

March 2, 2023

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 642 – Vehicle Laws - Annual Vehicle Shows - Motor and Trailer Homes

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 642 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

Senate Bill 642 would remove certain restrictions and requirements around dealers and licensed salesmen at vehicle shows featuring motor homes and trailers and allow licensed out-of-state dealers and salesmen to participate and allows for the sale of used motor homes and trailers.

The MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) oversees dealership regulations and enforcement along with licenses for salesmen. The MVA only has the authority to enforce Maryland laws around vehicle and trailer sales for businesses and salesmen licensed in Maryland. Any dealers and their salesmen who are not licensed in Maryland, and conduct business at vehicle shows in the state, would not be subject to consumer law enforcement for any sales initiated at those shows as a result. The transaction would be completed in the state in which the dealership is located and are subject to those jurisdiction’s laws. This is the case when Marylanders purchase vehicles in other states as well, such as a passenger sedan bought at a dealership in South Carolina.

In addition, any purchases of such motor homes and trailers made at vehicle shows by Marylanders from an out-of-state entity at the show would bear the responsibility of any tax liabilities along with registration and title paperwork and fees. These are matters generally handled as a service by licensed Maryland dealers who calculate and arrange payment of relevant excise taxes along with assisting in completing and submitting the required title and registration paperwork when purchasing from them. This will instead fall on the purchaser.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 642.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090