

# HOUSE BILL 1275

R4

4lr3282  
CF SB 968

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By: **Delegate Amprey**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2024

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Manufacturers and Dealers – Standing of Dealer Associations**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a vehicle dealer association, on behalf of itself, a vehicle  
4 dealer, or a group of vehicle dealers, ~~to bring suit to recover damages and reasonable~~  
5 ~~attorneys' fees or~~ to request an administrative hearing on certain matters; and  
6 generally relating to standing for vehicle dealer associations.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
8 Article – Transportation  
9 Section 15–201(a)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY adding to  
13 Article – Transportation  
14 Section 15–201(a–1)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article – Transportation  
19 Section ~~15–213 and~~ 15–214  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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**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~~ A MAJORITY**  
8 **OF THE FRANCHISED MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS IN THE STATE; AND**

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

10 ~~15–213.~~

11 ~~Notwithstanding any administrative or criminal sanctions imposed by this subtitle,~~  
12 ~~if a person suffers financial injury or other damage as a result of a violation of this subtitle~~  
13 ~~by any other person, whether or not that other person has been found guilty of a criminal~~  
14 ~~violation, the injured person, **OR A DEALER ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF ITSELF, A**~~  
15 ~~**DEALER, OR A GROUP OF DEALERS,** may recover damages and reasonable attorneys’ fees~~  
16 ~~in any court of competent jurisdiction.~~

17 15–214.

18 In addition to any other right to request a hearing under this subtitle and  
19 notwithstanding any provisions of the franchise agreement to the contrary, a dealer,  
20 designated dealer successor as provided in § 15–211.1 of this subtitle, **DEALER**  
21 **ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF ITSELF, A DEALER, OR A GROUP OF DEALERS,**  
22 manufacturer, distributor, or factory branch may request a hearing under Title 12, Subtitle  
23 2 of this article to:

24 (1) Resolve a dispute under any provision of this title between a dealer [or],  
25 a designated dealer successor, **OR A DEALER ASSOCIATION** and a manufacturer,  
26 distributor, or factory branch; or

27 (2) Seek clarification or interpretation of any provision of this subtitle.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
29 October 1, 2024.