



AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 651 - Business Regulation – Sale of Motor Fuel – Pricing Signage

Sponsor: Senator Kagan

- AAA Mid-Atlantic supports [Senate Bill 651 - Business Regulation – Sale of Motor Fuel – Pricing Signage](#), which would require retail service stations to “prominently display...the credit and debit price of gasoline, if higher than the cash price.”
- Consumers are sometimes confused when they see a service station sign, prominently displaying a sign for less expensive gas, only to learn that price applies only to those who pay with cash, or under specific circumstances.
- SB 651 seeks to remedy this, by requiring clear and visible gas price signage, indicating the higher price of gasoline regardless of payment method, or displaying both the cash and credit/debit prices.
- Current law requires the display of the lowest gas price, which is usually either the cash amount or the price with additional stipulations, such as a car wash, which are not always clearly stated to consumers.
- The national annual average pump price for a gallon of unleaded regular gasoline was \$3.52 in 2023 and Maryland's annual average was \$3.44, according to [AAA](#).
- Most major gas stations, filling stations, convenience stores, and big box stores in the state of Maryland accept credit cards or debit cards, as is the case across the United States.
- A recent [AAA survey](#) indicated when it comes to selecting a gas station, Americans value convenience and price. In fact, three-quarters of U.S. drivers decide where to fuel up based on station location (75 percent) or price (73 percent).
- AAA supports SB 651, which would help alleviate confusion related to cash or credit prices when motorists purchase gasoline. Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to render a **favorable** report for **SB 651**.

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