

## **LEMON LAW BACKGROUND**

### **FAST FACTS**

- Every state, along with the District of Columbia, has enacted a Lemon Law
- Provisions of the Lemon Law vary from state to state
- The Connecticut Lemon Law was the first enacted in the United States, and was signed into law on June 4, 1982

### **FIRST IN THE NATION: CONNECTICUT LEMON LAW SIGN SIGNED JUNE 4, 1982**

“John J. Woodcock III, a Connecticut State Representative, was the proponent of the first ‘Lemon Law’ enacted in the United States. Governor William A. O’Neill signed the bill (PA 82-287) into law on June 4, 1982.” *Source: Central Connecticut State University, Center for Public Policy & Social Research.*  
<http://library.ccsu.edu/about/departments/spcoll/lemonlaw/>

### **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

“President Ronald Reagan’s policy of deregulation left consumers subject to fraud and other abuses by manufacturers. A federal law, the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act of 1975, and Uniform Commercial Codes provided some protection for the consumer, but the way in which these laws were written meant the consumer usually ended up filing a lawsuit against the manufacturer. Seeking redress under either statute led to ‘frustration, delays, expense and uncertainty.’ (Kegley and Hiller, 1986, p. 88). Hence the need for a more consumer-friendly procedure.” *Source: Central Connecticut State University, Center for Public Policy & Social Research.*  
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### **TYPES OF VEHICLES COVERED BY LEMON LAWS**

The types of vehicles covered by vary according to each state’s Lemon Law. Every state covers new passenger vehicles purchased and used for personal or household purposes, but many states’ laws go much further. Coverage can include business vehicles, leased vehicles, motor homes, motorcycles, and even ATVs.