

SENATE BILL 968

R4

4lr2756
CF 4lr3282

By: **Senator Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Manufacturers and Dealers – Standing of Dealer Associations**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a vehicle dealer association, on behalf of itself, a vehicle
4 dealer, or a group of vehicle dealers, to bring suit to recover damages and reasonable
5 attorneys' fees or to request an administrative hearing on certain matters; and
6 generally relating to standing for vehicle dealer associations.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Transportation

9 Section 15–201(a)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Transportation

14 Section 15–201(a–1)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

18 Article – Transportation

19 Section 15–213 and 15–214

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – Transportation**

25 15–201.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(A-1) “DEALER ASSOCIATION” MEANS A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT:

(1) IS PRIMARILY OWNED BY OR COMPOSED OF DEALERS; AND

(2) PRIMARILY REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF DEALERS.

15–213.

Notwithstanding any administrative or criminal sanctions imposed by this subtitle, if a person suffers financial injury or other damage as a result of a violation of this subtitle by any other person, whether or not that other person has been found guilty of a criminal violation, the injured person, **OR A DEALER ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF ITSELF, A DEALER, OR A GROUP OF DEALERS**, may recover damages and reasonable attorneys’ fees in any court of competent jurisdiction.

15–214.

In addition to any other right to request a hearing under this subtitle and notwithstanding any provisions of the franchise agreement to the contrary, a dealer, designated dealer successor as provided in § 15–211.1 of this subtitle, **DEALER ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF ITSELF, A DEALER, OR A GROUP OF DEALERS**, manufacturer, distributor, or factory branch may request a hearing under Title 12, Subtitle 2 of this article to:

(1) Resolve a dispute under any provision of this title between a dealer [or], 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 this subtitle.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.