

SENATE BILL 345

R4

6lr1888
CF HB 1214

By: **Senator Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 25, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Manufacturers and Dealers – Dealer and Manufacturer Associations –**
3 **Administrative Hearings**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a vehicle dealer association and a vehicle manufacturer
5 association to request an administrative hearing on certain matters; and generally
6 relating to vehicle dealer and vehicle manufacturer associations.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Transportation
9 Section 15–201(a)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY adding to
13 Article – Transportation
14 Section 15–201(a–1) and (f)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Transportation
19 Section 15–201(f) and 15–214
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

Article – Transportation

15–201.

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

(A–1) “DEALER ASSOCIATION” MEANS A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT:

(1) IS PRIMARILY OWNED BY OR COMPOSED OF DEALERS THAT COLLECTIVELY REPRESENT A MAJORITY OF THE FRANCHISED DEALERS IN THE STATE; AND

(2) PRIMARILY REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF DEALERS.

(F) “MANUFACTURER ASSOCIATION” MEANS A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT:

(1) IS PRIMARILY OWNED BY OR COMPOSED OF MANUFACTURERS THAT COLLECTIVELY REPRESENT A MAJORITY OF THE MANUFACTURERS IN THE STATE; AND

(2) PRIMARILY REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF MANUFACTURERS.

[(f)] (G) “Second–stage manufacturer” has the meaning stated in § 13–113.2 of this article.

15–214.

(A) [In] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, IN addition to any other right to request a hearing under this subtitle and notwithstanding any provisions of the franchise agreement to the contrary, a dealer, designated dealer successor as provided in § 15–211.1 of this subtitle, DEALER ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF ITSELF, A DEALER, OR A GROUP OF DEALERS, manufacturer, MANUFACTURER ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF ITSELF, A MANUFACTURER, OR A GROUP OF MANUFACTURERS, distributor, or factory branch may request a hearing under Title 12, Subtitle 2 of this article to:

(1) Resolve a dispute under any provision of this title between a dealer [or], a designated dealer successor, OR A DEALER ASSOCIATION and a manufacturer, MANUFACTURER ASSOCIATION, distributor, or factory branch; or

(2) Seek clarification or interpretation of any provision of this [subtitle] TITLE.

1 **(B) SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A DISPUTE**
2 **INVOLVING A MANUFACTURER, DISTRIBUTOR, OR FACTORY BRANCH THAT DOES**
3 **NOT HAVE AT LEAST ONE FRANCHISED DEALER IN THIS STATE.**

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.