

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2005 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1094 (Delegate Barve)  
Economic Matters

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**Commercial Law - Maryland Gasohol and Gasoline Products Marketing Act -  
Credit Cards - Use and Processing**

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This bill prohibits a distributor, under the Maryland Gasohol and Gasoline Products Marketing Act, from: (1) requiring a dealer (the retail seller of these products) to process credit cards through the distributor or a third party designated by the distributor; or (2) prohibit a dealer from making modifications to any equipment to enable the dealer to process credit cards through a source the dealer selects. A provision in the marketing agreement that violates the bill or the current standards on the acceptance of credit cards by the dealer is void and unenforceable.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill would not directly affect governmental finances or operations.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A distributor may not require a dealer to refuse credit card purchases of gasohol or provide that any credit card it issues may not be used for the purchase of gasohol.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Office of the Attorney General (Consumer Protection Division),  
Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 3, 2005  
mam/jr

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