



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 214

LCO No. 1759



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN THE STATE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-52b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

3 (a) In the event a manufacturer licensed in accordance with the
4 provisions of section 14-67a, as amended by this act, cancels, terminates
5 or fails to renew any franchise, as defined in section 42-133r, as amended
6 by this act, with a new car dealer, as defined in section 14-51, as
7 amended by this act, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, upon receipt
8 of written notice of such action by the manufacturer, shall, unless the
9 dealer holds one or more additional franchises, demand that such new
10 car dealer surrender such license to the commissioner. If such action is
11 contested by such dealer in accordance with the provisions of sections
12 42-133r to 42-133ee, inclusive, as amended by this act, the commissioner
13 shall not demand surrender of such license, and no replacement motor
14 vehicle dealer shall be named for the dealer's point or location, except in
15 accordance with subdivision (10) of section 42-133cc, until the

16 proceedings to contest such action by the manufacturer are finally
17 determined after all means of administrative, judicial and appellate
18 review have been exhausted and the decision is adverse to the dealer.

19 (b) Except as provided in subsections (c) [and (d)] to (e), inclusive, of
20 this section, no person, firm or corporation licensed as a manufacturer
21 in accordance with the provisions of section 14-67a, as amended by this
22 act, may be the holder of a new or used car dealer's license issued in
23 accordance with the provisions of section 14-52, except a manufacturer
24 may operate as a dealer on a temporary basis in accordance with the
25 provisions of subdivision (8) of section 42-133cc. The provisions of this
26 subsection shall apply to any firm or corporation that is owned or
27 controlled by a manufacturer, as determined by the commissioner. Any
28 applicant for a new or used car dealer license that is denied a license
29 under the provisions of this subsection shall be entitled to a hearing in
30 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

31 (c) [Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,
32 the] The commissioner may issue a used car dealer's license to a person,
33 firm or corporation, owned or controlled by a manufacturer, engaged
34 primarily in the business of rental of motor vehicles and industrial and
35 construction equipment, provided: (1) Motor vehicles offered for sale by
36 any such person, firm or corporation are limited to motor vehicles that
37 have been previously used exclusively and regularly in the conduct of
38 the business or motor vehicles traded in by purchasers of such
39 previously used motor vehicles, (2) any warranty repairs performed by
40 such person, firm or corporation are limited to motor vehicles that such
41 person, firm or corporation owns, has previously owned, or has taken
42 in trade, and (3) any retail financing provided or arranged by such
43 person, firm or corporation is limited to vehicles sold by such person,
44 firm or corporation.

45 (d) The commissioner may extend the period of a license issued to a
46 manufacturer to operate a dealership on a temporary basis, in
47 accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section and
48 subdivision (8) of section 42-133cc, for not more than one additional

49 year, up to a maximum period of two years, if the commissioner is
50 satisfied that such manufacturer has made and is continuing to make
51 bona fide efforts to sell and transfer the dealership to a person, firm or
52 corporation that is qualified to hold a new or used dealer's license.

53 (e) (1) For the purposes of this subsection, "manufacturer" means a
54 person, firm or corporation licensed as a manufacturer in accordance
55 with the provisions of section 14-67a, as amended by this act, and any
56 subsidiary, affiliate or entity owned or controlled by such manufacturer.

57 (2) The commissioner may issue a new or used car dealer's license to
58 a manufacturer, provided such manufacturer: (A) Does not have a
59 franchise agreement with any new car dealer in the state; (B)
60 manufacturers only electric vehicles; (C) sells at retail only motor
61 vehicles manufactured by such manufacturer; (D) does not hold a
62 controlling interest in another manufacturer, or a subsidiary, affiliate or
63 entity owned or controlled by such other manufacturer, that is licensed
64 as a dealer under this subsection; and (E) is not owned or controlled by
65 another manufacturer, or a subsidiary, affiliate or entity owned or
66 controlled by such other manufacturer, that is licensed as a dealer under
67 this subsection.

68 Sec. 2. Subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-51 of the
69 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
70 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

71 (1) "New car dealer" includes (A) any person, firm or corporation
72 engaged in the business of merchandising new motor vehicles under a
73 manufacturer's or importer's contract for each such make of vehicle,
74 [who] and (B) any person, firm or corporation licensed as a
75 manufacturer, as defined in subsection (e) of section 14-52b, as amended
76 by this act, that is engaged in the business of merchandising new motor
77 vehicles and licensed as a new car dealer as provided in said subsection.
78 Such person, firm or corporation may, incidental to such business, sell
79 used motor vehicles and repair motor vehicles, [Such person] and shall
80 be qualified to conduct such business in accordance with the
81 requirements of section 14-52a.

82 (2) "Used car dealer" includes (A) any person, firm or corporation
83 engaged in the business of merchandising motor vehicles other than
84 new, [who] and (B) any person, firm or corporation licensed as a
85 manufacturer, as defined in subsection (e) of section 14-52b, as amended
86 by this act, that is engaged in the business of merchandising motor
87 vehicles other than new and licensed as a used car dealer as provided in
88 said subsection. Such person, firm or corporation may, incidental to
89 such business, repair motor vehicles. A used car dealer does not include
90 any person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of leasing or
91 renting motor vehicles that offers for sale or sells used motor vehicles
92 incidental to its primary business, if [(A)] such person, firm or
93 corporation is licensed in accordance with the provisions of section 14-
94 15, and [(B)] the motor vehicles that it offers for sale were formerly the
95 subject of one or more lease agreements to which it was a party and the
96 actual or prospective purchaser is the original lessee pursuant to a
97 purchase option specified in a lease agreement. Such person, firm or
98 corporation shall be qualified to conduct such business in accordance
99 with the requirements of section 14-52a.

100 Sec. 3. Section 14-67a of the general statutes is repealed and the
101 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

102 (a) No person, firm or corporation shall engage in the business of
103 manufacturing motor vehicles for sale in this state without having been
104 issued a manufacturer's license, which license shall expire biennially on
105 the last day of June. Application for such license or renewal thereof may
106 be made to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles in such form as the
107 commissioner shall require. The commissioner may require with such
108 application all of the following, which [he] the commissioner may
109 consider in determining the fitness of such applicant to engage in
110 business as a manufacturer of motor vehicles for sale in this state:

111 (1) Information relating to the applicant's solvency and [his] financial
112 standing;

113 (2) A certified copy of any warranty made by the manufacturer or any
114 other party in whom title to such motor vehicle may have been vested

115 prior to possession of such motor vehicle being transferred to a person
116 licensed under the provisions of this section;

117 (3) A copy of the applicant's standard franchise agreement and all
118 supplements thereto, together with a list of the applicant's authorized
119 dealers or distributors in this state and their [address] addresses. Such
120 applicant shall notify the commissioner immediately of the
121 appointment of any additional dealers or distributors or any revisions
122 of or additions to the basic franchise agreement on file with [him] the
123 commissioner, or of any individual dealer or distributor supplements to
124 such agreement. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to
125 any manufacturer licensed as a new or used car dealer pursuant to
126 subsection (e) of section 14-52b, as amended by this act;

127 (4) A certified copy of the delivery and preparation obligations of the
128 applicant's new car dealers, which obligations shall constitute such new
129 car dealers' only responsibility for product liability between the dealer
130 and the manufacturer;

131 (5) An affidavit stating the rates such applicant pays or agrees to pay
132 any authorized new car dealer for parts and labor used and expended
133 by such authorized new car dealer for the manufacturer under delivery
134 and preparation obligations under the new car warranty;

135 (6) A biennial license fee of two thousand three hundred dollars,
136 which fee shall not be subject to refund or proration; and

137 (7) Any other pertinent matter commensurate with the safeguarding
138 of the public interest.

139 (b) An application for renewal of such license filed with the
140 commissioner after the expiration date of such license shall be
141 accompanied by a late fee of two hundred fifty dollars. The
142 commissioner shall not renew any license under this section which has
143 expired for more than forty-five days.

144 Sec. 4. Section 42-133r of the general statutes is repealed and the
145 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

146 As used in this section and sections [42-133r] 42-133s to 42-133ee,
147 inclusive, unless the context indicates a different meaning:

148 (1) "Manufacturer" means any person who manufactures or
149 assembles new motor vehicles, or imports motor vehicles for
150 distribution to dealers or through distributors, or factory branches, but
151 does not include any manufacturer licensed as a new or used car dealer
152 pursuant to subsection (e) of section 14-52b, as amended by this act.

153 (2) "Distributor" means any person who offers for sale, sells or
154 distributes any new motor vehicle to dealers or who maintains factory
155 representatives or who controls any person, firm, association, joint
156 venture corporation or trust, who offers for sale, sells or distributes any
157 new motor vehicle to dealers.

158 (3) "Factory branch" means a branch office maintained by a
159 manufacturer for the purpose of selling, or offering for sale, motor
160 vehicles to a distributor or dealer, or for directing or supervising factory
161 or distributor representatives.

162 (4) "Owner" means any person holding an ownership interest in a
163 business entity operating as a dealer or under a franchise as defined in
164 this section either as a corporation, partnership or sole proprietorship.
165 To the extent that the rights of any owner under this section and sections
166 [42-133r] 42-133s to 42-133ee, inclusive, conflict with the rights of any
167 other owner, such rights shall accrue in priority order based on the
168 percentage of ownership interest held by each owner with the owner
169 having the greatest ownership interest having first priority and
170 succeeding priority accruing to other owners in the descending order of
171 their percentage of ownership interest.

172 (5) "Dealership facilities" means real estate, buildings, fixtures and
173 improvements which are used in the course of business under a
174 franchise by a new motor vehicle dealer.

175 (6) "Dealer" means any person engaged in the business of selling,
176 offering to sell, soliciting or advertising the sale of new motor vehicles

177 and who holds a valid sales and service agreement, franchise or
178 contract, granted by a manufacturer or distributor for the retail sale of
179 the manufacturer's or distributor's new motor vehicles.

180 (7) "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle intended primarily
181 for use and operation on the public highways, other than a farm tractor
182 or other machinery or tools used in the production, harvesting and care
183 of farm products.

184 (8) "New motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle which has been sold
185 to a new motor vehicle dealer and which has not been used for other
186 than demonstration purposes and on which the original title has not
187 been issued from the new motor vehicle dealer.

188 (9) "Established place of business" means a permanent, commercial
189 building easily accessible and open to the public at reasonable times and
190 at which the business of a new motor vehicle dealer, including the
191 display and repair of vehicles, may be lawfully carried on.

192 (10) "Franchise" means a written agreement or contract between a
193 manufacturer or distributor and a dealer which purports to fix the legal
194 rights and liabilities of the parties to such agreement or contract, and
195 pursuant to which the dealer purchases and resells the franchise
196 product or leases or rents the dealership premises.

197 (11) "Good faith" means honesty in fact and the observance of
198 reasonable commercial standards of fair dealing in the trade.

199 (12) "Designated family member" means the spouse, child,
200 grandchild, parent, brother or sister of an owner who, in the case of the
201 owner's death, is entitled to inherit the ownership interest in the dealer
202 under the terms of the owner's will, or who has been nominated in any
203 other written instrument, or who, in the case of an incapacitated owner
204 of a dealer, has been appointed by a court as the legal representative of
205 the dealer's property.

206 (13) "Person" means a natural person, partnership, corporation,
207 limited liability company, association, trust, estate or any other legal

208 entity.

209 (14) "Relevant market area" means the area within a radius of
210 fourteen miles around an existing dealer or the area of responsibility
211 defined in a franchise, whichever is greater.

212 (15) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	14-52b
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	14-51(a)(1) and (2)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	14-67a
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	42-133r

Statement of Purpose:

To permit electric vehicle manufacturers to sell electric vehicles directly to the consumer.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]