

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 655 (Senator Collins)

Judicial Proceedings

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Baltimore County - State Sunday Blue Laws - Car Dealers

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This bill allows car dealers in Baltimore County to conduct business on Sundays.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** It is assumed that permitting car dealers to sell and show vehicles on Sundays in Baltimore County would not significantly affect the total number of cars sold in Maryland.

**Local Effect:** None. Allowing car dealers to open for business on Sundays would not materially affect Baltimore County finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** A new or used car dealer in Baltimore County 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. In Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, car dealers may open on Sundays. In Anne Arundel County, a dealer may sell or show trailers or mobile homes but not other motor vehicles. All other jurisdictions, like Baltimore County, are subject to Sunday Blue Laws.

**Small Business Effect:** This bill allows small automobile dealers in Baltimore County to compete with Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's county automobile dealers for Sunday sales. This could work to the advantage of the Baltimore County automobile dealers but may result in fewer sales in the counties that already allow dealers to open on Sundays, particularly Howard County which neighbors Baltimore County. Baltimore County dealers

choosing to open on Sundays would also have to balance any increased revenues with the increased expenditures associated with an extra day of business. Baltimore County dealers opting not to open on Sundays could be hurt by the loss of business to dealerships that do open.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 191 of 1998 would have dropped the prohibition against Sunday automobile sales statewide. It received an unfavorable report from the House Economic Matters Committee. SB 462 of 1997 would have repealed the Sunday Blue Laws for Anne Arundel County. The bill passed the Senate but was not reported out of the House Economic Matters Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 7, 2000  
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