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Delegate Dana Stein Testimony in Support of HB 679 – Vehicle Laws-Licensing of Business and Occupations – Definition of Vehicle Salesman

Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

HB 679 is a consumer-protection bill that requires any individual selling products on behalf of a dealer to be licensed by the MVA. Under the current law, the MVA only licenses dealers and the salespersons who sell vehicles for the dealers. But, there are many additional employees at dealerships who provide sales functions without a license, such as finance, insurance, and warranty products. Without a licensing requirement consumers have been subject to abusive and deceptive practices by salespeople who have not undergone the same type of background checks as dealers and vehicle salespersons. This bill will require that these other sales employees meet all the same licensing criteria as dealers and vehicle salespersons.

The licensing criteria under the law requires applicants to be actual employees of the dealership and submit to a background check. Licenses must be renewed every 3 years with a new background check

Over half of all states require licensing of dealership finance employees, including Virginia. The language in this bill is modeled after Virginia's current law.

I ask you support for HB 679