

# SENATE BILL 345

R4

6lr1888  
CF 6lr2053

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By: Senator Waldstreicher

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

7 Article – Transportation

8 Section 15–201(a)

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Transportation

13 Section 15–201(a–1)

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

17 Article – Transportation

18 Section 15–214

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Transportation**

24 15–201.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

2 **(A-1) "DEALER ASSOCIATION" MEANS A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT:**

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

6 **(2) PRIMARILY REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF DEALERS.**

7 15–214.

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

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

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

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

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