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2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 5, 2011

Introduced by Sen. MAZIARZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Consumer Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to zone pricing of gasoline; and to amend chapter 579 of the laws of 2008 amending the general business law relating to zone pricing of gasoline, in relation to making certain technical changes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 399-ee of the
2 general business law is relettered paragraph (a-1) and a new paragraph
3 (a) is added to read as follows:
4 (A) "ADDITIONAL COSTS" MEANS ALL REPLACEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS
5 AND TAXES INCURRED.
6 S 2. Paragraph (g) of subdivision 1 of section 399-ee of the general
7 business law, as added by chapter 579 of the laws of 2008, is amended to
8 read as follows:
9 (g) "Relevant geographic market" means the geographic area of effective
10 competition AMONG RETAIL OUTLETS.
11 S 3. Paragraph (m) of subdivision 1 of section 399-ee of the general
12 business law, as added by chapter 579 of the laws of 2008, is amended to
13 read as follows:
14 (m) "Zone pricing" means the ESTABLISHMENT OF arbitrary price differences
15 BASED ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE RETAIL OUTLET within the
16 relevant geographic market, [based on] WITHOUT REGARD TO the posted
17 terminal price [or] AND ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS where the effect is to
18 injure competition.
19 S 4. Subdivision 2 of section 399-ee of the general business law, as
20 added by chapter 579 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 2. No [wholesaler] PRODUCER OR REFINER shall engage in zone pricing
2 with respect to any motor fuel of like grade or quality, WHICH IS
3 SUPPLIED TO A DEALER OR WHOLESALER WHICH OPERATES RETAIL OUTLETS.

4 S 5. Section 2 of chapter 579 of the laws of 2008 amending the general
5 business law relating to zone pricing of gasoline is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 S 2. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature hereby finds and
8 declares that for the past several years motor fuel prices have greatly
9 fluctuated. In some cases, price fluctuations are caused by natural
10 market conditions. In other cases, fluctuations result from artificial
11 manipulation of the market. One such artificial pricing manipulation is
12 zone pricing. Zone pricing is the setting of different wholesale prices
13 for retail motor fuel [that operate in different geographic areas] BASED
14 ON GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION. Zone pricing increases the price of retail motor
15 fuel for certain consumers, leading to inequities among consumers and
16 regions around the state. Therefore, the legislature hereby declares
17 that while natural market occurrences may lead to price fluctuations,
18 artificial changes in motor fuel prices unfairly harm many consumers
19 around the state.

20 S 6. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
21 have become a law.