(2) A PERSON LICENSED AS A WHOLESALER, OR PERSON CONNECTED WITH THE BUSINESS OF A LICENSED WHOLESALER OR RELATED BY OWNERSHIP, MAY NOT AT THE SAME TIME HOLD OR HAVE ANY FINANCIAL INTEREST IN A MANUFACTURER LICENSE OR IN ANY BUSINESS OF A MANUFACTURER. 16–206.

- (a) A manufacturer license authorizes the licensee to:
- (1) sell unstamped cigarettes to a licensed cigarette wholesaler located in Maryland;
- (2) except as otherwise prohibited or restricted under local law, this article, or Article 27 of the Code, distribute sample cigarettes to consumers located in Maryland; [and]
- (3) store unstamped cigarettes in a licensed cigarette storage warehouse for subsequent shipment to licensed wholesalers, federal reservations, or persons out of State[.]; AND
- (4) <u>UPON APPROVAL OF THE COMPTROLLER, ACT AS AN AGENT OF A MARYLAND LICENSED WHOLESALER FOR STAMPING AND DISTRIBUTION OF CIGARETTES.</u>
 - (f) A wholesaler license authorizes the licensee to:
 - (1) act as a wholesaler;
 - (2) buy unstamped cigarettes directly from a cigarette manufacturer;
 - (3) hold unstamped cigarettes;
- (4) buy tobacco tax stamps as authorized by § 12-303 of the Tax General Article;
 - (5) transport unstamped cigarettes in the State; [and]
- (6) sell unstamped cigarettes to another licensed wholesaler if the Comptroller specifically authorizes[.]; AND
- (7) <u>UPON APPROVAL OF THE COMPTROLLER, DESIGNATE A LICENSED MANUFACTURER TO ACT AS ITS AGENT FOR THE STAMPING AND DISTRIBUTION OF CIGARETTES.</u>

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1 July 1, 1997.

May 22, 1997

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. President of the Senate State House
Annapolis MD 21401