

ACT 319

H.B. NO. 2499

A Bill for an Act Relating to Sales.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 437-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) The board may, after notice and hearing as provided in chapter 91, and subject to appeal to the circuit court of the circuit in which the board has jurisdiction under the procedure and rules prescribed from time to time by the laws of the State or the applicable rules of the courts pertaining to appeals to circuit

courts, suspend, revoke, fine, or deny the renewal of any license, or prior to notice and hearing deny the issuance of any license if the board finds that the applicant or holder, or any officer, director, general manager, trustee, partner, or stockholder owning more than ten per cent interest of the applicant or holder:

- (1) Has intentionally made a false statement of a material fact in the application for a license or in any other statement required by this chapter or has obtained or attempted to obtain a license by fraud or misrepresentation;
- (2) Has failed to comply, observe, or adhere to any provision of this chapter or any other law relating to the sale, taxing, or licensing of motor vehicles or any rule or order made pursuant to this chapter;
- (3) Has committed a fraudulent act in selling, purchasing, or otherwise dealing in motor vehicles or has misrepresented the terms and conditions of a sale, purchase, or contract for sale or purchase of a motor vehicle or any interest therein including an option to purchase motor vehicles;
- (4) Has engaged in business under a past or present license issued pursuant to this chapter, in a manner as to cause injury to the public or to those with whom one is dealing;
- (5) Has failed to comply, observe, or adhere to any law in any other respect on account whereof the board may deem the applicant or holder to be an unfit or improper person to hold a license;
- (6) Has failed to meet or maintain the conditions and requirements necessary to qualify for the issuance of a license;
- (7) Is insolvent or has filed or is the subject of petition for bankruptcy, wage earner's plan, or financial reorganization plan; or has made or proposes to make an assignment for benefit of creditors;
- (8) In the case of an individual applicant or holder of a license, is not at least eighteen years of age; in the case of a partnership applicant or holder of a license, if any general or limited partner thereof is not at least eighteen years of age;
- (9) Has charged more than the legal rate of interest on the sale or purchase or attempted sale or purchase or in arranging the sale or purchase of a motor vehicle or any interest therein including an option to purchase;
- (10) Has violated any of the laws pertaining to false advertising or to credit sales in the offering, soliciting, selling, or purchasing, or arranging to sell or purchase a motor vehicle or any interest therein;
- (11) Has willfully failed or refused to perform any unequivocal and indisputable obligation under any written agreement involving the sale or purchase of a motor vehicle or any interest therein including an option to purchase;
- (12) Has been denied the issuance of a license under this chapter for substantial culpable cause or for having had a license issued under this chapter suspended, revoked, or the renewal thereof denied for substantial culpable cause;
- (13) Has entered or has attempted to enter or proposes to enter into any contract or agreement contrary to this chapter or any rule adopted thereunder;
- (14) Has been or is engaged or proposes to engage in the business of selling new motor vehicles as a dealer or auction without a proper franchise therefor;
- (15) Has at any time employed or utilized or attempted or proposed to employ or utilize any person not licensed under this chapter who is required to be so licensed;

- (16) Has entered or attempted to enter any one-payment contract, where the contract is required to be signed by the purchaser prior to removal of the motor vehicle for test driving from the seller's premises;
- (17) Being a salesperson or dealer:
 - (A) Has required a purchaser of motor vehicles as a condition of sale and delivery thereof to purchase special features, appliances, accessories, or equipment not desired or requested by the purchaser; provided that this prohibition shall not apply as to special features, appliances, accessories, or equipment which are ordinarily installed on the vehicle when received or acquired by the dealer;
 - (B) Has represented and sold as an unused motor vehicle any motor vehicle which has been operated as a demonstrator, leased, or U-drive motor vehicle;
 - (C) Has sold a new motor vehicle without providing or securing for the purchaser the standard factory new car warranty for the vehicle, unless the dealer or salesperson clearly notes in writing on the sales contract that the new motor vehicle is sold without the standard factory warranty; or
 - (D) Has sold a new motor vehicle covered by a standard factory warranty without informing the purchaser in writing that any repairs or other work necessary on any accessories which were not installed by the manufacturer of the vehicle may not be obtainable in a geographic location other than where the purchase occurred; provided that the notice required by this subsection shall conform to the plain language requirements of section 487A-1, regardless of the dollar amount of the transaction;
- [(D)] (E) Has engaged in any improper business conduct;
- (18) Being an applicant or holder of a dealer's license:
 - (A) Has sold or proposed to sell new motor vehicles without providing for the maintenance of a reasonable inventory of parts for new vehicles or without providing and maintaining adequate repair facilities and personnel for new vehicles at either the main licensed premises or at any branch location;
 - (B) Has employed or proposed to employ any salesperson who is not duly licensed under this chapter; or
 - (C) Has sold or proposed to sell new motor vehicles without being franchised therefor;
- (19) Being an applicant or holder of an auction's license:
 - (A) Has employed or proposed to employ any auctioneer who is not licensed under this chapter; or
 - (B) Has sold or proposed to sell new motor vehicles without being franchised therefor;
- (20) Being an applicant for a salesperson's license:
 - (A) Does not intend to be employed as a salesperson for a licensed motor vehicle dealer;
 - (B) Does not intend to be employed as a salesperson as the principal occupation; or
 - (C) Intends to be employed as a salesperson for more than one dealer;
- (21) Being a motor vehicle auctioneer, does not intend to be employed as such by a licensed auction under this chapter; or
- (22) Being a manufacturer, factory branch, factory representative, distributor, distributor branch, or distributor representative:

- (A) Has attempted to coerce or has coerced any dealer in this State to enter into any agreement with such manufacturer, factory branch, factory representative, distributor, distributor branch, or distributor representative, or any other party, to perform any act not required by or to refrain from performing any act not contrary to the reasonable requirements of the franchise agreement with the dealer, by threatening to cancel the franchise agreement or by threatening to refuse, at the expiration of the current franchise agreement, to enter a new franchise agreement with the dealer;
- (B) Has attempted to coerce or coerced any dealer in this State to enter into any agreement with such manufacturer, factory branch, factory representative, distributor, distributor branch, or distributor representative, or any other party, to perform any act not required by or to refrain from performing any act not contrary to the reasonable requirements of the franchise agreement with the dealer, by awarding or threatening to award a franchise to another person for the sale of the same make of any motor vehicle in the same sales area of responsibility covered by the existing franchise agreement of the dealer;
- (C) Has attempted to or has canceled or failed to renew the franchise agreement of any dealer in this State without good faith, as defined herein. Upon the cancellation or failure to renew the franchise agreement, the party canceling or failing to renew the franchise agreement shall, at the dealer's option, either compensate the dealer at the fair market going business value for the dealer's capital investment, which shall include but not be limited to the going business value of the business, goodwill, property, and improvement owned or leased by the dealer for the purpose of the franchise, inventory of parts, and motor vehicles possessed by the dealer in connection with the franchise, plus reasonable attorney's fees incurred in collecting compensation; provided that the investment shall have been made with reasonable and prudent judgment for the purpose of the franchise agreement; or compensate the dealer for damages including attorney's fees as aforesaid, resulting from the cancellation or failure to renew the franchise agreement. As used herein, "good faith" means the duty of each party to any franchise agreement fully to comply with that agreement, or to act in a fair and equitable manner towards each other;
- (D) Has delayed delivery of or refused to deliver without cause, any new motor vehicle to a dealer, franchised to sell the new motor vehicle, within a reasonable time after receipt of a written order for the vehicle from the dealer. The delivery to another dealer of a motor vehicle of the same model and similarly equipped as the vehicle ordered by a dealer who has not received delivery thereof, but who had placed the written order for the vehicle prior to the order of the dealer receiving the vehicle, shall be prima facie evidence of a delayed delivery of, or refusal to deliver, a new motor vehicle without cause. The nondelivery of a new motor vehicle to a dealer within sixty days after receipt of a written order for the vehicle from a dealer shall also be prima facie evidence of delayed delivery of, or refusal to deliver, a new motor vehicle without cause; provided that the delayed delivery of, or refusal to deliver, a motor vehicle shall be deemed

with cause if the manufacturer establishes that the delay or refusal to deliver is due to a shortage or curtailment of material, labor, transportation, utility service, labor or production difficulty, or other similar cause beyond the reasonable control of the manufacturer;

- (E) Has discriminated against any of their franchised dealers in this State by directly or indirectly charging the dealer more for a new motor vehicle or services, parts, or accessories or a higher rate of transportation for transporting the vehicle from the manufacturing or assembly plant to the dealer or any portion of the distance, than is charged to any other of their franchised dealers in other states for the same make, model, and year of a new motor vehicle or for the same services, parts, or accessories or for similar transportation for the vehicle during the same period. A manufacturer, factory branch, factory representative, distributor, distributor branch, or distributor representative who provides or causes to be provided greater transportation benefits for a new motor vehicle as aforesaid to any of their franchised dealers in other states than is provided to any of their franchised dealers in this State for the same or lesser price or charge than that imposed upon the franchised dealer in this State during the same period is deemed to have so discriminated against the franchised dealer in this State. Evidence of similar discriminatory practice against franchised dealers in other states shall not constitute a defense to or justification of the commission of the discriminatory act against the franchised dealer in this State. The intent and purpose of this subparagraph is to eliminate inequitable pricing policies set by manufacturers, factory branches, factory representatives, distributors, distributor branches, or distributor representatives which result in higher prices of new motor vehicles to the consumer in this State. This subparagraph shall be liberally interpreted to effect its intent and purpose and in the application thereof, the substance and effect and not the form of the acts and transactions shall be primarily considered in determining whether a discriminatory act has been committed. Nothing contained in this subparagraph shall prohibit establishing delivered prices or destination charges to dealers in this State which reasonably reflect the seller's total transportation costs incurred in the manufacture or delivery of products to the dealers, including costs which are related to the geographical distances and modes of transportation involved in shipments to this State, or which meet those lower prices established by competitors;
- (F) Has required a dealer of new motor vehicles in this State as a condition of sale and delivery of new motor vehicles to purchase special features, appliances, accessories, or equipment not desired or requested by the dealer; provided that this prohibition shall not apply to special features, appliances, accessories, or equipment, except heaters, which are regularly installed on that particular model of new motor vehicles as "standard" equipment or to special features, appliances, accessories, or equipment which are an integral part of the new motor vehicles and cannot be removed therefrom without substantial expense; or

ACT 319

- (G) 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. In no event shall any manufacturer, factory branch, factory representative, distributor, distributor branch, or distributor representative pay its dealers a labor rate per hour for warranty work that is less than that charged by the dealer to the retail customers of the dealer nor shall the rates be more than the retail rates. All claims made by dealers for compensation for delivery, preparation, and warranty work shall be paid within thirty days after approval and shall be approved or disapproved within thirty days after receipt. When any claim is disapproved, the dealer shall be notified in writing of the grounds for disapproval."

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 13, 1988.)