

Maryland vitally affects the general economy of the state and the public interest and the public welfare; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds and declares that it is necessary to regulate and to license distributors, factory branches and manufacturers engaged in the sale or distribution of Class A and Class B vehicles in the State of Maryland in order to prevent frauds, discrimination and other abuses upon the citizens of the State of Maryland, in order to foster vigorous and healthy competition, to prevent the creation or perpetuation of monopolies and to promote the public safety and welfare; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 1-108.1, 1-119.1, 1-125.1, and 1-130.1 be and they are hereby added to Article 66½ of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), title "Vehicle Laws," subtitle 1 "Words and Phrases Defined" to follow immediately after Sections 1-108, 1-119, 1-125, and 1-130 respectively thereof, and to read as follows:

1-108.1

*"Coerce" means an unlawful threat or a threat the carrying out of which would constitute a breach of contract, or a threat ~~or~~ OF adverse consequences if a person takes action he has a right to take or fails to take action he is not required to take. It does not mean recommendation, endorsement, exposition, persuasion, urging, or argument.*

1-119.1

*"Distributor" means a person, resident or non-resident, who in whole or in part sells or distributes new Class A or Class B vehicles to dealers in the State of Maryland, or who maintains distributor representatives in the State of Maryland.*

1-125.1

*"Factory Branch" means a branch office maintained by a manufacturer who manufactures Class A or Class B vehicles for sale to distributors or dealers in the State of Maryland; for directing or supervising, in whole or in part, the representatives of the manufacturer in the State of Maryland, such an office engaged in promoting the sale of new Class A or Class B vehicles of a particular brand or make to dealers in Maryland, or an office maintained to supervise or contact its dealers or prospective dealers in the State of Maryland.*

1-130.1

*"Franchise" means ~~an oral or~~ A written arrangement for a definite or indefinite period in which a manufacturer, distributor or factory branch grants to a dealer a license or right to use a trade name, trade mark, service mark, or related characteristic, with respect to the sale, leasing, or servicing of new Class A or Class B vehicles.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,* That the title of subtitle 5 of Article 66½ of