

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 1214  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Amprey)

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**Vehicle Manufacturers and Dealers - Dealer Associations - Administrative Hearings**

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This bill allows a dealer association on behalf of itself, a dealer, or a group of dealers to request a hearing with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to either (1) resolve a dispute between a dealer, a designated dealer successor, or a dealer association and a manufacturer, distributor, or factory branch or (2) seek clarification or interpretation of any provision of applicable law. The opportunity to request a hearing does not apply to a dispute involving a manufacturer, distributor, or factory branch that does not have at least one franchised dealer in the State. “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.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances; any increase in caseload for MVA and the Office of Administrative Hearings can be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect the operations or finances of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, which is where any decisions or orders would be appealed.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal, as discussed below.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** A dealer, designated dealer successor, as specified, manufacturer, distributor, or factory branch may request a hearing under Title 12, Subtitle 2 of the Transportation Article to (1) resolve a dispute under any provision of Title 15 of the Transportation Article between a dealer or a designated dealer successor and a manufacturer, distributor, or factory branch or (2) seek clarification or interpretation of any provision of applicable law. A hearing held under the Maryland Vehicle Law must be conducted in accordance with the provisions governing contested cases under the Administrative Procedure Act. An aggrieved party to a hearing involving a dispute (as specified above) may appeal a decision or order of MVA to the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County.

**Small Business Effect:** Dealers that are small businesses may benefit from having a dealer association act as an intermediary in a dispute with a manufacturer, distributor, or factory branch, with the association requesting a hearing with MVA.

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## Additional Information

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 968 and HB 1275 of 2024.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 345 (Senator Waldstreicher) - Judicial Proceedings.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland Department of Transportation; Office of Administrative Hearings; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 11, 2026  
sj/aad

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