Tougher California Lemon Law Snarls Automakers & Dealers; Only 2-Chances To Fix Life-Threatening Defects

Situation

1. California state lawmakers stiffened lemon law last year
2. Manufacturer has 2 (was 4) chances to fix life-threatening defects in vehicle
3. After 2-attempts, vehicle must be branded "lemon"
4. Requires automaker replace or refund owner
5. Manufacturer has 4-chances to fix non-life-threatening defects
6. Dealers often caught between customer & manufacturer for lemon vehicle claims

Significant Points

1. Isuzu loses appeal of lemon law case in San Diego, refused to repurchase 1998 Rodeo
2. Appellate court upheld jury verdict, opinion sites Isuzu's policy on lemon-law repairs is unreasonable
3. Lacks good-faith effort to honor statutory obligations to repurchase defective cars
4. Manufacturers' responses to lemon-law requests vary widely
5. Request still counts as repair lemon law attempt even if mechanic can't/ won't fix defect brought to dealer's attention

Background

1. Drivers have 18 months or 18,000 miles to make claim
2. Law also triggered if vehicle out of service for repairs 30 days during above period

Web Source

http://www.carlemon.com/lemon/CA_law.html