

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 951**

**Representatives Robb Blasdel, Barhorst**

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To amend section 4517.01 of the Revised Code to 1  
exclude semitrailers from the Motor Vehicle 2  
Sales Law. 3

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 4517.01 of the Revised Code be 4  
amended to read as follows: 5

**Sec. 4517.01.** As used in sections 4517.01 to 4517.65 of 6  
the Revised Code: 7

(A) "Persons" includes individuals, partnerships, 8  
associations, joint stock companies, corporations, sole 9  
proprietorships, limited liability companies, limited liability 10  
partnerships, business trusts, and any other legally recognized 11  
business entities or any combinations of individuals. 12

(B) "Motor vehicle" means motor vehicle as defined in 13  
section 4501.01 of the Revised Code and also includes "all- 14  
purpose vehicle" and "off-highway motorcycle" as those terms are 15  
defined in section 4519.01 of the Revised Code. "Motor vehicle" 16  
does not include a snowmobile as defined in section 4519.01 of 17  
the Revised Code or manufactured and mobile homes. "Motor 18  
vehicle" includes a "fifth wheel trailer," "park trailer," 19  
"travel trailer," and "tent-type fold-out camping trailer," ~~and~~ 20

a ~~"semitrailer"~~ but does not otherwise include trailers or 21  
semitrailers as defined in section 4501.01 of the Revised Code. 22

(C) "New motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle, the legal 23  
title to which has never been transferred by a manufacturer, 24  
remanufacturer, distributor, or dealer to an ultimate purchaser. 25

(D) "Ultimate purchaser" means, with respect to any new 26  
motor vehicle, the first person, other than a dealer purchasing 27  
in the capacity of a dealer, who in good faith purchases such 28  
new motor vehicle for purposes other than resale. 29

(E) "Business" includes any activities engaged in by any 30  
person for the object of gain, benefit, or advantage either 31  
direct or indirect, including activities conducted through the 32  
internet or another computer network. 33

(F) "Engaging in business" means commencing, conducting, 34  
or continuing in business, or liquidating a business when the 35  
liquidator thereof holds self out to be conducting such 36  
business; making a casual sale or otherwise making transfers in 37  
the ordinary course of business when the transfers are made in 38  
connection with the disposition of all or substantially all of 39  
the transferor's assets is not engaging in business. 40

(G) "Retail sale" or "selling at retail" means the act or 41  
attempted act of selling, bartering, exchanging, or otherwise 42  
disposing of a motor vehicle, including through use of the 43  
internet or another computer network, to an ultimate purchaser. 44

(H) "Retail installment contract" includes any contract in 45  
the form of a note, chattel mortgage, conditional sales 46  
contract, lease, agreement, or other instrument payable in one 47  
or more installments over a period of time and arising out of 48  
the retail sale of a motor vehicle. 49

(I) "Farm machinery" means all machines and tools used in the production, harvesting, and care of farm products. 50  
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(J) "Dealer" or "motor vehicle dealer" means any new motor vehicle dealer, any motor vehicle leasing dealer, any adaptive mobility dealer, and any used motor vehicle dealer. 52  
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(K) "New motor vehicle dealer" means any person engaged in the business of selling at retail, displaying, offering for sale, or dealing in new motor vehicles pursuant to a contract or agreement entered into with the manufacturer, remanufacturer, or distributor of the motor vehicles. 55  
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(L) "Used motor vehicle dealer" means any person engaged in the business of selling, displaying, offering for sale, or dealing in used motor vehicles, at retail or wholesale, but does not mean any new motor vehicle dealer selling, displaying, offering for sale, or dealing in used motor vehicles incidentally to engaging in the business of selling, displaying, offering for sale, or dealing in new motor vehicles, any person engaged in the business of dismantling, salvaging, or rebuilding motor vehicles by means of using used parts, or any public officer performing official duties. 60  
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(M) "Motor vehicle leasing dealer" means any person engaged in the business of regularly making available, offering to make available, or arranging for another person to use a motor vehicle pursuant to a bailment, lease, sublease, or other contractual arrangement under which a charge is made for its use at a periodic rate for a term of thirty days or more, and title to the motor vehicle is in and remains in the motor vehicle leasing dealer who originally leases it, irrespective of whether or not the motor vehicle is the subject of a later sublease, and not in the user, including any financial institution acting as a 70  
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lessor for a lease or sublease. "Motor vehicle leasing dealer" 80  
does not include a new motor vehicle dealer that is not the 81  
lessor and that only assists in arranging a lease on the 82  
lessor's behalf or a manufacturer or its affiliate leasing to 83  
its employees or to dealers. 84

(N) "Salesperson" means any person employed by a dealer to 85  
sell, display, and offer for sale, or deal in motor vehicles for 86  
a commission, compensation, or other valuable consideration, but 87  
does not mean any public officer performing official duties. 88

(O) "Casual sale" means any transfer of a motor vehicle by 89  
a person other than a new motor vehicle dealer, used motor 90  
vehicle dealer, adaptive mobility dealer, motor vehicle salvage 91  
dealer, as defined in division (A) of section 4738.01 of the 92  
Revised Code, salesperson, motor vehicle auction owner, 93  
manufacturer, or distributor acting in the capacity of a dealer, 94  
salesperson, auction owner, manufacturer, or distributor, to a 95  
person who purchases the motor vehicle for use as a consumer. 96

(P) "Motor vehicle auction owner" means any person who is 97  
engaged wholly or in part in the business of auctioning motor 98  
vehicles, but does not mean a construction equipment auctioneer 99  
or a construction equipment auction licensee. 100

(Q) "Manufacturer" means a person who manufactures, 101  
assembles, or imports motor vehicles, including motor homes, but 102  
does not mean a person who only assembles or installs a body, 103  
special equipment unit, finishing trim, or accessories on a 104  
motor vehicle chassis supplied by a manufacturer or distributor. 105

(R) "Tent-type fold-out camping trailer" means any vehicle 106  
intended to be used, when stationary, as a temporary shelter 107  
with living and sleeping facilities, and that is subject to the 108

following properties and limitations:	109
(1) A minimum of twenty-five per cent of the fold-out	110
portion of the top and sidewalls combined must be constructed of	111
canvas, vinyl, or other fabric, and form an integral part of the	112
shelter.	113
(2) When folded, the unit must not exceed:	114
(a) Fifteen feet in length, exclusive of bumper and	115
tongue;	116
(b) Sixty inches in height from the point of contact with	117
the ground;	118
(c) Eight feet in width;	119
(d) One ton gross weight at time of sale.	120
(S) "Distributor" means any person authorized by a motor	121
vehicle manufacturer to distribute new motor vehicles to	122
licensed new motor vehicle dealers, but does not mean a person	123
who only assembles or installs a body, special equipment unit,	124
finishing trim, or accessories on a motor vehicle chassis	125
supplied by a manufacturer or distributor.	126
(T) "Flea market" means a market place, other than a	127
dealer's location licensed under this chapter, where a space or	128
location is provided for a fee or compensation to a seller to	129
exhibit and offer for sale or trade, motor vehicles to the	130
general public.	131
(U) "Franchise" means any written agreement, contract, or	132
understanding between any motor vehicle manufacturer or	133
remanufacturer engaged in commerce and any new motor vehicle	134
dealer that purports to fix the legal rights and liabilities of	135
the parties to such agreement, contract, or understanding.	136

(V) "Franchisee" means a person who receives new motor vehicles from the franchisor under a franchise agreement and who offers, sells, and provides service for such new motor vehicles to the general public.

(W) "Franchisor" means a new motor vehicle manufacturer, remanufacturer, or distributor who supplies new motor vehicles under a franchise agreement to a franchisee.

(X) "Dealer organization" means a state or local trade association the membership of which is comprised predominantly of new motor vehicle dealers.

(Y) "Factory representative" means a representative employed by a manufacturer, remanufacturer, or by a factory branch primarily for the purpose of promoting the sale of its motor vehicles, parts, or accessories to dealers or for supervising or contacting its dealers or prospective dealers.

(Z) "Administrative or executive management" means those individuals who are not subject to federal wage and hour laws.

(AA) "Good faith" means honesty in the conduct or transaction concerned and the observance of reasonable commercial standards of fair dealing in the trade as is defined in section 1301.201 of the Revised Code, including, but not limited to, the duty to act in a fair and equitable manner so as to guarantee freedom from coercion, intimidation, or threats of coercion or intimidation; provided however, that recommendation, endorsement, exposition, persuasion, urging, or argument shall not be considered to constitute a lack of good faith.

(BB) "Coerce" means to compel or attempt to compel by failing to act in good faith or by threat of economic harm, breach of contract, or other adverse consequences. Coerce does

not mean to argue, urge, recommend, or persuade. 166

(CC) "Relevant market area" means any area within a radius 167  
of ten miles from the site of a potential new dealership, except 168  
that for manufactured home or recreational vehicle dealerships 169  
the radius shall be twenty-five miles. The ten-mile radius shall 170  
be measured from the dealer's established place of business that 171  
is used exclusively for the purpose of selling, displaying, 172  
offering for sale, or dealing in motor vehicles. 173

(DD) "Wholesale" or "at wholesale" means the act or 174  
attempted act of selling, bartering, exchanging, or otherwise 175  
disposing of a motor vehicle to a transferee for the purpose of 176  
resale and not for ultimate consumption by that transferee. 177

(EE) "Motor vehicle wholesaler" means any person licensed 178  
as a dealer under the laws of another state and engaged in the 179  
business of selling, displaying, or offering for sale used motor 180  
vehicles, at wholesale, but does not mean any motor vehicle 181  
dealer as defined in this section. 182

(FF) (1) "Remanufacturer" means a person who assembles or 183  
installs passenger seating, walls, a roof elevation, or a body 184  
extension on a conversion van with the motor vehicle chassis 185  
supplied by a manufacturer or distributor, a person who modifies 186  
a truck chassis supplied by a manufacturer or distributor for 187  
use as a public safety or public service vehicle, a person who 188  
modifies a motor vehicle chassis supplied by a manufacturer or 189  
distributor for use as a limousine or hearse, or a person who 190  
modifies an incomplete motor vehicle cab and chassis supplied by 191  
a new motor vehicle dealer or distributor for use as a tow 192  
truck, but does not mean either of the following: 193

(a) A person who assembles or installs passenger seating, 194

a roof elevation, or a body extension on a recreational vehicle 195  
as defined in division (Q) and referred to in division (B) of 196  
section 4501.01 of the Revised Code; 197

(b) An adaptive mobility dealer. 198

(2) For the purposes of division (FF)(1) of this section, 199  
"public safety vehicle or public service vehicle" means a fire 200  
truck, ambulance, school bus, street sweeper, garbage packing 201  
truck, or cement mixer, or a mobile self-contained facility 202  
vehicle. 203

(3) For the purposes of division (FF)(1) of this section, 204  
"limousine" means a motor vehicle, designed only for the purpose 205  
of carrying nine or fewer passengers, that a person modifies by 206  
cutting the original chassis, lengthening the wheelbase by forty 207  
inches or more, and reinforcing the chassis in such a way that 208  
all modifications comply with all applicable federal motor 209  
vehicle safety standards. No person shall qualify as or be 210  
deemed to be a remanufacturer who produces limousines unless the 211  
person has a written agreement with the manufacturer of the 212  
chassis the person utilizes to produce the limousines to 213  
complete properly the remanufacture of the chassis into 214  
limousines. 215

(4) For the purposes of division (FF)(1) of this section, 216  
"hearse" means a motor vehicle, designed only for the purpose of 217  
transporting a single casket, that is equipped with a 218  
compartment designed specifically to carry a single casket that 219  
a person modifies by cutting the original chassis, lengthening 220  
the wheelbase by ten inches or more, and reinforcing the chassis 221  
in such a way that all modifications comply with all applicable 222  
federal motor vehicle safety standards. No person shall qualify 223  
as or be deemed to be a remanufacturer who produces hearses 224

unless the person has a written agreement with the manufacturer 225  
of the chassis the person utilizes to produce the hearses to 226  
complete properly the remanufacture of the chassis into hearses. 227

(5) For the purposes of division (FF)(1) of this section, 228  
"mobile self-contained facility vehicle" means a mobile 229  
classroom vehicle, mobile laboratory vehicle, bookmobile, 230  
bloodmobile, testing laboratory, and mobile display vehicle, 231  
each of which is designed for purposes other than for passenger 232  
transportation and other than the transportation or displacement 233  
of cargo, freight, materials, or merchandise. A vehicle is 234  
remanufactured into a mobile self-contained facility vehicle in 235  
part by the addition of insulation to the body shell, and 236  
installation of all of the following: a generator, electrical 237  
wiring, plumbing, holding tanks, doors, windows, cabinets, 238  
shelving, and heating, ventilating, and air conditioning 239  
systems. 240

(6) For the purposes of division (FF)(1) of this section, 241  
"tow truck" means both of the following: 242

(a) An incomplete cab and chassis that are purchased by a 243  
remanufacturer from a new motor vehicle dealer or distributor of 244  
the cab and chassis and on which the remanufacturer then 245  
installs in a permanent manner a wrecker body it purchases from 246  
a manufacturer or distributor of wrecker bodies, installs an 247  
emergency flashing light pylon and emergency lights upon the 248  
mast of the wrecker body or rooftop, and installs such other 249  
related accessories and equipment, including push bumpers, front 250  
grille guards with pads and other custom-ordered items such as 251  
painting, special lettering, and safety striping so as to create 252  
a complete motor vehicle capable of lifting and towing another 253  
motor vehicle. 254

(b) An incomplete cab and chassis that are purchased by a 255  
remanufacturer from a new motor vehicle dealer or distributor of 256  
the cab and chassis and on which the remanufacturer then 257  
installs in a permanent manner a car carrier body it purchases 258  
from a manufacturer or distributor of car carrier bodies, 259  
installs an emergency flashing light pylon and emergency lights 260  
upon the rooftop, and installs such other related accessories 261  
and equipment, including push bumpers, front grille guards with 262  
pads and other custom-ordered items such as painting, special 263  
lettering, and safety striping. 264

As used in division (FF) (6) (b) of this section, "car 265  
carrier body" means a mechanical or hydraulic apparatus capable 266  
of lifting and holding a motor vehicle on a flat level surface 267  
so that one or more motor vehicles can be transported, once the 268  
car carrier is permanently installed upon an incomplete cab and 269  
chassis. 270

(GG) "Operate as a new motor vehicle dealership" means 271  
engaging in activities such as displaying, offering for sale, 272  
and selling new motor vehicles at retail, operating a service 273  
facility to perform repairs and maintenance on motor vehicles, 274  
offering for sale and selling motor vehicle parts at retail, and 275  
conducting all other acts that are usual and customary to the 276  
operation of a new motor vehicle dealership. For the purposes of 277  
this chapter only, possession of either a valid new motor 278  
vehicle dealer franchise agreement or a new motor vehicle 279  
dealers license, or both of these items, is not evidence that a 280  
person is operating as a new motor vehicle dealership. 281

(HH) "Outdoor power equipment" means garden and small 282  
utility tractors, walk-behind and riding mowers, chainsaws, and 283  
tillers. 284

(II) "Remote service facility" means premises that are 285  
separate from a licensed new motor vehicle dealer's sales 286  
facility by not more than one mile and that are used by the 287  
dealer to perform repairs, warranty work, recall work, and 288  
maintenance on motor vehicles pursuant to a franchise agreement 289  
entered into with a manufacturer of motor vehicles. A remote 290  
service facility shall be deemed to be part of the franchise 291  
agreement and is subject to all the rights, duties, obligations, 292  
and requirements of Chapter 4517. of the Revised Code that 293  
relate to the performance of motor vehicle repairs, warranty 294  
work, recall work, and maintenance work by new motor vehicle 295  
dealers. 296

(JJ) "Recreational vehicle" has the same meaning as in 297  
section 4501.01 of the Revised Code. 298

(KK) "Construction equipment auctioneer" means a person 299  
who holds both a valid auction firm license issued under Chapter 300  
4707. of the Revised Code and a valid construction equipment 301  
auction license issued under this chapter. 302

(LL) "Large construction or transportation equipment" 303  
means vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 304  
ten thousand pounds and includes road rollers, traction engines, 305  
power shovels, power cranes, commercial cars and trucks, or farm 306  
trucks, and other similar vehicles obtained primarily from the 307  
construction, mining, transportation or farming industries. 308

(MM) "Local market conditions" includes, but is not 309  
limited to: 310

(1) Demographics in the franchisee's area; 311

(2) Geographical and market characteristics in the 312  
franchisee's area; 313

(3) Local economic circumstances;	314
(4) The proximity of other motor vehicle dealers of the same line-make;	315 316
(5) The proximity of motor vehicle manufacturing facilities;	317 318
(6) The buying patterns of motor vehicle purchasers;	319
(7) Customer drive time and drive distance.	320
(NN) "Established place of business" means a permanent, enclosed building or structure that meets all of the following requirements:	321 322 323
(1) It is either owned, leased, or rented by the motor vehicle dealer.	324 325
(2) It meets local zoning or municipal requirements.	326
(3) It is regularly occupied by at least one person.	327
(4) It is easily accessible to the public.	328
(5) The records and files necessary to conduct the business are generally kept and maintained at the location or are readily accessible and available for reasonable inspection from the location.	329 330 331 332
"Established place of business" does not mean a residence, tent, temporary stand, storage shed, lot, or any temporary quarters, unless authorized by the registrar of motor vehicles.	333 334 335
(OO) "Adaptive mobility dealer" means any person engaged in the business of all of the following:	336 337
(1) Selling at retail, displaying, offering for sale, delivering, and dealing in adaptive mobility vehicles;	338 339

(2) Selling and installing adaptive mobility equipment, 340  
related accessories, and other goods and services to meet the 341  
automotive adaptive mobility needs of drivers and passengers 342  
with disabilities; 343

(3) Providing maintenance and repair services for adaptive 344  
mobility vehicles and adaptive mobility equipment. 345

(PP) "Adaptive mobility equipment" means the mechanical or 346  
electronic devices or parts that are designed to facilitate the 347  
use of a motor vehicle by a person who is aging or a person with 348  
disabilities, in accordance with 49 C.F.R. part 571, and that 349  
are permanently attached to or incorporated into the motor 350  
vehicle. 351

**Section 2.** That existing section 4517.01 of the Revised 352  
Code is hereby repealed. 353