

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
FLORIDA NEW MOTOR VEHICLE ARBITRATION BOARD**

**IN RE: SUSPENSION OF STATUTES,  
RULES AND ORDERS PURSUANT  
TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-52, MADE  
NECESSARY BY THE COVID-19  
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY –  
EMERGENCY STAY OF ALL LEMON  
LAW TIME FRAMES.**

**BOARD EMERGENCY ORDER 20-002**

WHEREAS on March 9, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order 20-52 in response to the emergence of the COVID-19 virus, a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission; and

WHEREAS the Governor of the State of Florida has ordered, and the State Surgeon General has issued, a declaration of public health emergency in the State of Florida, recognizing that COVID-19 is a communicable disease with significant morbidity and mortality, presenting a severe danger to public health in Florida; and

WHEREAS Federal, State and Local authorities have increasingly called for individuals to limit or avoid unnecessary contact with others, encouraging “social distancing” and other steps to limit the spread of this communicable disease, and business of all sizes have closed or limited service for the protection of their employees and customers; and

WHEREAS Executive Order 20-52 recognizes that the special duties and responsibilities resting upon some State, regional, and local agencies and other

governmental bodies in response to the emergency may require them to suspend the application of the statutes, rules, ordinances, and orders they administer; and

WHEREAS the Florida Lemon Law, Chapter 681, Florida Statutes, sets forth a number of time requirements and deadlines relating to the Lemon Law process, including, but not limited to, the Lemon Law Rights period; consumer deadlines for filing cases with the Florida New Motor Vehicle Arbitration Board (“Board”); consumer deadlines for filing cases with manufacturer certified programs and the RV Mediation and Arbitration Program; deadlines applicable to manufacturer certified programs and the RV Mediation and Arbitration Program for completing cases filed with those programs; time limitations and deadlines relating to repair attempts by manufacturers and their authorized service agents; and manufacturer deadlines for responding to defect notifications and notices of arbitration, and for filing other documents with the Board; and

WHEREAS compliance with these deadlines during this public health emergency would require actions by individuals and businesses that could prevent, hinder, delay and otherwise be contrary to the public health protection measures that Federal, State and Local authorities are working to achieve;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority granted by Executive Order 20-52:

1. Retroactive to and including March 9, 2020, until and through the date of expiration of Executive Order 20-52, including any extension thereof, all time frames established by Chapter 681, Florida Statutes, and the rules promulgated thereunder, as

they relate to the substantive and procedural requirements of the Lemon Law, shall be and are hereby STAYED and SUSPENDED.

2. Anyone with questions concerning either this ORDER or the status of a particular case before the Board should contact the Office of the Attorney General, Lemon Law Arbitration Program at 850-414-3500.

DONE AND ORDERED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020

FLORIDA NEW MOTOR VEHICLE ARBITRATION BOARD