

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 344

(Senator Middleton)

Judicial Proceedings

Economic Matters

Charles County - Sunday Car Sales Blue Law Exemption - Enabling Authority

This bill authorizes the Charles County Commissioners, after a public hearing, to adopt an ordinance allowing a new or used car dealer to conduct business on Sunday.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None. Authorizing the Charles County Commissioners to adopt an ordinance allowing car dealerships to conduct business on Sundays does not directly affect local finances.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful for car dealerships in Charles County.

Analysis

Current Law: Except in Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, a new or used automobile dealer may not sell, barter, deliver, give away, show, or offer for sale a motor vehicle or certificate of title for a motor vehicle on a Sunday. In Anne Arundel County, a dealer may sell or show new or used trailers, mobile homes, or motorcycles but not other motor vehicles. Motorcycle sales are also allowed on Sundays in Worcester County. Chapters 182 and 183 of 2011 allow used car dealers in Baltimore City to conduct business on Sunday, instead of Saturday, if the dealer notifies the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration in advance.

A car dealer who violates the above provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of up to \$10,000.

Background: Automobile dealers are generally open six days a week for 12 or more hours per day. The Maryland Automobile Dealers Association has advised in the past that most dealers in the State believe that being open on Sundays does not result in an increase in sales. However, dealers may feel the need to be open on Sundays if the dealers operate in an area where competition exists with dealerships that operate on Sundays. Dealers in Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties compete with dealers in Virginia (where Sunday sales are permitted) and are exempted from the blue laws.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 344 (Charles County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Charles County, Maryland Automobile Dealers Association, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 2014
mc/mcr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 17, 2014

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