GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2001

H HOUSE BILL 1269

Short Title: Rental Cars-Advertising and Charges. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives McComas; and Davis.

Referred to: Ways and Means.

April 12, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

2 AN ACT REGARDING AIRPORT FEES AND CHARGE FOR RENTAL CARS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 66-202 reads as rewritten:

"§ 66-202. Rental car advertising.

- (a) A rental car company shall only advertise and charge a rental rate that includes the entire amount, except taxes and a mileage charge if any, that a renter must pay to hire or lease a vehicle for the period of time to which the rental rate applies. <u>The</u> rental shall include applicable airport fees and rents.
- (b) If a rental car company states a rental rate in a print advertisement or an in-person or computer-transmitted quotation, the rental car company shall clearly disclose or cause to be disclosed in that advertisement or quotation the terms of any mileage conditions relating to the advertised or quoted rental rate, including, but not limited to: To the extent applicable, the amount of mileage and fuel charges; the number of miles for which no charge will be imposed; and a description of the geographic driving limitations, if any, within the United States and Canada.
- (c) A rental car company shall also include in all advertising the daily rate it charges for collision damage waivers; shall state in such advertising that collision damage waivers are not required; and shall state that prospective renters should examine or inquire about their automobile insurance policies to see whether such policies will cover damage to rental vehicles.
- (d) An advertised rental rate does not have to include airport access charges that may be avoided, as long as the advertisement clearly and conspicuously discloses, immediately adjacent to the advertised rate, the range of airport access charges that exists in the area to which the advertised rental rate applies and clearly and conspicuously discloses the method of avoiding the airport access charge."

SECTION 2. G.S. 66-204(a) reads as rewritten:

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"(a) In addition to the rental rate, taxes, and mileage charge, if any, a rental car company may charge a renter for an item or service provided in connection with a particular rental transaction if the renter can avoid incurring that charge by choosing not to obtain or utilize the optional item or service. Items and services for which a rental car company may impose an additional charge include, but are not limited to: Optional insurance and accessories requested by the renter unless otherwise prohibited by law; service charges incident to a person's optional return of the vehicle to a location other than the location where the vehicle was hired or leased; airport access charges that may be avoided by the renter, provided the requirements of G.S. 66 202(d) are met; and charges for refueling the vehicle at the conclusion of the rental transaction in the event the rented vehicle is not returned with as much fuel as was in its fuel tank at the beginning of the rental."

SECTION 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.