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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB322: Gas Price Gouging Act

Finance Committee

Thursday, February 10, 2022 | 1pm

According to a recent national poll, [84% of people](#) say that rising gas prices are a problem for their family. In Maryland, there has been a [34% increase](#) in gas prices since last February. With fuel prices skyrocketing, Maryland needs to ensure that gas customers know what they are paying.

[63% of drivers](#) rely on the large price sign when choosing a gas station; [59%](#) say that cost is their most decisive factor. In 2019, [78% of consumers](#) used credit or debit to pay for their fuel. Higher prices for using a credit/debit card are usually hidden on signs that are obscured. Current law “hoses” consumers by allowing stations to “bait and switch” them by only requiring that stations post the lowest (cash) price.

The Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, states that they “regularly receive complaints from consumers who drive into a gas station in response to a sign advertising the price per gallon, only to find when they get to the pump that the actual price is higher unless they pay with cash.” This also hurts gas stations that disclose the highest price, as consumers will choose stations they perceive to have lower prices.

[SB332](#) will mandate that gas stations **clearly post** either the highest price (credit/debit) or both the cash and credit/debit price. There is no burden on the station owners themselves, as they will just have to change the posted price...which they already do on a (too) regular basis!

By passing this law, Maryland would join 10 other states and New York City in protecting its consumers against this outrageous gas price gouging.

I urge a favorable report on SB322.