

**Wheels:** Judy writes by e-mail, “My father asked me to write you. He has a 1997 Buick LaSabre. He has recently had some trouble with the car. The car keeps quitting on him after a little bit of drive time. All the lights on the dash come on and then the car quits. If you try to start it right away, it will not start, but if you wait about 15 minutes and try again, it will run. The car does not show anything on the computer at the dealer. Now the car has been sitting for three weeks and the dealer has done nothing. My dad’s mechanic put a new fuel filter and pump on it a few months ago but he still had the problem, so when it broke down again, he had it towed to the dealer. They put on a crank sensor and module. He drove it about five miles from there and it was okay. Mom drove it to the store the next day and it did the same thing again. The dealer told Dad that he has run out of suggestions, so now it is just sitting at the dealer and no one is even calling with any news. No one there seems to be concerned about fixing it. If you could give me something to try, it would be of great help. My dad and I thank you for your time.

**Halderman:** The first thing that occurred to me was that it seems like it could be a defective TCC solenoid. This part is inside the automatic transmission and if defective, would allow the clutch to remain engaged when coasting to a stop. This would most likely occur when you drive about 10-20 miles and then it stalls when coming to a stop. This fault is what would happen if the clutch was not released when coming to a stop if the vehicle had a manual transmission. If this is what is happening, most shops or dealers can replace the torque converter clutch (TCC) solenoid at a reasonable cost.

The transaxle does not need to be removed from the vehicle. This problem occurs mostly in warm weather or when the automatic transmission fluid is hot. Check the level of the automatic transmission fluid and be sure it is at the full mark when cold.

