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Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee  
Joint Committee on Federal Relations

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB178: "Gas Price Gouging"**

Finance Committee

Thursday, February 9, 2023 1pm

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

According to convenience.org, [63% of drivers](#) rely on the large price sign when choosing a gas station, and [59%](#) say that cost is their most decisive factor. According to a GasBuddy survey, [70% of consumers](#) used credit or debit to pay for their fuel in 2021. Current law, by mandating only the cash price is displayed clearly and visibly, enables a "bait and switch." Customers are lured in by the price they see advertised, and when they pay with credit or debit, learn that the cost is fifteen cents per gallon higher than they thought.

[SB178](#) would mandate that gas stations **clearly and visibly** post the credit and debit price, if credit and debit cards are accepted, and the cash price. By passing this law, Maryland would join 10 other states including California (2017), Connecticut (2011), Delaware (2010), Georgia (2010), Louisiana (1990), Massachusetts (2013), Michigan (2012), Minnesota (1994), New Jersey (2012), and South Dakota (1992), as well as New York City (2013) in protecting its consumers against gas price gouging.

**I urge a favorable report on SB178.**