

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 191 (Delegate Bissett)

Economic Matters

Sunday Blue Laws - Car Dealers

This bill allows car dealers in Maryland to conduct business on Sunday. Currently, car dealers are permitted to conduct business on Sunday only in Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal revenue increase.

Local Effect: None. Allowing car dealerships to conduct business on Sundays would not directly affect local finances.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal impact on small businesses.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: The bill allows car dealers in Maryland to conduct business on Sunday, which could result in a small increase in the number of cars sold in the State. Any increase in sales would result in increased general fund and special fund revenue from sales taxes and titling fees, although, any additional revenue is assumed to be minimal.

Small Business Effect: Currently there are 352 new or used car dealerships operating in Maryland. In 1997 these dealerships generated \$6.9 billion in new car sales and \$3.5 billion in used car sales. Permitting Sunday automobile sales could have a positive impact on small businesses depending on the number of dealerships which opt to open on this day and the number of cars sold. Any increase in sales would be offset by the costs of operating on Sunday. Car dealers which decide not to open on Sundays could be adversely affected by competitors which do open on Sunday. Car dealers in Howard, Montgomery, and Prince

George's County, which are currently permitted to operate on Sunday, could be minimally affected by a shift in sales to other counties on Sundays.

Additional Comments: The Maryland New Car & Truck Dealers Association estimates that in the three counties which currently permit Sunday sales, only 50% of car dealerships operate on this day.

Information Source(s): Dorchester County, Montgomery County, Howard County, Garrett County, Prince George's County, Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration)

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