1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to motor vehicle dealers; amending s. 3 320.27, F.S.; revising the definitions of the terms "motor vehicle dealer," "franchised motor vehicle 4 5 dealer," "independent motor vehicle dealer," "wholesale motor vehicle dealer," and "motor vehicle 6 7 broker"; prohibiting persons from engaging in business 8 as, serving in the capacity of, or acting as a motor 9 vehicle broker in this state without first obtaining a 10 certain license; adding an exception to the 11 prohibition on persons other than a licensed motor 12 vehicle dealer from advertising for sale any motor vehicle belonging to another party; requiring any 13 14 person acting in violation of specified licensing 15 requirements to be deemed to have committed an unfair 16 and deceptive trade practice in violation of specified 17 provisions; requiring an initial license certificate to be issued by the Department of Highway Safety and 18 19 Motor Vehicles in accordance with an application when the application is regular in form and in compliance 20 21 with specified provisions; providing for expiration of 22 a license issued to a motor vehicle broker; deleting 23 provisions relating to renewal forms, license 24 certificates, and initial license applications; 25 requiring each initial application for licensure as an

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26 independent motor vehicle dealer received by the 27 department to be accompanied by certain verification 28 of training; providing training requirements; 29 providing an exemption; authorizing the department to 30 adopt certain rules; providing that the curriculum for 31 certain subjects is approved by any and all other 32 regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over the 33 specific subject matters; requiring that the overall administration of the licensing of dealer schools and 34 35 their instructors remains with the department; 36 authorizing the schools to charge a fee for training; 37 requiring the department to deliver or mail to each licensee the necessary renewal forms within a 38 39 specified period; requiring independent motor vehicle dealers to complete certain certification relating to 40 41 continuing education, subject to certain requirements; 42 defining the term "dealer"; providing requirements for 43 continuing education; requiring dealer schools to provide certificates of completion to the department 44 and customer; requiring franchised motor vehicle 45 dealers to complete certain industry certification, 46 47 subject to certain requirements; authorizing such 48 certification to be accomplished by one designated 49 employee under certain circumstances; providing 50 certification requirements; requiring designated

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51	individuals to receive certificates of completion;
52	requiring licensees who do not file their application
53	and any other requisite documents with, and pay the
54	fees to, the department within a specified period to
55	cease engaging in business; providing fees for a
56	renewal or new application filed with the department
57	within specified periods after the expiration date;
58	authorizing a license certificate to be modified to
59	show a change in the name of the licensee, subject to
60	certain requirements; requiring a specified fee for
61	such modification; conforming provisions to changes
62	made by the act; providing an effective date.
63	
64	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
65	
66	Section 1. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1) and
67	subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section 320.27, Florida
68	Statutes, are amended to read:
69	320.27 Motor vehicle dealers
70	(1) DEFINITIONSThe following words, terms, and phrases
71	when used in this section have the meanings respectively
72	ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context
73	clearly indicates a different meaning:
74	(c) "Motor vehicle dealer" means any person engaged in the
75	business of buying, selling, or <u>leasing</u> <del>dealing in</del> motor
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vehicles or offering or displaying motor vehicles for sale at 76 77 wholesale or retail, or who may service and repair motor 78 vehicles pursuant to an agreement as defined in s. 320.60(1). 79 Any person who buys, sells, leases or deals in three or more 80 motor vehicles in any 12-month period or who offers or displays 81 for sale three or more motor vehicles in any 12-month period 82 shall be prima facie presumed to be engaged in such business a 83 motor vehicle dealer. Any person who engages in any of the following activities shall be deemed to be a motor vehicle 84 85 dealer: possessing, storing, or displaying motor vehicles for retail sale; advertising motor vehicles in inventory for retail 86 87 sale; compensating customers for vehicles at wholesale or retail, also known as trade-ins; negotiating with customers 88 89 regarding the terms of sale for a motor vehicle; providing test 90 drives of motor vehicles offered for sale; delivering or 91 arranging for the delivery of a motor vehicle in conjunction 92 with the sale of the motor vehicle; and offering vehicle service 93 protection products or retail installment sales contracts to 94 buyers. The terms "selling" and "sale" include lease-purchase 95 transactions. A motor vehicle dealer may, at retail or 96 wholesale, sell a recreational vehicle as described in s. 320.01(1)(b)1.-6. and 8., acquired in exchange for the sale of a 97 motor vehicle, provided such acquisition is incidental to the 98 principal business of being a motor vehicle dealer. However, a 99 100 motor vehicle dealer may not buy a recreational vehicle for the

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purpose of resale unless licensed as a recreational vehicle 101 102 dealer pursuant to s. 320.771. A motor vehicle dealer may apply 103 for a certificate of title to a motor vehicle required to be 104 registered under s. 320.08(2)(b), (c), and (d), using a 105 manufacturer's statement of origin as permitted by s. 319.23(1), 106 only if such dealer is authorized by a franchised agreement as 107 defined in s. 320.60(1), to buy, sell, or deal in such vehicle 108 and is authorized by such agreement to perform delivery and preparation obligations and warranty defect adjustments on the 109 110 motor vehicle; provided this limitation shall not apply to 111 recreational vehicles, van conversions, or any other motor 112 vehicle manufactured on a truck chassis. The transfer of a motor 113 vehicle by a dealer not meeting these qualifications shall be titled as a used vehicle. The classifications of motor vehicle 114 115 dealers are defined as follows: "Franchised motor vehicle dealer" means any person who 116 1. 117 engages in the business of repairing, servicing, buying, 118 selling, or leasing dealing in motor vehicles pursuant to an 119 agreement as defined in s. 320.60(1). A motor vehicle dealer may 120 apply for a certificate of title to a motor vehicle required to 121 be registered under s. 320.08(2)(b), (c), or (d), using a 122 manufacturer's statement of origin as required by s. 319.23(1), only if such dealer is authorized by a franchise agreement as 123 124 defined in s. 320.60(1) to buy, sell, or deal in such vehicles 125 and is authorized by such agreement to perform delivery and

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126 preparation obligations and warranty defect adjustments on the 127 motor vehicle. This limitation does not apply to recreational 128 vehicles, van conversions, or any other motor vehicle 129 manufactured on a truck chassis. If the transfer of a motor 130 vehicle by a dealer does not meet these qualifications, the 131 motor vehicle shall be titled as a used vehicle.

132 2. "Independent motor vehicle dealer" means any person
133 other than a franchised or wholesale motor vehicle dealer who
134 engages in the business of buying, and selling, or dealing in
135 motor vehicles, and who may service and repair motor vehicles.

"Wholesale motor vehicle dealer" means any person who 136 3. 137 engages exclusively in the business of buying, and selling, or dealing in motor vehicles at wholesale or with motor vehicle 138 139 auctions. Such person shall be licensed to do business in this 140 state, shall not sell or auction a vehicle to any person who is not a licensed dealer, and shall not have the privilege of the 141 142 use of dealer license plates. Any person who buys, sells, or deals in motor vehicles at wholesale or with motor vehicle 143 144 auctions on behalf of a licensed motor vehicle dealer and as a 145 bona fide employee of such licensed motor vehicle dealer is not 146 required to be licensed as a wholesale motor vehicle dealer. In 147 such cases it shall be prima facie presumed that a bona fide employer-employee relationship exists. A wholesale motor vehicle 148 dealer shall be exempt from the display provisions of this 149 150 section but shall maintain an office wherein records are kept in

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151 order that those records may be inspected.

4. "Motor vehicle auction" means any person offering motor vehicles or recreational vehicles for sale to the highest bidder where buyers are licensed motor vehicle dealers. Such person shall not sell a vehicle to anyone other than a licensed motor vehicle dealer.

157 5. "Salvage motor vehicle dealer" means any person who
158 engages in the business of acquiring salvaged or wrecked motor
159 vehicles for the purpose of reselling them and their parts.

Notwithstanding anything in this subsection to the contrary, the 161 162 term "motor vehicle dealer" does not include persons not engaged in the purchase or sale of motor vehicles as a business who are 163 164 disposing of vehicles acquired for their own use or for use in 165 their business or acquired by foreclosure or by operation of 166 law, provided such vehicles are acquired and sold in good faith 167 and not for the purpose of avoiding the provisions of this law; 168 persons engaged in the business of manufacturing, selling, or 169 offering or displaying for sale at wholesale or retail no more 170 than 25 trailers in a 12-month period; public officers while 171 performing their official duties; receivers; trustees, 172 administrators, executors, guardians, or other persons appointed by, or acting under the judgment or order of, any court; banks, 173 174 finance companies, or other loan agencies that acquire motor 175 vehicles as an incident to their regular business; motor vehicle

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176 brokers; persons whose sole dealing in motor vehicles is owning 177 a publication in, or hosting a website on, which licensed motor 178 vehicle dealers display vehicles for sale; and motor vehicle 179 rental and leasing companies that sell motor vehicles only to motor vehicle dealers licensed under this section. Vehicles 180 181 owned under circumstances described in this paragraph may be 182 disposed of at retail, wholesale, or auction, unless otherwise 183 restricted. A manufacturer of fire trucks, ambulances, or school 184 buses may sell such vehicles directly to governmental agencies 185 or to persons who contract to perform or provide firefighting, ambulance, or school transportation services exclusively to 186 187 governmental agencies without processing such sales through dealers if such fire trucks, ambulances, school buses, or 188 189 similar vehicles are not presently available through motor 190 vehicle dealers licensed by the department.

191 "Motor vehicle broker" means any person engaged in the (d) 192 business of, or who holds himself or herself out through 193 solicitation, advertisement, or other means as being in the 194 business of, assisting offering to procure or procuring motor 195 vehicles for the general public in purchasing or leasing a motor 196 vehicle from a licensed motor vehicle dealer, or who holds 197 himself or herself out through solicitation, advertisement, or 198 otherwise as one who offers to procure or procures motor 199 vehicles for the general public, and who does not store, 200 display, or take ownership of any vehicles for the purpose of

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201 selling such vehicles. Any advertisement or solicitation by a 202 motor vehicle broker must include notice that the broker is 203 receiving a fee and must clearly state that the person is not a 204 licensed motor vehicle dealer.

205 (2)LICENSE REQUIRED.-No person shall engage in business 206 as, serve in the capacity of, or act as a motor vehicle dealer 207 or motor vehicle broker in this state without first obtaining a 208 license therefor in the appropriate classification as provided 209 in this section. With the exception of transactions with motor 210 vehicle auctions, no person other than a licensed motor vehicle dealer may advertise for sale any motor vehicle belonging to 211 212 another party unless as a direct result of a bona fide legal proceeding, court order, settlement of an estate, or by contract 213 214 with a motor vehicle dealer or operation of law. However, owners 215 of motor vehicles titled in their names may advertise and offer 216 vehicles for sale on their own behalf. It shall be unlawful for 217 a licensed motor vehicle dealer to allow any person other than a 218 bona fide employee to use the motor vehicle dealer license for 219 the purpose of acting in the capacity of or conducting motor 220 vehicle sales transactions as a motor vehicle dealer. Any person 221 acting selling or offering a motor vehicle for sale in violation 222 of the licensing requirements of this subsection, or who 223 misrepresents to any person its relationship with any 224 manufacturer, importer, or distributor, in addition to the 225 penalties provided herein, shall be deemed to have committed

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226 guilty of an unfair and deceptive trade practice as defined in 227 violation of part II of chapter 501 and shall be subject to the 228 provisions of subsections (8) and (9).

229 APPLICATION AND FEE. - The application for the license (3) 230 shall be in such form as may be prescribed by the department and 231 shall be subject to such rules with respect thereto as may be so 232 prescribed by it. Such application shall be verified by oath or 233 affirmation and shall contain a full statement of the name and 234 birth date of the person or persons applying therefor; the name 235 of the firm or copartnership, with the names and places of 236 residence of all members thereof, if such applicant is a firm or 237 copartnership; the names and places of residence of the principal officers, if the applicant is a body corporate or 238 239 other artificial body; the name of the state under whose laws 240 the corporation is organized; the present and former place or places of residence of the applicant; and prior business in 241 242 which the applicant has been engaged and the location thereof. 243 Such application shall describe the exact location of the place 244 of business and shall state whether the place of business is 245 owned by the applicant and when acquired, or, if leased, a true 246 copy of the lease shall be attached to the application. The 247 applicant shall certify that the location provides an adequately equipped office and is not a residence; that the location 248 affords sufficient unoccupied space upon and within which 249 250 adequately to store all motor vehicles offered and displayed for

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251 sale; and that the location is a suitable place where the 252 applicant can in good faith carry on such business and keep and 253 maintain books, records, and files necessary to conduct such 254 business, which shall be available at all reasonable hours to 255 inspection by the department or any of its inspectors or other 256 employees. The applicant shall certify that the business of a 257 motor vehicle dealer is the principal business which shall be 258 conducted at that location. The application shall contain a statement that the applicant is: either franchised by a 259 manufacturer of motor vehicles, in which case the name of each 260 motor vehicle that the applicant is franchised to sell shall be 261 262 included; - or an independent (nonfranchised) motor vehicle dealer; or a motor vehicle broker. The application shall contain 263 264 other relevant information as may be required by the department, 265 including evidence that the applicant is insured under a garage 266 liability insurance policy or a general liability insurance 267 policy coupled with a business automobile policy, which shall 268 include, at a minimum, \$25,000 combined single-limit liability 269 coverage including bodily injury and property damage protection 270 and \$10,000 personal injury protection. However, a salvage motor 271 vehicle dealer as defined in subparagraph (1)(c)5. is exempt 272 from the requirements for garage liability insurance and personal injury protection insurance on those vehicles that 273 274 cannot be legally operated on roads, highways, or streets in 275 this state. Franchise dealers must submit a garage liability

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276 insurance policy, and all other dealers must submit a garage liability insurance policy or a general liability insurance policy coupled with a business automobile policy. Such policy shall be for the license period, and evidence of a new or continued policy shall be delivered to the department at the beginning of each license period. Upon making initial application, the applicant shall pay to the department a fee of 283 \$300 in addition to any other fees required by law. Applicants may choose to extend the licensure period for 1 additional year for a total of 2 years. An initial applicant shall pay to the department a fee of \$300 for the first year and \$75 for the 287 second year, in addition to any other fees required by law. An applicant for renewal shall pay to the department \$75 for a 1-289 year renewal or \$150 for a 2-year renewal, in addition to any 290 other fees required by law. Upon making an application for a change of location, the person shall pay a fee of \$50 in addition to any other fees now required by law. The department 293 shall, in the case of every application for initial licensure, verify whether certain facts set forth in the application are true. Each applicant, general partner in the case of a partnership, or corporate officer and director in the case of a corporate applicant, must file a set of fingerprints with the department for the purpose of determining any prior criminal record or any outstanding warrants. The department shall submit 299 the fingerprints to the Department of Law Enforcement for state

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301 processing and forwarding to the Federal Bureau of Investigation 302 for federal processing. The actual cost of state and federal 303 processing shall be borne by the applicant and is in addition to 304 the fee for licensure. The department may issue a license to an 305 applicant pending the results of the fingerprint investigation, 306 which license is fully revocable if the department subsequently 307 determines that any facts set forth in the application are not 308 true or correctly represented.

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(4) LICENSE CERTIFICATE.-

310 (a) An initial A license certificate shall be issued by 311 the department in accordance with such application when the 312 application is regular in form and in compliance with the 313 provisions of this section. The license certificate may be in 314 the form of a document or a computerized card as determined by 315 the department. The actual cost of each original, additional, or 316 replacement computerized card shall be borne by the licensee and 317 is in addition to the fee for licensure. Such license, when so 318 issued, entitles the licensee to carry on and conduct the 319 business of a motor vehicle dealer or broker. Each license 320 issued to a franchise motor vehicle dealer or motor vehicle 321 broker expires on December 31 of the year of its expiration 322 unless revoked or suspended prior to that date. Each license issued to an independent or wholesale dealer or auction expires 323 324 on April 30 of the year of its expiration unless revoked or 325 suspended prior to that date. At least 60 days before the

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326	license expiration date, the department shall deliver or mail to
327	each licensee the necessary renewal forms. Each independent
328	dealer shall certify that the dealer (owner, partner, officer,
329	or director of the licensee, or a full-time employee of the
330	licensee that holds a responsible management-level position) has
331	completed 8 hours of continuing education prior to filing the
332	renewal forms with the department. Such certification shall be
333	filed once every 2 years. The continuing education shall include
334	at least 2 hours of legal or legislative issues, 1 hour of
335	department issues, and 5 hours of relevant motor vehicle
336	industry topics. Continuing education shall be provided by
337	dealer schools licensed under paragraph (b) either in a
338	classroom setting or by correspondence. Such schools shall
339	provide certificates of completion to the department and the
340	customer which shall be filed with the license renewal form, and
341	such schools may charge a fee for providing continuing
342	education. Any licensee who does not file his or her application
343	and fees and any other requisite documents, as required by law,
344	with the department at least 30 days prior to the license
345	expiration date shall cease to engage in business as a motor
346	vehicle dealer on the license expiration date. A renewal filed
347	with the department within 45 days after the expiration date
348	shall be accompanied by a delinquent fee of \$100. Thereafter, a
349	new application is required, accompanied by the initial license
350	fee. A license certificate duly issued by the department may be

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351 modified by endorsement to show a change in the name of the 352 licensee, provided, as shown by affidavit of the licensee, the 353 majority ownership interest of the licensee has not changed or 354 the name of the person appearing as franchisee on the sales and 355 service agreement has not changed. Modification of a license 356 certificate to show any name change as herein provided shall not 357 require initial licensure or reissuance of dealer tags; however, 358 any dealer obtaining a name change shall transact all business 359 in and be properly identified by that name. All documents 360 relative to licensure shall reflect the new name. In the case of 361 a franchise dealer, the name change shall be approved by the 362 manufacturer, distributor, or importer. A licensee applying for 363 a name change endorsement shall pay a fee of \$25 which fee shall 364 apply to the change in the name of a main location and all 365 additional locations licensed under the provisions of subsection 366 (5). Each initial license application received by the department 367 shall be accompanied by verification that, within the preceding 368 6 months, the applicant, or one or more of his or her designated 369 employees, has attended a training and information seminar 370 conducted by a licensed motor vehicle dealer training school. 371 Any applicant for a new franchised motor vehicle dealer license 372 who has held a valid franchised motor vehicle dealer license 373 continuously for the past 2 years and who remains in good 374 standing with the department is exempt from the prelicensing 375 training requirement. Such seminar shall include, but is

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376 limited to, statutory dealer requirements, which requirements 377 include required bookkeeping and recordkeeping procedures, 378 requirements for the collection of sales and use taxes, and such 379 other information that in the opinion of the department will 380 promote good business practices. No seminar may exceed 8 hours 381 in length. 382 (b) Each initial license application received by the

383 department for licensure under subparagraph (1) (c)2. shall be accompanied by verification that, within the preceding 6 months, 384 385 the applicant (owner, partner, officer, or director of the applicant, or a full-time employee of the applicant that holds a 386 387 responsible management-level position) has successfully 388 completed training conducted by a licensed motor vehicle dealer 389 training school. Such training must include training in titling 390 and registration of motor vehicles, laws relating to unfair and 391 deceptive trade practices, laws relating to financing with 392 regard to buy-here, pay-here operations, and such other 393 information that in the opinion of the department will promote 394 good business practices. Successful completion of this training 395 shall be determined by examination administered at the end of 396 the course and attendance of no less than 90 percent of the 397 total hours required by such school. Any applicant who had held a valid motor vehicle dealer's license continuously within the 398 399 past 2 years and who remains in good standing with the 400 department is exempt from the prelicensing requirements of this

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401 section. The department shall have the authority to adopt any 402 rule necessary for establishing the training curriculum; length 403 of training, which shall not exceed 8 hours for required 404 department topics and shall not exceed an additional 24 hours 405 for topics related to other regulatory agencies' instructor 406 qualifications; and any other requirements under this section. 407 The curriculum for other subjects shall be approved by any and all other regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over specific 408 409 subject matters; however, the overall administration of the 410 licensing of these dealer schools and their instructors shall 411 remain with the department. Such schools are authorized to 412 charge a fee. 413 (b) Each initial application for licensure as an 414 independent motor vehicle dealer received by the department 415 shall be accompanied by verification that, within the preceding 416 6 months, the applicant or one or more of his or her designated 417 employees has attended a training and information seminar 418 conducted by a licensed motor vehicle dealer training school. 419 Such training must include instruction in titling and 420 registration of motor vehicles, laws relating to unfair and 421 deceptive trade practices, laws relating to financing with 422 regard to buy-here, pay-here operations, and such other 423 information that in the opinion of the department promotes good 424 business practices. Successful completion of this training shall 425 be determined by examination administered at the end of the

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426	seminar and attendance of no less than 90 percent of the total
427	hours required by such school. Any applicant who had held a
428	valid motor vehicle dealer's license continuously within the
429	past 2 years and who remains in good standing with the
430	department is exempt from the prelicensing requirements of this
431	section. The department may adopt any rule necessary for
432	establishing the training curriculum; length of training, which
433	shall not exceed 8 hours for required department topics and
434	shall not exceed an additional 24 hours for topics related to
435	other regulatory agencies' instructor qualifications; and any
436	other requirements under this section. The curriculum for other
437	subjects shall be approved by any and all other regulatory
438	agencies having jurisdiction over the specific subject matters;
439	however, the overall administration of the licensing of these
440	dealer schools and their instructors shall remain with the
441	department. Such schools are authorized to charge a fee for
442	training.
443	(c) At least 60 days before the license expiration date,
444	the department shall deliver or mail to each licensee the
445	necessary renewal forms.
446	1. Each independent motor vehicle dealer must certify that
447	the dealer has completed 8 hours of continuing education before
448	filing the renewal forms with the department. For purposes of
449	this subparagraph, the term "dealer" means an owner, partner,
450	officer, or director of the licensee, or a full-time employee of

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451	the licensee that holds a responsible management-level position.
452	Such certification must be filed once every 2 years. The
453	continuing education shall include at least 2 hours of
454	instruction in legal or legislative issues, 1 hour of
455	instruction in department issues, and 5 hours of instruction in
456	relevant motor vehicle industry topics. Continuing education
457	shall be provided by dealer schools licensed under paragraph (b)
458	either in a classroom setting or by correspondence. Such schools
459	shall provide certificates of completion to the department and
460	the customer which must be filed with the license renewal form,
461	and such schools may charge a fee for providing continuing
462	education.
463	2. Each franchised motor vehicle dealer shall certify that
464	the dealer, operator, owner, partner, director, or general
465	manager of the licensee has completed 8 hours of industry
466	certification on legal and legislative issues every 2 years
467	provided by a Florida-based, non-profit, dealer-owned industry
468	organization with state and federal compliance credentials
469	approved by the department. In the case of licensees with more
470	than 5 licensed or supplemental locations, the certification may
471	be accomplished by one designated employee as prescribed above.
472	Certification shall be required in a classroom setting in a
473	convenient location within the state and designated individuals
474	shall receive certificates of completion from the organization
475	which must be filed with their license renewal form.
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476 3. Any licensee who does not file his or her application 477 and any other requisite documents with, and pay the fees to, as 478 required by law, the department at least 30 days before the 479 license expiration date must cease to engage in business as a 480 motor vehicle dealer no later than the license expiration date. 481 A renewal filed with the department within 45 days after the 482 expiration date must be accompanied by a delinquent fee of \$100. 483 Thereafter, a new application is required, accompanied by the 484 initial license fee. 485 (d) A license certificate duly issued by the department 486 may be modified by endorsement to show a change in the name of 487 the licensee, provided, as shown by affidavit of the licensee, 488 the majority ownership interest of the licensee has not changed 489 or the name of the person appearing as franchisee on the sales 490 and service agreement has not changed. Modification of a license 491 certificate to show any name change as provided in this 492 paragraph does not require initial licensure or reissuance of 493 dealer tags; however, any dealer obtaining a name change shall transact all business in and be properly identified by that 494 495 name. All documents relative to licensure shall reflect the new 496 name. In the case of a franchised motor vehicle dealer, the name 497 change shall be approved by the manufacturer, distributor, or 498 importer. A licensee applying for a name change endorsement 499 shall pay a fee of \$25 which shall apply to the change in the 500 name of a main location and all additional locations licensed

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501	<u>under</u> s	subsect	cion	(5).								
502	Se	ection	2.	This	act	shall	take	effect	July	1,	2018.	
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