

SENATE BILL 345

R4

(6lr1888)

ENROLLED BILL

— *Judicial Proceedings/Economic Matters* —

Introduced by **Senator Waldstreicher**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

President.

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

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.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 Article – Transportation
 2 Section 15–201(a–1) and (f)
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland
 4 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 6 Article – Transportation
 7 Section 15–201(f) and 15–214
 8 Annotated Code of Maryland
 9 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

12 **Article – Transportation**

13 15–201.

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

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

16 **(1) IS PRIMARILY OWNED BY OR COMPOSED OF DEALERS THAT**
 17 **COLLECTIVELY REPRESENT A MAJORITY OF THE FRANCHISED DEALERS IN THE**
 18 **STATE; AND**

19 **(2) PRIMARILY REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF DEALERS.**

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

21 **(1) IS PRIMARILY OWNED BY OR COMPOSED OF MANUFACTURERS**
 22 **THAT COLLECTIVELY REPRESENT A MAJORITY OF THE MANUFACTURERS IN THE**
 23 **STATE; AND**

24 **(2) PRIMARILY REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF MANUFACTURERS.**

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

27 15–214.

28 **(A) [In] ~~EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B)~~ SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION**
 29 **(B) OF THIS SECTION AND EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS**
 30 **SECTION, IN addition to any other right to request a hearing under this subtitle and**
 31 **notwithstanding any provisions of the franchise agreement to the contrary, a dealer,**

1 designated dealer successor as provided in § 15–211.1 of this subtitle, DEALER
 2 ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF ITSELF, A DEALER, OR A GROUP OF DEALERS,
 3 manufacturer, MANUFACTURER ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF ITSELF, A
 4 MANUFACTURER, OR A GROUP OF MANUFACTURERS, distributor, or factory branch may
 5 request a hearing under Title 12, Subtitle 2 of this article to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.