

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 815 (Senator Rosapepe)
Judicial Proceedings

Anne Arundel County - Route 198 - Sunday Car Sales

This bill authorizes a new or used car dealer in a certain area of Anne Arundel County 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.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Anne Arundel County finances would not be directly affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful for car dealers in and around the designated area.

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.

Background: This bill would authorize car dealers located in Anne Arundel County west of the intersection of Route 32 and Route 198, south of Route 32, east of the Anne Arundel County border, and north of the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge Center to open for business on Sundays. This region has an estimated area less than 10 square miles. This region, near Laurel, borders Howard County and is located in close proximity to Prince George's and Montgomery counties, jurisdictions in which Sunday automobile sales are permitted.

Small Business Effect: Several new and used automobile dealers are located in the area designated in the bill. These dealers could experience an increase in sales due to expanded hours of operation, with reductions possible for dealers in the surrounding area.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 2007
bfl/ljm

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