

January 22, 2025

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

***RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 79 – Motor Home and Recreational Vehicle Shows in Worcester County – Permit for Out-of-State Dealers***

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports Senate Bill 79 as it will encourage tourism and economic growth in Maryland while ensuring reciprocity with neighboring states' laws.

SB 79 would establish reciprocal out-of-state motor home and recreational trailer permits available to applicants from states that establish reciprocity laws that would allow Maryland motor home and recreational trailer dealers to similarly exhibit at shows in those states. The show permit applications will be reviewed and approved by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) who will issue approved permits and retain a bond payment for the duration of a permit's term. The bond operates as a consumer protection measure for any possible investigation by the MVA into allegations of misconduct.

Currently, 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 salespeople 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. SB 79 will resolve these concerns for consumer rights while creating opportunity for economic growth through increased tourism in Maryland.

The proposal would require an out-of-state dealer operating in a state where reciprocity laws allow Maryland dealers the ability to exhibit at industry shows to strictly exhibit under a show permit in Maryland. Permit holders would then initiate and complete a sale solely in the state in which the dealership is located, with the sale being subject to those jurisdiction's laws. This is already the case when Marylanders purchase vehicles in other states.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant Senate Bill 79 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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