



**MARYLAND
TOURISM
COALITION**

January 17, 2025

Maryland Senate
Senator William Smith, Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 79 - Motor Home and Recreational Vehicle Shows in Worcester County – Permit for Out-of-State Dealers

Position: Favorable
Chairperson Smith and Members of the Committee,

My name is Matt Libber, and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland Tourism Coalition (MTC). I am writing to you today to express MTC's support for Senate Bill 79. The Maryland Tourism Coalition is a trade organization with members representing all areas of tourism in the State of Maryland. Our mission is to support businesses and organizations that cater to the tourism industry through education, networking, and advocacy. As such, MTC asks the committee to vote in favor of this bill.

This bill will provide much needed diversity of options for residents of the eastern shore interested in purchasing a recreational vehicle (RV). Currently there are limited options on the lower shore for residents to purchase a RV and require them to drive longer distances to find a dealer. This bill will allow dealers, mainly from Delaware, to display their vehicles during the Motor Home and Recreational Trailer show in Ocean City. Increasing the number of Maryland residents that own motor homes and RVs would have a positive impact on the tourism industry. It would lead to an increase in the use of the campgrounds around the state and the tourism-related businesses that exist around those campgrounds, including restaurants, retail stores, and state parks. Additionally, allowing out-of-state dealers to attend the RV show in Worcester County has the potential to bring more visitors to this show from outside the State of Maryland. This will provide additional tourism spending in the State. The RV show in Worcester County will likely be the closest show for residents in Delaware and the eastern shore of Virginia. Expanding the pool of dealers at this RV show makes it more attractive to potential attendees. This RV show occurs during the off-peak season for Ocean City, so an increase in attendance will be a welcome addition to the many businesses in Ocean City that would cater to the needs of these visitors, including hotels, restaurants, and retail shops.

This version of the bill contains the need protections for Maryland based RV dealers as well as protections for consumers. These were some of the concerns voiced by the Committee when a previous version of the bill was introduced during the 2024 session. With these improvements in mind this bill is important for the tourism industry in Worcester County. For these reasons, the Maryland Tourism Coalition asks this committee for a favorable report of this legislation and forward it for a full vote within the Senate of Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Libber
Legislative Chair
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