

SB 355

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 355

(Senators Della and McFadden)

Judicial Proceedings

Baltimore City - Car Dealers - Sunday Operation

This bill authorizes a new or used car dealer in Baltimore City to sell, barter, deliver, give away, show, or offer for sale a motor vehicle or a certificate of title for a motor vehicle on Sundays.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. No anticipated net change in State tax receipts.

Local Effect: Baltimore City finances should not be directly affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful for car dealers in Baltimore City and the surrounding areas.

Analysis

Current Law: State blue laws govern Sunday sales and business operations. The laws generally allow, but do not require, establishments to do business on Sundays. The laws also prohibit a landlord from requiring a merchant to do business on Sundays.

Blue laws prohibit car dealers from operating on Sundays, with the exception of dealers in Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties. Dealers in Anne Arundel County are authorized to sell campers, mobile homes, and travel trailers only. With these exceptions, a car dealer who operates on Sundays is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be subject to a fine of up to \$10,000.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Automobile Dealers Association advises that 7 of their 350 members operate in Baltimore City, including 6 automobile dealers and 1 heavy truck dealer. Dealers in Baltimore City could experience an increase in sales due to expanded hours of operation, with reductions possible for dealers in surrounding areas.

The Maryland Department of Transportation advises that information on titling revenue generated by sales of automobiles in Baltimore City is not readily available.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Baltimore City; Maryland Automobile Dealers Association; Department of Legislative Services

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nas/hlb

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