

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 355

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2009

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

1861S.03T

AN ACT

To amend chapter 301, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to certain administrative fees associated with the sale of motor vehicles, vessels, and other types of vehicles.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 301, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 301.558, to read as follows:

301.558. 1. A motor vehicle dealer, boat dealer, or powersport dealer may fill in the blanks on standardized forms in connection with the sale or lease of a new or used motor vehicle, vessel, or vessel trailer if the motor vehicle dealer, boat dealer, or powersport dealer does not charge for the services of filling in the blanks or otherwise charge for preparing documents.

2. A motor vehicle dealer, boat dealer, or powersport dealer may charge an administrative fee in connection with the sale or lease of a new or used motor vehicle, vessel, or vessel trailer for the storage of documents or any other administrative or clerical services not prohibited by this section. A portion of the administrative fee may result in profit to the motor vehicle dealer, boat dealer, or powersport dealer.

3. No motor vehicle dealer, boat dealer, or powersport dealer that sells or leases new or used motor vehicles, vessels, or vessel trailers and imposes an administrative fee of less than two hundred dollars in connection with the sale or lease of a new or used vehicle,

18 vessel, or vessel trailer for the storage of documents or any other
19 administrative or clerical services shall be deemed to be engaging in
20 the unauthorized practice of law.

21 4. If an administrative fee is charged under this section, the
22 administrative fee shall be charged to all retail customers and disclosed
23 on the retail buyer's order form as a separate itemized charge.

24 5. A preliminary worksheet on which a sale price is computed
25 and that is shown to the purchaser, a retail buyer's order form from the
26 purchaser, or a retail installment contract shall include, in reasonable
27 proximity to the place on the document where the administrative fee
28 authorized by this section is disclosed, the amount of the
29 administrative fee and the following notice in type that is bold-faced,
30 capitalized, underlined, or otherwise conspicuously set out from the
31 surrounding written material:

32 "AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE IS NOT AN OFFICIAL FEE
33 AND IS NOT REQUIRED BY LAW BUT MAY BE CHARGED
34 BY A DEALER. THIS ADMINISTRATIVE FEE MAY
35 RESULT IN A PROFIT TO DEALER. NO PORTION OF
36 THIS ADMINISTRATIVE FEE IS FOR THE DRAFTING,
37 PREPARATION, OR COMPLETION OF DOCUMENTS OR
38 THE PROVIDING OF LEGAL ADVICE. THIS NOTICE IS
39 REQUIRED BY LAW."

40 6. The general assembly believes that an administrative fee
41 charged in compliance with this section is not the unauthorized
42 practice of law or the unauthorized business of law so long as the
43 activity or service for which the fee is charged is in compliance with
44 the provisions of this section and does not result in the waiver of any
45 rights or remedies. Recognizing, however, that the judiciary is the sole
46 arbitrator of what constitutes the practice of law, in the event that a
47 court determines that an administrative fee charged in compliance with
48 this section, and that does not waive any rights or remedies of the
49 buyer, is the unauthorized practice of law or the unauthorized business
50 of law, then no person who paid that administrative fee may recover
51 said fee or treble damages, as permitted under section 484.020, RSMo,

52 and no person who charged that fee shall be guilty of a misdemeanor,
53 as provided under section 484.020, RSMo.

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Bill

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