

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 846
Economic Matters

(Delegates Conway and Mathias)

Judicial Proceedings

Worcester County - Motorcycle Dealers - Sunday Operations

This bill allows motorcycle dealers in Worcester County to conduct business on Sunday.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

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

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful for motorcycle dealers in Worcester County.

Analysis

Current Law: Except in Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, a new or used automobile dealer 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 Anne Arundel County, a dealer may sell or show trailers or mobile homes but not other motor vehicles. All other jurisdictions, like Worcester County, are subject to Sunday Blue Laws.

A dealer who violates this law is guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction, is subject to a fine of up to \$10,000.

Background: Auto dealers are generally open six days a week for 12 or more hours per day. The Maryland Automobile Dealers Association advises that most dealers in the State believe that being open on Sunday does not result in an increase in sales. However, dealers may feel the need to open on Sunday if the dealer operates in an area where competition exists with dealerships that are allowed to operate on Sunday. Dealers in Montgomery and Prince George's counties compete with dealers in Virginia (where Sunday sales are permitted) and thus are exempted from the blue laws. A similar competitive environment may exist in Worcester County, because Delaware allows dealers to open on Sunday.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Automobile Dealers Association, Worcester County, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Michael T. Vorgetts

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510