

# SENATE BILL 768

R4

8lr3745  
CF 8lr2336

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By: **Senator Ready**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2018

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Title Service Agents**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a title service agent that collects and remits vehicle excise  
4 taxes on behalf of the Motor Vehicle Administration to keep the lesser of certain  
5 amounts of the gross vehicle excise taxes collected by the title service agent;  
6 requiring a title service agent that collects any vehicle titling taxes or fees to keep  
7 certain records related to the vehicle sales, preserve the records in a certain manner,  
8 and make the records available to the Administration and law enforcement in a  
9 certain manner; requiring the Administration to follow certain procedures and  
10 impose certain assessments under certain circumstances on a title service agent if  
11 the Administration finds that the records of the title service agent are inadequate or  
12 incorrect; authorizing the Administration to compute the collected tax due from a  
13 title service agent in a certain manner if the title service agent fails to keep any  
14 records of vehicle sales; requiring the Administration to credit funds received from a  
15 title service agent in a certain manner; increasing to a certain amount the required  
16 surety bond that a title service agent is required to file with the Administration;  
17 clarifying that a title service agent may transport certain documents to or from the  
18 Administration physically or electronically; altering a certain definition; and  
19 generally relating to title service agents.

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
21 Article – Transportation  
22 Section 15–601 and 15–604  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

25 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
26 Article – Transportation  
27 Section 15–602  
28 Annotated Code of Maryland  
29 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY adding to  
2 Article – Transportation  
3 Section 15–608  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
7 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

8 **Article – Transportation**

9 15–601.

10 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

11 (b) “License” means a title service agent’s license issued by the Administration  
12 under this subtitle.

13 (c) (1) “Title service agent” means any person in the business of **PHYSICALLY**  
14 **OR ELECTRONICALLY** transporting to and from the Administration certificates of title,  
15 registrations, drivers’ licenses, certified copies of records, and other related documents.

16 (2) “Title service agent” does not include a licensed dealer or employee of a  
17 licensed dealer who conducts the activities described in paragraph (1) of this subsection  
18 only on behalf of the business of that dealer.

19 15–602.

20 A person may not conduct the business of a title service agent unless the person is  
21 licensed by the Administration under this subtitle.

22 15–604.

23 (a) This section does not apply to:

24 (1) A licensed dealer who is in compliance with the surety bond  
25 requirement of Subtitle 3 of this title; or

26 (2) A motor club that is in compliance with the surety bond requirement of  
27 § 26–204 of the Insurance Article.

28 (b) After the Administration notifies an applicant of the approval of an  
29 application and before the Administration issues a license, the applicant shall file with the  
30 Administration a surety bond in the form and with the surety that the Administration  
31 approves.

1 (c) The amount of the surety bond shall be [~~\$25,000~~] **\$50,000**.

2 **15-608.**

3 (A) A TITLE SERVICE AGENT THAT, ON BEHALF OF THE ADMINISTRATION,  
4 COLLECTS AND REMITS THE VEHICLE EXCISE TAX IMPOSED UNDER TITLE 13,  
5 SUBTITLE 8 OF THIS ARTICLE MAY KEEP THE LESSER OF \$12 PER VEHICLE OR 0.6%  
6 OF THE GROSS EXCISE TAX THAT THE TITLE SERVICE AGENT COLLECTS.

7 (B) EACH TITLE SERVICE AGENT THAT COLLECTS ANY TAX OR FEE  
8 REQUIRED FOR TITLING A VEHICLE SHALL:

9 (1) KEEP COMPLETE AND ACCURATE RECORDS OF EACH TAXABLE  
10 SALE, TOGETHER WITH A RECORD OF THE TAX COLLECTED ON THE SALE;

11 (2) KEEP COPIES OF EVERY INVOICE, BILL OF SALE, AND OTHER  
12 PERTINENT DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS, IN THE FORM THAT THE ADMINISTRATION  
13 REQUIRES; AND

14 (3) PRESERVE THESE RECORDS IN ORIGINAL FORM FOR AT LEAST 3  
15 YEARS, UNLESS THE ADMINISTRATION CONSENTS IN WRITING TO THEIR EARLIER  
16 DESTRUCTION OR, BY ORDER, REQUIRES THAT THEY BE KEPT FOR A LONGER  
17 PERIOD.

18 (C) EACH TITLE SERVICE AGENT THAT COLLECTS ANY TAX OR FEE  
19 REQUIRED FOR TITLING A VEHICLE SHALL, DURING BUSINESS HOURS, ALLOW ANY  
20 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND ANY POLICE OFFICER FULL  
21 ACCESS TO THE DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS REQUIRED TO BE KEPT UNDER  
22 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

23 (D) IF THE ADMINISTRATION FINDS THAT THE RECORDS OF A TITLE  
24 SERVICE AGENT ARE INADEQUATE OR INCORRECT AND THAT THE AMOUNT OF  
25 EXCISE TAX COLLECTED FOR THE ADMINISTRATION ON THESE SALES CANNOT BE  
26 DETERMINED ACCURATELY FROM THE RECORDS:

27 (1) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL DETERMINE THE TAXABLE SALES  
28 FACILITATED BY THE TITLE SERVICE AGENT FOR THE PERIOD INVOLVED AND  
29 COMPUTE THE TAX FROM THE BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE; AND

30 (2) THE DETERMINATION AND COMPUTATION OF THE  
31 ADMINISTRATION ARE PRIMA FACIE CORRECT.

32 (E) (1) IF, UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, THE

1 ADMINISTRATION DETERMINES THE TAXABLE SALES OF VEHICLES FACILITATED BY  
2 THE TITLE SERVICE AGENT AND COMPUTES THE TAX DUE, THE ADMINISTRATION  
3 SHALL:

4 (I) LEVY AN ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE TITLE SERVICE AGENT  
5 FOR THE DEFICIENCY, INTEREST, AND PENALTIES IN THE MANNER AUTHORIZED IN  
6 §§ 13-401, 13-601, AND 13-701 OF THE TAX – GENERAL ARTICLE; AND

7 (II) NOTIFY THE TITLE SERVICE AGENT OF THE TAX DUE AND  
8 THE AMOUNT OF THE DEFICIENCY ASSESSMENT.

9 (2) IF THE TITLE SERVICE AGENT FAILS TO PAY THE TAX AND  
10 ASSESSMENT WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE NOTICE FROM THE  
11 ADMINISTRATION, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY LEVY, IN ADDITION TO THE TAX AND  
12 ASSESSMENT, A PENALTY EQUAL TO 25% OF THE TAX DUE.

13 (F) IF A TITLE SERVICE AGENT FAILS TO KEEP ANY RECORDS OF SALES OF  
14 VEHICLES, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY COMPUTE THE TAX DUE AS PROVIDED IN §  
15 13-407 OF THE TAX – GENERAL ARTICLE.

16 (G) ALL AMOUNTS RECEIVED FROM A TITLE SERVICE AGENT UNDER THIS  
17 SECTION SHALL BE CREDITED:

18 (1) FIRST, TO ANY PENALTY AND INTEREST ACCRUED UNDER THIS  
19 SECTION; AND

20 (2) THEN, TO THE TAX DUE.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
22 October 1, 2018.