GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2005

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HOUSE BILL 1527 Committee Substitute Favorable 5/26/05

Short Title: Clarify MV Dealer Franchise Laws

(Public)

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Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 21, 2005

1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER FRANCHISE LAWS.
2	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
4	SECTION 1. G.S. 20-297.1 reads as rewritten:
4 5	"§ 20-297.1. Prefiling of franchise agreements and amendments. Franchise-related
6	form agreements.
7	Any franchise, as defined in G.S. 20 286(8a), offered to a motor vehicle dealer in
8	this State shall provide that all terms and conditions in the agreement inconsistent with
9	any of the laws or rules of this State are of no force and effect. On or before January 1,
10	1998, every manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch licensed by
10	the Commissioner under this Article which uses an identical or substantially similar
12	form franchise for its dealers or distributors in this State shall file with the
12	Commissioner a copy of the franchise and all supplements. Any applicant for licensing
13	by the Commissioner as a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor
15	branch licensed under this Article, which would use an identical or substantially similar
16	form franchise, as defined in G.S. 20-286(8a), for its dealers or distributors in this State,
17	shall, as a condition for the issuance of a license, file with the Commissioner a copy of
18	the franchise and all supplements thereto. Not later than 60 days prior to the date a
19	revision, modification, or addition to a franchise is offered generally to a licensee's
20	franchisees in this State, the licensee shall notify the Commissioner of the proposed
21	revision, modification, or addition to the franchise on file with the Commissioner and
22	include with the notification:
23	(1) A copy of the form franchise which incorporates all of the proposed
24	revisions, modifications, and additions;
25	(2) A separate statement which identifies all substantive revisions, modifications,
26	and additions proposed.
27	It shall be unlawful for a franchise or any addendum or supplement thereto to be
28	offered to a motor vehicle dealer in this State after January 1, 1998, until an applicant or
29	licensee has complied with all of the requirements of this section. The Commissioner is

1	authorized and directed to investigate and prevent violations of this section, including
2	inconsistencies of any manufacturer's franchise with the provisions of this Article.
3	(a) All franchise-related form agreements, as defined in this subsection, offered
4	to a motor vehicle dealer in this State shall provide that all terms and conditions in the
5	agreement inconsistent with any of the laws or rules of this State are of no force and
6	effect. For purposes of this section, the term "franchise-related form agreements" means
7	one or more contracts between a franchised motor vehicle dealer and a manufacturer,
8	factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch, including a written communication
9	from a manufacturer or distributor in which a duty is imposed on the franchised motor
10	vehicle dealer under which:
11	(1) The franchised motor vehicle dealer is granted the right to sell and
12	service new motor vehicles manufactured or distributed by the
13	manufacturer or distributor or only to service motor vehicles under the
14	contract and a manufacturer's warranty;
15	(2) The franchised motor vehicle dealer is a component of the
16	manufacturer or distributor's distribution system as an independent
17	business;
18	(3) The franchised motor vehicle dealer is substantially associated with the
19	manufacturer or distributor's trademark, trade name, and commercial
20	<u>symbol;</u>
21	(4) The franchised motor vehicle dealer's business substantially relies on
22	the manufacturer or distributor for a continued supply of motor
23	vehicles, parts, and accessories; or
24	(5) Any right, duty, or obligation granted or imposed by this Chapter is
25	affected.
26	(b) Notwithstanding the terms of any franchise or agreement, it shall be unlawful
27	for any manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch to offer to a
28	dealer, revise, modify, or replace a franchise-related form agreement, as defined above
29	in this section, which agreement, modification, or replacement may adversely affect or
30	alter the rights, obligations, or liability of a motor vehicle dealer or may adversely
31	impair the sales, service obligations, investment, or profitability of any motor vehicle
32	dealer located in this State, unless:
33	(1) The manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch
34	provides prior written notice by registered or certified mail to each
35	affected dealer, the Commissioner, and the North Carolina Automobile
36	Dealers Association, Inc., of the modification or replacement in the
37	form and within the time frame set forth within this section and in
38	subsection (c) of this section; and
39	(2) If a protest is filed under this section, the Commissioner approves the
40	modification or replacement.
41	(c) The notice required by subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall:
42	(1) Be given not later than the 60th day before the effective date of the
43	modification or replacement;

1	(2) Contain an its first near a constitution statement that made NOTICE
1	(2) <u>Contain on its first page a conspicuous statement that reads: 'NOTICE</u>
2	TO DEALER: YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO FILE A PROTEST
3	WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA
4	DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND HAVE A HEARING IN
5	WHICH YOU MAY PROTEST THE PROPOSED INITIAL
6	OFFERING, MODIFICATION, OR REPLACEMENT OF CERTAIN
7	FRANCHISE-RELATED FORM AGREEMENTS UNDER THE
8	TERMS OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS AND
9	MANUFACTURERS LICENSING LAW, IF YOU OPPOSE THIS
10	ACTION'; and
11	(3) Contain a separate letter or statement that identifies all substantive
12	modifications or revisions and the principal reasons for each such
13	modification or revision.
14	(d) <u>A franchised dealer may file a protest with the Commissioner of the offering</u> ,
15	modification, or replacement pursuant to this section not later than the latter of:
16	(1) The 60th day after the date of the receipt of the notice; or
17	(2) The time specified in the notice.
18	(e) After a protest is filed, the Commissioner shall determine whether the
19	manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch has established by a
20	preponderance of the evidence that there is good cause for the proposed offering,
21	modification, or replacement. The prior franchise-related form agreement, if any,
22	continues in effect until the Commissioner resolves the protest.
23	(f) The Commissioner is authorized and directed to investigate and prevent
24	violations of this section, including inconsistencies of any franchise-related form
25	agreement with the provisions of this Article.
26	(g) Nothing contained in this section shall in any way limit a dealer's rights under
27	any other provision of this Article or other applicable law."
28	SECTION 2. G.S. 20-305(5) reads as rewritten:
29	"§ 20-305. Coercing dealer to accept commodities not ordered; threatening to
30	cancel franchise; preventing transfer of ownership; granting additional
31	franchises; terminating franchises without good cause; preventing family
32	succession.
33	It shall be unlawful for any manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor
34	branch, or any field representative, officer, agent, or any representative whatsoever of
35	any of them:
36	
37	(5) To enter into a franchise establishing an additional new motor vehicle
38	dealer or relocating an existing new motor vehicle dealer into a
39	relevant market area where the same line make is then represented
40	without first notifying in writing the Commissioner and each new
41	motor vehicle dealer in that line make in the relevant market area of
42	the intention to establish an additional dealer or to relocate an existing
43	dealer within or into that market area. Within 30 days of receiving
44	such notice or within 30 days after the end of any appeal procedure

1	provided by the	he manufacturer, any new motor vehicle dealer may file
2	with the Com	missioner a protest to the establishing or relocating of the
3	new motor ve	chicle dealer. When a protest is filed, the Commissioner
4	shall promptly	y inform the manufacturer that a timely protest has been
5		at the manufacturer shall not establish or relocate the
6	proposed new	motor vehicle dealer until the Commissioner has held a
7		as determined that there is good cause for permitting the
8	÷	ocation of such new motor vehicle dealer.
9		ction does not apply:
10		To the relocation of an existing new motor vehicle dealer
11		within that dealer's relevant market area, provided that
12		the relocation not be at a site within 10 miles of a
13]	licensed new motor vehicle dealer for the same line
14		make of motor vehicle. If this sub-subdivision is
15	:	applicable, only dealers trading in the same line-make of
16		vehicle that are located within the 10-mile radius shall be
17	(entitled to notice from the manufacturer and have the
18	1	protest rights afforded under this section; or
19	-	If the proposed additional new motor vehicle dealer is to
20		be established at or within two miles of a location at
21		which a former licensed new motor vehicle dealer for the
22	:	same line make of new motor vehicle had ceased
23		operating within the previous two years;
24		To the relocation of an existing new motor vehicle dealer
25		within two miles of the existing site of the new motor
26		vehicle dealership if the franchise has been operating on
27		a regular basis from the existing site for a minimum of
28	1	three years immediately preceding the relocation;
29	4. '	To the relocation of an existing new motor vehicle dealer
30	j	if the proposed site of the relocated new motor vehicle
31		dealership is further away from all other new motor
32	,	vehicle dealers of the same line make in that relevant
33]	market area.<u>area; or</u>
34	<u>5.</u>	To the relocation of an existing new motor vehicle dealer
35	1	to a location within four and one-half miles of the
36	(existing site of the new motor vehicle dealership if the
37]	line make has been operating on a regular basis from the
38	(existing site for a minimum of 50 years immediately
39]	preceding the effective date of this sub-subdivision,
40		provided that the relocation site not be located within
41	1	four miles of another licensed new motor vehicle dealer
42	1	for the same line make of motor vehicle."
43	SECTION 3. G.S. 2	20-305(30) reads as rewritten:

1 2 3 4	"§ 20-305. Coercing dealer to accept commodities not ordered; threatening to cancel franchise; preventing transfer of ownership; granting additional franchises; terminating franchises without good cause; preventing family succession.
5	It shall be unlawful for any manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor
6	branch, or any field representative, officer, agent, or any representative whatsoever of
7	any of them:
8	
9	(30) To vary the price charged to any of its franchised new motor vehicle
10	dealers located in this State for new motor vehicles based on the
11	dealer's purchase of new facilities, supplies, tools, equipment, or other
12	merchandise from the manufacturer, the dealer's relocation,
13	remodeling, repair, or renovation of existing dealerships or
14	construction of a new facility, the dealer's participation in training
15	programs sponsored, endorsed, or recommended by the manufacturer,
16	whether or not the dealer is dualed with one or more other line makes
17	of new motor vehicles, or the dealer's sales penetration. Except as
18	provided in this subdivision, it shall be unlawful for any manufacturer,
19	factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch, or any field
20	representative, officer, agent, or any representative whatsoever of any
21	of them to vary the price charged to any of its franchised new motor
22	vehicle dealers located in this State for new motor vehicles based on
23	the dealer's sales volume, the dealer's level of sales or customer service
24	satisfaction, the dealer's purchase of advertising materials, signage,
25	nondiagnostic computer hardware or software, communications
26	devices, or furnishings, or the dealer's participation in used motor
27	vehicle inspection or certification programs sponsored or endorsed by
28	the manufacturer.
29	The price of the vehicle, for purposes of this subdivision shall
30	include the manufacturer's use of rebates, credits, or other
31	consideration which that has the effect of causing a variance in the
32	price of new motor vehicles offered to its franchised dealers located in
33	the State.
34 25	Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this subdivision shall be
35	deemed to preclude a manufacturer from establishing sales contests or
36 27	promotions which that provide or award dealers or consumers rebates
37 29	or incentives; provided, however, that the manufacturer complies with
38 39	all of the following conditions: a. With respect to manufacturer to consumer rebates and
39 40	a. With respect to manufacturer to consumer rebates and incentives, the manufacturer's criteria for determining eligibility
40 41	shall:
42	1. Permit all of the manufacturer's franchised new motor
43	vehicle dealers in this State to offer the rebate or
44	incentive; and

1	2. Be uniformly applied and administered to all eligible
2	consumers.
3	b. With respect to manufacturer to dealer rebates and incentives,
4	the rebate or incentive program shall:
5	1. Be based solely on the dealer's actual or reasonably
6	anticipated sales volume or on a uniform per vehicle sold
7	or leased basis;
8	2. Be uniformly available, applied, and administered to all
9	of the manufacturer's franchised new motor vehicle
10	dealers in this State; and
11	3. Provide that any of the manufacturer's franchised new
12	motor vehicle dealers in this State may, upon written
13	request, obtain the method or formula used by the
14	manufacturer in establishing the sales volumes for
15	receiving the rebates or incentives and the specific
16	calculations for determining the required sales volumes
17	of the inquiring dealer and any of the manufacturer's
18	other franchised new motor vehicle dealers located
19	within 75 miles of the inquiring dealer.
20	Nothing contained in this subdivision shall prohibit a manufacturer
21	from providing assistance or encouragement to a franchised dealer to
22	remodel, renovate, recondition, or relocate the dealer's existing
23	facilities, provided that this assistance, encouragement, or rewards are
24	not determined on a per vehicle basis.
25	It is unlawful for any manufacturer to charge or include the cost of
26	any program or policy prohibited under this subdivision in the price of
27	new motor vehicles that the manufacturer sells to its franchised dealers
28	or purchasers located in this State.
29	In the event that as of October 1, 1999, a manufacturer was
30	operating a program that varied the price charged to its franchised
31	dealers in this State in a manner that would violate this subdivision, or
32	had in effect a documented policy that had been conveyed to its
33	franchised dealers in this State and that varied the price charged to its
34	franchised dealers in this State in a manner that would violate this
35	subdivision, it shall be lawful for that program or policy, including
36	amendments to that program or policy that are consistent with the
37	purpose and provisions of the existing program or policy, or a program
38	or policy similar thereto implemented after October 1, 1999, to
39	continue in effect as to the manufacturer's franchised dealers located in
40	this State until June 30, 2006. 2010.
41	In the event that as of June 30, 2001, a manufacturer was operating
42	a program that varied the price charged to its franchised dealers in this
43	State in a manner that would violate this subdivision, or had in effect a
44	documented policy that had been conveyed to its franchised dealers in

1	this State and that varied the price charged to its franchised dealers in
2	this State in a manner that would violate this subdivision, and the
3	program or policy was implemented in this State subsequent to
4	October 1, 1999, and prior to June 30, 2001, and provided that the
5	program or policy is in compliance with this subdivision as it existed
6	as of June 30, 2001, it shall be lawful for that program or policy,
7	including amendments to that program or policy that comply with this
8	subdivision as it existed as of June 30, 2001, to continue in effect as to
9	the manufacturer's franchised dealers located in this State until June
10	30, 2006. <u>2010.</u>
11	Any manufacturer shall be required to pay or otherwise compensate
12	any franchise dealer who has earned the right to receive payment or
13	other compensation under a program in accordance with the
14	manufacturer's program or policy.
15	The provisions of this subdivision shall not be applicable to
16	multiple or repeated sales of new motor vehicles made by a new motor
17	vehicle dealer to a single purchaser under a bona fide fleet sales policy
18	of a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch."
19	SECTION 4. Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a
20	new section to read:
21	" <u>§ 20-304.1.</u> Prohibited contractual requirements imposed by manufacturer,
22	<u>distributor, or captive finance source.</u>
23	It shall be unlawful for any manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor
24	branch, or any field representative, officer, agent, or any representative of them,
25	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to
25 26	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms,
25 26 27	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in
25 26 27 28	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or
25 26 27 28 29	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or leased by any of the dealer's customers,
25 26 27 28 29 30	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or leased by any of the dealer's customers, finance the acquisition, construction, or renovation of any of the dealer's property or
25 26 27 28 29 30 31	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or leased by any of the dealer's customers, finance the acquisition, construction, or renovation of any of the dealer's property or facilities, or to be able to participate in, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, obtain the
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or leased by any of the dealer's customers, finance the acquisition, construction, or renovation of any of the dealer's property or facilities, or to be able to participate in, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, obtain the benefits of any incentive program offered by or through any financial source that
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or leased by any of the dealer's customers, finance the acquisition, construction, or renovation of any of the dealer's property or facilities, or to be able to participate in, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, obtain the benefits of any incentive program offered by or through any financial source that provides automotive-related loans or purchases retail installment contracts or lease
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or leased by any of the dealer's customers, finance the acquisition, construction, or renovation of any of the dealer's property or facilities, or to be able to participate in, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, obtain the benefits of any incentive program offered by or through any financial source that provides automotive-related loans or purchases retail installment contracts or lease contracts for motor vehicles in North Carolina and is, directly or indirectly, owned,
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or leased by any of the dealer's customers, finance the acquisition, construction, or renovation of any of the dealer's property or facilities, or to be able to participate in, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, obtain the benefits of any incentive program offered by or through any financial source that provides automotive-related loans or purchases retail installment contracts or lease contracts for motor vehicles in North Carolina and is, directly or indirectly, owned, operated, or controlled by such manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or leased by any of the dealer's customers, finance the acquisition, construction, or renovation of any of the dealer's property or facilities, or to be able to participate in, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, obtain the benefits of any incentive program offered by or through any financial source that provides automotive-related loans or purchases retail installment contracts or lease contracts for motor vehicles in North Carolina and is, directly or indirectly, owned, operated, or controlled by such manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch ("captive finance source").
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or leased by any of the dealer's customers, finance the acquisition, construction, or renovation of any of the dealer's property or facilities, or to be able to participate in, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, obtain the benefits of any incentive program offered by or through any financial source that provides automotive-related loans or purchases retail installment contracts or lease contracts for motor vehicles in North Carolina and is, directly or indirectly, owned, operated, or controlled by such manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch ("captive finance source"). (1) Require a dealer to grant such captive finance source a power of
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or leased by any of the dealer's customers, finance the acquisition, construction, or renovation of any of the dealer's property or facilities, or to be able to participate in, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, obtain the benefits of any incentive program offered by or through any financial source that provides automotive-related loans or purchases retail installment contracts or lease contracts for motor vehicles in North Carolina and is, directly or indirectly, owned, operated, or controlled by such manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch ("captive finance source"). (1) Require a dealer to grant such captive finance source a power of attorney to do anything on behalf of the dealer other than sign the
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or leased by any of the dealer's customers, finance the acquisition, construction, or renovation of any of the dealer's property or facilities, or to be able to participate in, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, obtain the benefits of any incentive program offered by or through any financial source that provides automotive-related loans or purchases retail installment contracts or lease contracts for motor vehicles in North Carolina and is, directly or indirectly, owned, operated, or controlled by such manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch ("captive finance source"). (1) Require a dealer to grant such captive finance source a power of attorney to do anything on behalf of the dealer other than sign the dealer's name on any check, draft, or other instrument received in
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or leased by any of the dealer's customers, finance the acquisition, construction, or renovation of any of the dealer's property or facilities, or to be able to participate in, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, obtain the benefits of any incentive program offered by or through any financial source that provides automotive-related loans or purchases retail installment contracts or lease contracts for motor vehicles in North Carolina and is, directly or indirectly, owned, operated, or controlled by such manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch ("captive finance source"). (1) Require a dealer to grant such captive finance source a power of attorney to do anything on behalf of the dealer other than sign the dealer's name on any check, draft, or other instrument received in payment or proceeds under any contract for the sale or lease of a motor
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or leased by any of the dealer's customers, finance the acquisition, construction, or renovation of any of the dealer's property or facilities, or to be able to participate in, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, obtain the benefits of any incentive program offered by or through any financial source that provides automotive-related loans or purchases retail installment contracts or lease contracts for motor vehicles in North Carolina and is, directly or indirectly, owned, operated, or controlled by such manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch ("captive finance source"). (1) Require a dealer to grant such captive finance source a power of attorney to do anything on behalf of the dealer other than sign the dealer's name on any check, draft, or other instrument received in payment or proceeds under any contract for the sale or lease of a motor vehicle that is made payable to the dealer but which is properly
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or leased by any of the dealer's customers, finance the acquisition, construction, or renovation of any of the dealer's property or facilities, or to be able to participate in, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, obtain the benefits of any incentive program offered by or through any financial source that provides automotive-related loans or purchases retail installment contracts or lease contracts for motor vehicles in North Carolina and is, directly or indirectly, owned, operated, or controlled by such manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch ("captive finance source"). (1) Require a dealer to grant such captive finance source a power of attorney to do anything on behalf of the dealer other than sign the dealer's name on any check, draft, or other instrument received in payment or proceeds under any contract for the sale or lease of a motor vehicle that is made payable to the dealer but which is properly payable to the captive finance source, is for the purpose of correcting
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41	notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, to require any of its franchised dealers located in this State to agree to any terms, conditions, or requirements that are set forth in subdivisions (1) through (6) below in order for any such dealer to floor plan any of the dealer's inventory, finance the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or leased by any of the dealer's customers, finance the acquisition, construction, or renovation of any of the dealer's property or facilities, or to be able to participate in, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, obtain the benefits of any incentive program offered by or through any financial source that provides automotive-related loans or purchases retail installment contracts or lease contracts for motor vehicles in North Carolina and is, directly or indirectly, owned, operated, or controlled by such manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch ("captive finance source"). (1) Require a dealer to grant such captive finance source a power of attorney to do anything on behalf of the dealer other than sign the dealer's name on any check, draft, or other instrument received in payment or proceeds under any contract for the sale or lease of a motor vehicle that is made payable to the dealer but which is properly

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1		or by signing the dealer's name on the promissory note or other
2		instrument evidences the dealer's obligation to repay the captive
3		finance source for amounts advanced to the dealer, or on behalf of the
4		dealer, in order for the dealer to purchase an inventory of motor
5		vehicles or other items pursuant to a written agreement between the
6		dealer and the captive finance source.
7	<u>(2)</u>	Require a dealer to repurchase, pay off, or guaranty any contract for
8		the sale or lease of a motor vehicle or to require a dealer to indemnify
9		or hold harmless the captive finance source for settlements, judgments,
10		damages, litigation expenses, or other costs or expenses incurred by
11		such captive finance source when it has not been proven or specifically
12		alleged by the customer that such damages or expenses resulted
13		directly from the subject dealer's material breach of the terms of a
14		written agreement with the captive finance source or the subject
15		dealer's violation of applicable law. For purposes of this section, a
16		material breach includes, but is not limited to, a breach of a
17		representation by the dealer that all of the customers' signatures are
18		genuine signatures of the persons they purport to be and there has been
19		no identity fraud with respect to the contract, or that the contract being
20		assigned is a valid, enforceable contract. However, a breach of a
21		representation that requires a dealer to represent the completeness
22		and/or accuracy of the information received from the customer to a
23		standard higher than to the best of the dealer's knowledge is not a
24		material breach.
25	<u>(3)</u>	Require a dealer to waive any defenses that may be available to it
26		under its agreements with the captive finance source or under any
27		applicable laws; provided, however, that the provisions of this
28		subdivision shall not be applicable to waivers of, or indemnification
29		by, the dealer for environmental risks or factors in the context of one
30		or more loans received by the dealer from the captive finance source
31		which are secured by real property.
32	(4)	Require a dealer to settle or contribute any of its own funds or
33	<u> </u>	financial resources toward the settlement of any multiparty or class
34		action litigation without obtaining the dealer's voluntary and written
35		consent subsequent to the filing of such litigation.
36	<u>(5)</u>	Require a dealer to contribute to any reserve or contingency account
37	<u>(0)</u>	established or maintained by the captive finance source, for the
38		financing of the sale or lease of any motor vehicles purchased or
39		leased by any of the dealer's customers, in any amount or on any basis
40		other than the reasonable expected amount of future finance reserve
41		chargebacks to the dealer's account. This section shall not apply to or
42		limit (i) reasonable amounts reserved and maintained related to the
43		sale or financing of any products ancillary to the sale, lease, or
43 44		financing of the motor vehicle itself; (ii) a delay or reduction in the
44		maneing of the motor venicle user, (ii) a delay of reduction in the

1		payment of dealer's portion of the finance income pursuant to an
2		agreement between the dealer and a captive finance source under
3		which the dealer agrees to such delay or reduction in exchange for the
4		limitation, reduction, or elimination of the dealer's responsibility for
5		finance reserve chargebacks; or (iii) a chargeback to a dealer (or offset
6		of any amounts otherwise payable to a dealer by the captive finance
7		source) for any indebtedness, that has been agreed upon by both
8		parties specific to the charge in dispute, properly owing from a dealer
9		to the captive finance source.
10	<u>(6)</u>	Require a dealer to repossess or otherwise gain possession of a motor
11		vehicle at the request of or on behalf of the captive finance source.
12		This section shall not apply to any requirements contained in any
13		agreement between the dealer and the captive finance source wherein
14		the dealer agrees to receive and process vehicles that are voluntarily
15		returned by the customer or returned to the lessor at the end of the
16		lease term.
17	•	or provision in any franchise or agreement between a dealer and a
18		actory branch, distributor, or distributor branch, or between a dealer and
19		ance source, that is in violation of or that is inconsistent with any of the
20	-	is section shall be voidable at any time at the election of the dealer."
21		TION 5. Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a
22	new section to r	read.
23	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u>	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and
23 24	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u>	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information.
23 24 25	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> <u>(a)</u> <u>It sha</u>	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information. Ill be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a
23 24 25 26	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> <u>(a)</u> <u>It sha</u> <u>contract or ag</u>	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information. All be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the
23 24 25 26 27	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) <u>It sha</u> <u>contract or ag</u> <u>effective date o</u>	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information. All be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related
23 24 25 26 27 28	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) <u>It sha</u> contract or age effective date of equipment or co	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information. If the unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related computer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) <u>It sha</u> contract or age effective date of equipment or con unreasonable to	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information. All be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related computer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are to the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) <u>It sha</u> contract or age effective date of equipment or con- unreasonable to jurisdiction. For	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information. All be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related computer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are to the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent or purposes of this section, the term "computer-related equipment" is
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) It sha contract or age effective date of equipment or con- unreasonable to jurisdiction. For defined as com	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information. All be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related computer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are to the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent or purposes of this section, the term "computer-related equipment" is puters, servers, network and digital communications equipment, routers,
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) <u>It sha</u> contract or age effective date of equipment or con- unreasonable to jurisdiction. For defined as com- switches, term	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information. All be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related computer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are to the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent or purposes of this section, the term "computer-related equipment" is puters, servers, network and digital communications equipment, routers, inal servers, printers, software, or other computer-related programs,
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) It sha contract or age effective date of equipment or con- unreasonable to jurisdiction. For defined as com- switches, term equipment, for	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information. All be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related computer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are to the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent or purposes of this section, the term "computer-related equipment" is puters, servers, network and digital communications equipment, routers, inal servers, printers, software, or other computer-related programs, ms, or supplies excluding Internet Web sites provided by or on behalf of
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) <u>It sha</u> contract or age effective date of equipment or con- unreasonable to jurisdiction. For defined as com- switches, termine equipment, forming the manufacture	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information. All be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related computer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are to the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent or purposes of this section, the term "computer-related equipment" is puters, servers, network and digital communications equipment, routers, inal servers, printers, software, or other computer-related programs, ns, or supplies excluding Internet Web sites provided by or on behalf of er, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch. For purposes of this
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) <u>It sha</u> contract or age effective date of equipment or co- unreasonable to jurisdiction. Fo- defined as com switches, term equipment, form the manufacture section, the term	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information. If the unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related omputer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are to the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent or purposes of this section, the term "computer-related equipment" is puters, servers, network and digital communications equipment, routers, inal servers, printers, software, or other computer-related programs, ns, or supplies excluding Internet Web sites provided by or on behalf of er, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch. For purposes of this rm "computer-related services" is defined as repair, maintenance, or
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) <u>It sha</u> contract or age effective date of equipment or con- unreasonable to jurisdiction. For defined as com- switches, term equipment, form the manufacture section, the ter- update services	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and es to dealership information. Ill be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related omputer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent or purposes of this section, the term "computer-related equipment" is puters, servers, network and digital communications equipment, routers, inal servers, printers, software, or other computer-related programs, ms, or supplies excluding Internet Web sites provided by or on behalf of er, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch. For purposes of this rm "computer-related services" is defined as repair, maintenance, or performed on computer-related equipment. Such unreasonable terms or
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) <u>It sha</u> contract or age effective date of equipment or co- unreasonable to jurisdiction. Fo- defined as com switches, term equipment, form the manufacture section, the ter- update services conditions inclu	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information. It be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related omputer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are to the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent or purposes of this section, the term "computer-related equipment" is puters, servers, network and digital communications equipment, routers, inal servers, printers, software, or other computer-related programs, ns, or supplies excluding Internet Web sites provided by or on behalf of er, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch. For purposes of this rm "computer-related services" is defined as repair, maintenance, or performed on computer-related equipment. Such unreasonable terms or ide, but are not limited to, the following:
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) <u>It sha</u> contract or age effective date of equipment or con- unreasonable to jurisdiction. For defined as com- switches, term equipment, form the manufacture section, the ter- update services	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information. All be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related computer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are to the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent or purposes of this section, the term "computer-related equipment" is puters, servers, network and digital communications equipment, routers, inal servers, printers, software, or other computer-related programs, ns, or supplies excluding Internet Web sites provided by or on behalf of er, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch. For purposes of this rm "computer-related services" is defined as repair, maintenance, or performed on computer-related equipment. Such unreasonable terms or ide, but are not limited to, the following: Terms or conditions that establish an initial term for the contract or
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) <u>It sha</u> contract or age effective date of equipment or co- unreasonable to jurisdiction. Fo- defined as com switches, term equipment, form the manufacture section, the ter- update services conditions inclu	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and is to dealership information. All be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related computer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are to the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent or purposes of this section, the term "computer-related equipment" is puters, servers, network and digital communications equipment, routers, inal servers, printers, software, or other computer-related programs, ns, or supplies excluding Internet Web sites provided by or on behalf of er, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch. For purposes of this rm "computer-related services" is defined as repair, maintenance, or performed on computer-related equipment. Such unreasonable terms or ide, but are not limited to, the following: Terms or conditions that establish an initial term for the contract or agreement in excess of five years or which require the dealer to pay an
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) <u>It sha</u> contract or age effective date of equipment or co- unreasonable to jurisdiction. Fo- defined as com switches, term equipment, form the manufacture section, the ter- update services conditions inclu	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information. Ill be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related omputer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are to the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent or purposes of this section, the term "computer-related equipment" is puters, servers, network and digital communications equipment, routers, inal servers, printers, software, or other computer-related programs, ns, or supplies excluding Internet Web sites provided by or on behalf of er, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch. For purposes of this rm "computer-related services" is defined as repair, maintenance, or performed on computer-related equipment. Such unreasonable terms or ide, but are not limited to, the following: Terms or conditions that establish an initial term for the contract or agreement in excess of five years or which require the dealer to pay an unreasonable amount of consideration in order to terminate the
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) It sha contract or age effective date of equipment or con- unreasonable to jurisdiction. For defined as com- switches, term equipment, for the manufacture section, the ter- update services conditions inclu	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and as to dealership information. Ill be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related computer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are to the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent or purposes of this section, the term "computer-related equipment" is puters, servers, network and digital communications equipment, routers, inal servers, printers, software, or other computer-related programs, ns, or supplies excluding Internet Web sites provided by or on behalf of er, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch. For purposes of this rm "computer-related services" is defined as repair, maintenance, or performed on computer-related equipment. Such unreasonable terms or ide, but are not limited to, the following: Terms or conditions that establish an initial term for the contract or agreement in excess of five years or which require the dealer to pay an unreasonable amount of consideration in order to terminate the agreement within the initial term of the agreement.
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) <u>It sha</u> contract or age effective date of equipment or co- unreasonable to jurisdiction. Fo- defined as com switches, term equipment, form the manufacture section, the ter- update services conditions inclu	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and ss to dealership information. Ill be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related omputer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are to the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent or purposes of this section, the term "computer-related equipment" is puters, servers, network and digital communications equipment, routers, inal servers, printers, software, or other computer-related programs, ns, or supplies excluding Internet Web sites provided by or on behalf of er, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch. For purposes of this rm "computer-related services" is defined as repair, maintenance, or performed on computer-related equipment. Such unreasonable terms or ide, but are not limited to, the following: Terms or conditions that establish an initial term for the contract or agreement in excess of five years or which require the dealer to pay an unreasonable amount of consideration in order to terminate the agreement within the initial term of the agreement. Terms or conditions that extend the term of the contract or agreement
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) It sha contract or age effective date of equipment or con- unreasonable to jurisdiction. For defined as com- switches, term equipment, for the manufacture section, the ter- update services conditions inclu	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and ss to dealership information. Ill be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related omputer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are to the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent or purposes of this section, the term "computer-related equipment" is puters, servers, network and digital communications equipment, routers, inal servers, printers, software, or other computer-related programs, ns, or supplies excluding Internet Web sites provided by or on behalf of er, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch. For purposes of this rm "computer-related services" is defined as repair, maintenance, or performed on computer-related equipment. Such unreasonable terms or ide, but are not limited to, the following: Terms or conditions that establish an initial term for the contract or agreement in excess of five years or which require the dealer to pay an unreasonable amount of consideration in order to terminate the agreement within the initial term of the agreement. Terms or conditions that extend the term of the contract or agreement in excess of three years beyond the initial term of the agreement, or
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42	" <u>§ 20-305.7.</u> <u>acces</u> (a) It sha contract or age effective date of equipment or con- unreasonable to jurisdiction. For defined as com- switches, term equipment, for the manufacture section, the ter- update services conditions inclu	Unlawful equipment leases, contracts for computer services, and ss to dealership information. Ill be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to enter into a reement with a motor vehicle dealer located in this State, after the f this section, that provides for or relates to the lease of computer-related omputer-related services which contains any terms or conditions that are to the dealer as determined by the Commissioner or a court of competent or purposes of this section, the term "computer-related equipment" is puters, servers, network and digital communications equipment, routers, inal servers, printers, software, or other computer-related programs, ns, or supplies excluding Internet Web sites provided by or on behalf of er, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch. For purposes of this rm "computer-related services" is defined as repair, maintenance, or performed on computer-related equipment. Such unreasonable terms or ide, but are not limited to, the following: Terms or conditions that establish an initial term for the contract or agreement in excess of five years or which require the dealer to pay an unreasonable amount of consideration in order to terminate the agreement within the initial term of the agreement. Terms or conditions that extend the term of the contract or agreement

1		in order to terminate the agreement within three years beyond the
2		initial term of the agreement; provided, however, that nothing
3		contained in this subdivision shall be deemed to prohibit the term of
4		any such contract or agreement from continuing on a month-to-month
4 5		
		basis subsequent to expiration of its initial term or extension, as long
6		as the dealer may terminate the contract or agreement without the
7		payment of any additional consideration upon providing notice not in
8		excess of 30 days to the provider of the computer-related equipment or
9		services. Nothing contained in this subdivision shall be deemed to
10		prohibit a dealer and a provider of computer-related equipment or
11		services from entering into a new or subsequent agreement related to
12		the provision of computer-related equipment or services upon
13		expiration or termination of a prior agreement between the parties,
14		provided, however, that such new or subsequent agreement is in
15		compliance with this subdivision.
16	<u>(3)</u>	Terms or conditions that allow a manufacturer, factory branch,
17		distributor, or distributor branch, or any third party acting on their
18		behalf, to access or obtain data from, or write data to, a dealer's
19		computer system or network that does not enable the dealer to:
20		a. Maintain the security, integrity, and confidentiality of the
21		customer and dealership information collected or generated by
22		the dealer;
23		b. Reasonably and continually monitor the specific data accessed
24		from or written to the dealer's computer system or network by
25		the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor
26		branch, or any third party acting on their behalf; and
27		c. Comply with any applicable State and federal laws and any
28		rules or regulations promulgated thereunder.
29	Any clause	or provision in any contract or agreement between a dealer and any
30	•	tion, or other entity that is in violation of or that is inconsistent with any
31		s of this section shall be voidable at anytime at the election of the dealer.
32		ithstanding the terms of any franchise or agreement, it shall be unlawful
33		cturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch to access or
34		n or write data to a dealer's computer system or network, or require or
35		to utilize any computer-related services, network design, third-party
36		party vendor, or other means of accessing, exchanging, or transferring
37		the dealer or the dealer's customers that does not enable the dealer to:
38	(1)	Maintain the security, integrity, and confidentiality of the customer
39	<u>\1/</u>	and dealership information collected or generated by the dealer;
40	<u>(2)</u>	Reasonably and continually monitor the specific data accessed from or
41		written to the dealer's computer system or network by the
42		manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch; and
43	<u>(3)</u>	<u>Comply with any applicable State and federal laws and any rules or</u>
44	<u>(5)</u>	regulations promulgated thereunder.
		regulations promutgated increation.

1		unlawful for any vendor of computer-related equipment or any	
2		behalf of any vendor of computer-related equipment or services,	
3	•	branch, distributor, or distributor branch to:	
4		de access to any customer or dealership information collected,	
5		ved, or generated by the dealer without first obtaining the dealer's	
6	-	cit written consent in an agreement between the dealer and all	
7		es accessing or handling this customer or dealership information.	
8		consent must:	
9	<u>a.</u>	Be in written form, and contain the original signature of the	
10		dealer or the dealer's authorized representative and reference by	
11	h	<u>name</u> ; Provide consent for a period pet to even d 180 deve	
12 13	<u>b.</u>	<u>Provide consent for a period not to exceed 180 days;</u> Provide authorization for the specific vendor of	
13 14	<u>c.</u>	i	
14 15			
15 16		services, or third party to whom such consent is given and	
10	<u>d.</u>	describe the scope of the consent given; Contain on its first page a conspicuous statement that reads:	
17	<u>u.</u>	NOTICE TO DEALER: THIS AGREEMENT RELATES TO	
19		THE TRANSFER AND ACCESSING OF CONFIDENTIAL	
20		INFORMATION AND CONSUMER-RELATED DATA.	
20 21		PROPER SAFEGUARDS SHOULD BE IN EFFECT TO	
21		PROTECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THIS DATA.'	
22	No vendor	of computer-related equipment or services, or any third party,	
23 24		any right to obtain, utilize, copy, view, or modify information	
25		traversing computer-related equipment owned or utilized by a	
26		out first obtaining this explicit written consent; or	
27		vithstanding the terms of any contract, agreement, or consent to	
28		s or obtain data from or write data to a dealer's computer system	
29	<u>or ne</u>	twork that does not enable the dealer to:	
30	<u>a.</u>	Maintain the security, integrity, and confidentiality of the	
31		customer and dealership information collected or generated by	
32		the dealer;	
33	<u>b.</u>	Reasonably and continually monitor the specific data accessed	
34		from or written to the dealer's computer system or network by	
35		the vendor of computer-related equipment or services, or the	
36		manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch;	
37		and	
38	<u>c.</u>	Comply with any applicable State and federal laws and any	
39		rules or regulations promulgated thereunder.	
40		n shall not preclude, prohibit, or deny the right of the	
41	•	branch, distributor, or distributor branch to receive from the	
42		lership information for the purposes of complying with federal or	
43	• -	ents or implementing steps related to manufacturer recalls at such	
44	44 <u>times as necessary in order to comply with such federal and State requirements or</u>		

1	manufacturer recalls provided that receiving such information from the dealer does not
2	impair, alter, or reduce the security, integrity, and confidentiality of the customer and
3	dealership information collected or generated by the dealer."
4	SECTION 6. G.S. 20-308.2 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:
5	"(e) The provisions of this Article shall apply to all written agreements between a
6	manufacturer, wholesaler, or distributor with a motor vehicle dealer including, but not
7	limited to, the franchise offering, the franchise agreement, sales of goods, services or
8	advertising, leases or deeds of trust of real or personal property, promises to pay,
9	security interests, pledges, insurance contracts, advertising contracts, construction or
10	installation contracts, servicing contracts, and all other such agreements between a
11	motor vehicle dealer and a manufacturer, wholesaler, or distributor."
12	SECTION 7. G.S. 20-286(10) reads as rewritten:
13	"§ 20-286. Definitions.
14	The following definitions apply in this Article:
15	
16	(10) Motor vehicle. – Any motor propelled vehicle, trailer or semitrailer,
17	required to be registered under the laws of this State.
18	a. "New motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle which that has
19	never been the subject of a <u>completed, successful, or</u>
20	conditional sale that was subsequently approved sale other than
21	between new motor vehicle dealers, or between manufacturer
22	and dealer of the same franchise.
23	b. "Used motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle other than
24	described in paragraph (10)a above."
25	SECTION 8. This act is effective when it becomes law.