



WMDA/CAR Service Station
and Automotive Repair Association

February 28, 2022

Chair: Melony Griffith
Members of Finance Committee

RE: SB 542 - Consumer Protection Against Price Gouging
Position: Unfavorable

SB 542 has a list of eleven items as essential goods and services.

All the items listed in this bill might not need to be under a declaration in a state of emergency depending on what the emergency is.

Example would be Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency on March 1, 2017, because of heroin and opioid crisis. This bill would have put 11 items in place automatically and same with emergency order for President Bidens inauguration.

A major weather event forecast and the governor declared a state of emergency because of information on hand, and event turns out to be a non-event, some areas of price would still be in place for 90 days

The governor should decide these items as needed and not be influenced by a list of Essential Goods and Services, or a length time after an event has ended. Our current Governor Wes Moore and staff should be the judge of what essential service need to be according to emergency, as would governors to follow.

I represent retail but I do think including wholesale in this bill could interrupt out of state supply chain for goods coming to our retailers in an emergency. My members are sure consumers would rather pay a little more and have a product to sell and consume than not have a product at all.

Please give SB 542 an unfavorable Report

WMDA/CAR is a trade association that has represented service stations, convenience stores and repair shops since 1937. Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmda.net

