

**From:** [Kevin Vust](#)  
**To:** [FamiliesCommunities Committee](#)  
**Subject:** bill 203  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 28, 2016 12:14:16 PM

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hello, my name is kevin vust, i am a automotive service technician here in alberta, and a licenced agent for the alberta vehicle inspection program.

i have read through bill 203 and have some concerns about the new changes, from my understanding bill 203 says we will not be charging customers for diagnostics if approval is given for the work to be done. however in the case of evermore occuring electrical issues in todays vehicles there is more time spent on diagnostic then the actual repair.

for example a vehicle has a check engine light on, reading the codes with a special scanner (upwards of \$20000 for the scanner) may take 10 minutes, checking for service bulletins from manufacturer may take 10 minutes, finding and printing and reading wire diagrams may take 10 minutes, checking and testing suspected components may take 10 to 60 minutes, then checking the wiring to the suspected component may take 10 to 60 minutes, after all the diagnostics are complete the fault may very well be a broken wire, the wire repair itself only takes 10 minutes to splice a 3 inch piece of wire over the break, after 1 - 2 hours of finding this broken wire out of thousands of wires, how can i charge the customer? 10 minutes of actual repair time and 2 hours of diagnostic not paid for?

does this not conflict with labour laws? if i have to spend more time diagnosing then repairing i will have to operate the business at a loss, witch means increasing costs , (in the example i would have to charge 12 times normal rates in order to make my normal 2 hour fee) , who could afford such an increase in houly rates? the average alberatan will no longer be able to fix their car, or the mechanics will be forced to work for free by the employer, which means leaving the automotive sector , which means no more mechanics , which means higher demand which means increasing rates.

the only other scenario i can think of is a refusal to diagnose vehicles leaving the customer to tell me what the problem is with the check engine light, which we both know is not going to work unless the customer has taken 4 years of training to understand how a vehicle and sub systems operate, and if the customer invests thousands of dollars in diagnostic equipment.

not paying a mechanic for the time it takes to properly diagnose a vehicle will result in higher rates across alberta, or mechanics mis-diagnosing vehicles because they are not getting paid to do it. it will come down to the techs guessing what is wrong, then charging for parts to be installed then finding out the diagnosis was wrong and the customer never needed that part . leading to the customer complaining they got ripped off and the mechanic doesnt know what hes doing,

as the soldier in the trenches, so it were, i would highly recommend debating all scenarios before continuing with this bill, i cant see this bill leading to anything but mis-diagnosed vehicles or higher rates for the alberta consumer,

as a canadian citizen i am not subject to forced labor but i would assume that if i refused to diagnose for free i would lose my job,

i would also like to referance any other profession, does a home inspector not charge for a home inspection unless he fixes something? does a doctor not get paid for a consultation or examination unless he preforms surgery? does a plumber not charge a fee for simply coming to your house, then another charge to do the work? does a police officer not get paid unless he arrests someone?

what are your views as to the practicallity of this bill, ie whos paying me to pinpoint one broken wire out of thousands of wires on todays cars if this bill passes?

concerned-

kevin dean vust sept 28 2016