

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 355

(Senator Mathias)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Wicomico County - Motorcycles - Sunday Sales

This bill authorizes a vehicle dealer in Wicomico County to offer for sale, sell, barter, deliver, give away, or show a motorcycle or certificate of title for a motorcycle on Sundays. The existing prohibition against Sunday sales for other motor vehicles in the county is otherwise unchanged. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

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. Charles County commissioners may adopt an ordinance allowing Sunday sales. In Baltimore City, used car dealers can choose to sell vehicles on either Saturdays or Sundays.

In Anne Arundel County, a dealer may sell or show new or used trailers, mobile homes, or motorcycles on a Sunday but not other motor vehicles. Motorcycle sales are also allowed on Sundays in Worcester County.

Except in Wicomico County, which does not have a specific criminal or civil penalty, 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.

Small Business Effect: Many vehicle dealers are small businesses. As noted above, most dealers believe that being open an extra day each week does not necessarily result in an overall increase in sales. However, since Wicomico County borders Worcester County, which has Sunday motorcycle sales, and Delaware, which has Sunday vehicle sales, the bill may allow Wicomico dealerships to compete for that business. The effect on any particular dealership is unknown but could be meaningful.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Automobile Dealers Association; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2018
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