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SB303: Gas Price Clarity Act Update
Senate Finance Committee
Thursday, February 5, 2026, 1PM

In 2024, we passed the Gas Price Clarity Act ([SB651/HB882](#)) with the support of WMDA-CAR, a coalition of independent owners of service stations and auto repair shops. After numerous conversations about enforcement with both the Attorney General's and Comptroller's offices, it became evident that the law's wording was not precise enough to accomplish our intended goal.

The bill was meant to prohibit gas stations from "bait & switch" signage. Its intent plainly stated numerous times, through:

- Repeatedly using the words "prominently," "clearly," and "visibly";
- Requiring uniformity of numerals, even listing dimensions such as size and thickness;
- Specifying that signs must be "readable by passing motorists"; and,
- Stating that if only one price is listed on a sign, it must be the higher (credit) price.

Frustratingly, many gas stations are using **still** signs that subvert this intent-- whether deliberately or in effect. The lower **cash** price is usually featured on the station's primary sign, which is elevated, often illuminated. The higher **credit** price is far more likely to be displayed on a sandwich board on the ground, blocked from view by shrubbery, traffic, garbage bins, parked cars, or other station advertising. Even when the dimensions of the numerals are identical on the two types of signs, this disparity undermines clarity and visibility.

The 2024 law did not address reward clubs, car wash, and other discounts. These "specials" are now often the most prominently advertised prices. SB303 makes small clarifying revisions to ensure that the intent of the original legislation is met. Let's close the door on bait-and-switch signage and stop gas stations from misleading Marylanders on the real cost to fill their gas tank.

I urge a favorable report on SB303.