



Councilman Mark Conway
Baltimore City Council *Fourth District*

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TO: Chair Pamela Beidle; Vice Chair Katherine Klausmeier; members of the Finance Committee
FROM: Mark Conway (District 4, Baltimore City Council; Chair, Public Safety and Government Operations Committee)
RE: SB651 (Business Regulation – Sale of Motor Fuel – Pricing Signage (Gas Price Gouging Act))
POSITION: SUPPORT

I am writing today to offer my support for SB651 (Business Regulation – Sale of Motor Fuel – Pricing Signage (Gas Price Gouging Act)), which would require that gas station signage prominently and clearly display the credit and debit price, if higher than the cash price, or the credit and debit price and the cash price.

SB651 is a common-sense, consumer-friendly bill. Current Maryland state law requires gas stations to display the lowest price of regular gasoline, and some gas stations charge different prices depending on method of payment. The lowest price displayed often requires payment in cash, but this price is usually displayed first to entice drivers to come to that gas station, only to find they're paying more if using a debit or credit card. This bill would standardize clear, visible signage at all gas stations and would require that the credit or card price (if higher than the cash price) be listed on gas station signs, safeguarding the consumer's freedom of choice and upholding price transparency.

SB651 would not only protect buyers at the pump, but would also codify at the state level legislation taking hold in different counties around Maryland. In Baltimore City, I introduced legislation that would have the same effect: Bill 24-0480 (Motor Fuel Credit Price – Signage), which would require that the highest credit card price be listed on gas station signs and would establish a penalty for dishonest and inequitable signage policies. Similar bills have also been passed in Montgomery County and Prince George's County. Since introducing my bill in Baltimore, I have received thanks from people all around my district and the city.

I urge a favorable report on bill SB651.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Conway, Jr.