

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 462 (Senator Middlebrooks, Chairman, Anne Arundel County Senators)
(By Request of the Anne Arundel County Administration)

Judicial Proceedings

Anne Arundel County - Sunday Blue Laws - Car Dealers

This bill allows car dealers in Anne Arundel County to conduct business on Sunday.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None, as discussed below.

Local Effect: None. Allowing car dealers to conduct business on Sunday would not directly affect Anne Arundel County finances.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful effect on small businesses as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: Although the bill allows car dealers in Anne Arundel County to conduct business on Sunday, it is not expected to significantly increase the total number of cars sold in the State. While it is possible that the number of cars sold in Anne Arundel County could increase, the increase would likely be offset by a decrease in car sales in the surrounding counties. As a result, State revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: There are approximately 360 new car and truck dealers in Maryland; Anne Arundel County has 35 such dealers. Data on the number of used car dealerships is not readily available. In 1996 new and used car and truck dealers generated between \$9 billion and \$10 billion in sales statewide. Currently, Sunday sales are only permitted in Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties. A used-car superstore chain has expressed an interest in opening a used car lot near Glen Burnie if the Sunday blue law is repealed. Although this business is not a small business, its movement into the county would impact

existing car dealers through increased competition. However, existing small business dealers in the county could benefit from the additional sale of cars and trucks, at the expense of other dealers in the county who elect not to open on Sunday, and at the expense of dealers in the surrounding counties (Baltimore, Calvert, and Queen Anne's) and Baltimore City, none of which allow Sunday sales. Dealers in Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties could also be minimally affected by a shift in sales to Anne Arundel County.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Calvert, and Prince George's counties; Maryland New Car and Truck Dealers Association; Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration); Department of Fiscal Services

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