Right to Repair and Durable Goods Act of 2025

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the **“Right to Repair and Durable Goods Act of 2025.”**

SECTION 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

1. That durable goods, including household appliances, have historically been designed for long-term service and repairability, extending their useful life and reducing waste.
2. That in recent decades, manufacturers have increasingly adopted design practices that discourage repair, including sealed components, proprietary fasteners, and restricted access to replacement parts and diagnostic software.
3. That this shift has created a **“disposable economy”** in which consumers are forced to replace appliances prematurely, increasing household costs and contributing to environmental waste.
4. That family budgets in the United States are strained by the rising cost of essential appliances, with average replacement cycles dropping from 15–20 years in the 1970s to 5–7 years in the 2020s.
5. That repairability standards and access to parts would reduce consumer costs, extend product lifespans, and create new jobs in local repair industries.
6. That ensuring repairability aligns with the national interest in reducing waste, strengthening household finances, and protecting the environment.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

1. **“Covered product”** means any major household appliance, including but not limited to refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, dishwashers, ovens, microwaves, and HVAC units, manufactured for sale in the United States.
2. **“Repairability”** means the capacity of a covered product to be restored to working condition through the replacement or servicing of parts, components, or software.
3. **“Manufacturer”** means any entity engaged in the production, assembly, or branding of covered products for sale in the United States.
4. **“Independent repair provider”** means any person or business engaged in the diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of covered products, other than the manufacturer or its authorized agents.
5. **“Essential parts and documentation”** means replacement parts, diagnostic tools, schematics, and repair manuals necessary to restore a covered product to working condition.

SECTION 4. MANUFACTURER REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **Repairability Standards.**

1. Beginning two years after enactment, all covered products manufactured for sale in the United States shall be designed to allow reasonable repair and maintenance.
2. Manufacturers shall ensure that essential parts and documentation are made available to independent repair providers and consumers at fair and reasonable terms.
3. Covered products shall not employ design features intended to prevent repair, including but not limited to:
    - proprietary fasteners without available tools,
    - software locks that disable functionality after third-party repair,
    - sealed components that cannot be replaced without destruction of the product.

(b) **Parts Availability.**

1. Manufacturers must make essential parts available for at least 10 years after the last date of manufacture of a covered product.
2. Replacement parts shall be priced at a level reasonably related to the actual cost of production and distribution.

(c) **Documentation.**

1. Manufacturers shall provide repair manuals, schematics, and diagnostic software necessary for repair of covered products.
2. Such documentation shall be made available in digital form at no additional cost to consumers and independent repair providers.

SECTION 5. CONSUMER RIGHTS.

(a) **Right to Repair.** Consumers shall have the right to repair, or to have repaired by an independent repair provider, any covered product they own, without voiding the manufacturer's warranty solely on the basis of such repair.

(b) **Disclosure.** Manufacturers shall disclose, at the point of sale, the expected lifespan of the product, the availability of replacement parts, and the duration of parts support.

(c) **Labeling.** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) shall establish a standardized "Repairability Score" label, to be displayed on all covered products, indicating the ease of repair on a scale of 1 to 10.

SECTION 6. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) **Federal Trade Commission Authority.**

1. The FTC shall have primary enforcement authority under this Act.

2. The FTC may promulgate rules, conduct investigations, and impose civil penalties for violations.

(b) **Civil Penalties.**

1. Manufacturers found in violation of this Act shall be subject to civil penalties not to exceed $50,000 per violation, or $500,000 for a pattern or practice of violations.
2. Each covered product sold in violation of this Act shall constitute a separate violation.

(c) **Private Right of Action.** Consumers and independent repair providers harmed by violations of this Act may bring a civil action in federal court for damages, injunctive relief, and attorney’s fees.

SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTATION AND TIMELINE.

(a) **Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect 180 days after enactment, except as otherwise provided.

(b) **Phase-In Period.**

1. Manufacturers shall comply with documentation and disclosure requirements within 180 days.
2. Manufacturers shall comply with parts availability requirements within 1 year.
3. Manufacturers shall comply with full repairability standards within 2 years.

(c) **Grandfather Clause.** Products manufactured prior to the effective date of this Act shall not be subject to the requirements of Section 4, except that manufacturers shall continue to provide parts and documentation for such products consistent with existing obligations.

SECTION 8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **FTC Annual Report.** The Federal Trade Commission shall submit an annual report to Congress detailing:

1. The number of investigations and enforcement actions under this Act.
2. The compliance rate among manufacturers.
3. The average repairability score of covered products sold in the United States.
4. The estimated consumer savings resulting from extended product lifespans.
5. The estimated reduction in electronic and appliance waste attributable to this Act.

(b) **GAO Study.** The Government Accountability Office shall, within 3 years of enactment, conduct a study on the economic and environmental impacts of this Act, including effects on:

1. Household appliance replacement cycles.
2. Consumer spending on durable goods.
3. Job creation in the independent repair sector.
4. Waste reduction and landfill diversion.

SECTION 9. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.

(a) **Environmental Impact.** Congress recognizes that extending the average lifespan of covered products by 5 years would reduce appliance waste by an estimated 30%, diverting millions of units from landfills annually.

(b) **Economic Impact.** Congress further finds that repairability standards will:

1. Save households an estimated $20 billion annually in avoided replacement costs.
2. Create an estimated 150,000 new jobs in the independent repair and parts distribution sectors.
3. Reduce reliance on imported appliances by extending the useful life of existing domestic stock.

(c) **Consumer Protection.** This Act is intended to protect consumers from predatory design practices that artificially shorten product lifespans and increase household debt.

SECTION 10. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this Act, and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected.