



## **126th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document	No. 1482
S.P. 544	In Senate, April 30, 2013

An Act To Amend the Motor Vehicle Franchise Laws

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

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DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CAIN of Penobscot. Cosponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport and Senators: President ALFOND of Cumberland, KATZ of Kennebec, THIBODEAU of Waldo, Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, HERBIG of Belfast, McCABE of Skowhegan, WILLETTE of Mapleton. 1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1171, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:

**3-A. Essential tool.** "Essential tool" means a tool, implement or other device, including but not limited to a tablet, scanner, diagnostic machine, computer, computer program, computer software, website, website portal or similar tool, with respect to which there is no other similar tool or device available from any source other than the manufacturer or the representative of a manufacturer that will perform the function necessary to the diagnosis or repair of a manufacturer's express warranty claim on a new motor vehicle.

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Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1174, sub-§3, ¶A, as amended by PL 1997, c. 521, §8, is further amended to read:

12 A. To refuse to deliver in reasonable quantities and within a reasonable time after 13 receipt of a dealer's order to any motor vehicle dealer having a franchise or contractual arrangement for the retail sale of new motor vehicles sold or distributed 14 15 by that manufacturer, distributor, distributor branch or division, factory branch or 16 division any motor vehicles or parts or accessories to motor vehicles covered by that franchise or contract specifically publicly advertised by that manufacturer, 17 18 distributor, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division or wholesale 19 branch or division to be available for delivery. The allocation of new motor vehicles 20 in this State must be made on a fair and equitable basis and must consider the needs 21 of those dealerships with a relevant market area radius of more than 5 miles as 22 defined in section 1174-A, subsection 1. The manufacturer has the burden of 23 establishing the fairness of its allocation system. A failure by a manufacturer to provide to a dealer a fair and adequate supply and mix of vehicles, including the 24 25 allocation of vehicles under any separate dealer designation, including but not limited to "premier," "business class or elite" or any other designation not enjoyed by, or 26 available to, all new motor vehicle dealers for that franchise, precludes a 27 manufacturer from terminating a new motor vehicle dealer for inadequate sales or 28 29 market penetration. The delivery to another dealer of a motor vehicle of the same 30 model and similarly equipped as the vehicle ordered by a motor vehicle dealer who 31 has not received delivery of the vehicle, but who had placed a written order for the 32 vehicle prior to the order of the dealer who receives the vehicle, or the failure to 33 deliver such vehicles if the failure results in whole or part in an increase in the dealer's so-called day's supply, is evidence of a delayed delivery of, or refusal to 34 35 deliver, a new motor vehicle to a motor vehicle dealer within a reasonable time, 36 without cause. The failure to deliver any motor vehicle is not considered a violation 37 of this chapter if the failure is due to an act of God, work stoppage or delay due to a 38 strike or labor difficulty, shortage of materials, freight embargo or other cause over 39 which the manufacturer, distributor or any agent of the manufacturer or distributor 40 has no control. A separate dealer agreement is not required of a new motor vehicle 41 dealer already a party to a dealer agreement or franchise agreement for the retail sale 42 of any particular new motor vehicle model made or distributed by a manufacturer, 43 distributor, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale 44 branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof, except that a

- 1 manufacturer or distributor may require a dealer to purchase special tools or 2 equipment, stock reasonable quantities of certain parts, purchase reasonable 3 quantities of promotional materials or participate in training programs that are 4 reasonably necessary for the dealer to sell or service such a new motor vehicle model. 5 Any special tools, parts or signs not used within 2 years of receipt by the dealer may 6 be returned by the dealer to the manufacturer or distributor for a full refund of cost of 7 those special tools, parts and signs;
- 8 Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §1174, sub-§3, ¶F-1, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 766, §1, is
   9 amended to read:
- 10F-1. To vary or change the cost or the markup in any fashion or through any device11whatsoever to any dealer for any motor vehicle of that line make based on:
- 12 (1) The purchase by any dealer of furniture or other fixtures from any particular13 source; or
- 14 (2) The purchase by any dealer of computers or other technology from any particular source;

16A manufacturer that designates any tool as special or essential, or who requires the17purchase of hardware or software, whether or not designated as an essential tool, may18recover from the dealer only its actual costs of providing any such tool, the actual19costs of user or maintenance fees or other costs of any nature of software for any such20tool;

Sec. 4. 10 MRSA §1174, sub-§3, ¶N, as amended by PL 2009, c. 367, §2, is
 further amended to read:

23 N. To require any new motor vehicle dealer to change the location of the new motor 24 vehicle dealership or during the course of the agreement or as a condition of renewal 25 of a franchise agreement to make any substantial alterations to the dealership premises when to do so would be unreasonable. A manufacturer may not require any 26 substantial alterations or renovations to the dealership's premises without written 27 28 assurance of a sufficient supply of new motor vehicles so as to justify an expansion in light of the current market and economic conditions, require any new motor vehicle 29 30 dealer to use a specific service provider in relation to any dealership premises or 31 facilities alterations or renovations, including but not limited to architecture, signage, materials or construction, require any substantial renovation or alteration to 32 33 dealership premises or facilities without providing a dealer-specific detailed 34 economic analysis of the impact of any such alterations or renovations on sales and 35 service and dealer profitability that substantiates the need for those alterations or renovations or require a new motor vehicle dealer to make any substantial alterations 36 or renovations more than once every 10 years; 37

- 38 Sec. 5. 10 MRSA §1174, sub-§3, ¶¶V and W are enacted to read:
- 39V. Except as expressly authorized in this paragraph, to require a motor vehicle dealer40to provide its customer lists, customer information, consumer contact information,
- 41 transaction data or service files.
- 42 (1) The following definitions apply to this paragraph:

1	(a) "Dealer management computer system" means a computer hardware and
2	software system that is owned or leased by the dealer, including a dealer's use
3	of web applications, software or hardware, whether located at the dealership
4	**
	or provided at a remote location, and that provides access to customer records
5	and transactions by a motor vehicle dealer and that allows the motor vehicle
6	dealer timely information in order to sell vehicles, parts or services through
7	that motor vehicle dealership.
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8	(b) "Dealer management computer system vendor" means a seller or reseller
9	of dealer management computer systems or a 3rd party working pursuant to a
10	contract with or to the benefit of a manufacturer.
11	(c) "Security breach" means an incident of unauthorized access to and
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12	acquisition of records or data containing dealership or dealership customer
13	information through which unauthorized use of the dealership or dealership
14	customer information has occurred or is reasonably likely to occur or that
15	creates material risk of harm to a dealership or a dealership's customer. An
16	incident of unauthorized access to and acquisition of records or data
17	containing dealership or dealership customer information, or an incident of
18	disclosure of dealership customer information to one or more 3rd parties that
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	was not specifically authorized by the dealer or customer, constitutes a
20	security breach.
21	(2) Any requirement by a manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor
22	branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or
23	officer, agent or other representative thereof that a new motor vehicle dealer
24	provide its customer lists, customer information, consumer contact information,
24 25	
	transaction data or service files as a condition of the dealer's participation in any
26	incentive program or contest, for a customer or dealer to receive any incentive
27	payments otherwise earned under an incentive program or contest, for the dealer
28	to obtain customers or customer leads or for the dealer to receive any other
29	benefits, rights, merchandise or services that the dealer would otherwise be
30	entitled to obtain under the franchise or any other contract or agreement or that
31	are customarily provided to dealers is voidable at the option of the dealer, unless
32	all of the following conditions are satisfied:
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33	(a) The customer information requested relates solely to the specific program
34	requirements or goals associated with such manufacturers' or distributors'
35	own new vehicle makes or specific vehicles of their own make that are
36	certified preowned vehicles and the dealer is not required to provide general
37	customer information or other information related to the dealer;
57	customer mormation of other mormation related to the dealer,
38	(b) The requirement is lawful and would not require the dealer to allow any
39	customer the right to opt out under the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15
40	United States Code, Chapter 94, Subchapter I; and
41	(c) The dealer is not required to allow the manufacturer, distributor or a 3rd
42	party to have direct access to the dealer's dealer management computer
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43	system, but the dealer is instead permitted to provide the same dealer,
44	consumer or customer data or information specified by the manufacturer or
45	distributor by timely obtaining and pushing or otherwise furnishing the

1	required data in a widely accepted file format in accordance with
2	subparagraph (11).
3	(3) Nothing contained in this section limits the ability of a manufacturer,
4	distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division,
5 6	wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof to
0 7	require that the dealer provide, or use in accordance with law, customer information related solely to that manufacturer or distributor's own vehicle makes
8	to the extent necessary to:
9	<ul> <li>(a) Satisfy any safety or recall notice obligations;</li> <li>(b) Complete the cole and delivery of a new mater which to a sustainer.</li> </ul>
10	(b) Complete the sale and delivery of a new motor vehicle to a customer;
11	(c) Validate and pay customer or dealer incentives; or
12	(d) Submit to the manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or
13	division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer,
14	agent or other representative thereof claims under section 1176.
15	(4) At the request of a manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch
16	or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer,
17	agent or other representative thereof, a dealer may be required to provide
18	customer information related solely to that manufacturer's, distributor's,
19	wholesaler's, distributor branch's or division's, factory branch's or division's or
20	wholesale branch's or division's own vehicle makes for reasonable marketing
21	purposes, market research, consumer surveys, market analysis and dealership
22	performance analysis, except that the dealer is required to provide such customer
23 24	information only if the provision of the information is lawfully permissible, the
24 25	requested information relates solely to specific program requirements or goals associated with the manufacturer's or distributor's own vehicle makes and does
23 26	not require the dealer to provide general customer information or other
20 27	information related to the dealer and the requested information can be provided
28	without requiring that the dealer allow any customer the right to opt out under the
29	federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 United States Code, Chapter 94, Subchapter
30	<u>I.</u>
31	(5) A manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division,
32	factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other
33	representative thereof may not access or obtain dealer or customer data from or
34	write dealer or customer data to a dealer management computer system used by a
35	motor vehicle dealer or require or coerce a motor vehicle dealer to use a
36	particular dealer management computer system, unless the dealer management
37	computer system allows the dealer to reasonably maintain the security, integrity
38	and confidentiality of the data maintained in the system. Any fees, costs,
39	assessments or other charges of any kind whatsoever charged by a manufacturer
40	to provide hardware or software for a dealer management computer system may
41	not exceed the actual incremental cost to the manufacturer or distributor. A
42	manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory
43 44	branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent, dealer management computer system vendor or other representative thereof, or a 3rd
44	management computer system vendor or other representative thereof, or a 3rd

1	party acting on behalf of a manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor
2	branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or
3	officer, agency, dealer management computer system vendor or other
4	representative thereof, may not prohibit a dealer from providing a means to
5	regularly and continually monitor the specific data accessed from or written to
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	the dealer's dealer management computer system and from complying with
7	applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations. Nothing in this
8	subparagraph imposes an obligation on a manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler,
9	distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or
10	division or officer, agent, dealer management computer system vendor or other
11	representative thereof, or a 3rd party acting on behalf of a manufacturer,
12	distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division,
13	wholesale branch or division or officer, agency, dealer management computer
13	
14	system vendor or other representative thereof, to provide such capability.
15	(6) A manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division,
16	factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other
17	representative thereof or dealer management computer system vendor, or a 3rd
18	party acting on behalf of a manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor
19	
	branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or
20	officer, agent or other representative thereof or dealer management computer
21	system vendor may not access or use customer or prospect information
22	maintained in a dealer management computer system used by a motor vehicle
23	dealer for purposes of soliciting a customer or prospect on behalf of, or directing
24	a customer or prospect to, any other dealer. The limitations in this subsection do
25	not apply to:
26	(a) A customer that requests a reference to another dealership:
26	(a) A customer that requests a reference to another dealership;
27	(b) A customer that moves more than 100 miles away from the dealer whose
27	(b) A customer that moves more than 100 miles away from the dealer whose
27 28 29	<ul> <li>(b) A customer that moves more than 100 miles away from the dealer whose data were accessed;</li> <li>(c) Customer or prospect information that was provided to the dealer by the</li> </ul>
27 28 29 30	<ul> <li>(b) A customer that moves more than 100 miles away from the dealer whose data were accessed;</li> <li>(c) Customer or prospect information that was provided to the dealer by the manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory</li> </ul>
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27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34	<ul> <li>(b) A customer that moves more than 100 miles away from the dealer whose data were accessed;</li> <li>(c) Customer or prospect information that was provided to the dealer by the manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof; or</li> <li>(d) Customer or prospect information obtained by the manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, factory branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch o</li></ul>
27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35	<ul> <li>(b) A customer that moves more than 100 miles away from the dealer whose data were accessed;</li> <li>(c) Customer or prospect information that was provided to the dealer by the manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof; or</li> <li>(d) Customer or prospect information obtained by the manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor, wholesaler, distributor, wholesaler, distributor, wholesaler, division or officer, agent or other</li> </ul>
27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36	<ul> <li>(b) A customer that moves more than 100 miles away from the dealer whose data were accessed;</li> <li>(c) Customer or prospect information that was provided to the dealer by the manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof; or</li> <li>(d) Customer or prospect information obtained by the manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof in which the dealer agrees to allow the manufacturer,</li> </ul>
27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37	<ul> <li>(b) A customer that moves more than 100 miles away from the dealer whose data were accessed;</li> <li>(c) Customer or prospect information that was provided to the dealer by the manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof; or</li> <li>(d) Customer or prospect information obtained by the manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof in which the dealer agrees to allow the manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, factor</li></ul>
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27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43	<ul> <li>(b) A customer that moves more than 100 miles away from the dealer whose data were accessed;</li> <li>(c) Customer or prospect information that was provided to the dealer by the manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof; or</li> <li>(d) Customer or prospect information obtained by the manufacturer, distributor, wholesale, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof in which the dealer agrees to allow the manufacturer, distributor, wholesale, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof or dealer management computer system vendor or a 3rd party acting on behalf of a manufacturer, distributor, wholesale branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division, factory branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof or dealer management computer system vendor the right to access and use the</li> </ul>
27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42	<ul> <li>(b) A customer that moves more than 100 miles away from the dealer whose data were accessed;</li> <li>(c) Customer or prospect information that was provided to the dealer by the manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof; or</li> <li>(d) Customer or prospect information obtained by the manufacturer, distributor, wholesale, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof in which the dealer agrees to allow the manufacturer, distributor, wholesale, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof or dealer management computer system vendor or a 3rd party acting on behalf of a manufacturer, distributor, wholesale branch or division, wholesale branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, or division, wholesale branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof or dealer management computer system vendor or a 3rd party acting on behalf of a manufacturer, distributor, wholesale branch or division, wh</li></ul>

1	prospect of the dealer on behalf of or directing a customer or prospect to any
2	other dealer in a separate, stand-alone written instrument dedicated solely to
3	such an authorization.
4	(7) A manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division,
5	factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other
6	representative thereof or dealer management computer system vendor or a 3rd
7	party acting on behalf of a manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor
8	branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or
9 10	officer, agent or other representative thereof or dealer management computer system vendor may not provide access to customer or dealership information
10	maintained in a dealer management computer system used by a motor vehicle
12	dealer without first obtaining the dealer's prior express written consent, revocable
13	by the dealer upon 5 days' written notice, to provide such access. Prior to
14	obtaining such consent and prior to entering into an initial contract or renewal of
15	a contract with a dealer, the manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor
16	branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or
17	officer, agent or other representative thereof or dealer management computer
18	system vendor or a 3rd party acting on behalf of or through a manufacturer,
19 20	distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division,
20 21	wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof or dealer management computer system vendor shall provide to the dealer a written
21 22	list of all specific 3rd parties to whom any data obtained from the dealer have
23	actually been provided within the 12-month period ending November 1st of the
24	prior year. The list must describe the scope and specific fields of the data
25	provided. In addition to the initial list, a dealer management computer system
26	vendor or a 3rd party acting on behalf of or through a dealer management
27	computer system vendor must provide to the dealer an annual list of 3rd parties to
28	whom such data are actually being provided on November 1st of each year and to
29 30	whom the data have actually been provided in the preceding 12 months and describe the score and specific fields of the data provided. Lists required
30 31	describe the scope and specific fields of the data provided. Lists required pursuant to this subparagraph must be provided to the dealer by January 1st of
32	each year. A dealer management computer system vendor's contract that directly
33	relates to the transfer or accessing of dealer or dealer customer information must
34	conspicuously state: "NOTICE TO DEALER: THIS AGREEMENT RELATES
35	TO THE TRANSFER AND ACCESSING OF CONFIDENTIAL
36	INFORMATION AND CONSUMER-RELATED DATA." Consent in
37	accordance with this subparagraph does not change any such person's obligations
38	to comply with the terms of this section and any additional state or federal laws,
39 40	rules and regulations. A dealer management computer system vendor may not
40 41	refuse to provide a dealer management computer system to a motor vehicle dealer if the dealer refuses to provide consent under this subparagraph.
42	(8) A dealer management computer system vendor or 3rd party acting on behalf
43	of or through a dealer management computer system vendor may not access or
44	obtain data from or write data to a dealer management computer system used by a
45	motor vehicle dealer unless the dealer management computer system allows the
46	dealer to reasonably maintain the security, integrity and confidentiality of
47	customer and dealer information maintained in the system. A dealer management

1 computer system vendor or 3rd party acting on behalf of or through a dealer 2 management computer system vendor may not prohibit a dealer from providing a 3 means to regularly and continually monitor the specific data accessed from or 4 written to the dealer management computer system and from complying with 5 applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations. This subparagraph does not impose on a manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or 6 7 division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent 8 or other representative thereof or dealer management computer system vendor or 9 a 3rd party acting on behalf of or through a manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, 10 distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or 11 division or officer, agent or other representative thereof or dealer management 12 computer system vendor an obligation to provide such capability.

13 (9) A manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other 14 15 representative thereof or dealer management computer system vendor or a 3rd 16 party acting on behalf of or through a manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, 17 distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or 18 division or officer, agent or other representative thereof or dealer management 19 computer system vendor that has electronic access to customer or motor vehicle 20 dealership data in a dealer management computer system used by a motor vehicle 21 dealer shall provide notice to the dealer of any security breach of dealership or 22 customer data obtained through that access, which at the time of the security 23 breach was in the possession or custody of the manufacturer, distributor, 24 wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale 25 branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof or dealer 26 management computer system vendor or a 3rd party. The disclosure notification 27 must be made without unreasonable delay by the manufacturer, distributor, 28 wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale 29 branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof or dealer 30 management computer system vendor or a 3rd party following discovery by the 31 person, or notification to the person, of the security breach. The disclosure 32 notification must describe measures reasonably necessary to determine the scope 33 of the security breach and corrective actions that may be taken in an effort to 34 restore the integrity, security and confidentiality of the data; these measures and 35 corrective actions must be implemented as soon as practicable by all persons 36 responsible for the security breach.

37 (10) Nothing in this section precludes, prohibits or denies the right of the 38 manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory 39 branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other 40 representative thereof to receive customer or dealership information from a motor vehicle dealer for the purposes of complying with federal or state safety 41 42 requirements or implement any steps related to manufacturer recalls at such times 43 as necessary in order to comply with federal and state requirements or 44 manufacturer recalls as long as receiving this information from the dealer does 45 not impair, alter or reduce the security, integrity and confidentiality of the customer and dealership information collected or generated by the dealer. 46

1 (11) Notwithstanding any of the terms or provisions contained in this 2 subparagraph or in any consent, authorization, release, novation, franchise or 3 other contract or agreement, whenever any manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, 4 distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or 5 division or officer, agent or other representative thereof or dealer management 6 computer system vendor or a 3rd party acting on behalf of or through a 7 manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory 8 branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other 9 representative thereof or dealer management computer system vendor requires 10 that a new motor vehicle dealer provide any dealer, consumer or customer data or 11 information through direct access to a dealer's dealer management computer 12 system, the dealer is not required to provide, and may not be required to consent 13 to provide in a written agreement, that direct access to its dealer management 14 computer system. The dealer may instead provide the same dealer, consumer or 15 customer data or information specified by the requesting party by timely 16 obtaining and furnishing the requested data to the requesting party in a widely 17 accepted file format except that, when a dealer would otherwise be required to 18 provide direct access to its dealer management computer system under the terms 19 of a consent, authorization, release, novation, franchise or other contract or agreement, a dealer that elects to provide data or information through other 20 21 means may be charged a reasonable initial setup fee and a reasonable processing 22 fee based on actual incremental costs incurred by the party requesting the data for 23 establishing and implementing the process for the dealer. A term or provision 24 contained in a consent, authorization, release, novation, franchise or other 25 contract or agreement that is inconsistent with this subsection is voidable at the 26 option of the dealer. 27 (12) Notwithstanding the terms or conditions of any consent, authorization, 28 release, novation, franchise or other contract or agreement, a manufacturer, 29 distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, 30 wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof or 31 dealer management computer system vendor or a 3rd party acting on behalf of or 32 through a manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, 33 factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other

44 investigations and prosecutions to the extent caused by the access, storage,
 45 maintenance, use, sharing, disclosure or retention of that dealer's consumer or
 46 customer data or other information by the manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler,
 47 distributor branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or

representative thereof or dealer management computer system vendor that has

electronic access to consumer or customer data or other information in a dealer

management computer system used by a new motor vehicle dealer, or who has

otherwise been provided consumer or customer data or other information by the

dealer, shall fully indemnify and hold harmless a dealer from whom it has

acquired that consumer or customer data or other information from all damages,

costs and expenses incurred by that dealer, including, but not limited to,

judgments, settlements, fines, penalties, litigation costs, defense costs, court costs

and attorney's fees arising out of complaints, claims, civil or administrative

actions and, to the fullest extent allowable under the law, governmental

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1	division or officer, agent or other representative thereof or dealer management
2	computer system vendor or a 3rd party acting on behalf of or through a
3	manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distributor branch or division, factory
4	branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other
5	representative thereof or dealer management computer system vendor; and
5	representative thereof of dealer management computer system vendor, and
6	(13) This section applies to contracts entered into on or after November 1, 2005.
7	W. To refuse to allow access by a dealer to a dealer file in accordance with this
8	paragraph.
9	(1) For purposes of this paragraph, "dealer file" means all reports, memoranda,
10	letters or other documents, in hard copy or electronic form, that a manufacturer,
11	distributor, wholesaler, distribution branch or division, factory branch or division,
12	wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof has
13	in its possession that are created after the effective date of this paragraph, that
14	contain information or data and that state, reflect, display or represent a failure by
15	the dealer to perform in compliance with the obligations of the franchise
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	agreement or other standards established by the manufacturer, distributor,
17	wholesaler, distribution branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale
18	branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof, including, but
19	not limited to, sales performance, effectiveness and goals, customer satisfaction
20	index, facility issues and standards, fixed operations, employee matters including
21	personal information concerning the dealer principal as well as any executive
22	manager, sales manager, parts manager or service manager and any dealer
23	successor, financial information and profitability, inventory, warranty issues and
24	audits, marketing and advertising, sales and facility programs, contact reports and
25	market studies.
26	(2) A dealer has the right to review and obtain copies of its complete dealer file
20 27	
	once every 18 months. A manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distribution
28	branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale branch or division or
29	officer, agent or other representative thereof shall provide the dealer file or the
30	requested portion of the file to the dealer within 30 days of the dealer's written
31	request, which may be submitted electronically. The manufacturer, distributor,
32	wholesaler, distribution branch or division, factory branch or division, wholesale
33	branch or division or officer, agent or other representative thereof may provide
34	the file electronically and shall certify that the dealer file it produces is complete
35	as of the date of production. If the file is provided in paper format, the dealer
36	may be charged a reasonable per page fee for copies, as long as the fee does not
37	exceed the usual and customary fee charged by copy centers in the immediate
38	vicinity of the location of the file. No other fees or charges may be assessed.
39	(3) Any documents or portions of documents that are not produced by the
40	manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, distribution branch or division, factory
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	branch or division, wholesale branch or division or officer, agent or other
42	representative thereof in response to a dealer's request pursuant to this paragraph
43	must, at the option of the dealer, be excluded from, and are not admissible as
44	evidence and may not be used in any manner at, any proceeding at the board or
45	any other State agency or any court proceeding.

1	Sec. 6. 10 MRSA §1176, as amended by PL 2003, c. 356, §10, is further amended
2	by adding a new 2nd paragraph to read:
3	A franchisor shall pay those elements of a warranty claim that the dealer performs in
4	a professional manner or if the work performed is to the benefit of the consumer,
5	regardless of whether the franchisor contests any other element of that warranty claim.
6	SUMMARY
7	This bill amends the motor vehicle dealer franchise laws. It defines "essential tool"
8	as a tool specific to a manufacturer that is instrumental to the diagnosis or repair of a
9	manufacturer's express warranty claim on a new motor vehicle. It amends the laws
10	related to a manufacturer's requirement to provide a fair supply and mix of vehicles. It
11	clarifies that when a manufacturer requires a dealer to purchase a special or essential tool
12	a manufacturer may charge only its actual cost for such a tool. It establishes standards
13	protecting dealership data from unauthorized use. It clarifies the right of a dealer to see
14	the dealer's file regarding compliance with the franchise agreement. It also amends the
15	warranty law to clarify that if a dealer performs warranty service and the work is done in
16	a professional manner and the repair is otherwise completed to the benefit of the
17	consumer, if the manufacturer objects to a technical requirement associated with the
18	warranty submission process or to a specific aspect of the repair, those elements of the
19	warranty claim that are not objectionable must be paid.