

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1275  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Amprey)

Judicial Proceedings

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Vehicle Laws – Manufacturers and Dealers – Standing of Dealer Associations

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This bill allows a dealer association on behalf of itself, a dealer, or a group of dealers to request a hearing with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to either (1) resolve a dispute between a dealer, a designated dealer successor, or a dealer association and a manufacturer, distributor, or factory branch or (2) seek clarification or interpretation of any provision of applicable law. “Dealer association” means a business entity that is primarily owned by or composed of a majority of the franchised motor vehicle dealers in the State and primarily represents the interests of dealers.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances; any increase in caseload for MVA and the Office of Administrative Hearings can be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect the operations or finances of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, which is where any decisions or orders would be appealed.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal, as discussed below.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A dealer, designated dealer successor, as specified, manufacturer, distributor, or factory branch may request a hearing under Title 12, Subtitle 2 of the Transportation Article to (1) resolve a dispute under any provision of the Transportation Article between a dealer or a designated dealer successor and a manufacturer, distributor,

or factory branch or (2) seek clarification or interpretation of any provision of applicable law. A hearing held under the Maryland Vehicle Law must be conducted in accordance with the provisions governing contested cases under the Administrative Procedure Act. An aggrieved party to a hearing involving a dispute (as specified above) may appeal a decision or order of MVA to the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County.

**Small Business Effect:** Dealers that are small businesses may benefit from having a dealer association act as an intermediary in a dispute with a manufacturer, distributor, or factory branch, with the association requesting a hearing with MVA.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 968 (Senator Waldstreicher) - Judicial Proceedings.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland Department of Transportation; Office of Administrative Hearings; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2024  
km/ljm Third Reader - March 28, 2024  
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Analysis by: Joanne E. Tetlow

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510