owner which occurs during the course of repair, diagnosis, or maintenance and is not attributable to the original equipment manufacturer or authorized repair provider other than if the failure is attributable to design or manufacturing defects.

(d) [suggested] Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a manufacturer to make available special documentation, tools, and parts *for use in disabling or overriding* anti theft security measures set by the owner of the product without the owner's authorization.

Section 6. Exclusions.

Nothing in this Act applies to a motor vehicle manufacturer, manufacturer of motor vehicle equipment, or motor vehicle dealer, acting in that capacity.

Section 7. Applicability. This Act applies with respect to equipment sold or in use on or after the effective date of this Act.

Section 8. Effective date. This Act takes effect [date].

For consumer electronic equipment that is manufactured for the first time, and first sold or used in this state, after January 1, 2025, an original equipment manufacturer may not use parts pairing to:

(A) Prevent or inhibit an independent repair provider or an owner from installing or enabling the function of an otherwise functional replacement part or a component of consumer electronic equipment, including a replacement part or a component that the original equipment manufacturer has not approved;

(B) Reduce the functionality or performance of consumer electronic equipment; or

(C) Cause consumer electronic equipment to display misleading alerts or warnings, which the owner cannot immediately dismiss, about unidentified parts.