

# SENATE BILL 275

R4

6lr1746

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By: **Senator Watson**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Electric Vehicle Dealer Licenses – City of Bowie**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the number of dealer licenses available for certain  
4 manufacturers or distributors that deal only in electric or nonfossil–fuel burning  
5 vehicles; providing that the additional license authorized under this Act may be  
6 issued only for the operation of a dealership in the City of Bowie; and generally  
7 relating to dealer licenses for the sale of electric and nonfossil–fuel burning vehicles  
8 and the City of Bowie.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – Transportation  
11 Section 15–305(b) and (f)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article – Transportation  
16 Section 15–305(e)(2)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Transportation**

22 15–305.

23 (b) A license to deal in new vehicles may be issued only for a dealer in new vehicles  
24 who holds a franchise from:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(1) The manufacturer of the vehicles; or

(2) A distributor who is authorized by the manufacturer or the manufacturer's authorized importer of the vehicles.

(e) (2) (i) Notwithstanding subsections (b) and (f) of this section and subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, a manufacturer or distributor may be licensed as a dealer if:

1. The manufacturer or distributor deals only in electric or nonfossil-fuel burning vehicles;

2. No dealer in the State holds a franchise from the manufacturer or distributor;

3. The manufacturer or distributor, or a subsidiary, an affiliate, or a controlled entity of the manufacturer or distributor, does not hold a controlling interest in another manufacturer or distributor, or a subsidiary, an affiliate, or a controlled entity of the other manufacturer or distributor, that is licensed as a dealer under this paragraph; and

4. No other manufacturer or distributor, or subsidiary, affiliate, or controlled entity of the other manufacturer or distributor, that is licensed as a dealer under this paragraph, holds a controlling interest in the manufacturer or distributor, or a subsidiary, an affiliate, or a controlled entity of the manufacturer or distributor.

(ii) 1. **[No] SUBJECT TO SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, NOT** more than **[four] FIVE** licenses may be issued under this paragraph.

2. **ONE LICENSE UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY BE ISSUED ONLY FOR THE OPERATION OF A DEALERSHIP IN THE CITY OF BOWIE.**

(iii) The Administration shall adopt regulations to implement this paragraph.

(f) A manufacturer or distributor, or a person who is acting for a partnership or corporation that is owned or controlled by or under common control with a manufacturer or distributor, may not sell a new vehicle to a retail buyer.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.