

**The 194th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
2025-2026  
Bill Summary**

**Bill No:** H1153

**Title:** AN ACT REQUIRING LICENSED AUTO INSURANCE DAMAGE APPRAISERS TO PROVIDE SAFETY NOTICES TO THE OWNERS OF DAMAGED MOTOR VEHICLES

**Sponsor:** Representative Michael J. Finn

**Committee:** Financial Services

**Hearing Date:** May 27, 2025

**Reporting Date:** July 26, 2025

**Similar Matters:** Duplicate of S825

**Prior History:**

H3555 (2019-2020) Favorable to HWM

H1084 (2021-2022) Favorable to HWM

H1008 (2023-2024) Favorable to HWM

**Current Law:** M.G.L. 26 Section 8G: Auto damage appraiser licensing board; appraisers; licensing; damage reports; seal: There shall be in the division of insurance an auto damage appraiser licensing board, hereinafter called the board, consisting of four persons to be appointed by the governor, two of whom shall be affiliated with the auto body repair industry, and two of whom shall be affiliated with insurance companies writing casualty insurance within the commonwealth, and one person to be appointed by the commissioner of insurance who shall not be affiliated with either the auto body industry or the insurance industry and who shall be the chairman of the board. A vacancy on the board shall be filled within 60 days from the date of the vacancy.

**Summary:**

This bill proposes an amendment to section 8G of chapter 26 of the General Laws, which concerns motor vehicle appraisals. The amendment would require licensed appraisers, whether employed by a registered motor vehicle repair shop, a licensed insurer, or acting as an independent appraiser, to notify the owner of a motor vehicle if the vehicle is damaged to a degree that it no longer meets safety standards established by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles or the motor vehicle emission standards established by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection. The notice must direct the owner to have the vehicle repaired so that it

may pass the safety and emissions standards and to obtain a new certificate of inspection. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles must periodically issue specific guidelines on the safety or emissions items that require such a notice and publish them in the Massachusetts Register. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles is also required to establish rules and regulations for the implementation and enforcement of this paragraph. This bill would take effect upon passage.

**Note:**

Senate version has correct year for General Law.