



Colorado Automobile Dealers Association

Update on Sunset Review

By CAR lobbyist Jeremy Cottrell

The pomp and circumstance of the State Budget, known as “The Long Bill” was introduced prior to the Motor Vehicle Dealer Board (MVDB) Sunset Review bill – SB-221. After waiting for both houses of the legislative body to review and debate the topic for nearly eight days, we were able to refocus on meeting with legislators to discuss our perspective and specific goals regarding our vision of the MVDB.

Despite a substantial wait, the Sunset Review bill (SB-221) for the Colorado Motor Vehicle Dealer Board was passed on second reading Monday in the Colorado Senate with a unanimous vote. Further, a victory was achieved on the most tenuous issue of the retention of the original make-up of the Motor Vehicle Dealer Board.

Basically every priority we had identified and established was passed as we proposed.

Bi-partisan support was instrumental in the victory. President of the Senate – Joan Fitz-Gerald (D-Golden) both supported and spoke on behalf of our position on the Senate floor while Senator and former motor vehicle dealer, Ken Kester (R-Las Animas) offered the amendment.

The Legislative Policy Committee—Sunset Review Topic Group had established a list of 12 priorities. We won to some degree or entirely on each of the 12 priorities.

- An amendment to keep the board at three new car dealers, three used car dealers and three consumers passed on a vote of 23 to 10, with all Republicans supporting us and eight Democrats supporting us.
- A subsequent amendment that permits the use of Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) by the Motor Vehicle Dealer Board passed unanimously.

CAR lobbyists Mike Feeley and Jeremy Cottrell provided the ‘feet on the ground’ that ensured the legislative victory, along with support of other auto retail advocates!

Next up for SB-221 will be review by the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee. We view this committee assignment to be an advantageous selection. We are also pleased to have Representative Joe Rice, former mayor of Glendale, as our bill sponsor on the House side. We have already met with Representative Rice personally to discuss our position and look forward to his support on the entire Sunset Review legislative process.