



Nebraska Auto Body Association



News Capsule

News & Information

November 29, 2010

Nebraska legislators are grappling with a budget shortfall of \$986 million below the minimum reserve for the fiscal years 2011-2013. The projected shortfall grows to \$1.9 billion by fiscal year 2015. The massive shortfalls can be traced back to a 9.2% negative revenue growths for fiscal years 2008 – 2010 compared to what should have been a positive 9.2% revenue growth. Nebraska lawmakers have said that no options are off the table for consideration in adjusting to a leaner budget. And that could mean taxing services that are currently exempt. NABA plans to carefully monitor the upcoming legislative session, which starts January 5, 2011.

Bruce Ramage has been appointed Acting Director for the Nebraska Department of Insurance following the resignation of current Director, Ann Frohman. Ramage graduated from Dana College and received a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Bruce joined the Nebraska Department of Insurance Market Conduct Division in September of 1984. He served as Deputy Director of the Nebraska Department of Insurance from January, 2008, until being named Acting Director by Governor Dave Heineman effective October 30, 2010.

Legislators at the NCOIL's Annual Meeting shelved a proposed Act that about Auto Body Steering by insurers. NCOIL's postponement marked the Property-Casualty Insurance Committee's latest action to promote consumer decision-making through limits on insurer body-shop referrals. NCOIL Committee Chair Sen. Ruth Teichman said, "We certainly want to promote a system that lets consumers choose the repair shops they want, rather than respond to insurer demands or pressure. But considering the wide-ranging opposition to our proposed model, moving forward with this draft language seemed unwise."

The Society of Collision Repair Specialists (SCRS) said it would pick up membership costs for schools that provide a collision repair vocational or technical program. SCRS's offer is effective immediately to all schools that complete the Collision Repair Education Foundation's online School Solutions Survey. SCRS currently counts a handful of vo-tech schools among its membership, but hopes this offer will increase the number that becomes active SCRS members. For more information contact Linda at info@scrs.com.

American Honda Motor Co, Inc. announced the launch of a new consumer-oriented collision repair brochure. The tri-fold brochure is designed to be used by body shop estimators and managers when talking to consumers about collision repairs. It defines the difference between OE replacement parts and alternative parts, and touches on consumer rights. A sample packet of brochures has already been shipped to 2,300 select US collision shops.

The Automotive Service Association (ASA) said its first free-standing Automotive Service & Repair Week (ASRW) event in Las Vegas attracted 16,289 members of the automotive repair and service industry. This is a drop of 23 percent from last year's attendance.

Other useful information: [Mitchell Fall 2010 Quarterly Collision Industry Trend Report](#)

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Join the Nebraska AutoBody Association**

Membership application available at

<http://www.nebraskaautobody.com/filedownloads/memberap1&2.pdf>

Information in this news capsule is obtained and condensed from sources believed to be accurate and reliable but readers should consult with an appropriate business professional before acting on information contained herein. Information contained herein does not necessarily reflect the opinions of NABA, its leadership or management. Summary prepared by Norbert Zaenglein.