

# HOUSE BILL 139

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CF SB 134

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By: **Delegate Crosby**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2020

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Consumer Protection – Electronic Transactions – Sale of Vehicles**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that a consumer shall be deemed not to have agreed to enter  
4 into a contract for the sale of a vehicle with a dealer by electronic means except under  
5 certain circumstances; defining certain terms; providing for the application of this  
6 Act; and generally relating to electronic transactions for the sale of vehicles.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
8 Article – Commercial Law  
9 Section 21–101(a) and (e)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

12 BY adding to  
13 Article – Commercial Law  
14 Section 21–101(d–1), (e–1), and (r)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article – Commercial Law  
19 Section 21–104  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Commercial Law**

25 21–101.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

2 **(D-1) “CONSUMER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 13-101 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

3 (e) “Contract” means the total legal obligation resulting from the parties’  
4 agreement as affected by this title and other applicable law.

5 **(E-1) “DEALER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 15-101 OF THE**  
6 **TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.**

7 **(R) “VEHICLE” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 11-176 OF THE**  
8 **TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.**

9 21-104.

10 (a) This title does not require a record or signature to be created, generated, sent,  
11 communicated, received, stored, or otherwise processed or used by electronic means or in  
12 electronic form.

13 (b) (1) This title applies only to transactions between parties, each of which  
14 has agreed to conduct transactions by electronic means.

15 (2) Whether the parties have agreed to conduct a transaction by electronic  
16 means is determined from the context and surrounding circumstances, including the  
17 parties’ conduct.

18 (3) Except for a separate and optional agreement the primary purpose of  
19 which is to authorize a transaction to be conducted by electronic means, a provision to  
20 conduct a transaction electronically may not be contained in a standard form contract  
21 unless that provision is conspicuously displayed and separately consented to.

22 (4) An agreement to conduct a transaction electronically may not be  
23 inferred solely from the fact that a party has used electronic means to pay an account or  
24 register a purchase warranty.

25 **(5) A CONSUMER SHALL BE DEEMED NOT TO HAVE AGREED TO ENTER**  
26 **INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF A VEHICLE WITH A DEALER BY ELECTRONIC**  
27 **MEANS UNLESS THE DEALER PROVIDES A CONSUMER WITH:**

28 **(I) A CLEAR AND READABLE COPY OF THE COMPLETE**  
29 **CONTRACT IN AN ELECTRONIC OR WRITTEN FORMAT; AND**

30 **(II) REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CONSUMER TO**  
31 **REVIEW THE COPY OF THE CONTRACT BEFORE PROVIDING AN ELECTRONIC**  
32 **SIGNATURE.**

1           **(6)**    This subsection may not be varied by agreement.

2           (c)    (1)    A party that agrees to conduct a transaction by electronic means may  
3 refuse to conduct other transactions by electronic means.

4           (2)    The right granted by this subsection may not be waived by agreement.

5           (d)    (1)    Except as otherwise provided in this title, the effect of any of its  
6 provisions may be varied by agreement.

7           (2)    The presence in provisions of this title of the words “unless otherwise  
8 agreed”, or words of similar import, does not imply that the effect of other provisions may  
9 not be varied by agreement.

10          (e)    Whether an electronic record or electronic signature has legal consequences is  
11 determined by this title and other applicable law.

12          SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to  
13 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or  
14 application to any electronic transactions for the sale of a vehicle that were entered into  
15 before the effective date of this Act.

16          SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
17 October 1, 2020.