

HOUSE BILL 1214

R4
HB 1275/24 – ECM

6lr2053
CF SB 345

By: **Delegate Amprey**
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026
Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 23, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Manufacturers and Dealers – Dealer and Manufacturer Associations –**
3 **Administrative Hearings**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a vehicle dealer association and a vehicle manufacturer
5 association to request an administrative hearing on certain matters, subject to
6 certain requirements; and generally relating to vehicle dealer and vehicle
7 manufacturer associations.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Transportation
10 Section 15–201(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Transportation
15 Section 15–201(a–1) and (f)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Transportation
20 Section 15–201(f) and 15–214
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
2 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Transportation**

4 15–201.

5 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

6 (A–1) “DEALER ASSOCIATION” MEANS A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT:

7 (1) IS PRIMARILY OWNED BY OR COMPOSED OF DEALERS THAT
8 COLLECTIVELY REPRESENT A MAJORITY OF THE FRANCHISED DEALERS IN THE
9 STATE; AND

10 (2) PRIMARILY REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF DEALERS.

11 (F) “MANUFACTURER ASSOCIATION” MEANS A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT:

12 (1) IS PRIMARILY OWNED BY OR COMPOSED OF MANUFACTURERS
13 THAT COLLECTIVELY REPRESENT A MAJORITY OF THE MANUFACTURERS IN THE
14 STATE; AND

15 (2) PRIMARILY REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF MANUFACTURERS.

16 [(f)] (G) “Second–stage manufacturer” has the meaning stated in § 13–113.2 of
17 this article.

18 15–214.

19 (A) ~~[In] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B)~~ SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION
20 (B) OF THIS SECTION AND EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS
21 SECTION, IN addition to any other right to request a hearing under this subtitle and
22 notwithstanding any provisions of the franchise agreement to the contrary, a dealer,
23 designated dealer successor as provided in § 15–211.1 of this subtitle, DEALER
24 ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF ITSELF, A DEALER, OR A GROUP OF DEALERS,
25 manufacturer, MANUFACTURER ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF ITSELF, A
26 MANUFACTURER, OR A GROUP OF MANUFACTURERS, distributor, or factory branch may
27 request a hearing under Title 12, Subtitle 2 of this article to:

28 (1) Resolve a dispute under any provision of this title between a dealer [or],
29 a designated dealer successor, OR A DEALER ASSOCIATION and a manufacturer,
30 MANUFACTURER ASSOCIATION, distributor, or factory branch; or

1 (2) Seek clarification or interpretation of any provision of this [subtitle]
2 TITLE.

3 (B) A DEALER ASSOCIATION MAY REQUEST A HEARING UNDER SUBSECTION
4 (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION ONLY IF:

5 (1) AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF THE DEALER ASSOCIATION HAS A
6 DISPUTE UNDER ANY PROVISION OF THIS TITLE WITH A MANUFACTURER,
7 DISTRIBUTOR, OR FACTORY BRANCH;

8 (2) THE INTERESTS THAT THE DEALER ASSOCIATION SEEKS TO
9 PROTECT ARE GERMANE TO THE PURPOSE OF THE DEALER ASSOCIATION; AND

10 (3) THE CLAIM ASSERTED AND THE RELIEF REQUESTED DO NOT
11 REQUIRE THE PARTICIPATION OF EACH OF THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.

12 (C) SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A DISPUTE
13 INVOLVING A MANUFACTURER, DISTRIBUTOR, OR FACTORY BRANCH THAT DOES
14 NOT HAVE AT LEAST ONE FRANCHISED DEALER IN THIS STATE.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.