LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 346

FINAL READING

Introduced by Lowe, 37; at the request of the Governor. Read first time January 12, 2017 Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act; to amend sections 60-373, 60-1406, 60-1407, 60-1410, 60-1411, 60-1411.01, 60-1411.02, 60-1413, and 60-1416, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 60-3,116 and 60-1403.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2016; to eliminate the requirement for a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer salesperson license; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 60-373, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
 amended to read:

60-373 (1) Each licensed motor vehicle dealer or trailer dealer as defined in sections 60-1401.26 and 60-1401.37, respectively, doing business in this state, in lieu of registering each motor vehicle or trailer which such dealer owns of a type otherwise required to be registered, or any full-time or part-time employee or agent of such dealer may, if the motor vehicle or trailer displays dealer number plates:

(a) Operate or tow the motor vehicle or trailer upon the highways of 10 this state solely for purposes of transporting, testing, demonstrating, 11 or use in the ordinary course and conduct of business as a motor vehicle 12 13 or trailer dealer. Such use may include personal or private use by the dealer and personal or private use by any bona fide employee-licensed 14 pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act, if the employee 15 16 can be verified by payroll records maintained at the dealership as ordinarily working more than thirty hours per week or fifteen hundred 17 hours per year at the dealership; 18

(b) Operate or tow the motor vehicle or trailer upon the highways of
this state for transporting industrial equipment held by the licensee for
purposes of demonstration, sale, rental, or delivery; or

22 (c) Sell the motor vehicle or trailer.

(2) Each licensed manufacturer as defined in section 60-1401.24 23 24 which actually manufactures or assembles motor vehicles or trailers within this state, in lieu of registering each motor vehicle or trailer 25 which such manufacturer owns of a type otherwise required to 26 be registered, or any employee of such manufacturer may operate or tow the 27 motor vehicle or trailer upon the highways of this state solely for 28 transporting, testing, demonstrating 29 purposes of to prospective customers, or use in the ordinary course and conduct of business as a 30 motor vehicle or trailer manufacturer, upon the condition that any such 31

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1 motor vehicle or trailer display thereon, in the manner prescribed in 2 section 60-3,100, dealer number plates as provided for in section 3 60-3,114.

4 (3) In no event shall such plates be used on motor vehicles or trailers hauling other than automotive or trailer equipment, complete 5 motor vehicles, or trailers which are inventory of such licensed dealer 6 7 or manufacturer unless there is issued by the department a special permit specifying the hauling of other products. This section shall not be 8 9 construed to allow a dealer to operate a motor vehicle or trailer with dealer number plates for the delivery of parts inventory. A dealer may 10 use such motor vehicle or trailer to pick up parts to be used for the 11 motor vehicle or trailer inventory of the dealer. 12

Sec. 2. Section 60-3,116, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2016, is amended to read:

60-3,116 (1) Any licensed dealer or manufacturer may, upon payment 15 16 of an annual fee of two hundred fifty dollars, make an application, on a form approved by the Nebraska Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board, to 17 the county treasurer of the county in which his or her place of business 18 is located for a certificate and one personal-use dealer license plate 19 for the type of motor vehicle or trailer the dealer has been authorized 20 by the Nebraska Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board to sell and 21 22 demonstrate. Additional personal-use dealer license plates may be 23 procured upon payment of an annual fee of two hundred fifty dollars each, 24 subject to the same limitations as provided in section 60-3,114 as to the number of additional dealer license plates. A personal-use dealer license 25 plate may be displayed on a motor vehicle having a gross weight including 26 any load of six thousand pounds or less belonging to the dealer, may be 27 28 used in the same manner as a dealer license plate, and may be used for personal or private use of the dealer, the dealer's immediate family, or 29 any bona fide employee of the dealer licensed pursuant to the Motor 30 Vehicle Industry Regulation Act. 31

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1 (2) Personal-use dealer license plates shall have the same design 2 and shall be displayed as provided in sections 60-370 and 60-3,100.

3 Sec. 3. Section 60-1403.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
4 2016, is amended to read:

5 60-1403.01 (1) No person shall engage in the business as, serve in the capacity of, or act as a motor vehicle, trailer, or motorcycle 6 7 dealer, wrecker or salvage dealer, salesperson, auction dealer, dealer's agent, manufacturer, factory branch, factory representative, distributor, 8 9 distributor branch, or distributor representative in this state without being licensed by the board under the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation 10 Act. No salesperson's license shall be issued to any person under the age 11 of sixteen, and no dealer's license shall be issued to any minor. No 12 13 wrecker or salvage dealer's license shall be issued or renewed unless the applicant has a permanent place of business at which the activity 14 requiring licensing is performed and which conforms to all local laws. 15

16 (2) A license issued under the act shall authorize the holder 17 thereof to engage in the business or activities permitted by the license 18 subject to the act and the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated 19 by the board under the act.

(3) This section shall not apply to a licensed real estate
salesperson or broker who negotiates for sale or sells a trailer for any
individual who is the owner of not more than two trailers.

(4) This section shall not restrict a licensed motor vehicle dealer
from conducting an auction as provided in subsection (5) of section
60-1417.02.

26 Sec. 4. Section 60-1406, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 27 amended to read:

60-1406 Licenses issued by the board under the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act shall be of the classes set out in this section and shall permit the business activities described in this section:

31 (1) Motor vehicle dealer's license. This license permits the

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licensee to engage in the business of selling or exchanging new, used, or 1 2 new and used motor vehicles, trailers, and manufactured homes at the established place of business designated in the license and another place 3 4 or places of business located within three hundred feet of the designated place of business and within the city or county described in the original 5 license. This license permits the sale of a trade-in or consignment 6 7 mobile home greater than forty feet in length and eight feet in width and located at a place other than the dealer's established place of business. 8 9 This license permits one person, either the licensee, if he or she is the 10 individual owner of the licensed business, or a stockholder, officer, partner, or member of the licensee, to act as a motor vehicle, trailer, 11 and manufactured home salesperson and the name of the authorized person 12 13 shall appear on the license;

14 (2) Motor vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer salesperson license. This 15 license permits the licensee to engage in the activities of a motor 16 vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer salesperson. This license permits the one 17 person named on the license to act as a salesperson;

18 (2) (3) Manufacturer license. This license permits the licensee to
 19 engage in the activities of a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer
 20 manufacturer or manufacturer's factory branch;

21 (3) (4) Distributor license. This license permits the licensee to 22 engage in the activities of a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer 23 distributor;

24 (4) (5) Factory representative license. This license permits the
 25 licensee to engage in the activities of a factory branch representative;

26 (5) (6) Factory branch license. This license permits the licensee to
 27 maintain a branch office in this state;

28 (6) (7) Distributor representative license. This license permits the
 29 licensee to engage in the activities of a distributor representative;

30 (7) (8) Finance company license. This license permits the licensee
 31 to engage in the activities of repossession of motor vehicles or trailers

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1 and the sale of such motor vehicles or trailers so repossessed;

2 <u>(8)</u> (9) Wrecker or salvage dealer license. This license permits the 3 licensee to engage in the business of acquiring motor vehicles or 4 trailers for the purpose of dismantling the motor vehicles or trailers 5 and selling or otherwise disposing of the parts and accessories of motor 6 vehicles or trailers;

(9) (10) Supplemental motor vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer dealer's 7 license. This license permits the licensee to engage in the business of 8 9 selling or exchanging motor vehicles, motorcycles, or trailers of the type designated in his or her dealer's license at a specified place of 10 business which is located more than three hundred feet from any part of 11 the place of business designated in the original motor vehicle, 12 13 motorcycle, or trailer dealer's license but which is located within the city or county described in such original license; 14

(10) (11) Motorcycle dealer's license. This license permits the 15 licensee to engage in the business of selling or exchanging new, used, or 16 17 new and used motorcycles at the established place of business designated in the license and another place or places of business located within 18 three hundred feet of the designated place of business and within the 19 city or county described in the original license. This form of license 20 permits one person named on the license, either the licensee, if he or 21 she is the individual owner of the licensed business, or a stockholder, 22 officer, partner, or member of the licensee, to act as a motorcycle 23 24 salesperson and the name of the authorized person shall appear on the 25 license;

26 (11) (12) Motor vehicle auction dealer's license. This license 27 permits the licensee to engage in the business of selling motor vehicles 28 and trailers. This form of license permits one person named on the 29 license, either the licensee, if he or she is the individual owner of the 30 licensed business, or a stockholder, officer, partner, or member of the 31 licensee, to act as a motor vehicle auction dealer's salesperson and the

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1 name of the authorized person shall appear on the license;

2 (12) (13) Trailer dealer's license. This license permits the licensee to engage in the business of selling or exchanging new, used, or 3 new and used trailers and manufactured homes at the established place of 4 5 business designated in the license and another place or places of business located within three hundred feet of the designated place of 6 7 business and within the city or county described in the original license. This form of license permits one person named on the license, either the 8 9 licensee, if he or she is the individual owner of the licensed business, or a stockholder, officer, partner, or member of the licensee, to act as 10 a trailer and manufactured home salesperson and the name of the 11 authorized person shall appear on the license; and 12

(13) (14) Dealer's agent license. This license permits the licensee 13 to act as the buying agent for one or more licensed motor vehicle 14 dealers, motorcycle dealers, or trailer dealers. The agent shall act in 15 accordance with a written contract and file a copy of the contract with 16 the board. The dealer shall be bound by and liable for the actions of the 17 agent. The dealer's agent shall disclose in writing to each dealer with 18 19 which the agent contracts as an agent the names of all other dealers contracting with the agent. The agent shall make each purchase on behalf 20 of and in the name of only one dealer and may purchase for dealers only 21 22 at auctions and only from licensed dealers. The agent shall not act as a licensed dealer and is not authorized to sell any vehicle pursuant to 23 24 this license.

25 Sec. 5. Section 60-1407, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 26 amended to read:

60-1407 Any person desiring to apply for one or more of the types of
licenses described in the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act shall
submit to the board, in writing, the following required information:

30 (1) The name and address of the applicant, if the applicant is an31 individual, his or her social security number, and the name under which

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he or she intends to conduct business. If the applicant is a partnership or limited liability company, it shall set forth the name and address of each partner or member thereof and the name under which the business is to be conducted. If the applicant is a corporation, it shall set forth the name of the corporation and the name and address of each of its principal officers;

7 (2) The place or places, including the city or village and the
8 street and street number, if any, where the business is to be conducted
9 or the salesperson employed;

10 (3) If the application is for a motor vehicle dealer's license, trailer dealer's license, or motorcycle dealer's license (a) the name or 11 names of the new motor vehicle or vehicles, new trailer or trailers, or 12 13 new motorcycle or motorcycles which the applicant has been enfranchised to sell or exchange, (b) the name or names and address or addresses of 14 the manufacturer or distributor who has enfranchised the applicant, (c) a 15 current copy of each existing franchise, and (d) a description of the 16 17 community;

(4) If the application is for any of the above-named classes of
dealer's licenses, the name and address of the person who is to act as a
motor vehicle, trailer, or motorcycle salesperson under such license if
issued;

(5) If the application is for a dealer's agent, the dealers forwhich the agent will be buying;

(6) A description of the proposed place or places of business proposed to be operated in the event a license is granted together with (a) a statement whether the applicant owns or leases the proposed established place of business and, if the proposed established place of business is leased, the applicant shall file a true and correct copy of the lease agreement, and (b) a description of the facilities for the display of motor vehicles, trailers, and motorcycles;

31 (7) If the application is for a manufacturer's license, a statement

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regarding the manufacturer's compliance with the Motor Vehicle Industry
 Regulation Act; and

3 (8) A statement that the licensee will comply with and be subject to 4 the act, the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the board, 5 and any amendments to the act and the rules and regulations existing on 6 the date of application.

Subdivision (3)(d) of this section shall not be construed to require
any licensee who has a franchise on August 31, 2003, to show good cause
to be in the same community as any other licensee who has a franchise of
the same line-make in the same community on August 31, 2003.

11 Sec. 6. Section 60-1410, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 12 amended to read:

13 60-1410 The board shall prescribe the form of the license and each license shall have printed thereon the seal of its office. All licenses 14 15 shall be mailed to each licensee except the license of each motor vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer salesperson which shall be delivered or 16 17 mailed to the motor vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer dealer by whom the 18 motor vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer salesperson is employed and be kept in the custody and control of such dealer. It shall be the duty of each 19 dealer to conspicuously display his or her own license or licenses in his 20 or her place or places of business. 21

The board shall prepare and deliver a pocket card for salespersons, 22 factory representatives, 23 dealer's agents, and distributor 24 representatives. Such card shall certify that the person whose name 25 appears thereon is a licensed motor vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer salesperson, dealer's agent, factory representative, or distributor 26 27 representative, as the case may be. Such motor vehicle or trailer 28 salesperson's card shall also contain the name and address of the dealer employing the salesperson. 29

30 Sec. 7. Section 60-1411, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 31 amended to read:

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1 60-1411 If a motor vehicle dealer, motorcycle dealer, or trailer 2 dealer changes the address of his or her place of business, changes 3 franchise, adds another franchise, or loses a franchise for sale of new 4 motor vehicles, motorcycles, or trailers, the dealer shall notify the 5 board of such change within ten days prior to such change. Thereupon the 6 license shall be corrected for the unexpired portion of the term at no 7 additional fee except as provided in section 60-1411.01.

8 If any motor vehicle, trailer, or motorcycle salesperson is 9 discharged, leaves his or her employer, or changes his or her place of 10 employment, the employer who last employed the salesperson shall forthwith return the license to the board. The salesperson's pocket card 11 12 shall thereupon be returned by the salesperson. The salesperson shall be 13 notified at his or her last-known place of residence that his or her license has been returned to the board. It shall be unlawful for the 14 15 salesperson to act as a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer salesperson until a new license is secured. 16

17 If a dealer's agent changes his or her agent's status with any 18 dealer, the agent shall notify the board. If the agent is no longer 19 contracting with any dealer, the dealer's agent license shall lapse and 20 the license and pocket card shall be returned to the board.

21 Sec. 8. Section 60-1411.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 22 amended to read:

60-1411.01 (1) To pay the expenses of the administration, operation,
 maintenance, and enforcement of the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation
 Act, the board shall collect with each application for each class of
 license fees not exceeding the following amounts:

27 (a) Motor vehicle dealer's license, four hundred dollars;

28 (b) Supplemental motor vehicle dealer's license, twenty dollars;

29 (c) Motor vehicle or motorcycle salesperson's license, twenty 30 dollars;

31 (c) (d) Dealer's agent license, one hundred dollars;

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1 (d) (e) Motor vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer manufacturer's 2 license, six hundred dollars; 3 (e) (f) Distributor's license, six hundred dollars; 4 (f) (g) Factory representative's license, twenty dollars; 5 (g) (h) Distributor representative's license, twenty dollars; (h) (i) Finance company's license, four hundred dollars; 6 7 (i) (i) Wrecker or salvage dealer's license, two hundred dollars; (j) (k) Factory branch license, two hundred dollars; 8 9 (k) (1) Motorcycle dealer's license, four hundred dollars; 10 (1) (m) Motor vehicle auction dealer's license, four hundred dollars; and 11

12 (m) (n) Trailer dealer's license, four hundred dollars.

(2) The fees shall be fixed by the board and shall not exceed the
amount actually necessary to sustain the administration, operation,
maintenance, and enforcement of the act.

16 (3) Such licenses, if issued, shall expire on December 31 next 17 following the date of the issuance thereof. Any motor vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer dealer changing its location shall not be required 18 19 to obtain a new license if the new location is within the same city limits or county, all requirements of law are complied with, and a fee of 20 twenty-five dollars is paid, but any change of ownership of any licensee 21 shall require a new application for a license and a new license. Change 22 23 of name of licensee without change of ownership shall require the 24 licensee to obtain a new license and pay a fee of five dollars. 25 Applications shall be made each year for a new or renewal license. If the applicant is an individual, the application shall include the applicant's 26 social security number. 27

28 Sec. 9. Section 60-1411.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 29 amended to read:

30 60-1411.02 The board may, upon its own motion, and shall, upon a
 31 sworn complaint in writing of any person, investigate the actions of any

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person acting, registered, or licensed under the Motor Vehicle Industry 1 2 Regulation Act as a motor vehicle dealer, trailer dealer, motor vehicle or trailer salesperson, dealer's agent, manufacturer, factory branch, 3 4 distributor, factory representative, distributor representative, 5 supplemental motor vehicle dealer, wrecker or salvage dealer, finance company, motorcycle dealer, or motor vehicle auction dealer or operating 6 7 without a registration or license when such registration or license is required. The board may deny any application for a license, may revoke or 8 9 suspend a license, may place the licensee or registrant on probation, may assess an administrative fine in an amount not to exceed five thousand 10 dollars per violation, or may take any combination of such actions if the 11 violator, applicant, registrant, or licensee including any officer, 12 13 stockholder, partner, or limited liability company member or any person 14 having any financial interest in the violator, applicant, registrant, or licensee: 15

(1) Has had any license issued under the act revoked or suspended
 and, if the license has been suspended, has not complied with the terms
 of suspension;

(2) Has knowingly purchased, sold, or done business in stolen motor
vehicles, motorcycles, or trailers or parts therefor;

(3) Has failed to provide and maintain an established place of
business;

(4) Has been found guilty of any felony which has not been pardoned,
has been found guilty of any misdemeanor concerning fraud or conversion,
or has suffered any judgment in any civil action involving fraud,
misrepresentation, or conversion. In the event felony charges are pending
against an applicant, the board may refuse to issue a license to the
applicant until there has been a final determination of the charges;

(5) Has made a false material statement in his or her application or
any data attached to the application or to any investigator or employee
of the board;

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(6) Has willfully failed to perform any written agreement with any
 consumer or retail buyer;

3 (7) Has made a fraudulent sale, transaction, or repossession, or 4 created a fraudulent security interest as defined in the Uniform 5 Commercial Code, in a motor vehicle, trailer, or motorcycle;

6 (8) Has failed to notify the board of a change in the location of
7 his or her established place or places of business and in the case of a
8 salesperson has failed to notify the board of any change in his or her
9 employment;

10 (9) Has willfully failed to deliver to a purchaser a proper 11 certificate of ownership for a motor vehicle, trailer, or motorcycle sold 12 by the licensee or to refund the full purchase price if the purchaser 13 cannot legally obtain proper certification of ownership within thirty 14 days;

(10) Has forged the signature of the registered or legal owner on a
certificate of title;

17 (11) Has failed to comply with the act and any orders, rules, or
18 regulations of the board adopted and promulgated under the act;

(12) Has failed to comply with the advertising and selling standards
established in section 60-1411.03;

(13) Has failed to comply with any provisions of the Motor Vehicle Certificate of Title Act, the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act, the Motor Vehicle Registration Act, or the rules or regulations adopted and promulgated by the board pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act;

(14) Has failed to comply with any provision of Chapter 71, article
46, or with any code, standard, rule, or regulation adopted or made under
the authority of or pursuant to Chapter 71, article 46;

(15) Has willfully defrauded any retail buyer or other person in the
conduct of the licensee's business;

31 (16) Has employed any unlicensed salesperson or salespersons;

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1 (16) (17) Has failed to comply with sections 60-190 to 60-196;

2 (17) (18) Has engaged in any unfair methods of competition or unfair
3 or deceptive acts or practices prohibited under the Uniform Deceptive
4 Trade Practices Act;

5 (18) (19) Has conspired, as defined in section 28-202, with other
6 persons to process certificates of title in violation of the Motor
7 Vehicle Certificate of Title Act; or

(19) (20) Has violated the Guaranteed Asset Protection Waiver Act.

9 If the violator, applicant, registrant, or licensee is a publicly 10 held corporation, the board's authority shall extend only to the 11 corporation and its managing officers and directors.

12 Sec. 10. Section 60-1413, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 13 amended to read:

60-1413 (1) Before the board denies any license or any registration 14 as described in section 60-1417.02, revokes or suspends any such license 15 or registration, places a licensee or registrant on probation, or 16 17 assesses an administrative fine under section 60-1411.02, the board shall give the applicant, licensee, registrant, or violator a hearing on the 18 19 matter unless the hearing is waived upon agreement between the applicant, licensee, registrant, or violator and the executive director, with the 20 approval of the board. As a condition of the waiver, the applicant, 21 licensee, registrant, or violator shall accept the fine or other 22 administrative action. If the hearing is not waived, the board shall, at 23 24 least thirty days prior to the date set for the hearing, notify the party 25 in writing. Such notice in writing shall contain an exact statement of the charges against the party and the date and place of hearing. The 26 party shall have full authority to be heard in person or by counsel 27 28 before the board in reference to the charges. The written notice may be served by delivery personally to the party or by mailing the notice by 29 registered or certified mail to the last-known business address of the 30 party. If the applicant is a salesperson or dealer's agent, the board 31

1 shall also notify the dealer employing or contracting with him or her or 2 whose employ he or she seeks to enter by mailing the notice to the 3 dealer's last-known business address. A stenographic record of all 4 testimony presented at the hearings shall be made and preserved pending 5 final disposition of the complaint.

(2) When the licensee fails to maintain a bond as provided in 6 section 60-1419, an established place of business, or liability insurance 7 as prescribed by subsection (3) of section 60-1407.01, the license shall 8 9 immediately expire. The executive director shall notify the licensee personally or by mailing the notice by registered or certified mail to 10 the last-known address of the licensee that his or her license is revoked 11 until a bond as required by section 60-1419 or liability insurance as 12 13 prescribed by subsection (3) of section 60-1407.01 is furnished and approved in which event the license may be reinstated. 14

(3) Upon notice of the revocation or suspension of the license, the licensee shall immediately surrender the expired license to the executive director or his or her representative. If the license is suspended, the executive director or his or her representative shall return the license to the licensee at the time of the conclusion of the period of suspension. Failure to surrender the license as required in this section shall subject the licensee to the penalties provided in section 60-1416.

Sec. 11. Section 60-1416, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

24 60-1416 Any person acting as a motor vehicle dealer, trailer dealer, wrecker or salvage dealer, motorcycle dealer, auction dealer, motor 25 vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer salesperson, 26 dealer's agent, 27 manufacturer, factory representative, distributor, or distributor 28 representative without having first obtained the license provided in section 60-1406 is guilty of a Class IV felony and is subject to the 29 civil penalty provisions of section 60-1411.02. 30

31 Sec. 12. Original sections 60-373, 60-1406, 60-1407, 60-1410,

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60-1411, 60-1411.01, 60-1411.02, 60-1413, and 60-1416, Reissue Revised
 Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 60-3,116 and 60-1403.01, Revised
 Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2016, are repealed.