



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-2343/1
EVM:cjs

2023 SENATE BILL 225

April 14, 2023 - Introduced by Senators TESTIN, HESSELBEIN, FEYEN, SPREITZER and WANGGAARD, cosponsored by Representatives KRUG, CONSIDINE, CONLEY, DOYLE, GREEN, JOERS, SCHMIDT and SUBECK. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Local Government.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 218.10 (8m), 340.01 (6m), 340.01 (18m), 340.01 (48r), 341.25
2 (1) (i), 348.08 (1) (i) and 348.08 (1) (j); and **to create** 218.10 (1b), 218.10 (1c),
3 218.10 (1d), 218.10 (1i), 218.10 (1n), 218.10 (1o), 218.10 (1p), 218.10 (1q), 218.10
4 (1t), 218.10 (2), 218.10 (7m), 218.10 (7w), 218.10 (8u), 218.10 (8v), 218.10 (8w),
5 218.10 (10), 218.10 (11), 218.161, 218.162, 218.163, 218.164, 218.165, 218.166,
6 218.167 and 218.17 (1) of the statutes; **relating to:** recreational vehicle
7 manufacturers, distributors, and dealers, the definition of recreational
8 vehicles, and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill provides additional regulation of recreational vehicle (RV) dealers, manufacturers, and distributors and expands the definition of recreational vehicle for purposes of vehicle registration and equipment requirements.

Under current law, RV dealers must be licensed by the Department of Transportation. An RV dealer license may be denied, suspended, or revoked for a number of reasons, including failure to comply with licensing requirements, committing certain types of fraud, or engaging in unconscionable business practices. In addition, persons who violate the statutes governing RV dealer licensure may be required to forfeit between \$25 and \$100 for a first offense and may be fined between \$25 and \$100 for a second or subsequent offense within three years.

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This bill provides additional regulation of RV dealers and regulates various aspects of the relationship between RV dealers and RV manufacturers or distributors. Specifically, among other things, the bill does all of the following:

1. Requires a dealer agreement between each RV dealer and the manufacturer or distributor of the RVs the dealer sells. The bill further specifies certain contents of the agreement, including an exclusive sales area for each RV dealer.

2. Prohibits RV manufacturers and distributors from terminating or failing to renew a dealer agreement without good cause. The bill provides criteria that must be considered when assessing whether good cause exists.

3. Requires an RV manufacturer or distributor to provide notice before terminating or nonrenewing a dealer agreement and provides that a termination or nonrenewal must be rescinded upon certain actions by an RV dealer.

4. Provides that an RV dealer may terminate or nonrenew an agreement with an RV manufacturer upon 30 days' notice.

5. In certain cases, requires an RV manufacturer to repurchase certain products provided to RV dealers, including new RVs, certain RV accessories, and certain repair equipment, upon termination of a dealer agreement.

6. Requires an RV manufacturer or distributor to allow an RV dealer to designate a family member as a successor to its dealer agreement.

7. Specifies obligations with regard to warranty repairs.

8. Provides that DOT may administratively fine any person who violates the provisions of the bill up to \$1,000 for each violation.

Current law defines "recreational vehicle" for purposes of vehicle registration, vehicle equipment standards and certain other vehicle regulation. This bill modifies and expands the definition of "recreational vehicle" for these purposes. Among the changes, "recreational vehicle" is specifically expanded to include a camping trailer and a "truck camper," which is defined as "a portable unit that is constructed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use and that consists of a roof, floor, and sides and that is designed to be loaded onto and unloaded from the back of a pickup truck." The vehicles that satisfy the expanded definition may not be operated on a highway unless registered with DOT and must meet certain equipment requirements, including requirements related to brakes, safety glass, and coupling.

Because this bill creates a new crime or revises a penalty for an existing crime, the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties may be requested to prepare a report.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

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1 218.10 (1b) “Area of sales responsibility” means the geographical area agreed
2 to by the dealer and the manufacturer or distributor in a dealer agreement within
3 which the dealer has the exclusive right to display or sell the manufacturer’s new
4 recreational vehicles of a particular line-make.

5 **SECTION 2.** 218.10 (1c) of the statutes is created to read:

6 218.10 (1c) “Camping trailer” means a vehicle with a collapsible or folding
7 structure designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping,
8 or travel use and to be towed upon a highway by a motor vehicle.

9 **SECTION 3.** 218.10 (1d) of the statutes is created to read:

10 218.10 (1d) “Component manufacturer” means a person, firm, corporation, or
11 business entity that engages in the manufacturing of components, accessories, or
12 parts used in manufacturing recreational vehicles.

13 **SECTION 4.** 218.10 (1i) of the statutes is created to read:

14 218.10 (1i) “Dealer agreement” means a written agreement or contract entered
15 into by a dealer and a manufacturer or distributor that fixes the rights and
16 responsibilities of the parties and pursuant to which the dealer sells new
17 recreational vehicles.

18 **SECTION 5.** 218.10 (1n) of the statutes is created to read:

19 218.10 (1n) “Distributor” means a person, firm, corporation, or business entity
20 that purchases new recreational vehicles for resale to dealers.

21 **SECTION 6.** 218.10 (1o) of the statutes is created to read:

22 218.10 (1o) “Factory campaign” means an effort on the part of a warrantor to
23 contact recreational vehicle owners or dealers in order to address a part or equipment
24 issue.

25 **SECTION 7.** 218.10 (1p) of the statutes is created to read:

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1 218.10 (1p) “Family member” means an individual’s spouse or an individual’s
2 child, grandchild, parent, sibling, niece, or nephew or the spouse of any of these.

3 **SECTION 8.** 218.10 (1q) of the statutes is created to read:

4 218.10 (1q) “Fifth-wheel travel trailer” means a vehicle mounted on wheels
5 that is designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or
6 travel use, that is of a size and weight that a special highway movement permit is
7 not required, and that is designed to be towed by a motor vehicle that contains a
8 towing mechanism that is mounted above or forward of the rear axle of the tow
9 vehicle.

10 **SECTION 9.** 218.10 (1t) of the statutes is created to read:

11 218.10 (1t) “Line-make” means a specific series of recreational vehicle
12 products, the sale of which may be authorized by a dealer agreement, that satisfies
13 all of the following:

14 (a) Is targeted to a particular market segment, as determined by the decor,
15 features, equipment, size, weight, and price range.

16 (b) Has lengths and interior floor plans that distinguish the series of
17 recreational vehicle products from other series with substantially the same decor,
18 features, equipment, weight, and price.

19 (c) Belongs to a single, distinct classification of recreational vehicle product
20 type having a substantial degree of commonality in the construction of the chassis,
21 frame, and body.

22 **SECTION 10.** 218.10 (2) of the statutes is created to read:

23 218.10 (2) “Model” is a series of recreational vehicle products identified by a
24 common series trade name or trademark that is a subset of a line-make.

25 **SECTION 11.** 218.10 (7m) of the statutes is created to read:

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1 218.10 (7m) “Park model recreational vehicle” means a recreational vehicle
2 that is all of the following:

3 (a) Designed and marketed as temporary living quarters for recreational,
4 camping, travel, or seasonal use.

5 (b) Not permanently affixed to real property for use as a permanent dwelling.

6 (c) Built on a single chassis mounted on wheels with a gross trailer area not
7 exceeding 400 square feet in the setup mode.

8 (d) Certified by the manufacturer as complying with the ANSI A119.5 Park
9 Model Recreational Vehicle Standard.

10 **SECTION 12.** 218.10 (7w) of the statutes is created to read:

11 218.10 (7w) “Proprietary part” means any part manufactured by or for and sold
12 exclusively by the manufacturer.

13 **SECTION 13.** 218.10 (8m) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 218.10 (8m) “Recreational vehicle” ~~has the meaning given in s. 340.01 (48r)~~
15 means a vehicle that is designed to be towed upon a highway by a motor vehicle, that
16 is equipped and used, or intended to be used, primarily for temporary or recreational
17 human habitation, and that does not exceed 45 feet in length. “Recreational vehicle”
18 includes a camping trailer, fifth-wheel travel trailer, park model recreational
19 vehicle, travel trailer, and truck camper.

20 **SECTION 14.** 218.10 (8u) of the statutes is created to read:

21 218.10 (8u) “Transient customer” means a customer who is temporarily
22 traveling through a dealer’s area of sales responsibility.

23 **SECTION 15.** 218.10 (8v) of the statutes is created to read:

24 218.10 (8v) “Travel trailer” means a vehicle that is mounted on wheels, that
25 is designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel

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1 use, and that is of a size or weight that a special highway movement permit is not
2 required when towed by a motor vehicle.

3 **SECTION 16.** 218.10 (8w) of the statutes is created to read:

4 218.10 (8w) "Truck camper" means a portable unit that is constructed to
5 provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use and that
6 consists of a roof, floor, and sides and that is designed to be loaded onto and unloaded
7 from the back of a pickup truck.

8 **SECTION 17.** 218.10 (10) of the statutes is created to read:

9 218.10 (10) "Warrantor" means a person, firm, corporation, or business entity
10 that gives a warranty in connection with a new recreational vehicle or parts,
11 accessories, or components of a new recreational vehicle.

12 **SECTION 18.** 218.10 (11) of the statutes is created to read:

13 218.10 (11) "Warranty" does not include service contracts, mechanical or other
14 insurance, or extended warranties sold for separate consideration by a dealer or
15 other person not controlled by a manufacturer.

16 **SECTION 19.** 218.161 of the statutes is created to read:

17 **218.161 Dealer agreement requirement.** (1) A manufacturer or
18 distributor may not sell a new recreational vehicle in this state to or through a dealer
19 without having first entered into a written dealer agreement with a dealer that has
20 been signed by both parties.

21 (2) The manufacturer shall designate the area of sales responsibility
22 exclusively assigned to a dealer in the dealer agreement and may not change the area
23 of sales responsibility or contract with another dealer for sale of the same model or
24 line-make, as specified in the agreement, in the designated area of sales
25 responsibility during the duration of the agreement.

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1 **(3)** The terms of the dealer agreement, including the area of sales
2 responsibility, may not be reviewed or changed during the duration of the dealer
3 agreement without the written mutual consent of the parties. The duration of the
4 dealer agreement shall be stated in the dealer agreement.

5 **(4)** A dealer may not sell a new recreational vehicle in this state without having
6 first entered into a dealer agreement with a manufacturer or distributor and may not
7 sell outside the area of sales responsibility designated in the agreement under sub.
8 **(2)**.

9 **(5)** A manufacturer may not unilaterally issue a policy or procedure that
10 violates or substantially alters a provision of the dealer agreement during the
11 duration of the agreement.

12 **(6)** A manufacturer shall distribute new recreational vehicles to its dealers in
13 a fair and equitable manner. If requested, a manufacturer shall provide information
14 on its manner of distribution.

15 **(7)** A manufacturer shall provide its dealer with adequate technical data to
16 perform proper service and repairs.

17 **SECTION 20.** 218.162 of the statutes is created to read:

18 **218.162 Termination of dealer agreement.** **(1)** (a) A manufacturer or
19 distributor, directly or through any officer, agent, or employee, may terminate,
20 cancel, or fail to renew a model, line-make, or entire dealer agreement only with good
21 cause, and, upon renewal, may not require additional inventory stocking
22 requirements or increased retail sales targets in excess of the market growth in the
23 dealer's area of sales responsibility.

24 (b) A manufacturer or distributor has the burden of showing good cause for
25 terminating, canceling, or failing to renew a model, line-make, or dealer agreement

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1 with a dealer. For purposes of determining whether there is good cause for the
2 proposed action, any of the following factors may be considered:

3 1. The extent of the affected dealer's penetration in the relevant market area
4 for the relevant model or line-make.

5 2. The nature and extent of the dealer's investment in its business.

6 3. The adequacy of the dealer's service facilities, equipment, parts, supplies,
7 and personnel.

8 4. The effect of the proposed action on the community.

9 5. The extent and quality of the dealer's service under recreational vehicle
10 warranties.

11 6. The failure to follow agreed-upon, reasonable procedures or standards
12 related to the overall operation of the dealership consistent with the law and the
13 dealer agreement.

14 7. The dealer's performance under the terms of its dealer agreement.

15 (c) 1. Except as provided in this paragraph, a manufacturer or distributor shall
16 provide a dealer with at least 120 days' prior written notice of termination,
17 cancellation, or nonrenewal of a model, line-make, or entire dealer agreement.

18 2. The notice under subd. 1. shall state all reasons for the proposed termination,
19 cancellation, or nonrenewal and shall state that if, within 30 days following receipt
20 of the notice, the dealer provides to the manufacturer or distributor a written notice
21 of intent to cure all claimed deficiencies, the dealer will then have 120 days following
22 receipt of the notice to rectify the deficiencies. If the deficiencies are rectified within
23 120 days, the manufacturer's or distributor's notice is voided. If the dealer fails to
24 provide the notice of intent to cure the deficiencies in the prescribed period, the
25 termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal takes effect 30 days after the dealer's

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1 receipt of the notice unless the dealer has new and untitled inventory on hand that
2 may be disposed of as provided under sub. (3).

3 3. The notice period under subd. 1. may be reduced to 30 days if the grounds
4 for termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal are due to any of the following:

5 a. A dealer or one of its owners being convicted of a felony.

6 b. The abandonment or closing of the business operations of the dealer for 10
7 consecutive business days unless the closing is due to an act of God, strike, labor
8 difficulty, or other cause over which the dealer has no control.

9 c. A significant misrepresentation by the dealer materially affecting the
10 business relationship.

11 d. A suspension of, revocation of, or refusal to renew the dealer's license by the
12 department.

13 4. The notice provisions of this paragraph do not apply if the reason for
14 termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal is insolvency, the occurrence of an
15 assignment for the benefit of creditors, or bankruptcy.

16 **(2)** A dealer may terminate, cancel, or fail to renew a model, line-make, or
17 entire dealer agreement with a manufacturer or distributor with or without good
18 cause at any time by giving 30 days' written notice to the manufacturer. If the
19 termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal is for good cause, the dealer has the burden
20 of showing good cause. Any of the following items, among others, may be deemed
21 good cause for the proposed action by a dealer:

22 (a) A manufacturer being convicted of a felony.

23 (b) The business operations of the manufacturer have been abandoned or closed
24 for 10 consecutive business days, unless the closing is due to an act of God, strike,
25 labor difficulty, or other cause over which the manufacturer has no control.

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1 (c) A significant misrepresentation by the manufacturer materially affecting
2 the business relationship.

3 (d) A material violation of this subchapter that is not cured within 30 days after
4 written notice by the dealer.

5 (e) A declaration by the manufacturer of insolvency, the occurrence of an
6 assignment for the benefit of creditors, or bankruptcy.

7 (f) A manufacturer's material violation of the dealer agreement that is not
8 cured within 120 days after written notice by the dealer.

9 (g) Manufacturer coercion of the dealer under s. 218.166.

10 (h) Manufacturer violation of area of sales responsibility protections or
11 allowing other dealers to violate these protections.

12 **(3)** If the dealer agreement is terminated, canceled, or not renewed by the
13 dealer for good cause, the manufacturer shall, at the election of the dealer and within
14 45 days after termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal, repurchase all of the
15 following:

16 (a) All new, untitled recreational vehicles that were acquired from the
17 manufacturer or distributor within 18 months before the date of the notice of
18 termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal that have not been used, except for
19 demonstration purposes, and that have not been altered or damaged, at 100 percent
20 of the net invoice cost, including transportation, less applicable rebates and
21 discounts to the dealer. If any of the recreational vehicles repurchased is damaged,
22 the amount due to the dealer shall be reduced by the cost to repair the damaged
23 recreational vehicle. Damage prior to delivery to the dealer will not disqualify
24 repurchase under this subsection. Any repurchased recreational vehicle must be
25 paid for in full before the recreational vehicle is removed from the dealer's premises.

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1 Upon payment under this paragraph, recreational vehicles must be immediately
2 surrendered to the manufacturer.

3 (b) All undamaged accessories or proprietary parts sold to the dealer for resale
4 within the 12 months prior to termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal, if
5 accompanied by the original invoice, at 105 percent of the original net price paid to
6 the manufacturer or distributor to compensate the dealer for handling, packing, and
7 shipping the parts.

8 (c) Any properly functioning diagnostic equipment, special tools, current
9 signage, or other equipment and machinery at 100 percent of the dealer's net cost
10 plus freight, destination, delivery, and distribution charges and sales taxes, if any,
11 if the equipment, tools, signage, or machinery was purchased by the dealer within
12 5 years before termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal and upon the
13 manufacturer's or distributor's request and can no longer be used in the normal
14 course of the dealer's ongoing business.

15 (4) If a dealer agreement is terminated, canceled, or not renewed by the
16 manufacturer or distributor without good cause in violation of sub. (1), the
17 manufacturer or distributor shall repurchase dealer recreational vehicles,
18 accessories, and other equipment in the manner provided in sub. (3).

19 (5) (a) A dealer is not prohibited from selling any remaining in-stock inventory
20 of a particular model or line-make after a dealer agreement has been terminated,
21 cancelled, or not renewed by the manufacturer.

22 (b) If recreational vehicles of a model or line-make subject to a terminated
23 agreement are not repurchased or required to be repurchased by the manufacturer
24 or distributor, the dealer may continue to sell recreational vehicles that are subject

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1 to the terminated dealer agreement and are currently in stock until those
2 recreational vehicles are no longer in the dealer's inventory.

3 (6) When taking on an additional line-make, a dealer shall notify in writing
4 any manufacturer with whom the dealer has a dealer agreement of the same
5 line-make at least 30 days prior to entering into a dealer agreement with the
6 manufacturer of the additional line-make.

7 **SECTION 21.** 218.163 of the statutes is created to read:

8 **218.163 Transfer of ownership.** (1) If a dealer desires to make a change in
9 ownership by the sale of business assets, stock transfer, or otherwise, the dealer shall
10 give the manufacturer or distributor written notice at least 10 business days before
11 the closing, along with all supporting documentation as may be reasonably required
12 by the manufacturer or distributor to determine if an objection to the sale may be
13 made. In the absence of a breach by the selling dealer of its dealer agreement or this
14 subchapter, the manufacturer or distributor may not object to the proposed change
15 in ownership unless any of the following applies to the prospective transferee:

16 (a) The transferee has previously been terminated for cause by the
17 manufacturer.

18 (b) The transferee has been convicted of a felony or any crime of fraud, deceit,
19 or moral turpitude.

20 (c) The transferee lacks any license required by law.

21 (d) The transferee does not have an active line of credit sufficient to purchase
22 a manufacturer's product.

23 (e) The transferee has undergone in the last 10 years bankruptcy, insolvency,
24 a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, or the appointment of a receiver,
25 trustee, or conservator to take possession of the transferee's business or property.

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1 **(2)** If a manufacturer or distributor objects to a proposed change in ownership,
2 the manufacturer or distributor shall give written notice of its reasons to the dealer
3 within 7 business days after receipt of the dealer's notification and complete
4 documentation. The manufacturer or distributor has the burden of proof with regard
5 to its objection. If the manufacturer or distributor does not give timely notice of its
6 objection, the change, sale, or transfer shall be approved.

7 **(3)** (a) A manufacturer or distributor shall provide a dealer an opportunity to
8 designate, in writing, a family member as a successor to the dealership in the event
9 of the death, incapacity, or retirement of the dealer. A manufacturer or distributor
10 may not prevent or refuse to honor the succession unless the manufacturer or
11 distributor has provided to the dealer written notice of its objections within 10
12 business days after receipt of the dealer's modification of the dealer's succession
13 plan. In the absence of a breach of the dealer agreement, the manufacturer may
14 object to the succession only for any of the following reasons:

15 1. Conviction of the successor of a felony or any crime of fraud, deceit, or moral
16 turpitude.

17 2. Bankruptcy or insolvency of the successor during the past 10 years.

18 3. Prior termination by the manufacturer of the successor for breach of a dealer
19 agreement.

20 4. The lack of an active line of credit for the successor sufficient to purchase the
21 manufacturer's product.

22 5. The lack of any license for the successor required by law.

23 (b) The manufacturer or distributor has the burden of proof regarding its
24 objection. A family member may not succeed to a dealership if the succession

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1 involves, without the manufacturer's or distributor's consent, a relocation of the
2 business or an alteration of the terms and conditions of the dealer agreement.

3 **SECTION 22.** 218.164 of the statutes is created to read:

4 **218.164 Warranty obligation.** (1) Each warrantor shall do all of the
5 following:

6 (a) Specify, in writing, to each of the warrantor's dealers, the dealer's
7 obligations, if any, for preparation, delivery, and warranty service on the warrantor's
8 products.

9 (b) Compensate the dealer for warranty service performed by the dealer that
10 is covered by the warrantor's own warranty.

11 (c) Provide the dealer with the schedule of compensation to be paid and the time
12 allowances for the performance of any work and service. The schedule of
13 compensation shall include reasonable compensation for diagnostic work as well as
14 warranty labor. If the schedule of compensation required by this paragraph does not
15 include a particular repair, the warrantor shall reimburse the dealer for warranty
16 service for the actual time expended unless the warrantor demonstrates that the
17 actual time was not reasonable. If the warrantor demonstrates that the actual time
18 was not reasonable, the dealer shall be paid a reasonable sum.

19 (2) Time allowances for the diagnosis and performance of warranty labor shall
20 be reasonable for the work to be performed. The compensation of a dealer for
21 warranty labor may not be less than the lowest retail labor rate actually charged by
22 the dealer in the ordinary course of business for like nonwarranty labor as long as
23 the rate is reasonable.

24 (3) The warrantor shall reimburse the dealer for any warranty part at actual
25 wholesale cost plus a minimum 30 percent handling charge and the cost, if any, of

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1 freight to return such part to the warrantor. If a part is sent to the dealer at no cost,
2 the dealer is entitled to payment of 30 percent of the wholesale cost of the part from
3 warrantor as a handling charge. The maximum handling charge for a part shall not
4 exceed \$300. If the warrantor requires the dealer to return a warranty part,
5 accessory, or complete component, the warrantor shall reimburse the dealer the cost
6 of freight to return the part, accessory, or component.

7 (4) Warranty audits of dealer records may be conducted by the warrantor on
8 a reasonable basis, and dealer claims for warranty compensation may not be denied
9 except for cause, including performance of nonwarranty repairs, material
10 noncompliance with the warrantor's published policies and procedures, lack of
11 material documentation, fraud, or misrepresentation.

12 (5) A dealer shall submit warranty claims within 45 days after completing
13 work.

14 (6) A dealer shall notify the warrantor as soon as is reasonably possible,
15 verbally or in writing, if the dealer is unable or unwilling to perform material or
16 repetitive warranty repairs.

17 (7) A warrantor shall disapprove warranty claims in writing within 45 days
18 after the date of submission by the dealer in the manner and form prescribed by the
19 warrantor. Claims not specifically disapproved in writing within 45 days shall be
20 construed to be approved and must be paid within 60 days.

21 (8) No warrantor may do any of the following:

22 (a) Fail to perform any of its warranty obligations with respect to its warranted
23 products.

24 (b) Fail to include, in written notices of factory campaigns to recreational
25 vehicle owners and dealers, the expected date by which necessary parts and

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1 equipment, including tires and chassis or chassis parts, will be available to dealers
2 to perform the factory campaign work. A warrantor may ship parts to the dealer to
3 affect the factory campaign work, and, if parts provided are in excess of the dealer's
4 requirements, the dealer may return unused parts to the warrantor for credit after
5 completion of the campaign.

6 (c) Fail to compensate any of its dealers for authorized repairs effected by the
7 dealer of merchandise damaged in manufacture or transit to the dealer if the carrier
8 is designated by the warrantor, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch.

9 (d) Fail to compensate any of its dealers for authorized warranty service in
10 accordance with the time allowances set forth in the schedule of compensation under
11 sub. (1) (c) if performed in a timely and competent manner.

12 (e) Intentionally misrepresent in any way to purchasers of recreational
13 vehicles that warranties with respect to the manufacture, performance, or design of
14 the vehicle are made by the dealer as warrantor or co-warrantor.

15 (f) Require the dealer to make warranties to customers in any manner related
16 to the manufacture of the recreational vehicle.

17 **(9)** No dealer may do any of the following:

18 (a) Fail to perform predelivery inspection functions, as specified by the
19 warrantor, in a competent and timely manner.

20 (b) Fail to perform warranty service work authorized by the warrantor in a
21 reasonably competent and timely manner on any transient customer's vehicle of the
22 same line-make unless the dealer determines that the customer is acting in a
23 manner detrimental to its business.

24 (c) Fail to track actual time expended to perform warranty work not governed
25 by time allowances in the schedule of compensation under sub. (1) (c).

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1 (d) Claim an agency relationship with the warrantor or manufacturer.

2 (e) Misrepresent the terms of any warranty.

3 **(10)** Notwithstanding the terms of any dealer agreement, all of the following
4 apply:

5 (a) A warrantor shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless its dealer against
6 any losses or damages to the extent such losses or damages are caused by the
7 negligence or willful misconduct of the warrantor. A dealer may not be denied
8 indemnification or a defense for failing to discover, disclose, or remedy a defect in the
9 design or manufacturing of the recreational vehicle. A dealer shall provide to the
10 warrantor a copy of any suit in which allegations are made under this section within
11 10 days after receiving the suit. This paragraph shall continue to apply even after
12 the recreational vehicle is titled. Indemnification shall include court costs,
13 reasonable attorney fees, and expert witness fees incurred by the dealer.

14 (b) A dealer shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless its warrantor against
15 any losses or damages to the extent such losses or damages are caused by the
16 negligence or willful misconduct of the dealer. The warrantor shall provide to the
17 dealer a copy of any suit in which allegations are made under this section within 10
18 days after receiving the suit. This paragraph shall continue to apply even after the
19 recreational vehicle is titled. Indemnification must include court costs, reasonable
20 attorney fees, and expert witness fees incurred by the warrantor.

21 **SECTION 23.** 218.165 of the statutes is created to read:

22 **218.165 Inspection of recreational vehicles.** (1) Whenever a new
23 recreational vehicle is damaged prior to transit to the dealer or is damaged in transit
24 to the dealer when the carrier or means of transportation has been selected by the
25 manufacturer or distributor, the dealer shall notify the manufacturer or distributor

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1 of the damage within the time frame specified in the dealer agreement and do any
2 of the following:

3 (a) Request from the manufacturer or distributor authorization to replace the
4 components, parts, and accessories damaged or otherwise correct the damage.

5 (b) Reject the vehicle within the time frame set forth in sub. (4).

6 (2) If a manufacturer or distributor refuses or fails to authorize repair of
7 damage described under sub. (1) within 10 days after receipt of notification under
8 sub. (1) or if the dealer rejects the recreational vehicle because of damage, ownership
9 of the new recreational vehicle reverts to the manufacturer or distributor.

10 (3) A dealer shall exercise due care in custody of a damaged recreational
11 vehicle, but the dealer shall have no other obligations, financial or otherwise, with
12 respect to that recreational vehicle.

13 (4) The time frame for inspection and rejection by the dealer shall be part of
14 the dealer agreement and may not be less than 2 business days after the physical
15 delivery of the recreational vehicle.

16 **SECTION 24.** 218.166 of the statutes is created to read:

17 **218.166 Coercion.** (1) In this section, “coerce” includes threatening to
18 terminate, cancel, or not renew a dealer agreement without good cause or
19 threatening to withhold product lines or delay product delivery as an inducement to
20 amending the dealer agreement.

21 (2) A manufacturer or distributor may not coerce or attempt to coerce a dealer
22 to do any of the following:

23 (a) Purchase a product that the dealer did not order.

24 (b) Enter into an agreement with the manufacturer or distributor.

25 (c) Take any action that is unfair or unreasonable to the dealer.

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1 (d) Enter into an agreement that requires the dealer to submit its disputes to
2 binding arbitration or otherwise waive rights or responsibilities provided under this
3 subchapter.

4 (e) Forego exercising a right authorized by a dealer agreement or any law
5 governing the manufacturer-dealer relationship.

6 **(3)** A dealer bears the burden of proof regarding the prohibited acts described
7 in sub. (2).

8 **SECTION 25.** 218.167 of the statutes is created to read:

9 **218.167 Dispute resolution.** (1) A dealer, manufacturer, distributor, or
10 warrantor injured by a violation of this subchapter by another dealer, manufacturer,
11 distributor, or warrantor may bring a civil action in circuit court to recover actual
12 damages. The court shall award attorney fees and costs to the prevailing party in
13 an action under this section. Venue for any civil action authorized by this section
14 shall be exclusively in the county in which the dealership is located. In an action
15 involving more than one dealer, venue may be in any county in which a dealer who
16 is party to the action is located.

17 **(2)** (a) Before bringing suit under this section, the party bringing suit for an
18 alleged violation shall serve a written demand for mediation upon the offending
19 party. This paragraph does not apply to a proceeding for injunctive relief.

20 (b) A demand for mediation under this subsection shall be served upon the
21 offending party by certified mail at the address stated within the dealer agreement
22 between the parties or, if the address is not contained in the agreement or the address
23 is no longer valid, the address on the offending party's license filed with this state.
24 In the event of a civil action between 2 dealers, the demand shall be mailed to the
25 address on the dealer's license filed with this state.

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1 (c) A demand for mediation under this subsection shall contain a brief
2 statement of the dispute and the relief sought by the party filing the demand.

3 (d) Within 20 days after the date a demand for mediation is served under par.
4 (b), the parties shall mutually select an independent mediator and meet with the
5 mediator for the purpose of attempting to resolve the dispute. The meeting place
6 shall be in this state in a location selected by the mediator. The mediator may extend
7 the date of the meeting for good cause shown by either party or upon stipulation of
8 both parties.

9 (e) The service of a demand for mediation under this subsection stays the time
10 for the filing of any complaint, petition, protest, or action under this subchapter until
11 representatives of both parties have met with a mutually selected mediator for the
12 purpose of attempting to resolve the dispute. If a complaint, petition, protest, or
13 action is filed before that meeting, the court shall enter an order suspending the
14 proceeding or action until the meeting has occurred and may, upon written
15 stipulation of all parties to the proceeding or action that they wish to continue to
16 mediate under this subsection, enter an order suspending the proceeding or action
17 for as long a period as the court considers appropriate. A suspension order issued
18 under this paragraph may be revoked by the court.

19 (f) The parties to a mediation under this subsection shall bear their own costs
20 for attorney fees and divide equally the cost of the mediator.

21 **(3)** In addition to the remedies provided in this section, and notwithstanding
22 the existence of any additional remedy at law, a dealer or manufacturer may apply
23 to a circuit court for the grant, upon a hearing and for cause shown, of a temporary
24 or permanent injunction, or both, restraining any person from acting as a dealer,
25 manufacturer, or distributor without being properly licensed under this chapter,

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1 from violating or continuing to violate any of the provisions of this subchapter, or
2 from failing or refusing to comply with the requirements of this subchapter. An
3 injunction under this subsection shall be issued without bond. A single act in
4 violation of any of the provisions of this subchapter is sufficient to authorize the
5 issuance of an injunction.

6 **SECTION 26.** 218.17 (1) of the statutes is created to read:

7 218.17 (1) The department may suspend or revoke any dealer, manufacturer,
8 or distributor license upon a finding that any such party violated any provision of ss.
9 218.161 to 218.167. The department may impose, levy, and collect by legal process
10 fines, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation, against any person or
11 entity if it finds that such person or entity has violated any provision of ss. 218.161
12 to 218.167. A person against whom a fine is imposed under this section is entitled
13 to an administrative hearing or other proceeding authorized under state law to
14 contest the action or fine levied, or about to be levied, against the person or entity.

15 **SECTION 27.** 340.01 (6m) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 340.01 (6m) “Camping trailer” means a vehicle with a collapsible or folding
17 structure designed ~~for human habitation and to provide temporary living quarters~~
18 for recreation, camping, or travel use and to be towed upon a highway by a motor
19 vehicle.

20 **SECTION 28.** 340.01 (18m) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 340.01 (18m) “Fifth-wheel recreational vehicle” means a recreational vehicle
22 ~~that is towed by a vehicle with a flatbed frame so the trailer hitch of the recreational~~
23 ~~vehicle is bolted to the flatbed frame of the towing vehicle~~ mounted on wheels that
24 is designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel
25 use, that is of a size and weight that a special highway movement permit is not

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1 required, and that is designed to be towed by a motor vehicle that contains a towing
2 mechanism that is mounted above or forward of the rear axle of the tow vehicle.

3 **SECTION 29.** 340.01 (48r) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 340.01 (48r) "Recreational vehicle" means a vehicle that is designed to be
5 towed upon a highway by a motor vehicle, that is equipped and used, or intended to
6 be used, primarily for temporary or recreational human habitation, ~~that has walls~~
7 ~~of rigid construction,~~ and that does not exceed 45 feet in length. "Recreational
8 vehicle" includes a camping trailer, fifth-wheel recreational vehicle, park model
9 recreational vehicle, as defined in s. 218.10 (7m), travel trailer, as defined in s. 218.10
10 (8v), and truck camper, as defined in s. 218.10 (8w).

11 **SECTION 30.** 341.25 (1) (i) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 341.25 (1) (i) For each recreational vehicle, ~~and for each camping trailer,~~ a fee
13 of \$15.

14 **SECTION 31.** 348.08 (1) (i) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 348.08 (1) (i) A 3-vehicle combination consisting of a towing vehicle and, in
16 order by weight, with the lighter of the towed vehicles as the 3rd vehicle in the
17 3-vehicle combination unless not structurally possible, a recreational vehicle ~~or~~
18 ~~camping trailer~~ as the 2nd vehicle, and a recreational vehicle, ~~camping trailer,~~ or
19 trailer carrying any vehicle for recreational use or carrying no load as the 3rd vehicle
20 may, without a permit, be operated on a highway if the overall length of the
21 combination of vehicles does not exceed 65 feet and, if the total weight, including any
22 load, of all towed vehicles exceeds 3,000 pounds, one of the towed vehicles is equipped
23 with brakes. No 3-vehicle combination may operate under this paragraph if
24 highway or weather conditions include heavy snow, freezing rain, icy roads, high

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1 winds, limited visibility, or upon a highway that is closed or partially closed by the
2 department due to highway conditions.

3 **SECTION 32.** 348.08 (1) (j) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 348.08 (1) (j) A 3-vehicle combination not exceeding 70 feet in overall length
5 may, without a permit, be operated on a highway if the towing vehicle serving as the
6 power unit is equipped with a 5th wheel and kingpin connection by which the 2nd
7 vehicle in the 3-vehicle combination is drawn, the 2nd vehicle in the 3-vehicle
8 combination is a recreational vehicle ~~or camping trailer~~, including any combination
9 camping-horse trailer, the 3rd vehicle in the 3-vehicle combination is a recreational
10 vehicle ~~or camping trailer~~ or a trailer carrying any vehicle for recreational use,
11 carrying equestrian equipment and equestrian supplies for recreational purposes,
12 or carrying no load, and, if the total weight, including any load, of all towed vehicles
13 exceeds 3,000 pounds, one of the towed vehicles is equipped with brakes. No
14 3-vehicle combination may operate under this paragraph if highway or weather
15 conditions include heavy snow, freezing rain, icy roads, high winds, limited visibility,
16 or upon a highway that is closed or partially closed by the department due to highway
17 conditions.

18 (END)