



March 20, 2020

## DEALERSHIP INFORMATIONAL ADVISORY **COVID-19 UPDATE #3**

As you may already know, President Trump signed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act on March 18. The Act is an economic stimulus plan that attempts to address the impact of the Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak on Americans and introduces paid sick leave and an expanded family and medical leave act to the nation's employers. The new leave provisions under this Act are effective on April 2. I realize there are far more questions than answers for dealers right now as it relates to this new act, and as soon as we have more information I will forward the information to you.

For now, here's the latest update:

### **NADA WEBINAR FROM YESTERDAY NOW AVAILABLE**

The NADA webinar, *Running a Dealership During a Pandemic: Legal Issues and Federal Mandates*, is now available here: [NADA Webinar](#). The Families First Coronavirus Response Act made a number of changes to employer requirements related to mandatory paid and family leave. Yesterday's webinar covered the most-important employment-related legal issues and other key pandemic-related legal issues and mandates for automobile dealerships—including those triggered by the new law. I would strongly recommend taking some time and listening to and watching this webinar as the information presented, particularly the Q and A section, addressed many questions dealers have related to the new provisions.

As a reminder, you will need your NADA login information to view the webinar. If you would like a copy of the slides from this presentation, please email me.

### **NEXT FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS**

As reported by NADA this morning, serious negotiations on the next phase of the coronavirus response have begun and are moving very rapidly. The Senate GOP draft of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* includes several priorities to help dealers improve liquidity and cash flow such as a \$300 billion small business emergency economic relief plan that would help small businesses, including dealerships, impacted by the coronavirus pandemic make payroll and cover expenses and would provide loan forgiveness for employers who retain their workers. Other provisions include modifications of limitations on business interest, delay of payment for employer payroll taxes and modifications for net operating losses. It's important to note this draft is not final, and will certainly change as debate continues. I wanted to simply make sure dealers were aware that further action will likely be taken, and AADA will keep you updated.

## **NO FURTHER BUSINESS CLOSURES, AT THIS TIME, ACCORDING TO GOVERNOR HUTCHINSON**

This afternoon the Governor announced that at this time "there is no intent to further restrict or close businesses in Arkansas." Obviously this situation is fluid, and we will keep you updated as things may change. As a reminder, AADA sent the attached letter to Governor Hutchinson requesting that in the event of a forced business closure, auto dealers be considered "essential businesses," [AADA Letter to Governor](#).

I would continue encourage you to make certain you are following as many precautions and procedures as necessary to ensure your employees and customers remain safe. The links below to the CDC and OSHA will help give details for these efforts.

### **ADDITIONAL AND HELPFUL INFORMATION**

Arkansas Economic Development Commission Redeploys \$16 Million to Help Businesses Hurt by Coronavirus Outbreak. This article also covers the Quick Action Closing Fund, Community Development Block Grants, SBA disaster relief loans and Arkansas's Unemployment Insurance System: [AEDC Funds Available](#)

The Arkansas Attorney General's Office has a COVID-19 page for use by the business community: [Attorney General](#)

For additional information related to maintaining your dealership as safe, we would recommend monitoring updates from the CDC, [link](#), and OSHA, [link](#).

AADA will work to keep you updated on this fluid situation, but a firm commitment to maintaining a safe and clean work environment for your employees and customers will help you navigate this health crisis.

If you have any questions about this bulletin please don't hesitate to call, 501-372-2596, or email Greg Kirkpatrick [greg@arkautodealers.com](mailto:greg@arkautodealers.com).