

1 **Automobile Franchise Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Steve Eliason

Senate Sponsor:

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill amends provisions related to an automobile franchise.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

- 8 ▶ defines "affiliate";
- 9 ▶ repeals provisions relating to a franchisor's ability to engage in certain activities;
- 10 ▶ amends the definition of "franchise holder" to include a manufacturer that:
 - 11 • is an affiliate or is owned by another manufacturer; and
 - 12 • had control over the manufacturer's line-make or the manufacturer's affiliate line-make
- 13 and acquires an interest in a manufacturer of electric vehicles or a dealership that
- 14 exclusively sells electric vehicles under certain circumstances;
 - 15 ▶ excludes a dealership from the definition of "franchise holder"; and
 - 16 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

17 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

18 None

19 **Other Special Clauses:**

20 None

21 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

22 AMENDS:

23 **13-14-201**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 507

24 **41-3-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 507

26 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

27 Section 1. Section **13-14-201** is amended to read:

28 **13-14-201 . Prohibited acts by franchisors -- Affiliates -- Disclosures.**

29 (1) A franchisor may not in this state:

- 30 (a) except as provided in Subsection (3), require a franchisee to order or accept delivery

- 31 of any new motor vehicle, part, accessory, equipment, or other item not otherwise
32 required by law that is not voluntarily ordered by the franchisee;
- 33 (b) require a franchisee to:
- 34 (i) participate monetarily in any advertising campaign; or
35 (ii) participate in a contest, or purchase any promotional materials, display devices, or
36 display decorations or materials;
- 37 (c) require a franchisee to change the capital structure of the franchisee's dealership or
38 the means by or through which the franchisee finances the operation of the
39 franchisee's dealership, if the dealership at all times meets reasonable capital
40 standards determined by and applied in a nondiscriminatory manner by the franchisor;
- 41 (d) require a franchisee to refrain from participating in the management of, investment
42 in, or acquisition of any other line of new motor vehicles or related products, if the
43 franchisee:
- 44 (i) maintains a reasonable line of credit for each make or line of vehicles; and
45 (ii) complies with reasonable capital and facilities requirements of the franchisor;
- 46 (e) require a franchisee to prospectively agree to a release, assignment, novation, waiver,
47 or estoppel that would:
- 48 (i) relieve a franchisor from any liability, including notice and hearing rights imposed
49 on the franchisor by this chapter; or
50 (ii) require any controversy between the franchisee and a franchisor to be referred to
51 a third party if the decision by the third party would be binding;
- 52 (f) require a franchisee to change the location of the principal place of business of the
53 franchisee's dealership or make any substantial alterations to the dealership premises,
54 if the change or alterations would be unreasonable or cause the franchisee to lose
55 control of the premises or impose any other unreasonable requirement related to the
56 facilities or premises;
- 57 (g) coerce or attempt to coerce a franchisee to join, contribute to, or affiliate with an
58 advertising association;
- 59 (h) require, coerce, or attempt to coerce a franchisee to enter into an agreement with the
60 franchisor or do any other act that is unfair or prejudicial to the franchisee, by
61 threatening to cancel a franchise agreement or other contractual agreement or
62 understanding existing between the franchisor and franchisee;
- 63 (i) adopt, change, establish, enforce, modify, or implement a plan or system for the
64 allocation, scheduling, or delivery of new motor vehicles, parts, or accessories to the

- 65 franchisor's franchisees so that the plan or system is not fair, reasonable, and
66 equitable, including a plan or system that imposes a vehicle sales objective, goal, or
67 quota on a franchisee, or that evaluates a franchisee's sales effectiveness or overall
68 sales performance, without providing a reasonable opportunity for the franchisee to
69 acquire the necessary vehicles in a timely manner from the franchisor on
70 commercially reasonable terms;
- 71 (j) increase the price of any new motor vehicle that the franchisee has ordered from the
72 franchisor and for which there exists at the time of the order a bona fide sale to a
73 retail purchaser if the order was made [~~prior to~~] before the franchisee's receipt of an
74 official written price increase notification;
- 75 (k) fail to indemnify and hold harmless the franchisor's franchisee against any judgment
76 for damages or settlement approved in writing by the franchisor:
- 77 (i) including court costs and attorney fees arising out of actions, claims, or
78 proceedings including those based on:
- 79 (A) strict liability;
80 (B) negligence;
81 (C) misrepresentation;
82 (D) express or implied warranty;
83 (E) revocation as described in Section 70A-2-608; or
84 (F) rejection as described in Section 70A-2-602; and
- 85 (ii) to the extent the judgment or settlement relates to alleged defective or negligent
86 actions by the franchisor;
- 87 (l) threaten or coerce a franchisee to waive or forbear the franchisee's right to protest the
88 establishment or relocation of a same line-make franchisee in the relevant market
89 area of the affected franchisee;
- 90 (m) fail to ship monthly to a franchisee, if ordered by the franchisee, the number of new
91 motor vehicles of each make, series, and model needed by the franchisee to achieve a
92 percentage of total new vehicle sales of each make, series, and model equitably
93 related to the total new vehicle production or importation being achieved nationally
94 at the time of the order by each make, series, and model covered under the franchise
95 agreement;
- 96 (n) require or otherwise coerce a franchisee to under-utilize the franchisee's existing
97 dealer facility or facilities, including by:
- 98 (i) requiring or otherwise coercing a franchisee to exclude or remove from the

- 99 franchisee's facility operations the selling or servicing of a line-make of vehicles
 100 for which the franchisee has a franchise agreement to utilize the facilities; or
- 101 (ii) prohibiting the franchisee from locating, relocating, or occupying a franchise or
 102 line-make in an existing facility owned or occupied by the franchisee that includes
 103 the selling or servicing of another franchise or line-make at the facility provided
 104 that the franchisee gives the franchisor written notice of the franchise co-location;
- 105 (o) fail to include in any franchise agreement or other agreement governing a
 106 franchisee's ownership of a dealership or a franchisee's conduct of business under a
 107 franchise the following language or language to the effect that: "If any provision in
 108 this agreement contravenes the laws or regulations of any state or other jurisdiction
 109 where this agreement is to be performed, or provided for by such laws or regulations,
 110 the provision is considered to be modified to conform to such laws or regulations,
 111 and all other terms and provisions shall remain in full force.";
- 112 (p) engage in the distribution, sale, offer for sale, or lease of a new motor vehicle to
 113 purchasers [~~who~~] that acquire the vehicle in this state except through a franchisee with [
 114 ~~whom~~] which the franchisor has established a written franchise agreement, if the
 115 franchisor's trade name, trademark, service mark, or related characteristic is an
 116 integral element in the distribution, sale, offer for sale, or lease;
- 117 (q) engage in the distribution or sale of a recreational vehicle that is manufactured,
 118 rented, sold, or offered for sale in this state without being constructed in accordance
 119 with the standards set by the American National Standards Institute for recreational
 120 vehicles and evidenced by a seal or plate attached to the vehicle;
- 121 (r) except as provided in Subsection (2), authorize or permit a person to perform
 122 warranty service repairs on motor vehicles, except warranty service repairs:
- 123 (i) by a franchisee with [~~whom~~] which the franchisor has entered into a franchise
 124 agreement for the sale and service of the franchisor's motor vehicles; or
- 125 (ii) on owned motor vehicles by a person or government entity [~~who~~] that has
 126 purchased new motor vehicles [~~pursuant to~~] in accordance with a franchisor's fleet
 127 discount program;
- 128 (s) fail to provide a franchisee with a written franchise agreement;
- 129 (t)(i) except as provided in Subsection (1)(t)(ii) and notwithstanding any other
 130 provisions of this chapter:
- 131 (A) unreasonably fail or refuse to offer to [~~its~~] the franchisor's same line-make
 132 franchised dealers all models manufactured for that line-make; or

- 133 (B) unreasonably require a dealer to:
- 134 (I) pay any extra fee, remodel, renovate, or recondition the dealer's existing
- 135 facilities; or
- 136 (II) purchase unreasonable advertising displays or other materials as a
- 137 prerequisite to receiving a model or series of vehicles; and
- 138 (ii) notwithstanding Subsection (1)(t)(i), a recreational vehicle franchisor may split a
- 139 line-make between motor home and travel trailer products;
- 140 (u) except as provided in Subsection (6), directly or indirectly:
- 141 (i) own an interest in a new motor vehicle dealer or dealership;
- 142 (ii) operate or control a new motor vehicle dealer or dealership;
- 143 (iii) act in the capacity of a new motor vehicle dealer, as defined in Section 13-14-102;
- 144 or
- 145 (iv) operate a motor vehicle service facility;
- 146 (v) fail to timely pay for all reimbursements to a franchisee for incentives and other
- 147 payments made by the franchisor;
- 148 (w) directly or indirectly influence or direct potential customers to franchisees in an
- 149 inequitable manner, including:
- 150 (i) charging a franchisee a fee for a referral regarding a potential sale or lease of any
- 151 of the franchisee's products or services in an amount exceeding the actual cost of
- 152 the referral;
- 153 (ii) giving a customer referral to a franchisee on the condition that the franchisee
- 154 agree to sell the vehicle at a price fixed by the franchisor; or
- 155 (iii) advising a potential customer as to the amount that the potential customer should
- 156 pay for a particular product;
- 157 (x) fail to provide comparable delivery terms to each franchisee for a product of the
- 158 franchisor, including the time of delivery after the placement of an order by the
- 159 franchisee;
- 160 (y) if a franchisor provides personnel training to the franchisor's franchisees,
- 161 unreasonably fail to make that training available to each franchisee on proportionally
- 162 equal terms;
- 163 (z) condition a franchisee's eligibility to participate in a sales incentive program on the
- 164 requirement that a franchisee use the financing services of the franchisor or a
- 165 subsidiary or affiliate of the franchisor for inventory financing;
- 166 (aa) make available for public disclosure, except with the franchisee's permission or

- 167 under subpoena or in any administrative or judicial proceeding in which the
168 franchisee or the franchisor is a party, any confidential financial information
169 regarding a franchisee, including:
- 170 (i) monthly financial statements provided by the franchisee;
 - 171 (ii) the profitability of a franchisee; or
 - 172 (iii) the status of a franchisee's inventory of products;
- 173 (bb) use any performance standard, incentive program, or similar method to measure the
174 performance of franchisees unless the standard or program:
- 175 (i) is designed and administered in a fair, reasonable, and equitable manner;
 - 176 (ii) if based upon a survey, utilizes an actuarially generally acceptable, valid sample;
177 and
 - 178 (iii) is, upon request by a franchisee, disclosed and explained in writing to the
179 franchisee, including:
 - 180 (A) how the standard or program is designed;
 - 181 (B) how the standard or program will be administered; and
 - 182 (C) the types of data that will be collected and used in the application of the
183 standard or program;
- 184 (cc) other than sales to the federal government, directly or indirectly, sell, lease, offer to
185 sell, or offer to lease, a new motor vehicle or any motor vehicle owned by the
186 franchisor, except through a franchised new motor vehicle dealer;
- 187 (dd) compel a franchisee, through a finance subsidiary, to agree to unreasonable
188 operating requirements, except that this Subsection (1)(dd) may not be construed to
189 limit the right of a financing subsidiary to engage in business practices in accordance
190 with the usage of trade in retail and wholesale motor vehicle financing;
- 191 (ee) condition the franchisor's participation in co-op advertising for a product category
192 on the franchisee's participation in any program related to another product category
193 or on the franchisee's achievement of any level of sales in a product category other
194 than that which is the subject of the co-op advertising;
- 195 (ff) except as provided in Subsections (7) through (9), discriminate against a franchisee
196 in the state in favor of another franchisee of the same line-make in the state:
- 197 (i) by selling or offering to sell a new motor vehicle to one franchisee at a higher
198 actual price, including the price for vehicle transportation, than the actual price at
199 which the same model similarly equipped is offered to or is made available by the
200 franchisor to another franchisee in the state during a similar time period;

- 201 (ii) except as provided in Subsection (8), by using a promotional program or device
202 or an incentive, payment, or other benefit, whether paid at the time of the sale of
203 the new motor vehicle to the franchisee or later, that results in the sale of or offer
204 to sell a new motor vehicle to one franchisee in the state at a higher price,
205 including the price for vehicle transportation, than the price at which the same
206 model similarly equipped is offered or is made available by the franchisor to
207 another franchisee in the state during a similar time period;
- 208 (iii) except as provided in Subsection (9), by failing to provide or direct a lead in a
209 fair, equitable, and timely manner; or
- 210 (iv) if the franchisee complies with any reasonable requirement concerning the sale
211 of new motor vehicles, by using or considering the performance of any of [its] the
212 franchisor's franchisees located in this state relating to the sale of the franchisor's
213 new motor vehicles in determining the:
- 214 (A) dealer's eligibility to purchase program, certified, or other used motor vehicles
215 from the franchisor;
- 216 (B) volume, type, or model of program, certified, or other used motor vehicles the
217 dealer is eligible to purchase from the franchisor;
- 218 (C) price of any program, certified, or other used motor vehicles that the dealer is
219 eligible to purchase from the franchisor; or
- 220 (D) availability or amount of any discount, credit, rebate, or sales incentive the
221 dealer is eligible to receive from the manufacturer for the purchase of any
222 program, certified, or other motor vehicle offered for sale by the franchisor;
- 223 (gg)(i) take control over funds owned or under the control of a franchisee based on
224 the findings of a warranty audit, sales incentive audit, or recall repair audit, unless
225 the following conditions are satisfied:
- 226 (A) the franchisor fully identifies in writing the basis for the franchisor's claim or
227 charge back arising from the audit, including notifying the franchisee that the
228 franchisee has 20 days from the day on which the franchisee receives the
229 franchisor's claim or charge back to assert a protest in writing to the franchisor
230 identifying the basis for the protest;
- 231 (B) the franchisee's protest shall inform the franchisor that the protest shall be
232 submitted to a mediator in the state who is identified by name and address in
233 the franchisee's notice to the franchisor;
- 234 (C) if mediation is requested under Subsection (1)(gg)(i)(B), mediation shall occur

- 235 no later than 30 days after the day on which the franchisor receives the
236 franchisee's protest of a claim or charge back;
- 237 (D) if mediation does not lead to a resolution of the protest, the protest shall be set
238 for binding arbitration in the same venue in which the mediation occurred;
- 239 (E) binding arbitration under Subsection (1)(gg)(i)(D) shall be conducted:
- 240 (I) by an arbitrator mutually agreed upon by the franchisor and the franchisee;
241 and
- 242 (II) on a date mutually agreed upon by the franchisor and the franchisee, but
243 shall be held no later than 90 days after the franchisor's receipt of the
244 franchisee's notice of protest;
- 245 (F) this Subsection (1)(gg)(i) applies exclusively to warranty audits, recall repair
246 audits, and sales incentive audits;
- 247 (G) Subsections (1)(gg)(i)(A) through (E) do not apply if the franchisor
248 reasonably believes that the amount of the claim or charge back is related to a
249 fraudulent act by the franchisee; and
- 250 (H) the costs of the mediator or arbitrator instituted under this Subsection (1)(gg)
251 shall be shared equally by the franchisor and the franchisee; or
- 252 (ii) require a franchisee to execute a written waiver of the requirements of Subsection
253 (1)(gg)(i);
- 254 (hh) coerce, or attempt to coerce a franchisee to purchase or sell an aftermarket product
255 manufactured by the franchisor, or obtained by the franchisor for resale from a
256 third-party supplier and the franchisor or [its] the franchisor's affiliate derives a
257 financial benefit from the franchisee's sale or purchase of the aftermarket product as a
258 condition to obtaining preferential status from the franchisor;
- 259 (ii) through an affiliate, take any action that would otherwise be prohibited under this
260 chapter;
- 261 (jj) impose any fee, surcharge, or other charge on a franchisee designed to recover the
262 cost of a warranty repair for which the franchisor pays the franchisee;
- 263 (kk) except as provided by the audit provisions of this chapter, take an action designed
264 to recover a cost related to a recall, including:
- 265 (i) imposing a fee, surcharge, or other charge on a franchisee;
- 266 (ii) reducing the compensation the franchisor owes to a franchisee;
- 267 (iii) removing the franchisee from an incentive program; or
- 268 (iv) reducing the amount the franchisor owes to a franchisee under an incentive

- 269 program;
- 270 (ll) directly or indirectly condition any of the following actions on the willingness of a
271 franchisee, prospective new franchisee, or owner of an interest in a dealership facility
272 to enter into a site-control agreement:
- 273 (i) the awarding of a franchise to a prospective new franchisee;
- 274 (ii) the addition of a line-make or franchise to an existing franchisee;
- 275 (iii) the renewal of an existing franchisee's franchise;
- 276 (iv) the approval of the relocation of an existing franchisee's dealership facility,
277 unless the franchisor pays, and the franchisee voluntarily accepts, additional
278 specified cash consideration to facilitate the relocation; or
- 279 (v) the approval of the sale or transfer of a franchise's ownership, unless the
280 franchisor pays, and the buyer voluntarily accepts, additional specified cash
281 consideration to facilitate the sale or transfer;
- 282 (mm) subject to Subsection (11), deny a franchisee the right to return any or all parts or
283 accessories that:
- 284 (i) were specified for and sold to the franchisee under an automated ordering system
285 required by the franchisor; and
- 286 (ii)(A) are in good, resalable condition; and
- 287 (B)(I) the franchisee received within the previous 12 months; or
- 288 (II) are listed in the current parts catalog;
- 289 (nn) subject to Subsection (12), obtain from a franchisee a waiver of a franchisee's right,
290 by threatening:
- 291 (i) to impose a detriment upon the franchisee's business; or
- 292 (ii) to withhold any entitlement, benefit, or service:
- 293 (A) to which the franchisee is entitled under a franchise agreement, contract,
294 statute, rule, regulation, or law; or
- 295 (B) that has been granted to more than one other franchisee of the franchisor in the
296 state;
- 297 (oo) coerce a franchisee to establish, or provide by agreement, program, or incentive
298 provision that a franchisee must establish, a price at which the franchisee is required
299 to sell a product or service that is:
- 300 (i) sold in connection with the franchisee's sale of a motor vehicle; and
- 301 (ii)(A) in the case of a product, not manufactured, provided, or distributed by the
302 franchisor or an affiliate; or

- 303 (B) in the case of a service, not provided by the franchisor or an affiliate;
- 304 (pp) except as necessary to comply with a health or safety law, or to comply with a
- 305 technology requirement compliance with which is necessary to sell or service a motor
- 306 vehicle that the franchisee is authorized or licensed by the franchisor to sell or
- 307 service, coerce or require a franchisee, through a penalty or other detriment to the
- 308 franchisee's business, to:
- 309 (i) construct a new dealer facility or materially alter or remodel an existing dealer
- 310 facility before the date that is 10 years after the date the construction of the new
- 311 dealer facility at that location was completed, if the construction substantially
- 312 complied with the franchisor's brand image standards or plans that the franchisor
- 313 provided or approved; or
- 314 (ii) materially alter or remodel an existing dealer facility before the date that is 10
- 315 years after the date the previous alteration or remodeling at that location was
- 316 completed, if the previous alteration or remodeling substantially complied with
- 317 the franchisor's brand image standards or plans that the franchisor provided or
- 318 approved;
- 319 (qq) notwithstanding the terms of a franchise agreement providing otherwise and subject
- 320 to Subsection (14):
- 321 (i) coerce or require a franchisee, including by agreement, program, or incentive
- 322 provision, to purchase a good or service, relating to a facility construction,
- 323 alteration, or remodel, from a vendor that a franchisor or ~~[its]~~ the franchisor's
- 324 affiliate selects, identifies, or designates, without allowing the franchisee, after
- 325 consultation with the franchisor, to obtain a like good or service of substantially
- 326 similar quality from a vendor that the franchisee chooses; or
- 327 (ii) coerce or require a franchisee, including by agreement, program, or incentive
- 328 provision, to lease a sign or other franchisor image element from the franchisor or
- 329 an affiliate without providing the franchisee the right to purchase a sign or other
- 330 franchisor image element of like kind and quality from a vendor that the
- 331 franchisee chooses;
- 332 (rr) when providing a new motor vehicle to a franchisee for offer or sale to the public,
- 333 fail to provide to the franchisee a written disclosure that may be provided to a
- 334 potential buyer of the new motor vehicle of each accessory or function of the vehicle
- 335 that may be initiated, updated, changed, or maintained by the franchisor or affiliate
- 336 through over the air or remote means, and the charge to the customer at the time of

- 337 sale for such initiation, update, change, or maintenance; or
- 338 (ss) fail to provide reasonable compensation to a franchisee for assistance requested by a
- 339 customer whose vehicle was subjected to an over the air or remote change, repair, or
- 340 update to any part, system, accessory, or function by the franchisor or affiliate and
- 341 performed at the franchisee's dealership in order to satisfy the customer.
- 342 (2) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(r), a franchisor may authorize or permit a person to
- 343 perform warranty service repairs on motor vehicles if the warranty services are for a
- 344 franchisor of recreational vehicles.
- 345 (3) Subsection (1)(a) does not prevent the franchisor from requiring that a franchisee carry a
- 346 reasonable inventory of:
- 347 (a) new motor vehicle models offered for sale by the franchisor; and
- 348 (b) parts to service the repair of the new motor vehicles.
- 349 (4) Subsection (1)(d) does not prevent a franchisor from requiring that a franchisee
- 350 maintain separate sales personnel or display space.
- 351 (5) Upon the written request of any franchisee, a franchisor shall disclose in writing to the
- 352 franchisee the basis on which new motor vehicles, parts, and accessories are allocated,
- 353 scheduled, and delivered among the franchisor's dealers of the same line-make.
- 354 (6)(a) A franchisor may engage in any of the activities listed in Subsection (1)(u), for a
- 355 period not to exceed 12 months if:
- 356 (i)(A) the person from [~~whom~~] which the franchisor acquired the interest in or
- 357 control of the new motor vehicle dealership was a franchised new motor
- 358 vehicle dealer; and
- 359 (B) the franchisor's interest in the new motor vehicle dealership is for sale at a
- 360 reasonable price and on reasonable terms and conditions; or
- 361 (ii) the franchisor is engaging in the activity listed in Subsection (1)(u) for the
- 362 purpose of broadening the diversity of [~~its~~] the franchisor's dealer body and
- 363 facilitating the ownership of a new motor vehicle dealership by a person [~~who~~] that:
- 364 (A) is part of a group that has been historically underrepresented in the
- 365 franchisor's dealer body;
- 366 (B) would not otherwise be able to purchase a new motor vehicle dealership;
- 367 (C) has made a significant investment in the new motor vehicle dealership which
- 368 is subject to loss;
- 369 (D) has an ownership interest in the new motor vehicle dealership; and
- 370 (E) operates the new motor vehicle dealership under a plan to acquire full

- 371 ownership of the dealership within a reasonable period of time and under
372 reasonable terms and conditions.
- 373 (b) The executive director may, for good cause shown, extend the time limit set forth in
374 Subsection (6)(a) for an additional period not to exceed 12 months.
- 375 ~~[(e) A franchisor who was engaged in any of the activities listed in Subsection (1)(u) in
376 this state prior to May 1, 2000, may continue to engage in that activity, but may not
377 expand that activity to acquire an interest in any other new motor vehicle dealerships
378 or motor vehicle service facilities after May 1, 2000.]~~
- 379 ~~[(d) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(u), a franchisor may own, operate, or control a new
380 motor vehicle dealership trading in a line-make of motor vehicle if:]~~
- 381 ~~[(i) as to that line-make of motor vehicle, there are no more than four franchised new
382 motor vehicle dealerships licensed and in operation within the state as of January
383 1, 2000;]~~
- 384 ~~[(ii) the franchisor does not own directly or indirectly, more than a 45% interest in
385 the dealership;]~~
- 386 ~~[(iii) at the time the franchisor first acquires ownership or assumes operation or
387 control of the dealership, the distance between the dealership thus owned,
388 operated, or controlled and the nearest unaffiliated new motor vehicle dealership
389 trading in the same line-make is not less than 150 miles;]~~
- 390 ~~[(iv) all the franchisor's franchise agreements confer rights on the franchisee to
391 develop and operate as many dealership facilities as the franchisee and franchisor
392 shall agree are appropriate within a defined geographic territory or area; and]~~
- 393 ~~[(v) as of January 1, 2000, no fewer than half of the franchisees of the line-make
394 within the state own and operate two or more dealership facilities in the
395 geographic area covered by the franchise agreement.]~~
- 396 (7) Subsection (1)(ff) does not apply to recreational vehicles.
- 397 (8) Subsection (1)(ff)(ii) does not prohibit a promotional or incentive program that is
398 functionally available to all competing franchisees of the same line-make in the state on
399 substantially comparable terms.
- 400 (9) Subsection (1)(ff)(iii) may not be construed to:
- 401 (a) permit provision of or access to customer information that is otherwise protected
402 from disclosure by law or by contract between a franchisor and a franchisee; or
- 403 (b) require a franchisor to disregard the preference volunteered by a potential customer
404 in providing or directing a lead.

405 (10) Subsection (1)(ii) does not limit the right of an affiliate to engage in business practices
406 in accordance with the usage of trade in which the affiliate is engaged.

407 (11)(a) Subsection (1)(mm) does not apply to parts or accessories that the franchisee
408 ordered and purchased outside of an automated parts ordering system required by the
409 franchisor.

410 (b) In determining whether parts or accessories in a franchisee's inventory were specified
411 and sold under an automated ordering system required by the franchisor, the parts
412 and accessories in the franchisee's inventory are presumed to be the most recent parts
413 and accessories that the franchisor sold to the franchisee.

414 (12)(a) Subsection (1)(nn) does not apply to a good faith settlement of a dispute,
415 including a dispute relating to contract negotiations, in which the franchisee gives a
416 waiver in exchange for fair consideration in the form of a benefit conferred on the
417 franchisee.

418 (b) Subsection (12)(a) may not be construed to defeat a franchisee's claim that a waiver
419 has been obtained in violation of Subsection (1)(nn).

420 (13)(a) As used in Subsection (1)(pp):

421 (i) "Materially alter":

422 (A) means to make a material architectural, structural, or aesthetic alteration; and

423 (B) does not include routine maintenance, such as interior painting, reasonably
424 necessary to keep a dealership facility in attractive condition.

425 (ii) "Penalty or other detriment" does not include a payment under an agreement,
426 incentive, or program that is offered to but declined or not accepted by a
427 franchisee, even if a similar payment is made to another franchisee in the state that
428 chooses to participate in the agreement, incentive, or program.

429 (b) Subsection (1)(pp) does not apply to:

430 (i) a program that provides a lump sum payment to assist a franchisee to make a
431 facility improvement or to pay for a sign or a franchisor image element, if the
432 payment is not dependent on the franchisee selling or purchasing a specific
433 number of new vehicles;

434 (ii) a program that is in effect on May 8, 2012, with more than one franchisee in the
435 state or to a renewal or modification of the program;

436 (iii) a program that provides reimbursement to a franchisee on reasonable, written
437 terms for a substantial portion of the franchisee's cost of making a facility
438 improvement or installing signage or a franchisor image element; or

- 439 (iv) a written agreement between a franchisor and franchisee, in effect before May 8,
 440 2012, under which a franchisee agrees to construct a new dealer facility.
- 441 (14)(a) Subsection (1)(qq)(i) does not apply to:
- 442 (i) signage purchased by a franchisee in which the franchisor has an intellectual
 443 property right; or
- 444 (ii) a good used in a facility construction, alteration, or remodel that is:
- 445 (A) a moveable interior display that contains material subject to a franchisor's
 446 intellectual property right; or
- 447 (B) specifically eligible for reimbursement of over one-half [its] the good's cost [
 448 pursuant to] in accordance with a franchisor or distributor program or incentive
 449 granted to the franchisee on reasonable, written terms.
- 450 (b) Subsection (1)(qq)(ii) may not be construed to allow a franchisee to:
- 451 (i) impair or eliminate a franchisor's intellectual property right; or
- 452 (ii) erect or maintain a sign that does not conform to the franchisor's reasonable
 453 fabrication specifications and intellectual property usage guidelines.
- 454 (15) A franchisor may comply with Subsection (1)(rr) by notifying the franchisee that the
 455 information in a written disclosure described in Subsection (1)(rr) is available on a
 456 website or by other digital means.
- 457 Section 2. Section **41-3-102** is amended to read:
- 458 **41-3-102 . Definitions.**
- 459 As used in this chapter:
- 460 (1) "Administrator" means the motor vehicle enforcement administrator.
- 461 (2)(a) "Affiliate" means a person that:
- 462 (i) manufactures, distributes, sells, or leases new motor vehicles; and
- 463 (ii) directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries:
- 464 (A) possesses control over a person;
- 465 (B) is controlled by a person; or
- 466 (C) shares common control with a person.
- 467 (b) As used in this Subsection (2), "control" includes the power to direct or cause the
 468 direction of the management and policies of another person through ownership,
 469 contractual rights, or other means.
- 470 [~~(2)~~] (3) "Agent" means a person other than a holder of any dealer's or salesperson's license
 471 issued under this chapter, [~~who~~] that for salary, commission, or compensation of any
 472 kind, negotiates in any way for the sale, purchase, order, or exchange of three or more

- 473 motor vehicles for any other person in any 12-month period.
- 474 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) "Auction" means a dealer engaged in the business of auctioning motor vehicles,
475 either owned or consigned, to the general public.
- 476 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) "Authorized service center" means an entity that:
- 477 (a) is in the business of repairing exclusively the motor vehicles of the same line-make
478 as the motor vehicles a single direct-sale manufacturer manufactures;
- 479 (b) the direct-sale manufacturer described in Subsection ~~[(4)(a)]~~ (5)(a) authorizes to
480 complete warranty repair work for motor vehicles that the direct-sale manufacturer
481 sells, displays for sale, or offers for sale or exchange; and
- 482 (c) conducts business primarily from an enclosed commercial repair facility that is
483 permanently located in the state.
- 484 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) "Body shop" means a person engaged in rebuilding, restoring, repairing, or painting
485 the body of motor vehicles for compensation.
- 486 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) "Commission" means the State Tax Commission.
- 487 ~~[(7)]~~ (8) "Crusher" means a person ~~[who]~~ that crushes or shreds motor vehicles subject to
488 registration under Chapter 1a, Motor Vehicle Act, to reduce the useable materials and
489 metals to a more compact size for recycling.
- 490 ~~[(8)]~~ (9)(a) "Dealer" means a person:
- 491 (i) ~~[whose]~~ for which the business in whole or in part involves selling new, used, or
492 new and used motor vehicles or off-highway vehicles; and
- 493 (ii) ~~[who]~~ that sells, displays for sale, or offers for sale or exchange three or more
494 new or used motor vehicles or off-highway vehicles in any 12-month period.
- 495 (b) "Dealer" includes a representative or consignee of any dealer.
- 496 ~~[(9)]~~ (10) "Direct-sale manufacturer" means a person:
- 497 (a) that is both a manufacturer and a dealer;
- 498 (b) that is:
- 499 (i) an electric vehicle manufacturer; or
- 500 (ii) a low-volume manufacturer;
- 501 (c) that is not a franchise holder;
- 502 (d) that is domiciled in the United States; and
- 503 (e) whose chief officers direct, control, and coordinate the person's activities as a
504 direct-sale manufacturer from a physical location in the United States.
- 505 ~~[(10)]~~ (11) "Direct-sale manufacturer salesperson" means an individual who for a salary,
506 commission, or compensation of any kind, is employed either directly, indirectly,

507 regularly, or occasionally by a direct-sale manufacturer to sell, purchase, or exchange or
508 to negotiate for the sale, purchase, or exchange of a motor vehicle manufactured by the
509 direct-sale manufacturer who employs the individual.

510 ~~[(11)]~~ (12)(a) "Dismantler" means a person engaged in the business of dismantling motor
511 vehicles subject to registration under Chapter 1a, Motor Vehicle Act, for the resale of
512 parts or for salvage.

513 (b) "Dismantler" includes a person ~~[who]~~ that dismantles three or more motor vehicles in
514 any 12-month period.

515 ~~[(12)]~~ (13) "Distributor" means a person ~~[who]~~ that has a franchise from a manufacturer of
516 motor vehicles to distribute motor vehicles within this state and ~~[who]~~ that in whole or in
517 part sells or distributes new motor vehicles to dealers or ~~[who]~~ that maintains distributor
518 representatives.

519 ~~[(13)]~~ (14) "Distributor branch" means a branch office similarly maintained by a distributor
520 for the same purposes a factory branch is maintained.

521 ~~[(14)]~~ (15) "Distributor representative" means a person and each officer and employee of the
522 person engaged as a representative of a distributor or distributor branch of motor
523 vehicles to make or promote the sale of the distributor or the distributor branch's motor
524 vehicles, or for supervising or contacting dealers or prospective dealers of the distributor
525 or the distributor branch.

526 ~~[(15)]~~ (16) "Division" means the Motor Vehicle Enforcement Division created in Section
527 41-3-104.

528 ~~[(16)]~~ (17) "Electric vehicle manufacturer" means a person that, in this state, sells, displays
529 for sale, or offers for sale or exchange only new motor vehicles of the person's own
530 line-make that are:

531 (a) exclusively propelled through the use of electricity, a hydrogen fuel cell, or another
532 non-fossil fuel source;

533 (b)(i) passenger vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,000 pounds or less;
534 or

535 (ii) trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,000 pounds or less; and

536 (c) manufactured by the person.

537 ~~[(17)]~~ (18) "Factory branch" means a branch office maintained by a person ~~[who]~~ that
538 manufactures or assembles motor vehicles for sale to distributors, motor vehicle dealers,
539 or ~~[who]~~ that directs or supervises the factory branch's representatives.

540 ~~[(18)]~~ (19) "Factory representative" means a person and each officer and employee of the

541 person engaged as a representative of a manufacturer of motor vehicles or by a factory
542 branch to make or promote the sale of the manufacturer's or factory branch's motor
543 vehicles, or for supervising or contacting the dealers or prospective dealers of the
544 manufacturer or the factory branch.

545 [(19)] (20) "Fleet transaction" means a licensee's sale of one or more motor vehicles to a
546 manufacturer-approved current fleet customer under the manufacturer's fleet program.

547 [(20)] (21)(a) "Franchise" means a contract or agreement between a dealer and a
548 manufacturer of new motor vehicles or a manufacturer's distributor or factory branch
549 by which the dealer is authorized to sell any specified make or makes of new motor
550 vehicles.

551 (b) "Franchise" includes a contract or agreement described in Subsection [(20)(a)] (21)(a)
552 regardless of whether the contract or agreement is subject to Title 13, Chapter 14,
553 New Automobile Franchise Act, Title 13, Chapter 35, Powersport Vehicle Franchise
554 Act, or neither.

555 [(21)] (22)(a) "Franchise holder" means a manufacturer [~~who~~] that:

556 (i) previously had a franchised dealer in the United States;

557 (ii) currently has a franchised dealer in the United States;

558 (iii) is a successor to another manufacturer [~~who~~] that previously had or currently has
559 a franchised dealer in the United States;

560 (iv) [~~is a material owner of another manufacturer who previously had or currently has~~
561 ~~a franchised dealer in the United States;~~] that is a material owner, an affiliate, or is
562 owned by another manufacturer that previously or currently has a franchised
563 dealer;

564 (v) is under legal or common ownership, or practical control, with another
565 manufacturer [~~who~~] that previously had or currently has a franchised dealer in the
566 United States; [~~or~~]

567 (vi) is in a partnership, joint venture, or similar arrangement for production of a
568 commonly owned line-make with another manufacturer [~~who~~] that previously had
569 or currently has a franchised dealer in the United States [~~;~~] or

570 (vii) after July 1, 2018, had practical control over the manufacturer's line-make or the
571 manufacturer's affiliate's line-make in this state and the manufacturer or the
572 manufacturer's affiliate acquires an interest in:

573 (A) a new motor vehicle manufacturer that is not exclusively an electric vehicle
574 manufacturer; or

575 (B) a dealership that deals exclusively in electric vehicles manufactured by an
 576 electric vehicle manufacturer.

577 (b) "Franchise holder" does not include a manufacturer described in Subsection [~~(21)~~(a)]
 578 ~~(22)(a)~~, if [at all times during the franchised dealer's existence,] the manufacturer had
 579 legal or practical common ownership or common control, on or before July 1, 2018,
 580 of:

581 (i) a dealership; or
 582 (ii) [with the] a franchised dealer.

583 [~~(22)~~] (23) "Low-volume manufacturer" means a manufacturer who:

584 (a) in this state, sells, displays for sale, or offers for sale or exchange only new motor
 585 vehicles of the person's own line make that are:

586 (i)(A) passenger vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,000 pounds or
 587 less; or

588 (B) trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,000 pounds or less; and

589 (ii) manufactured by the person; and

590 (b) constructs no more than 325 new motor vehicles in any 12-month period.

591 [~~(23)~~] (24) "Line-make" means motor vehicles that are offered for sale, lease, or distribution
 592 under a common name, trademark, service mark, or brand name of the manufacturer.

593 [~~(24)~~] (25) "Manufacturer" means a person engaged in the business of constructing or
 594 assembling new motor vehicles, ownership of which is customarily transferred by a
 595 manufacturer's statement or certificate of origin, or a person [~~who~~] that constructs three
 596 or more new motor vehicles in any 12-month period.

597 [~~(25)~~] (26) "Material owner" means a person [~~who~~] that possesses, directly or indirectly, the
 598 power to direct, or cause the direction of, the management, policies, or activities of
 599 another person:

600 (a) through ownership of voting securities;

601 (b) by contract or credit arrangement; or

602 (c) in another way not described in Subsections [~~(25)~~(a)] (26)(a) and (b).

603 [~~(26)~~] (27)(a) "Motor vehicle" means a vehicle that is:

604 (i) self-propelled;

605 (ii) a trailer;

606 (iii) a travel trailer;

607 (iv) a semitrailer;

608 (v) an off-highway vehicle; or

- 609 (vi) a small trailer.
- 610 (b) "Motor vehicle" does not include:
- 611 (i) mobile homes as defined in Section 41-1a-102;
- 612 (ii) trailers of 750 pounds or less unladen weight;
- 613 (iii) a farm tractor or other machine or tool used in the production, harvesting, or care
- 614 of a farm product; and
- 615 (iv) park model recreational vehicles as defined in Section 41-1a-102.
- 616 ~~[(27)]~~ (28) "Motorcycle" means the same as that term is defined in Section 41-1a-102.
- 617 ~~[(28)]~~ (29) "New motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle that:
- 618 (a) has never been titled or registered; and
- 619 (b) for a motor vehicle that is not a trailer, travel trailer, or semitrailer, has been driven
- 620 less than 7,500 miles.
- 621 ~~[(29)]~~ (30) "Off-highway vehicle" means the same as that term is defined in Section 41-22-2.
- 622 ~~[(30)]~~ (31) "Pawnbroker" means a person whose business is to lend money on security of
- 623 personal property deposited with ~~[him]~~ the pawnbroker.
- 624 ~~[(31)]~~ (32)(a) "Principal place of business" means a site or location in this state:
- 625 (i) devoted exclusively to the business for which the dealer, manufacturer,
- 626 remanufacturer, transporter, dismantler, crusher, or body shop is licensed, and
- 627 businesses incidental to ~~[them]~~ the dealer, manufacturer, remanufacturer,
- 628 transporter, dismantler, crusher, or body shop;
- 629 (ii) sufficiently bounded by fence, chain, posts, or otherwise marked to definitely
- 630 indicate the boundary and to admit a definite description with space adequate to
- 631 permit the display of three or more new, or new and used, or used motor vehicles
- 632 and sufficient parking for the public; and
- 633 (iii) that includes a permanent enclosed building or structure large enough to
- 634 accommodate the office of the establishment and to provide a safe place to keep
- 635 the books and other records of the business, at which the principal portion of the
- 636 business is conducted and the books and records kept and maintained.
- 637 (b) "Principal place of business" means, with respect to a direct-sale manufacturer, the
- 638 direct-sale manufacturer's showroom, which shall comply with the requirements of
- 639 Subsection ~~[(31)(a)]~~ (32)(a).
- 640 ~~[(32)]~~ (33) "Remanufacturer" means a person ~~[who]~~ that:
- 641 (a) reconstructs used motor vehicles subject to registration under Chapter 1a, Motor
- 642 Vehicle Act, to change the body style and appearance of the motor vehicle~~[-or who]~~ ;

- 643 (b) constructs or assembles motor vehicles from used or new and used motor vehicle
644 parts[;] ; or[~~who~~]
- 645 (c) reconstructs, constructs, or assembles three or more motor vehicles in any 12-month
646 period.
- 647 [(33)] (34) "Salesperson" means an individual who for a salary, commission, or
648 compensation of any kind, is employed either directly, indirectly, regularly, or
649 occasionally by any new motor vehicle dealer or used motor vehicle dealer to sell,
650 purchase, or exchange or to negotiate for the sale, purchase, or exchange of motor
651 vehicles.
- 652 [(34)] (35) "Semitrailer" means the same as that term is defined in Section 41-1a-102.
- 653 [(35)] (36) "Showroom" means a site or location in the state that a direct-sale manufacturer
654 uses for the direct-sale manufacturer's business, including the display and demonstration
655 of new motor vehicles that are exclusively of the same line-make that the direct-sale
656 manufacturer manufactures.
- 657 [(36)] (37) "Small trailer" means a trailer that has an unladen weight of:
- 658 (a) more than 750 pounds; and
659 (b) less than 2,000 pounds.
- 660 [(37)] (38) "Special equipment" includes a truck mounted crane, cherry picker, material lift,
661 post hole digger, and a utility or service body.
- 662 [(38)] (39) "Special equipment dealer" means a new or new and used motor vehicle dealer
663 engaged in the business of buying new incomplete motor vehicles with a gross vehicle
664 weight of 12,000 or more pounds and installing special equipment on the incomplete
665 motor vehicle.
- 666 [(39)] (40) "Trailer" means the same as that term is defined in Section 41-1a-102.
- 667 [(40)] (41) "Transporter" means a person engaged in the business of transporting motor
668 vehicles as described in Section 41-3-202.
- 669 [(41)] (42) "Travel trailer" means the same as that term is defined in Section 41-1a-102.
- 670 [(42)] (43) "Used motor vehicle" means a vehicle that:
- 671 (a) has been titled and registered to a purchaser other than a dealer; or
672 (b) for a motor vehicle that is not a trailer, travel trailer, or semitrailer, has been driven
673 7,500 or more miles.
- 674 [(43)] (44) "Wholesale motor vehicle auction" means a dealer primarily engaged in the
675 business of auctioning consigned motor vehicles to dealers or dismantlers [~~who~~] that are
676 licensed by this or any other jurisdiction.

677 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

678 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.