## An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL NO. 3105

By: Dobrinski of the House

and

Coleman of the Senate

An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 561, which relates to necessity for regulation; modifying legislative findings to include the regulation of the sale of powersport vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 562, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 562), which relates to definitions; modifying definitions; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 563, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 563), which relates to the Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission; modifying professions to have been held by Commissioners; requiring spot delivery forms for the lease of certain vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 564, as amended by Section 5, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 564), which relates to licenses; requiring current financial standing for certain applications; modifying name of responsible entities; requiring license fees for certain manufacturers and distributors; modifying list of licensed entities; deleting certain notification requirement; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 564.1, as amended by Section 6, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 564.1), which relates to off-premises displays of new motor vehicles; modifying requirements for certain off-premises displays; providing for off-premises displays of certain powersports vehicles under certain conditions; authorizing Commission to provide certain variance for certain sales events; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 564.2, as amended by Section 7, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 564.2), which relates to certificates of registration; modifying list of persons and entities subject to

certain fine; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 565, as last amended by Section 8, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 565), which relates to the denial, revocation, suspension of licenses; modifying to include applicability to new powersports dealers; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 565.1, as amended by Section 9, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 565.1), which relates to procedure for prevention or refusal to honor succession to dealership to designated successor; modifying to include applicability to new powersports dealers; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 565.2, as amended by Section 10, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 565.2), which relates to terminating, canceling, or failing to renew franchise; modifying to include applicability to new powersports dealers; 47 O.S. 2021, Section 565.3, as amended by Section 11, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 565.3), which relates to notice to manufacturers or distributors of sales, transfers, or assignments of franchise; modifying to include applicability to new powersports dealers; amending Section 2, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 565.4), which relates to remote software upgrades; modifying to include applicability to new powersports dealers; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 566, as amended by Section 12, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 566), which relates to procedures and fines for denial, suspension, or revocation of license; modifying certain notice requirement; modifying individuals for who may be fined or whose license or application may be suspended, denied, or revoked; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 572, which relates to venue in damage actions; modifying to include applicability to new powersports dealers; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 573, which relates to liberal construction; modifying description of certain vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 578.1, as amended by Section 16, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 578.1), which relates to procedures for establishing new or relocating existing dealerships; modifying to include applicability to new powersports dealers; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 579, as amended by Section 17, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp.

2023, Section 579), which relates to considerations in determining good cause for not entering into or relocating additional franchise; modifying to include applicability to new powersports dealers; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 579.1, which relates to certain unlawful vehicle brokering; modifying to include applicability to new powersports dealers; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 580.2, as amended by Section 18, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 580.2), which relates to vehicles on loan from authorized motor vehicle dealer; modifying to include applicability to new powersports dealers; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Motor vehicles

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 561, is amended to read as follows:

Section 561. The Legislature finds and declares that the distribution and sale of new motor vehicles and powersport vehicles in the State of Oklahoma vitally affects the general economy of the state and the public interest and the public welfare, and that in order to promote the public interest and the public welfare, and in the exercise of its police powers, it is necessary to regulate and to license motor vehicle manufacturers, distributors, representatives, new motor vehicle dealers, powersport vehicle dealers, and salespersons of new motor vehicles and powersport vehicles doing business in Oklahoma, in order to prevent frauds, impositions and other abuses upon its citizens and to protect and preserve the investments and properties of the citizens of this state, and in order to avoid undue control of the independent motor vehicle dealer or powersport dealer by the motor vehicle or powersport manufacturing and distributing organizations, and in order to foster and keep alive vigorous and healthy competition by prohibiting unfair practices by which fair and honest competition is destroyed or prevented, and to protect the public against the creation or perpetuation of monopolies and practices detrimental to the public welfare, to prevent the practice of requiring the buying of special features, appliances and equipment not desired or

requested by the purchaser, to prevent false and misleading advertising, to prevent unfair practices by motor vehicle dealers, or powersports dealers, manufacturers and distributing organizations, to promote the public safety and prevent disruption of the franchise system of distribution of motor vehicles or powersports vehicles to the public and prevent deterioration of facilities for servicing motor or powersport vehicles and keeping same safe and properly functioning, and prevent bankrupting of motor vehicle dealers and powersport dealers, who might otherwise be caused to fail because of such unfair practices.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 562, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 562), is amended to read as follows:

Section 562. The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in Sections 561 through 567, 572, 578.1, 579, and 579.1 of this title, shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- 1. "Motor vehicle" means any motor-driven vehicle required to be registered under the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act. The term motor vehicle does not include:
  - a. recreational vehicles, as defined in the Recreational Vehicle Franchise Act, or
  - b. all-terrain powersport vehicles, utility vehicles, and motorcycles used exclusively for off-road use which are sold by a retail implement dealer;
- 2. "New motor vehicle dealer" means any person, firm, association, corporation, or trust not excluded by this paragraph who sells, offers for sale, advertises to sell, leases, or displays new motor vehicles and holds a bona fide contract or franchise in effect with a manufacturer or distributor authorized by the manufacturer to make predelivery preparation of such vehicles sold to purchasers and to perform post-sale work pursuant to the manufacturer's or distributor's warranty. As used herein, "authorized predelivery preparation" means the rendition by the dealer of services and safety adjustments on each new motor vehicle in accordance with the procedure and safety standards required by the manufacturer of the vehicle to be made before its delivery to the purchaser. "Performance of authorized post-sale work pursuant

to the warranty", as used herein, means the rendition of services which are required by the terms of the warranty that stands extended to the vehicle at the time of its sale and are to be made in accordance with the safety standards prescribed by the manufacturer. The term includes premises or facilities at which a person engages only in the repair of motor vehicles if repairs are performed pursuant to the terms of a franchise and motor vehicle manufacturer's warranty. For the purpose of Sections 561 through 567, 572, 578.1, 579, and 579.1 of this title, the terms new motor vehicle dealer and "new motor vehicle dealership" shall be synonymous. The term new motor vehicle dealer does not include:

- a. receivers, trustees, administrators, executors, guardians, or other persons appointed by or acting under judgment or order of any court,
- b. public officers while performing or in operation of their duties,
- c. employees of persons, corporations, or associations enumerated in subparagraph a of this paragraph when engaged in the specific performance of their duties as such employees, or
- d. a powersports vehicle dealer;
- 3. "Motor vehicle salesperson" means any person, resident or nonresident, who, for gain or compensation of any kind, either directly or indirectly, regularly or occasionally, by any form of agreement or arrangement, sells or negotiates for the sale, lease, or conveyance or arranges the financing of any new motor vehicle or powersports vehicle as an employee for any new motor vehicle dealer or powersports dealer to any one or more third parties;
- 4. "Commission" means the Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission;
- 5. "Manufacturer" means any person, firm, association, corporation, or trust, resident or nonresident, that manufactures or assembles new and unused motor vehicles or new and unused powersport vehicles or that engages in the fabrication or assembly of motorized vehicles of a type required to be registered in this state;
- 6. "Distributor" means any person, firm, association, corporation, or trust, resident or nonresident, that, being

authorized by the original manufacturer, in whole or in part sells or distributes new and unused motor vehicles to new motor vehicle dealers or powersport dealers, or that maintains distributor representatives;

- 7. "Factory branch" means any branch office maintained by a person, firm, association, corporation, or trust that manufactures or assembles motor vehicles or powersport vehicles for the sale of motor vehicles or powersport vehicles to distributors, or for the sale of motor vehicles to new motor vehicle dealers, or for the sale of powersport vehicles to new powersport vehicle dealers, or for directing or supervising, in whole or in part, its representatives;
- 8. "Distributor branch" means any branch office similarly maintained by a distributor for the same purposes a factory branch is maintained;
- 9. "Factory representative" means any officer or agent engaged as a representative of a manufacturer of motor vehicles or powersport vehicles or by a factory branch, for the purpose of making or promoting the sale of its motor vehicles or powersport vehicles, or for supervising or contacting its dealers or prospective dealers;
- 10. "Distributor representative" means any person, firm, association, corporation, or trust and each officer and employee thereof engaged as a representative of a distributor or distributor branch of motor vehicles or powersport vehicles, for the purpose of making or promoting the sale of its motor vehicles or powersport vehicles, or for supervising or contacting its dealers or prospective dealers;
- 11. "Franchise" means any contract or agreement between a new motor vehicle dealer or a powersports vehicle dealer and a manufacturer of a new motor vehicle or powersports vehicle or its distributor or factory branch by which the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer is authorized to engage in the activities of a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer as defined by this section;
- 12. "New or unused motor vehicle" means a vehicle which is in the possession of the manufacturer or distributor or has been sold only to the holder of a valid franchise granted by the manufacturer or distributor for the sale of that make of new vehicle so long as the manufacturer's statement of origin has not been assigned to

anyone other than a licensed franchised new motor vehicle dealer of the same line-make;

- 13. "Area of responsibility" means the geographical area, as designated by the manufacturer, factory branch, factory representative, distributor, distributor branch, or distributor representative, in which the new motor vehicle dealer or powersports dealer is held responsible for the promotion and development of sales and rendering of service for the make of motor vehicle or powersports vehicle for which the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer holds a franchise or selling agreement;
- 14. "Off premises" means at a location other than the address designated on the new motor vehicle dealer's <u>or new powersports</u> vehicle dealer's license;
- 15. "Sponsoring entity" means any person, firm, association, corporation, or trust which has control, either permanently or temporarily, over the real property upon which the off-premises sale or display is conducted;
- 16. "Product" means new motor vehicles and new motor vehicle parts or new powersports vehicle and new powersports vehicle parts;
- 17. "Service" means motor vehicle or powersports vehicle warranty repairs including both parts and labor;
- 18. "Lead" means a consumer contact in response to a factory program designed to generate interest in purchasing or leasing a new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle;
  - 19. "Sell" or "sale" means to sell or lease;
- 20. "Factory" means a manufacturer, distributor, factory branch, distributor branch, factory representative, or distributor representative, which manufactures or distributes vehicle products;
- 21. "Powersports vehicle" means <u>any new or unused</u> motorcycles, scooters, mopeds, all-terrain vehicles, and utility vehicles required to be registered under the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act, with the exception of all-terrain vehicles, utility vehicles, and motorcycles used exclusively for off-road use which are sold by a retail implement dealer;

- 22. "Powersports vehicle dealer" means any person, firm, or corporation, resident or nonresident, that is in the business of selling any new powersports vehicles except for retail implement dealers;
- 23. "Retail implement dealer" means a business engaged primarily in the sale of farm tractors as defined in Section 1-118 of this title or implements of husbandry as defined in Section 1-125 of this title or a combination thereof and is exempt from licensing by the Commission for the sale of all-terrain vehicles, utility vehicles, and motorcycles used exclusively for off-road use;
- 24. "Consumer data" means nonpublic personal information as defined in 15 U.S.C., Section 6809(4) as it existed on January 1, 2023, that is:
  - a. collected by a new motor vehicle dealer, and
  - b. provided by the new motor vehicle dealer directly to a manufacturer or third party acting on behalf of a manufacturer.

The term shall not include the same or similar data obtained by a manufacturer from any source other than the new motor vehicle dealer or new motor vehicle dealer's data management system; and

- 25. "Fleet vehicle" means a new motor vehicle sold and titled or registered to a business and used for business purposes only.
- SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 563, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 563), is amended to read as follows:

Section 563. A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission, to be composed of nine (9) members. Seven of the members shall have been engaged in the manufacture, distribution, or sale of new motor vehicles and two members shall be lay members, all to be appointed by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma, with the advice and consent of the Senate. Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after November 1, 1985. Each of the Commissioners thus appointed shall, at the time of the appointment, be a resident in good faith of this state, shall be of good moral character, and each of the industry related Commissioners shall have been actually engaged in the manufacture, distribution, or sale of new motor vehicles, new powersport vehicles or new

recreational vehicles for not less than ten (10) years preceding the appointment. The members of the Commission shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

- B. 1. The Commissioners shall elect a chair from amongst them whose term shall be for one (1) year with the right to succeed himself or herself.
- 2. There shall be three at large members of the Commission. Six members of the Commission shall be appointed from the following geographical areas with at least one member from each area:
  - a. four areas of the state shall be the northwest, northeast, southwest, and southeast sections designated by Interstate 35 dividing the state east and west and Interstate 40 dividing the state north and south, excluding Oklahoma County and Tulsa County, and
  - b. two additional areas shall be Oklahoma County and Tulsa County.

There shall not be more than two members of the Commission from any one area.

- C. The terms of office of the members first appointed to the Commission shall be as follows:
- 1. The members appointed from the northwest, northeast, and southwest areas shall serve until June 30, 1987;
- 2. The members appointed from the southeast area and Oklahoma County and Tulsa County shall serve until June 30, 1989; and
- 3. The members appointed at large shall serve until June 30, 1991.

Each member shall serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies. Thereafter, the term of office of each member of the Commission shall be for six (6) years. The term of office of any member will automatically expire if the member moves out of the geographical area from which the member was appointed. In event of death, resignation, removal, or term automatically expiring of any person serving on the Commission, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment as provided for the unexpired portion of the term. The

Commission shall meet at Oklahoma City and complete its organization immediately after the membership has been appointed and has qualified. The chair and each member of the Commission shall take and subscribe to the oath of office required of public officers.

- D. The members of the Commission shall receive reimbursement for subsistence and traveling expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties as provided by the State Travel Reimbursement Act.
- The Commission shall appoint a qualified person to serve as Executive Director thereof, which person shall have had not less than ten (10) years of experience in the motor vehicle industry. The Executive Director shall be appointed for a term of six (6) years, and shall not be subject to dismissal or removal without The Commission shall fix the salary and prescribe the duties of the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall devote such time as necessary to fulfill the duties thereof, and before entering upon such duties shall take and subscribe to the oath of office. The Executive Director may employ such clerical, technical, and other help and legal services and incur such expenses as may be necessary for the proper discharge of the duties of the Executive Director under Section 561 et seq. of this title. The Commission shall maintain its office and transact its business in Oklahoma City, and it is authorized to adopt and use a seal. The Executive Director is hereby authorized to hire, retain, or otherwise acquire the services of an attorney to represent the Commission in any and all state and federal courts, and assist the Commission in any and all business or legal matters that may come before it. The attorney so representing the Commission shall discharge the duties under the direction of the Executive Director.
- F. The Commission is hereby vested with the powers necessary to enable it to fully and effectively carry out the provisions and objects of Section 561 et seq. of this title, and is hereby authorized and empowered to make and enforce all reasonable rules and to adopt and prescribe all forms necessary to accomplish such purpose. All forms used by a new motor vehicle dealer to facilitate the delivery of a vehicle pending approval of financing shall be approved by the Commission. Spot delivery agreement forms shall be required for all new motor vehicle or powersport vehicle deliveries subject to dealers finding lending institutions to purchase the retail or lease installment contracts executed by the purchasing and selling parties.

G. All fees, charges and fines collected under the provisions of Section 561 et seq. of this title shall be deposited by the Executive Director in the State Treasury in accordance with the depository laws of this state in a special fund to be known as the "Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission Fund", which is hereby created, and except as hereinafter provided the monies in the fund shall be used by the Commission for the purpose of carrying out and enforcing the provisions of Section 561 et seq. of this title. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon vouchers approved by the Commission or its authorized officers.

At the close of each fiscal year, the Commission shall file with the Governor and the State Auditor and Inspector a true and correct report of all fees, fines and charges collected and received by it during the preceding fiscal year and shall at the same time pay into the General Revenue Fund of the state a sum equal to ten percent (10%) of the fees, fines, and charges collected and received.

All expenses incurred by the Commission in carrying out the provisions of Section 561 et seq. of this title, including but not limited to per diem, wages, salaries, rent, postage, advertising, supplies, bond premiums, travel, and subsistence for the Commissioners, the Executive Director, employees, and legal counsel, and printing and utilities, shall be a proper charge against such fund, exclusive of the portion thereof to be paid into the General Revenue Fund as above set out. In no event shall liability ever accrue hereunder against this state in any sum whatsoever, or against the Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission Fund, in excess of the ninety percent (90%) of the fees, fines, and charges deposited therein.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 564, as amended by Section 5, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 564), is amended to read as follows:

Section 564. A. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association, corporation, or trust to engage in business as, or serve in the capacity of, or act as a new motor vehicle dealer, powersports dealer, or manufacturer or distributor of new motor vehicles or powersports vehicles, or factory branch, distributor branch or factory representative or distributor representative, as defined in Section 562 of this title, in this state without first obtaining a license therefor as provided for by law. Any person, firm, association, corporation, or trust engaging in more than one of such capacities or having more than one place where such business

is carried on or conducted shall be required to obtain and hold a current license for each thereof. Provided that, a new motor vehicle dealer's license shall authorize one person to sell in the event such person shall be the owner of a proprietorship, or the person designated as principal in the dealer's franchise or the managing officer or one partner if no principal person is named in the franchise. It is further provided that a factory or an entity affiliated by any ownership or control by the factory shall not be permitted to be licensed as a new motor vehicle dealer in this state, except as provided by subparagraph b of paragraph 12 of Section 565 of this title.

Applications for licenses required to be obtained under the provisions of Section 561 et seq. of this title shall be verified by the oath or affirmation of the applicant and shall be on forms prescribed by the Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission and furnished to the applicants, and shall contain information as the Commission deems necessary to enable it to fully determine the qualifications and eligibility of the several applicants to receive the license or licenses applied for. The Commission shall require in such application, or otherwise, information relating to the applicant's current financial standing, the applicant's business integrity, whether the applicant has an established place of business and is primarily engaged in the pursuit, avocation, or business for which a license, or licenses, are applied for, and whether the applicant is able to properly conduct the business for which a license, or licenses, are applied for, and such other pertinent information consistent with the safeguarding of the public interest and the public welfare. All applications for license or licenses shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee or fees therefor in accordance with the schedule thereof hereinafter set out. In the event any application is denied and the license applied for is not issued, the entire license fee shall be returned to the applicant. All licenses issued under the provisions of Section 561 et seq. of this title shall expire on June 30, following the date of issue and shall be nontransferable. All applications for renewal of a license for a new motor vehicle dealer, powersports dealer, manufacturer, distributor, or manufacturer's or distributor's representative shall be submitted by June 1 of each year, and such license or licenses will be issued by July 1. If applications have not been made for renewal of licenses at the times described in this subsection, it shall be illegal for any person to represent himself or herself and act as a dealer, manufacturer, distributor, or manufacturer's or distributor's representative. Motor license agents Service Oklahoma and licensed operators will be notified not

to accept such dealers' titles until such time as licenses have been issued by the Commission.

- C. The schedule of license fees to be charged and received by the Commission for the licenses issued hereunder shall be as follows:
- 1. For each factory branch or distributor branch, Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) initial fee with annual renewal fee of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00);
- 2. For each manufacturer or distributor of new motor vehicles or new powersport vehicles, Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) initial fee with annual renewal fee of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00);
- 3. For each factory representative or distributor representative, One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) annually;
- 4. For each new motor vehicle dealer, except powersports vehicle dealers, initial fee of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) per franchise sold at each location licensed, with an annual renewal fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per franchise sold at each location licensed per year; and
- 5. For each powersports vehicle dealer, initial fee of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) per manufacturer represented by the dealer at each location licensed, with an annual renewal fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per manufacturer represented by the dealer at each location licensed per year.
- D. The licenses issued to each new motor vehicle dealer, new powersports vehicle dealer, manufacturer, distributor, factory branch, or distributor branch or representative, if a corporation, shall specify the location of the factory, office, or branch thereof. In case such location is changed, the Commission may endorse the change of location on the license without charge unless the change of address triggers a relocation of a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer pursuant to the provisions of Section 578.1 of this title. The license licenses of each new motor vehicle dealer shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the new motor vehicle dealer's place or places of business.

Every motor vehicle factory representative or distributor representative if an individual shall physically possess the license when engaged in business and shall display such upon request. The

name of the employer of such factory representative or distributor representative shall be stated on the license and, in case of a change of employer, the holder of such license shall immediately mail such to the Commission for its endorsement of such change. The Commission shall endorse each such change of employer on licenses for a fee of Ten Dollars (\$10.00).

- E. The  $\underline{\text{new}}$  powersports dealer license shall only allow the sale of the specific types of powersports vehicles authorized by the manufacturer and agreed to by the powersports dealer.
- SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 564.1, as amended by Section 6, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 564.1), is amended to read as follows:
- Section 564.1 A. The Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission shall provide for off-premises displays of new motor vehicles by currently licensed new motor vehicle dealers. An off-premises event may be held for display purposes only, without the need for permits, under the following conditions:
- 1. The  $\underline{\text{new}}$  motor vehicles are for display purposes only and not for sale at the off-premises display event;
  - 2. No selling activities shall be conducted;
- 3. The display is in the <u>new motor vehicle</u> dealer's factory-approved area of sales and service responsibility;
- 4. The <u>new motor vehicle</u> dealer  $\frac{\text{must}}{\text{must}}$  obtain written approval from the manufacturer or distributor; and
- 5. The <u>new motor vehicle</u> dealer is required to obtain approval for the display location from the sponsoring entity.
- B. The Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission shall provide for off-premises displays or sales of powersports vehicles by currently licensed new powersports vehicle dealers. An off-premises event may be held for display or sale purposes only under the following conditions:
- 1. The event is in the new powersport vehicle dealer's factory-approved area of sales and service responsibility;

- 2. The new powersport vehicle dealer must obtain written approval from the manufacturer or distributor;
- 3. The new powersport vehicle dealer must submit an application to obtain off-premises sales permits for new powersports being offered for sale at the event, at least seven (7) days prior to the event, and the permit fee is Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) for each new powersport at the event;
- 4. The sponsor of the event must submit an application to obtain an off-premises sponsoring entity sales permit, at least seven (7) days prior to the event, and the permit fee is Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) for the event; and
- 5. No permit application or fee is required by the new powersports vehicle dealer nor sponsoring entity for an off-premises display only event.
- <u>C.</u> The Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission is authorized to provide a variance to the <u>distance requirements</u> <u>conditions</u> specified in this section, for any off-premises display <u>or sales</u> event if the off-premises display is conducted within municipal, county, or state-owned or controlled facilities or within the grounds of any county, district, or state fair.
- SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 564.2, as amended by Section 7, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 564.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 564.2 It shall be punishable by an administrative fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for any person, firm, association, corporation, or trust resident, or nonresident to engage in business as, or serve in the capacity of, a new motor vehicle salesperson in this state without first obtaining a certificate of registration with the Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission. The cost of registration for each new salesperson shall be set at Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) to be renewed annually. The cost of registration and any administrative fine is to be borne by the employing entity of the new salesperson. The Commission shall promulgate rules and procedures necessary for the implementation and creation of the registry and the issuance of certificates of registration.

SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 565, as last amended by Section 8, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 565), is amended to read as follows:

Section 565. A. The Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission may deny an application for a license, revoke or suspend a license, or impose a fine against any person or entity, not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per occurrence, that violates any provision of Sections 561 through 567, 572, 578.1, 579, and 579.1 of this title or for any of the following reasons:

- 1. On satisfactory proof of unfitness of the applicant in any application for any license under the provisions of Section 561 et seq. of this title;
- 2. For any material misstatement made by an applicant in any application for any license under the provisions of Section 561 et seq. of this title;
- 3. For any failure to comply with any provision of Section 561 et seq. of this title or any rule promulgated by the Commission under authority vested in it by Section 561 et seq. of this title;
- 4. A change of condition after license is granted resulting in failure to maintain the qualifications for license;
- 5. Being a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle  $\underline{\text{dealer}}$  who:
  - a. has required a purchaser of a new motor vehicle <u>or new powersports vehicle</u>, as a condition of sale and delivery thereof, to also purchase special features, appliances, accessories, or equipment not desired or requested by the purchaser and installed by the new motor vehicle dealer <u>or new powersports vehicle dealer</u>,
  - b. uses any false or misleading advertising in connection with business as a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer,
  - c. has committed any unlawful act which resulted in the revocation of any similar license in another state,

- d. has failed or refused to perform any written agreement with any retail buyer involving the sale of a motor vehicle or powersports vehicle,
- e. has been convicted of a felony crime that substantially relates to the occupation of a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer and poses a reasonable threat to public safety,
- f. has committed a fraudulent act in selling, purchasing, or otherwise dealing in new motor vehicles or new powersports vehicles or has misrepresented the terms and conditions of a sale, purchase or contract for sale or purchase of a new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle or any interest therein including an option to purchase such vehicle,
- g. has failed to meet or maintain the conditions and requirements necessary to qualify for the issuance of a license, or
- h. completes any sale or transaction of an extended service contract, extended maintenance plan, or similar product using contract forms that do not conspicuously disclose the identity of the service contract provider;
- 6. Being a new motor vehicle salesperson who is not employed as such by a licensed new motor vehicle dealer;
- 7. Being a new motor vehicle dealer <u>or new powersports vehicle</u> dealer who:
  - a. does not have an established place of business,
  - b. does not provide for a suitable repair shop separate from the display room with ample space to repair or recondition one or more vehicles at the same time, and which is staffed with properly trained and qualified repair technicians and is equipped with such parts, tools, and equipment as may be requisite for the servicing of motor vehicles in such a manner as to make them comply with the safety laws of this state and to properly fulfill the dealer's or manufacturer's warranty obligation,

- c. does not hold a franchise in effect with a manufacturer or distributor of new or unused motor vehicles for the sale of the same and is not authorized by the manufacturer or distributor to render predelivery preparation of such vehicles sold to purchasers and to perform any authorized post-sale work pursuant to the manufacturer's or distributor's warranty,
- d. employs a person without obtaining a certificate of registration for the person, or utilizes the services of used motor vehicle lots or dealers or other unlicensed persons or unregistered persons in connection with the sale of new motor vehicles,
- e. does not properly service a new motor vehicle <u>or new powersports vehicle</u> before delivery of same to the original purchaser thereof, or
- f. fails to order and stock a reasonable number of new motor vehicles necessary to meet consumer demand for each of the new motor vehicles included in the new motor vehicle dealer's franchise agreement, unless the new motor vehicles are not readily available from the manufacturer or distributor due to limited production;
- 8. Being a factory that has:
  - a. either induced or attempted to induce by means of coercion or intimidation, any new motor vehicle dealer or powersports vehicle dealer:
    - (1) to accept delivery of any motor vehicle or vehicles, parts, or accessories therefor, or any other commodities including advertising material which shall not have been ordered by the new motor vehicle dealer,
    - (2) to order or accept delivery of any motor vehicle or powersports vehicle with special features, appliances, accessories, or equipment not included in the list price of the motor vehicles as publicly advertised by the manufacturer thereof, or

- (3) to order or accept delivery of any parts, accessories, equipment, machinery, tools, appliances, or any commodity whatsoever,
- b. induced under threat or discrimination by the withholding from delivery to a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer certain models of motor vehicles, changing or amending unilaterally the new motor vehicle dealer's allotment of motor vehicles, and/or withholding and delaying delivery of the vehicles out of the ordinary course of business, in order to induce by such coercion any new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer to participate or contribute to any local or national advertising fund controlled directly or indirectly by the factory or for any other purposes such as contest, "giveaways", or other so-called sales promotional devices, and/or change of quotas in any sales contest; or has required new motor vehicle dealers, as a condition to receiving their vehicle allotment, to order a certain percentage of the vehicles with optional equipment not specified by the new motor vehicle dealer; however, nothing in this section shall prohibit a factory from supporting an advertising association which is open to all new motor vehicle dealers or new powersports vehicle dealers on the same basis.
- c. used a performance standard, sales objective, or program for measuring dealer performance that may have a material effect on a right of the dealer to vehicle allocation; or payment under any incentive or reimbursement program that is unfair, unreasonable, inequitable, and not based on accurate information,
- d. used a performance standard for measuring sales or service performance of any new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer under the terms of the franchise agreement which:
  - (1) is unfair, unreasonable, arbitrary, or inequitable, and

- (2) does not consider the relevant and material local and state or regional criteria, including prevailing economic conditions affecting the sales or service performance of a vehicle dealer or any relevant and material data and facts presented by the dealer in writing within thirty (30) days of the written notice of the manufacturer to the dealer of its intention to cancel, terminate, or not renew the dealer's franchise agreement,
- e. failed or refused to sell, or offer for sale, new motor vehicles to all of its authorized same line-make franchised new motor vehicle dealers or new powersports vehicle dealers at the same price for a comparably equipped motor vehicle, on the same terms, with no differential in functionally available discount, allowance, credit, or bonus, except as provided in subparagraph e of paragraph 9 of this subsection,
- f. failed to provide reasonable compensation to a new motor vehicle dealer substantially equivalent to the actual cost of providing a manufacturer required loaner or rental vehicle to any consumer who is having a vehicle serviced at the dealership. For purposes of this paragraph, actual cost is the average cost in the new motor vehicle dealer's region for the rental of a substantially similar make and model as the vehicle being serviced, or
- g. failed to make available to its new motor vehicle dealers a fair and proportional share of all new vehicles distributed to same line-make dealers in this state, subject to the same reasonable terms, including any vehicles distributed from a common new vehicle inventory pool outside of the factory's ordinary allocation process such as any vehicles the factory reserves to distribute on a discretionary basis;

## 9. Being a factory that:

a. has attempted to coerce or has coerced any new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer to enter into any agreement or to cancel any agreement;

- has failed to act in good faith and in a fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory manner; has directly or indirectly coerced, intimidated, threatened, or restrained any new motor vehicle dealer; has acted dishonestly; or has failed to act in accordance with the reasonable standards of fair dealing,
- has failed to compensate its dealers for the work and b. services they are required to perform in connection with the dealer's delivery and preparation obligations according to the agreements on file with the Commission which must be found by the Commission to be reasonable, or has failed to adequately and fairly compensate its dealers for labor, parts, and other expenses incurred by the dealer to perform under and comply with manufacturer's warranty agreements and recall repairs which shall include diagnostic work as applicable and assistance requested by a consumer whose vehicle was subjected to an over-the-air or remote change, repair, or update to any part, system, accessory, or function by the manufacturer and performed by the dealer in order to satisfy the consumer. Time allowances for the diagnosis and performance of repair work shall be reasonable and adequate for the work to be performed. Adequate and fair compensation, which under this provision shall be no less than the rates customarily charged for retail consumer repairs as calculated herein, for parts and labor for warranty and recall repairs shall, at the option of the new motor vehicle dealer, be established by the new motor vehicle dealer submitting to the manufacturer or distributor one hundred sequential nonwarranty consumer-paid service repair orders which contain warranty-like repairs, or ninety (90) consecutive days of nonwarranty consumer-paid service repair orders which contain warranty-like repairs, whichever is less, covering repairs made no more than one hundred eighty (180) days before the submission and declaring the average percentage labor rate and/or markup rate. A new motor vehicle dealer may not submit a request to establish its retail rates more than once in a twelve-month period. That request may establish a parts markup rate, labor rate, or both. The new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer shall calculate its retail parts rate

by determining the total charges for parts from the qualified repair orders submitted, dividing that amount by the new motor vehicle dealer's total cost of the purchase of those parts, subtracting one (1), and multiplying by one hundred (100) to produce a percentage. The new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer shall calculate its retail labor rate by dividing the amount of the new motor vehicle dealer's total labor sales from the qualified repair orders by the total labor hours charged for those sales. When submitting repair orders to establish a retail parts and labor rate, a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer need not include repairs for:

- (1) routine maintenance including but not limited to the replacement of bulbs, fluids, filters, batteries, and belts that are not provided in the course of and related to a repair,
- (2) factory special events, specials, or promotional discounts for retail consumer repairs,
- (3) parts sold or repairs performed at wholesale,
- (4) factory-approved goodwill or policy repairs or replacements,
- (5) repairs with aftermarket parts, when calculating the retail parts rate but not the retail labor rate,
- (6) repairs on aftermarket parts,
- (7) replacement of or work on tires including frontend alignments and wheel or tire rotations,
- (8) repairs of motor vehicles owned by the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer or employee thereof at the time of the repair,
- (9) vehicle reconditioning, or

(10) items that do not have individual part numbers including, but not limited to, nuts, bolts, and fasteners.

A manufacturer or distributor may, not later than forty-five (45) days after submission, rebut that declared retail parts and labor rate in writing by reasonably substantiating that the rate is not accurate or is incomplete pursuant to the provisions of this section. If the manufacturer or distributor determines the set of repair orders submitted by the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer pursuant to this section for a retail labor rate or retail parts markup rate is substantially higher than the new motor vehicle dealer's current warranty rates, the manufacturer or distributor may request, in writing, within forty-five (45) days after the manufacturer's or distributor's receipt of the new motor vehicle dealer's initial submission, all repair orders closed within the period of thirty (30) days immediately preceding, or thirty (30) days immediately following, the set of repair orders initially submitted by the new motor vehicle dealer. All time periods under this section shall be suspended until the supplemental repair orders are provided. manufacturer or distributor requests supplemental repair orders, the manufacturer or distributor may, within thirty (30) days after receiving the supplemental repair orders and in accordance with the formula described in this subsection, calculate a proposed adjusted retail labor rate or retail parts markup rate, as applicable, based upon any set of the qualified repair orders submitted by the franchisee and following the formula set forth herein to establish the rate. The retail labor and parts rates shall go into effect thirty (30) days following the approval by the manufacturer or distributor. declared rate is rebutted, the manufacturer or distributor shall provide written notice stating the reasons for the rebuttal, an explanation of the reasons for the rebuttal, and a copy of all calculations used by the franchisor in determining the manufacturer or distributor's position and propose an adjustment in writing of the average percentage markup or labor rate based on that rebuttal not later than

forty-five (45) days after submission. If the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer does not agree with the proposed average percentage markup or labor rate, the new motor vehicle dealer may file a protest with the Commission not later than thirty (30) days after receipt of that proposal by the manufacturer or distributor. In the event a protest is filed, the manufacturer or distributor shall have the burden of proof to establish the new motor vehicle dealer's submitted parts markup rate or labor rate was inaccurate or not complete pursuant to the provisions of this section. A manufacturer or distributor may not retaliate against any new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer seeking to exercise its rights under this section. A manufacturer or distributor may require a dealer to submit repair orders in accordance with this section in order to validate the reasonableness of a dealer's retail rate for parts or labor not more often than once every twelve (12) months. A manufacturer or distributor may not otherwise recover its costs from new motor vehicle dealers within this state including a surcharge imposed on a new motor vehicle dealer solely intended to recover the cost of reimbursing a new motor vehicle dealer for parts and labor pursuant to this section; provided, a manufacturer or distributor shall not be prohibited from increasing prices for vehicles or parts in the normal course of business or from auditing and charging back claims in accordance with this section. All claims made by dealers for compensation for delivery, preparation, warranty, or recall repair work shall be paid within thirty (30) days after approval and shall be approved or disapproved within thirty (30) days after receipt. When any claim is disapproved, the dealer shall be notified in writing of the grounds for disapproval. The dealer's delivery, preparation, and warranty obligations as filed with the Commission shall constitute the dealer's sole responsibility for product liability as between the dealer and manufacturer. A factory may reasonably and periodically audit a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer to determine the validity of paid claims for new motor vehicle dealer compensation or any charge-backs for warranty parts or

service compensation. Except in cases of suspected fraud, audits of warranty payments shall only be for the one-year period immediately following the date of the payment. A manufacturer shall reserve the right to reasonable, periodic audits to determine the validity of paid claims for dealer compensation or any charge-backs for consumer or dealer incentives. Except in cases of suspected fraud, audits of incentive payments shall only be for a one-year period immediately following the date of the payment. factory shall not deny a claim or charge a new motor vehicle dealer back subsequent to the payment of the claim unless the factory can show that the claim was false or fraudulent or that the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer failed to reasonably substantiate the claim by the written reasonable procedures of the factory. A factory shall not deny a claim or implement a charge-back against a new motor vehicle dealer after payment of a claim in the event a purchaser of a new vehicle that is the subject of a claim fails to comply with titling or registration laws of this state and is not prevented from compliance by any action of the new motor vehicle dealer; provided, that the factory may require the new motor vehicle dealer to provide, within thirty (30) days of notice of charge-back, withholding of payment, or denial of claim, the documentation to demonstrate the vehicle sale, delivery, and customer qualification for an incentive as reported, including consumer name and address and written attestation signed by the dealer operator or general manager stating the consumer was not on the export control list and the dealer did not know or have reason to know the vehicle was being exported or resold.

The factory shall provide written notice to a dealer of a proposed charge-back that is the result of an audit along with the specific audit results and proposed charge-back amount. A dealer that receives notice of a proposed charge-back pursuant to a factory's audit has the right to file a protest with the Commission within thirty (30) days after receipt of the notice of the charge-back or audit results, whichever is later. The factory is prohibited from implementing the charge-back or debiting the dealer's

account until either the time frame for filing a protest has passed or a final adjudication is rendered by the Commission, whichever is later, unless the dealer has agreed to the charge-back or charge-backs,

- c. fails to compensate the new motor vehicle dealer for a used motor vehicle:
  - (1) that is of the same make and model manufactured, imported, or distributed by the factory and is a line-make that the new motor vehicle dealer is franchised to sell or on which the new motor vehicle dealer is authorized to perform recall repairs,
  - (2) that is subject to a stop-sale or do-not-drive order issued by the factory or an authorized governmental agency,
  - (3) that is held by the new motor vehicle dealer in the dealer's inventory at the time the stop-sale or do-not-drive order is issued or that is taken by the new motor vehicle dealer into the dealer's inventory after the recall notice as a result of a retail consumer trade-in or a lease return to the dealer inventory in accordance with an applicable lease contract,
  - (4) that cannot be repaired due to the unavailability, within thirty (30) days after issuance of the stop-sale or do-not-drive order, of a remedy or parts necessary for the new motor vehicle dealer to make the recall repair, and
  - (5) that is not at least in the prorated amount of one percent (1.00%) of the value of the vehicle per month beginning on the date that is thirty (30) days after the date on which the stop-sale order was provided to the new motor vehicle dealer until the earlier of either of the following:
    - (a) the date the recall remedy or parts are made available, or

(b) the date the new motor vehicle dealer sells, trades, or otherwise disposes of the affected used motor vehicle.

For the purposes of division (5) of this subparagraph, the value of a used vehicle shall be the average Black Book value for the year, make, and model of the recalled vehicle. A factory may direct the manner and method in which a new motor vehicle dealer must demonstrate the inventory status of an affected used motor vehicle to determine eligibility under this subparagraph; provided, that the manner and method may not be unduly burdensome and may not require information that is unduly burdensome to provide. All reimbursement claims made by new motor vehicle dealers pursuant to this section for recall remedies or repairs, or for compensation where no part or repair is reasonably available and the vehicle is subject to a stop-sale or do-not-drive order, shall be subject to the same limitations and requirements as a warranty reimbursement claim made under subparagraph b of this paragraph. In the alternative, a manufacturer may compensate its franchised new motor vehicle dealers under a national recall compensation program; provided, the compensation under the program is equal to or greater than that provided under division (5) of this subparagraph, or as the manufacturer and new motor vehicle dealer otherwise agree. Nothing in this section shall require a factory to provide total compensation to a new motor vehicle dealer which would exceed the total average Black Book value of the affected used motor vehicle as originally determined under division (5) of this subparagraph. Any remedy provided to a new motor vehicle dealer under this subparagraph is exclusive and may not be combined with any other state or federal compensation remedy,

d. unreasonably fails or refuses to offer to its same line-make franchised dealers a reasonable supply and mix of all models manufactured for that line-make, or unreasonably requires a dealer to pay any extra fee, purchase unreasonable advertising displays or other materials, or enter into a separate agreement which adversely alters the rights or obligations contained within the new motor vehicle dealer's existing

franchise agreement or which waives any right of the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer as protected by Section 561 et seq. of this title, or remodel, renovate, or recondition the new motor vehicle dealer's existing facilities as a prerequisite to receiving a model or series of vehicles, except as may be necessary to sell or service the model or series of vehicles as provided by subparagraph e of this paragraph. It shall be a violation of this section for new vehicle allocation to be withheld subject to any requirement to purchase or sell any number of used or off-lease vehicles. failure to deliver any such new motor vehicle shall not be considered a violation of the section if the failure is not arbitrary or is due to lack of manufacturing capacity or to a strike or labor difficulty, a shortage of materials, a freight embargo, or other cause over which the manufacturer has no control. However, this subparagraph shall not apply to recreational vehicles, limited production model vehicles, a vehicle not advertised by the factory for sale in this state, vehicles that are subject to allocation affected by federal environmental laws or environmental laws of this state, or vehicles allocated in response to an unforeseen event or circumstance,

except as necessary to comply with a health or safety е. law, or to comply with a technology requirement which is necessary to sell or service a motor vehicle that the franchised new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer is authorized or licensed by the franchisor to sell or service, requires a new motor vehicle dealer to construct a new facility or substantially renovate the new motor vehicle dealer's existing facility unless the facility construction or renovation is justified by the economic conditions existing at the time, as well as the reasonably foreseeable projections, in the new motor vehicle dealer's market and in the automotive industry. However, this subparagraph shall not apply if the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer voluntarily agrees to facility construction or renovation in exchange for money, credit, allowance, reimbursement, or additional vehicle allocation to a

new motor vehicle dealer from the factory to compensate the new motor vehicle dealer for the cost of, or a portion of the cost of, the facility construction or renovation. Except as necessary to comply with a health or safety law, or to comply with a technology or safety requirement which is necessary to sell or service a motor vehicle or powersports vehicle that the franchised new motor vehicle dealer is authorized or licensed by the franchisor to sell or service, a new motor vehicle dealer which completes a facility construction or renovation pursuant to factory requirements shall not be required to construct a new facility or renovate the existing facility if the same area of the facility or premises has been constructed or substantially altered within the last ten (10) years and the construction or alteration was approved by the manufacturer as a part of a facility upgrade program, standard, or policy. For purposes of this subparagraph, "substantially altered" means to perform an alteration that substantially impacts the architectural features, characteristics, or integrity of a structure or lot. The term shall not include routine maintenance reasonably necessary to maintain a dealership in attractive condition. If a facility upgrade program, standard, or policy under which the dealer completed a facility construction or substantial alteration does not contain a specific time period during which the manufacturer or distributor shall provide payments or benefits to a participating dealer, or the time frame specified under the program is reduced or canceled prematurely in the unilateral discretion of the manufacturer or distributor, the manufacturer or distributor shall not deny the participating dealer any payment or benefit under the terms of the program, standard, or policy as it existed when the dealer began to perform under the program, standard, or policy for the balance of the ten-year period, regardless of whether the manufacturer's or distributor's program, standard, or policy has been changed or canceled, unless the manufacturer and dealer agree, in writing, to the change in payment or benefit,

- f. requires a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer to establish an exclusive facility, unless supported by reasonable business, market, and economic considerations; provided, that this section shall not restrict the terms of any agreement for such exclusive facility voluntarily entered into and supported by valuable consideration separate from the new motor vehicle dealer's right to sell and service motor vehicles for the franchisor,
- g. requires a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer to enter into a site-control agreement covering any or all of the new motor vehicle dealer's facilities or premises; provided, that this section shall not restrict the terms of any site-control agreement voluntarily entered into and supported by valuable consideration separate from the new motor vehicle dealer's right to sell and service motor vehicles for the franchisor. Notwithstanding the foregoing or the terms of any site-control agreement, a site-control agreement automatically extinguishes if all of the factory's franchises that operated from the location that are the subject of the site-control agreement are terminated by the factory as part of the discontinuance of a product line,
- refuses to pay, or claims reimbursement from, a new h. motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer for sales, incentives, or other payments related to a motor vehicle sold by the new motor vehicle dealer because the purchaser of the motor new vehicle exported or resold the motor vehicle in violation of the policy of the factory unless the factory can show that, at the time of the sale, the new motor vehicle dealer knew or reasonably should have known of the purchaser's intention to export or resell the motor vehicle. There is a rebuttable presumption that the new motor vehicle dealer did not know or could not have known that the vehicle would be exported if the vehicle is titled and registered in any state of the United States, or
- i. requires a new motor vehicle dealer <u>or new powersports</u>

  <u>vehicle dealer</u> to purchase goods or services for the construction, renovation, or improvement of the new

motor vehicle dealer's facility from a vendor chosen by the factory if goods or services available from other sources are of substantially similar quality and design and comply with all applicable laws; provided, however, that such goods are not subject to the factory's intellectual property or trademark rights and the new motor vehicle dealer has received the factory's approval, which approval may not be unreasonably withheld. Nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to allow a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer to impair or eliminate a factory's intellectual property, trademark rights, or trade dress usage guidelines. Nothing in this section prohibits the enforcement of a voluntary agreement between the factory and the new motor vehicle dealer where separate and valuable consideration has been offered and accepted;

## 10. Being a factory that:

- a. establishes a system of motor vehicle allocation or distribution which is unfair, inequitable, or unreasonably discriminatory. Upon the request of any new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer franchised by it, a factory shall disclose in writing to the new motor vehicle dealer the basis upon which new motor vehicles are allocated, scheduled, and delivered among the new motor vehicle dealers of the same line-make for that factory, or
- b. changes an established plan or system of new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle distribution. A new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer franchise agreement shall continue in full force and operation notwithstanding a change, in whole or in part, of an established plan or system of distribution of the motor vehicles or new powersports vehicles offered or previously offered for sale under the franchise agreement. The appointment of a new importer or distributor for motor vehicles or new powersports vehicle offered for sale under the franchise agreement shall be deemed to be a change of an established plan or system of distribution. discontinuation of a line-make shall not be deemed to be a change of an established plan or system of motor

vehicle or new powersports vehicle distribution. creation of a line-make shall not be deemed to be a change of an established plan or system of motor vehicle distribution as long as the new line-make is not selling the same, or substantially the same vehicle or vehicles previously sold through another line-make by new motor vehicle dealers or new powersports vehicle dealers with an active franchise agreement for the other line-make in the state if such new motor vehicle dealers are no longer authorized to sell the comparable vehicle previously sold through their line-make. Changing a vehicle's powertrain is not sufficient to show it is substantially different. Upon the occurrence of such change, the manufacturer or distributor shall be prohibited from obtaining a license to distribute vehicles under the new plan or system of distribution unless the manufacturer or distributor offers to each new motor vehicle dealer who is a party to the franchise agreement a new franchise agreement containing substantially the same provisions which were contained in the previous franchise agreement;

- 11. Being a factory that sells directly or indirectly new motor vehicles or new powersports vehicles to any retail consumer in the state except through a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer holding a franchise for the line-make that includes the new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle. This paragraph does not apply to factory sales of new motor vehicles to its employees, family members of employees, retirees and family members of retirees, not-for-profit organizations, or the federal, state, or local governments. The provisions of this paragraph shall not preclude a factory from providing information to a consumer for the purpose of marketing or facilitating a sale of a new motor vehicle or from establishing a program to sell or offer to sell new motor vehicles or new powersports vehicle through participating dealers subject to the limitations provided in paragraph 2 of Section 562 of this title;
  - 12. a. Being a factory which directly or indirectly:
    - (1) owns any ownership interest or has any financial interest in a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer or any person who

- sells products or services pursuant to the terms of the franchise agreement,
- (2) operates or controls a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer, or
- (3) acts in the capacity of a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer.
- b. (1) This paragraph does not prohibit a factory from owning or controlling a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer while in a bona fide relationship with a dealer development candidate who has made a substantial initial investment in the franchise and whose initial investment is subject to potential loss. The dealer development candidate can reasonably expect to acquire full ownership of a new motor vehicle dealer within a reasonable period of time not to exceed ten (10) years and on reasonable terms and conditions. The ten-year acquisition period may be expanded for good cause shown.
  - (2) This paragraph does not prohibit a factory from owning, operating, controlling, or acting in the capacity of a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months during the transition from one independent dealer to another independent dealer if the dealership is for sale at a reasonable price and on reasonable terms and conditions to an independent qualified buyer. On showing by a factory of good cause, the Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission may extend the time limit set forth above; extensions may be granted for periods not to exceed twelve (12) months.
  - (3) This paragraph does not prohibit a factory from owning, operating, or controlling or acting in the capacity of a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer which was in operation prior to January 1, 2000.
  - (4) This paragraph does not prohibit a factory from owning, directly or indirectly, a minority

interest in an entity that owns, operates, or controls motor vehicle dealerships or powersports vehicle dealerships of the same line-make franchised by the manufacturer, provided that each of the following conditions are met:

- (a) all of the new motor vehicle <u>or new</u>

  <u>powersports vehicle</u> dealerships selling the

  <u>motor</u> vehicles of that manufacturer in this

  state trade exclusively in the line-make of
  that manufacturer,
- (b) all of the franchise agreements of the manufacturer confer rights on the dealer of the line-make to develop and operate, within a defined geographic territory or area, as many dealership facilities as the dealer and manufacturer shall agree are appropriate,
- (c) at the time the manufacturer first acquires an ownership interest or assumes operation, the distance between any dealership thus owned or operated and the nearest unaffiliated new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle dealership trading in the same line-make is not less than seventy (70) miles,
- (d) during any period in which the manufacturer has such an ownership interest, the manufacturer has no more than three franchise agreements with new motor vehicle dealers or new powersports vehicle dealers licensed by the Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission to do business within the state, and
- (e) prior to January 1, 2000, the factory shall have furnished or made available to prospective new motor vehicle dealers an offering circular in accordance with the Trade Regulation Rule on Franchising of the Federal Trade Commission, and any guidelines and exemptions issued thereunder, which disclose the possibility that the factory

may from time to time seek to own or acquire, directly or indirectly, ownership interests in retail dealerships;

- 13. Being a factory which directly or indirectly makes available for public disclosure any proprietary information provided to the factory by a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer, other than in composite form to new motor vehicle dealers in the same line-make or in response to a subpoena or order of the Commission or a court. Proprietary information includes, but is not limited to, information:
  - a. derived from monthly financial statements provided to the factory, and
  - b. regarding any aspect of the profitability of a particular new motor vehicle dealer <u>or new powersports</u> vehicle dealer;
- 14. Being a factory which does not provide or direct leads in a fair, equitable, and timely manner. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require a factory to disregard the preference of a consumer in providing or directing a lead;
- 15. Being a factory which used the consumer list of a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer for the purpose of unfairly competing with dealers;
- 16. Being a factory which prohibits a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer from relocating after a written request by such new motor vehicle dealer if:
  - a. the facility and the proposed new location satisfies or meets the written reasonable guidelines of the factory. Reasonable guidelines do not include exclusivity or site control unless agreed to as set forth in subparagraphs f and g of paragraph 9 of this subsection,
  - b. the proposed new location is within the area of responsibility of the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer pursuant to Section 578.1 of this title, and

- c. the factory has sixty (60) days from receipt of the new motor vehicle dealer's relocation request to approve or deny the request. The failure to approve or deny the request within the sixty-day time frame shall constitute approval of the request;
- 17. Being a factory which prohibits a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer from adding additional line-makes to its existing facility, if, after adding the additional line-makes, the facility satisfies the written reasonable capitalization standards and facility guidelines of each factory. Reasonable facility guidelines do not include a requirement to maintain exclusivity or site control unless agreed to by the dealer as set forth in subparagraphs f and g of paragraph 9 of this subsection;
- 18. Being a factory that increases prices of new motor vehicles or new powersports vehicles which the new motor vehicle dealer had ordered for retail consumers and notified the factory prior to the new motor vehicle dealer's receipt of the written official price increase notification. A sales contract signed by a retail consumer accompanied with proof of order submission to the factory shall constitute evidence of each such order, provided that the vehicle is in fact delivered to the consumer. Price differences applicable to new models or series motor vehicles at the time of the introduction of new models or series shall not be considered a price increase for purposes of this paragraph. Price changes caused by any of the following shall not be subject to the provisions of this paragraph:
  - a. the addition to a motor vehicle <u>or powersports vehicle</u> of required or optional equipment pursuant to state or federal law,
  - b. revaluation of the United States dollar in the case of foreign-made vehicles or components, or
  - c. an increase in transportation charges due to increased rates imposed by common or contract carriers;
- 19. Being a factory that requires a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer to participate monetarily in an advertising campaign or contest, or purchase any promotional materials, showroom, or other display decoration or materials at the expense of the new motor vehicle or powersports vehicle dealer without consent of the new motor vehicle dealer, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld;

- 20. Being a factory that denies any new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer the right of free association with any other new motor vehicle dealer for any lawful purpose, unless otherwise permitted by this chapter; or
- 21. Being a factory that requires a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer to sell, offer to sell, or sell exclusively an extended service contract, extended maintenance plan, or similar product, such as gap products offered, endorsed, or sponsored by the factory by the following means:
  - a. by an act or statement from the factory that will in any manner adversely impact the new motor vehicle dealer, or
  - b. by measuring the new motor vehicle dealer's performance under the franchise based on the sale of extended service contracts, extended maintenance plans, or similar products offered, endorsed, or sponsored by the manufacturer or distributor.
- B. Notwithstanding the terms of any franchise agreement, in the event of a proposed sale or transfer of a dealership, the manufacturer or distributor shall be permitted to exercise a right of first refusal to acquire the assets or ownership interest of the dealer of the new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle dealership, if such sale or transfer is conditioned upon the manufacturer or dealer entering into a dealer agreement with the proposed new owner or transferee, only if all the following requirements are met:
- 1. To exercise its right of first refusal, the factory must notify the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer in writing within sixty (60) days of receipt of the completed proposal for the proposed sale transfer;
- 2. The exercise of the right of first refusal will result in the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer and the owner of the dealership receiving the same or greater consideration as they have contracted to receive in connection with the proposed change of ownership or transfer;
- 3. The proposed sale or transfer of the dealership does not involve the transfer or sale to a member or members of the family of

one or more dealer owners, or to a qualified manager or a partnership or corporation controlled by such persons; and

- 4. The factory agrees to pay the reasonable expenses, including attorney fees which do not exceed the usual, customary, and reasonable fees charged for similar work done for other clients incurred by the proposed new owner and transferee prior to the exercise by the factory of its right of first refusal in negotiating and implementing the contract for the proposed sale or transfer of the dealership or dealership assets. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no payment of expenses and attorney fees shall be required if the proposed new dealer or transferee has not submitted or caused to be submitted an accounting of those expenses within thirty (30) days of receipt of the written request of the factory for such an accounting. The accounting may be requested by a factory before exercising its right of first refusal.
- C. Nothing in this section shall prohibit, limit, restrict, or impose conditions on:
- 1. Business activities, including without limitation the dealings with motor vehicle manufacturers and the representatives and affiliates of motor vehicle manufacturers, of any person that is primarily engaged in the business of short-term, not to exceed twelve (12) months, rental of motor vehicles and industrial and construction equipment and activities incidental to that business, provided that:
  - a. any motor vehicle or powersports vehicle sold by that person is limited to used motor vehicles or powersports vehicles that have been previously used exclusively and regularly by that person in the conduct of business and used motor vehicles or used powersports vehicles traded in on motor vehicles or powersports vehicles sold by that person,
  - b. warranty repairs performed by that person on motor vehicles or powersports vehicles are limited to those motor vehicles that the person owns, previously owned, or takes in trade, and
  - c. motor vehicle <u>or powersports vehicle</u> financing provided by that person to retail consumers for motor vehicles or powersports vehicles is limited to used

vehicles sold by that person in the conduct of business; or

- 2. The direct or indirect ownership, affiliation, or control of a person described in paragraph 1 of this subsection.
  - D. As used in this section:
- 1. "Substantially relates" means the nature of criminal conduct for which the person was convicted has a direct bearing on the fitness or ability to perform one or more of the duties or responsibilities necessarily related to the occupation; and
- 2. "Poses a reasonable threat" means the nature of criminal conduct for which the person was convicted involved an act or threat of harm against another and has a bearing on the fitness or ability to serve the public or work with others in the occupation.
- E. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a manufacturer or distributor from requiring a dealer to be in compliance with the franchise agreement and authorized to sell a make and model based on applicable reasonable standards and requirements that include but are not limited to any facility, technology, or training requirements necessary to sell or service a vehicle, in order to be eligible for delivery or allotment of a make or model of a new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle or an incentive.
- SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 565.1, as amended by Section 9, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 565.1), is amended to read as follows:
- Section 565.1 A. For the purposes of this section, "designated successor" means a person who the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer has designated to take over operation of the dealership or a legal heir or devisee under the will of a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer or under the laws of descent and distribution of this state.
- B. Notwithstanding the terms of any franchise agreement, and subject to the following conditions contained in paragraphs 1 through 5 of this subsection, any manufacturer or distributor who prevents or refuses to honor the succession to the operation of a dealership by a designated successor without good cause or good faith, as defined in this section, shall be subject to the following procedure:

- 1. Within one hundred twenty (120) days after the death or departure of the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer, the manufacturer shall receive a written notice from the dealership of the designated successor who intends to become the successor dealership operator. If timely notice is not received, this paragraph shall not apply, and any succession shall be governed solely by the terms of the franchise;
- 2. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the dealership's timely written notice, the manufacturer may request, and the designated successor shall, within a reasonable time, provide any information which is reasonably necessary for the manufacturer to evaluate the designated successor dealer and dealership, including applications and financing;
- 3. Within sixty (60) days of receipt of such information, the manufacturer shall approve or disapprove the designated successor dealer, and in case of disapproval shall communicate in writing such disapproval and grounds for disapproval to the dealership;
- 4. Failure of the manufacturer to act in a timely manner with respect to any time period described above shall constitute a waiver of the manufacturer's right to disapprove the proposed succession; and
- 5. Within ten (10) days of the dealership's receipt of the manufacturer's notice of disapproval, the dealership may file a protest of the manufacturer's decision with the Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission and request a hearing. Such hearing shall be heard in a substantially similar manner as provided by Section 566 of this title, except that the Commission shall render a final decision within sixty (60) days of the filing of the protest. manufacturer shall have the burden of proof to show that its disapproval was for a good cause and in good faith. A denial shall not be for good cause and in good faith unless the factory establishes that the designated successor is not of good moral character or fails to meet the written, reasonable, and uniformly applied requirements of the manufacturer or distributor relating to financial qualifications, general business experience, and other requirements relating to prospective franchisees. However, a a designated successor who is a family member and who is of good moral character in accordance with reasonable factory qualifications and meets the factory's financial qualifications may rely on controlling executive management that is of good moral character and meets the

factory's qualifications for general business experience. Any denial of the designated successor based upon a failure to agree to terms other than those contained in the existing franchise agreement, related addendums and agreements, and any written notice provided to the existing dealer prior to the manufacturer's or distributor's receipt of any written notice from the existing dealer of the proposed transfer shall not be considered good cause for such denial. However, any proposed change to the franchise pursuant to written notice from the manufacturer or distributor, to be valid, must be in compliance with existing law. The disapproval by the manufacturer shall be final if the dealership fails to file a timely protest of the disapproval. In the event that the Commission finds that the manufacturer's disapproval was not made for good cause, then it shall issue a final order requiring the manufacturer to honor the successor designated in the notice sent by the dealership. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, a new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle dealer may designate any person as successor by filing a written instrument pursuant to the franchise with the manufacturer during the new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle dealer's lifetime. In such a case, the written instrument and franchise shall govern the dealership succession.

The suspension, revocation, or refusal to issue or renew a license or the imposition of any other penalty by the Commission shall be in addition to any penalty which might be imposed upon any licensee upon judgment or conviction in a court of competent jurisdiction for any violation of the provisions of Sections 561 through 567, 572, 578.1, 579, and 579.1 of this title.

SECTION 9. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 565.2, as amended by Section 10, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 565.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 565.2 A. Irrespective of the terms, provisions, or conditions of any franchise, or the terms or provisions of any waiver, no manufacturer shall terminate, cancel, or fail to renew any franchise with a licensed new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer unless the manufacturer has satisfied the notice requirements as provided in this section and has good cause for cancellation, termination, or nonrenewal. The manufacturer shall not attempt to cancel or fail to renew the franchise agreement of a new motor vehicle dealer in this state unfairly and without just provocation or without due regard to the equities of the dealer or without good faith as defined herein. As used herein, "good faith" means the duty of each party to any franchise agreement to

act in a fair and equitable manner toward each other, with freedom from coercion or intimidation or threats thereof from each other.

- B. Irrespective of the terms, provisions, or conditions of any franchise, or the terms or provisions of any waiver, good cause shall exist for the purpose of a termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal when:
- 1. The new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer has failed to comply with a provision of the franchise, which provision is both reasonable and of material significance to the franchise relationship, or the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer has failed to comply with reasonable performance criteria for sales or service established by the manufacturer, and the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer has been notified by written notice from the manufacturer; and
- 2. The new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer has received written notification of failure to comply with the manufacturer's reasonable sales performance standards, capitalization requirements, facility commitments, business-related equipment acquisitions, or other such remediable failings exclusive of those reasons enumerated in paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section, and the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer has been afforded a reasonable opportunity of not less than six (6) months to comply with such a provision or criteria.
- C. Irrespective of the terms, provisions, or conditions of any franchise agreement prior to the termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal of any franchise, the manufacturer shall furnish notification of such termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal to the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer and the Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission as follows:
- 1. Not less than ninety (90) days prior to the effective date of the termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal unless for a cause described in paragraph 2 of this subsection;
- 2. Not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the effective date of the termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal with respect to any of the following:
  - a. insolvency of the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer, or the filing of any

petition by or against the new motor vehicle dealer  $\underline{\text{or}}$   $\underline{\text{new powersports vehicle dealer}}$  under any bankruptcy or receivership law,

- b. failure of the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer to conduct its customary sales and service operations during its customary business hours for seven (7) consecutive business days, provided that such failure to conduct business shall not be due to an act of God or circumstances beyond the direct control of the new motor vehicle dealer, or
- c. conviction of the new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer of any felony which is punishable by imprisonment or a violation of the Federal Odometer Act; and
- 3. Not less than one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the effective date of the termination or cancellation where the manufacturer or distributor is discontinuing the sale of the product line.

The notification required by this subsection shall be by certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall contain a statement of intent to terminate, to cancel, or to not renew the franchise, a statement of the reasons for the termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal and the date the termination shall take effect.

Upon the affected new motor vehicle or new powersports D. vehicle dealer's receipt of the aforementioned notice of termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal, the new motor vehicle dealer shall have the right to file a protest of such threatened termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal with the Commission within thirty (30) days and request a hearing. The hearing shall be held within one hundred eighty (180) days of the date of the timely protest by the dealer and in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, Sections 250 through 323 of Title 75 of the Oklahoma Statutes, to determine if the threatened cancellation, termination, or nonrenewal of the franchise has been for good cause and if the factory has complied with its obligations pursuant to subsections A, B, and C of this section and the factory shall have the burden of proof. Either party may request an additional one-hundred-eighty-day extension of the hearing date from the Commission. Approval of the requested extension may not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. If the Commission finds that the threatened cancellation, termination, or nonrenewal of the franchise has not been for good cause or violates subsection A, B, or C of this section, then it shall issue a final order stating that the threatened termination is wrongful. A factory shall have the right to appeal such order. During the pendency of the hearing and after the decision, the franchise shall remain in full force and effect, including the right to transfer the franchise. If the Commission finds that the threatened cancellation, termination, or nonrenewal is for good cause and does not violate subsection A, B, or C of this section, the new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle dealer shall have the right to an appeal. During the pendency of the action, including the final decision or appeal, the franchise shall remain in full force and effect, including the right to transfer the franchise. If the new motor vehicle dealer prevails in the threatened termination action, the Commission shall award to the new motor vehicle dealer the attorney fees and costs incurred to defend the action.

- E. If the factory prevails in an action to terminate, cancel, or not renew any franchise, the new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle dealer shall be allowed fair and reasonable compensation by the manufacturer for:
- 1. New, current, and previous model year vehicle inventory which has been acquired from the manufacturer, and which is unused and has not been damaged or altered while in the new motor vehicle dealer's possession;
- 2. Supplies and parts which have been acquired from the manufacturer, for the purpose of this section, limited to any and all supplies and parts that are listed on the current parts price sheet available to the new motor vehicle dealer;
- 3. Equipment and furnishings, provided the new motor vehicle dealer purchased them from the manufacturer or its approved sources; and
- 4. Special tools, with such fair and reasonable compensation to be paid by the manufacturer within ninety (90) days of the effective date of the termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal, provided the new motor vehicle dealer has clear title to the inventory and other items and is in a position to convey that title to the manufacturer.

- a. For the purposes of paragraph 1 of this subsection, fair and reasonable compensation shall be no less than the net acquisition price of the vehicle paid by the new motor vehicle dealer.
- b. For the purposes of paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 of this subsection, fair and reasonable compensation shall be the net acquisition price paid by the new motor vehicle dealer less a twenty-percent (20%) straight-line depreciation for each year following the dealer's acquisition of the supplies, parts, equipment, furnishings, and/or special tools.
- F. If a factory prevails in an action to terminate, cancel, or not renew any franchise and the new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle dealer is leasing the dealership facilities, the manufacturer shall pay a reasonable rent to the lessor in accordance with and subject to the provisions of subsection G of this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to relieve a new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle dealer of its duty to mitigate damages.
- G. 1. Such reasonable rental value shall be paid only to the extent the dealership premises are recognized in the franchise and only if they are:
  - a. used solely for performance in accordance with the franchise. If the facility is used for the operation of more than one franchise, the reasonable rent shall be paid based upon the portion of the facility utilized by the franchise being terminated, canceled, or nonrenewed, and
  - b. not substantially in excess of facilities recommended by the manufacturer.
- 2. If the facilities are owned by the new motor vehicle <u>or new powersports vehicle</u> dealer, within ninety (90) days following the effective date of the termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal, the manufacturer will either:
  - a. locate a qualified purchaser who will offer to purchase the dealership facilities at a reasonable price,

- b. locate a qualified lessee who will offer to lease the premises for the remaining lease term at the rent set forth in the lease, or
- c. failing the foregoing, lease the dealership facilities at a reasonable rental value for the portion of the facility that is recognized in the franchise agreement for one (1) year.
- 3. If the facilities are leased by the new motor vehicle <u>or new powersports vehicle</u> dealer, within ninety (90) days following the effective date of the termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal the manufacturer will either:
  - a. locate a tenant or tenants satisfactory to the lessor, who will sublet or assume the balance of the lease,
  - b. arrange with the lessor for the cancellation of the lease without penalty to the new motor vehicle dealer, or
  - c. failing the foregoing, lease the dealership facilities at a reasonable rent for the portion of the facility that is recognized in the franchise agreement for one (1) year.
- 4. The manufacturer shall not be obligated to provide assistance under this section if the new motor vehicle <u>or new powersports vehicle</u> dealer:
  - fails to accept a bona fide offer from a prospective purchaser, sublessee, or assignee,
  - b. refuses to execute a settlement agreement with the lessor if such agreement with the lessor would be without cost to the new motor vehicle dealer, or
  - c. fails to make written request for assistance under this section within ninety (90) days after the effective date of the termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal.
- 5. The manufacturer shall be entitled to occupy and use any space for which it pays rent required by this section.

In addition to the repurchase requirements set forth in subsections E and G of this section, in the event the termination or cancellation is the result of a discontinuance of a product line, the manufacturer or distributor shall compensate the new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle dealer in an amount equivalent to the fair market value of the terminated franchise as of the date immediately preceding the manufacturer's or distributor's announcement or provide the new motor vehicle dealer with a replacement franchise on substantially similar terms and conditions as those offered to other same line-make dealers. The new motor vehicle dealer may immediately request payment under this section following the announcement in exchange for canceling any further franchise rights, except payments owed to the new motor vehicle dealer in the ordinary course of business, or may request payment under this section upon the final termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal of the franchise. In either case, payment under this section shall be made not later than ninety (90) days after the fair market value is determined. If the factory and new motor vehicle dealer cannot agree on the fair market value of the terminated franchise or agree to a process to determine the fair market value, then the factory and new motor vehicle dealer shall utilize a neutral third-party mediator to resolve the disagreement.

SECTION 10. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 565.3, as amended by Section 11, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 565.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 565.3 A. A franchised <u>new motor vehicle or new powersports</u> vehicle dealer proposing a sale, transfer, or assignment of a franchise agreement or the business and assets of a dealership or an interest in a dealership to another person, hereinafter transferee, shall notify the manufacturer or distributor whose vehicles the dealer is franchised to sell of the proposed action of the dealer. The manufacturer or distributor may make written request to the proposed transferee to submit completed application forms and related information generally utilized by a manufacturer to evaluate such a proposal and a copy of all agreements related to the proposed sale, transfer, or assignment.

B. The approval by the manufacturer or distributor of the sale, transfer, or assignment shall not be unreasonably withheld unless the proposed transferee is not of good moral character or fails to meet the written, reasonable, and uniformly applied requirements of the manufacturer or distributor relating to prospective franchisees. Approval of the transfer shall not be made contingent upon the

transferee meeting unreasonable facility requirements or performance standards different than those contained in the transferor's franchise agreement and related addendum and agreements, and any written notices provided to the existing dealer prior to the manufacturer's or distributor's receipt of any written notice from the existing dealer of the proposed transfer. However, to be valid, any proposed change to the franchise pursuant to written notice from the manufacturer or distributor shall be in compliance with existing law. The burden of proof shall be upon the manufacturer or distributor to show good cause existed to withhold approval. The manufacturer or distributor that has made such a determination shall send a letter by certified mail to the dealer and the applicant of its refusal to approve the proposal, which shall include a statement of the specific grounds for refusal, within sixty (60) days after the later of:

- 1. Receipt by the manufacturer or distributor of the notice of the proposed sale, transfer, or assignment; or
- 2. Receipt by the manufacturer or distributor of the information requested from the proposed transferee pursuant to subsection A of this section if the manufacturer or distributor has requested such information within fifteen (15) days of receipt of written notice of the proposed sale, transfer, or assignment.
- C. Failure of the manufacturer or distributor to send its notice of refusal pursuant to subsection B of this section shall mean that the application for the proposed sale, transfer, or assignment is approved.
- D. If the proposed sale, transfer, or assignment is to an existing owner's family member or other existing owner, the manufacturer or distributor's evaluation of the proposal is limited to the written, reasonable, and uniformly applied requirements of the manufacturer or distributor relating to good moral character and financial qualifications. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a change in dealer operator shall be addressed pursuant to the provisions of Section 565.1 of this tile title.
- E. A dealership or dealership owner receiving notice of refusal of the sale, transfer, or assignment shall have the right to file a protest with the Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission within thirty (30) days of receipt of the refusal. In the event a protest is filed, the manufacturer or distributor shall have the burden of proof to establish the proposed transferee or the proposed

transferee's controlling executive management is not of good moral character or fails to meet the written reasonable and uniformly applied requirements of the manufacturer or distributor relating to prospective franchisees or that the facility requirements are not different than those contained in the transferor's franchise agreement.

F. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the dealer shall submit a signed copy of the dealer sales and service agreement resulting from any completed sale, transfer, or assignment of a franchise to the Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission within fifteen (15) business days.

SECTION 11. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 565.4), is amended to read as follows:

Section 565.4 Any manufacturer or distributor who has new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle sales and service agreements with new motor <del>vehicles</del> vehicle or new powersports vehicle dealers in this state shall allow its new motor vehicle dealers to offer consumers any remote software upgrade or change to vehicle functions and features to a new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle which is of a line-make the new motor vehicle dealer holds an active sales and service contract for, as any offered to consumers by the manufacturer or distributor, and such upgrade or change shall be available for an authorized new motor vehicle dealer to offer to consumers at any time during the life cycle of the vehicle, and subject to the manufacturer or distributor's requirements, provided the same continues to be made available and offered to consumers in this state by the manufacturer or distributor. This section does not apply to remote software upgrades or changes administered at no cost to the consumer or related solely to the safety, regulatory requirements, cybersecurity, recall of a motor vehicle or powersports vehicle, Oklahoma Statutes, or federal statutes. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or impair a manufacturer or distributor's intellectual property rights, or to grant a new motor vehicle dealer authority to sell, copy, modify, or use the manufacturer's or distributor's intellectual property in a manner that has not been authorized by the manufacturer or distributor. Nothing in this section shall obligate a manufacturer, distributor, or other person to support or maintain any software or change to vehicle functions and features.

SECTION 12. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 566, as amended by Section 12, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 566), is amended to read as follows:

The Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission may deny Section 566. any application for license, or suspend or revoke a license issued or impose a fine, only after a hearing of which the applicant, or licensee affected, shall be given at least ten (10) days' written notice specifying the reason for denying the applicant a license, or, in the case of a revocation or suspension or imposition of a fine, the offenses of which the licensee is charged. The notices may be served as provided by law for the service of notices, or mailing a copy by registered certified mail to the last-known residence or business address of the applicant or licensee. hearing on the charges shall be at such time and place as the Commission may prescribe and the aforementioned notice shall further specify the time and place. If the applicant, registrant, or licensee is a motor vehicle salesperson, factory representative, or distributor representative, the Commission shall in like manner also notify the person, firm, association, corporation, or trust with whom he or she is associated, or in whose association he or she is about to enter. The Commission shall have the power to compel the production of all records, papers, and other documents which may be deemed relevant to the proceeding bearing upon the complaints. The Commission shall have the power to subpoena and bring before it any person, or take testimony of any such person by deposition, with the same fees and mileage and in the same manner as prescribed in proceedings before courts of the state in civil cases. Any party to the hearing shall have the right to the attendance of witnesses in on his or her behalf upon designating to the Commission the person or persons sought to be subpoenaed.

SECTION 13. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 572, is amended to read as follows:

Section 572. Any action brought to recover any damages that may be sustained by any motor vehicle or powersports vehicle dealer may be brought in the county in which said dealer is located and in addition to the action for damages he shall be entitled to sue for and have injunctive relief against the threatened loss, damage or injury to his business or property because of any violation of Sections 565 through 566 and 579 of this title or the threatened cancellation, termination or failure to renew any franchise agreement between any factory and said dealer, and the court may grant such injunctive relief, including temporary restraining

orders, as it deems just and proper, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, and in addition to any other remedy which may be afforded under any other statute of this state.

SECTION 14. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 573, is amended to read as follows:

Section 573. All provisions in this chapter shall be liberally interpreted to protect the public from fraud in the business of purchasing or selling  $\frac{\text{motor}}{\text{new}}$  vehicles and to protect the investments of its citizens in  $\frac{\text{motor}}{\text{new}}$  vehicles and dealerships and to protect the transportation system of the state and shall further be interpreted to affect existing as well as future franchise agreements.

SECTION 15. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 578.1, as amended by Section 16, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 578.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 578.1 A. Notwithstanding the terms of a franchise and notwithstanding the terms of a waiver, if a factory intends or proposes to enter into a franchise to establish an additional new motor vehicle or powersports vehicle dealer or to relocate an existing new motor vehicle or powersports vehicle dealer within or into a relevant market area in which the same line-make of motor vehicle is currently represented, the factory shall provide at least sixty (60) days advance written notice to the Commission and to each new motor vehicle or powersports vehicle dealer of the same linemake in the relevant market area, of the intention of the factory to establish an additional new motor vehicle dealer or to relocate an existing new motor vehicle dealer within or into the relevant market area. For purposes of this section, the "relevant market area" means the area within a radius of fifteen (15) miles around the site of the proposed new motor vehicle or powersports vehicle dealership measured from the property boundary of primary dealership property. The notice shall be sent by certified mail to each party and shall include the following information:

- 1. The specific location at which the additional or relocated new motor vehicle dealer will be established;
- 2. The date on or after which the additional or relocated  $\frac{1}{1}$  motor vehicle dealer intends to commence business at the proposed location;

- 3. The identity of all new motor vehicle dealers who are franchised to sell the same line-make vehicles as the proposed new motor vehicle dealer and who have licensed locations within the relevant market area;
- 4. The names and addresses of the person intended to be franchised as the proposed additional or relocated new motor vehicle dealership, the principal investors in the proposed additional or relocated new motor vehicle dealership, and the proposed dealer operator of the proposed additional or relocated new motor vehicle dealership; and
- 5. The specific grounds or reasons for the proposed establishment of an additional new motor vehicle dealer or relocation of an existing new motor vehicle dealer.
- B. The notification requirements prescribed in subsection A of this section shall not apply if:
- 1. The relocation of an existing new motor vehicle dealer is within the relevant market area of that dealer; provided, that the relocation not be at a site within ten (10) miles of a licensed new motor vehicle dealer for the same line-make of motor vehicle;
- 2. A proposed additional new motor vehicle dealer which is to be established at or within two (2) miles of a location at which a former licensed new motor vehicle dealer for the same line-make of new motor vehicle had ceased operating within the previous two (2) years;
- 3. The relocation of an existing  $\frac{\text{new motor vehicle}}{\text{motor vehicle}}$  dealer is within two (2) miles of the existing site of the  $\frac{\text{new motor vehicle}}{\text{dealership}}$ ; or
- 4. The proposed site for the relocation of an existing new motor vehicle dealer is farther away from all other new motor vehicle dealers of the same line-make in that relevant market area.
- C. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of the notice, or within thirty (30) days after the end of an appeal procedure provided by the factory, whichever is greater, a new motor vehicle dealer or new powersports vehicle dealer so notified or entitled to notice may file a petition with the Commission protesting the proposed establishment or relocation. The petition shall contain a short statement setting forth the reasons for the objection of the

new motor vehicle dealer to the proposed establishment or relocation. Upon filing of a protest, the Commission shall promptly notify the factory that a timely protest has been filed and shall schedule a hearing, which shall be held within one hundred twenty (120) days of the filing of a timely protest. The factory shall not establish or relocate the new motor vehicle dealer until the Commission has held a hearing and has determined that there is good cause for permitting the proposed establishment or relocation. When more than one protest is filed against the establishment or relocation of the same dealer, the Commission shall consolidate the hearings to expedite disposition of the matter.

- D. The burden of proof to establish that good cause exists for permitting the proposed establishment of a new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle dealer or relocating an existing new motor vehicle dealership shall be on the applicant who seeks to establish a new motor vehicle dealership or the relocation of an existing new motor vehicle dealership.
- SECTION 16. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 579, as amended by Section 17, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 579), is amended to read as follows:

Section 579. In determining whether good cause has been established for permitting the proposed establishment or relocation of an additional franchise for the same line-make, the Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission shall take into consideration, and must be persuaded, that good cause exists for entering into or relocating an additional franchise for the same line-make by the greater weight of facts and the existing circumstances, including but not limited to:

- 1. Permanency of the investment of the proposed dealership;
- 2. Effect on the retail new motor vehicle <u>or new powersports</u> <u>vehicle</u> business and the consuming public in the relevant market area;
- 3. Whether it is injurious to the public welfare for an additional new motor vehicle dealership to be established;
- 4. Whether the new motor vehicle dealers of the same line-make in that relevant market area are providing adequate competition and convenient consumer care for the motor vehicle or powersports vehicle sales and service facilities, equipment, supply of motor vehicle parts, and qualified service personnel; and

- 5. Whether the establishment of an additional new motor vehicle dealership would increase competition, and therefore be in the public interest.
- SECTION 17. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 579.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 579.1 A. It shall be unlawful to be a broker.

- B. For the purposes of this section, "broker" means a person who, for a fee, commission or other valuable consideration, arranges or offers to arrange a transaction involving the sale of a new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle, and who is not:
- 1. A new motor vehicle <u>or new powersports vehicle</u> dealer or employee of such a dealer;
  - 2. A distributor or employee of such a distributor;
- 3. A motor vehicle manufacturer or employee of such a manufacturer; or
- 4. An auctioneer or any other person engaged in the auto auction business.

However, an individual shall not be deemed to be a broker if the individual is the owner of the new or used motor vehicle or new or used powersports vehicle which is the object of the brokering transaction.

C. Any person convicted of being a broker as defined by this section shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one (1) year and a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). Any person convicted of a second or subsequent offense shall be guilty of a Schedule G felony offense, and the fine for a felony violation of this section shall be not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

SECTION 18. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 580.2, as amended by Section 18, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 580.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 580.2 During the time a person is operating a motor vehicle or powersports vehicle with the express or implied permission of a new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle dealer, as defined in Section 562 of this title, such person's motor vehicle liability policy shall have primary coverage with the motor vehicle liability policy of the new motor vehicle dealer having secondary coverage until the vehicle is returned. As used herein, "motor vehicle liability policy" means motor vehicle insurance against legal liability for the death, injury, or disability of any human being, or for damage to real or personal property. The motor vehicle liability policy of any person who has been loaned a motor vehicle or powersports vehicle by a new motor vehicle dealer pursuant to the terms of this section shall provide primary coverage for any death or injury of any human being or for any real or personal property damage, including damage to the loaned vehicle, with the motor vehicle insurance policy of the new motor vehicle dealer having secondary coverage for any death or injury of any human being or for any real or personal property damage, including damage to the loaned vehicle. The change in financial responsibility shall be evidenced by a release signed by the person operating the vehicle with the express or implied permission of the new motor vehicle dealer with the release to be returned to the person upon the return of the motor vehicle or powersports vehicle to the new motor vehicle dealer. The motor vehicle liability policy of such person shall meet the minimum financial responsibility requirements found in Section 7-324 of this title.

This section shall apply only to the loan of a motor vehicle or powersports vehicle by a new motor vehicle or new powersports vehicle dealer which occurs without financial remuneration in the form of a fee or lease charge.

SECTION 19. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

Passed the House of Representatives the 6th day of March, 2024.

Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 25th day of April, 2024.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

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