



Charles County Government

**CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*  
Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A., *Vice President*  
Gilbert O. Bowling, III  
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.  
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

**Mark Belton**  
County Administrator

February 29, 2024

Bill: SENATE BILL 651/HOUSE BILL 882 Business Regulation - Sale of Motor Fuel - Pricing Signage (Gas Price Gouging Act)  
Committee: Senate – Finance  
House – Economic Matters  
Position: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the County Commissioners for Charles County, this letter is to express support for SB 651/HB882 –Business Regulation - Sale of Motor Fuel - Pricing Signage (Gas Price Gouging Act). The bill ensures that pricing signage displayed by gas stations clearly identifies prices of gasoline when the consumer’s method of payment is credit, debit, or cash.

The Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors’ Association reports that the substantial majority of gas purchases are made with credit cards, yet gas stations typically display the cash price because it is lower than the credit/debit price. This means that consumers are by and large paying a higher price for gasoline than what is displayed. HB 651/HB882 seeks to equip consumers with accurate information, which should always be a priority in any business transaction.

It is also important to note that SB651/HB882 does not limit gas stations in any way from charging different prices based upon the payment method; it simply ensures that consumers know the accurate price before deciding where to purchase gasoline. Gas stations may continue to advertise their lower cash price, but must also display the higher credit price, should it exist.

SB651/HB882 is a reasonable bill that bolsters fairness and integrity. For the reasons stated herein, we encourage a FAVORABLE report on SB 651/HB882. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support.

Sincerely,

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President  
County Commissioners of Charles County

cc: Charles County Delegation