

1283

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 9, 2013

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Introduced by Sen. ADAMS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law and the executive law, in relation to protecting consumers from price gouging and product tampering of gasoline

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

1     Section 1. Paragraph a of subdivision 5 of section 192 of the agricul-  
2     ture and markets law, as amended by chapter 101 of the laws of 1986, is  
3     amended to read as follows:  
4     a. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to sell or  
5     offer for sale at retail for use in internal combustion engines in motor  
6     vehicles or motorboats any motor fuel unless such seller shall:  
7     (i) post and keep posted on the dispensing device from which such  
8     motor fuel is sold or offered for sale a sign or placard, at least  
9     twelve inches in height and at least twelve inches in width, stating  
10    clearly and legibly with the whole cent numerals at least nine inches in  
11    height and at least two inches in width, the selling price per gallon of  
12    such motor fuel; or  
13    (ii) where such individual pump or dispensing device dispenses more  
14    than two differently priced grades of motor fuel, only the highest and  
15    lowest selling price per gallon of such motor fuel dispensed therefrom  
16    must be posted thereon in conformance with all other provisions of this  
17    subdivision; or  
18    (iii) where a multiple product dispensing device is capable of  
19    dispensing multiple products at multiple prices, then the selling price  
20    per gallon may be posted thereon with numerals at least one-half that  
21    height and one-half that width required by subparagraph (i) of this  
22    paragraph, although numerals representing tenths of a cent may be

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

LBD03834-01-3

1 displayed at no less than one-half those dimensions which disclose the  
2 selling price per gallon of such motor fuel dispensed therefrom;

3 (IV) POST AND KEEP POSTED ON THE DISPENSING DEVICE FROM WHICH SUCH  
4 MOTOR FUEL IS SOLD OR OFFERED FOR SALE A SIGN OR PLACARD, OF A SIZE TO  
5 BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER, STATING CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY, IN  
6 SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR FORM:

7 NOTICE TO CONSUMERS: IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT REGARDING THIS BUSINESS,  
8 YOU MAY CALL THE FOLLOWING TOLL-FREE NEW YORK STATE HOTLINE: (INSERT THE  
9 CURRENT TELEPHONE NUMBER ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW FOR  
10 RECEIVING COMPLAINTS FROM CONSUMERS PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION SIXTEEN OF  
11 SECTION 63 OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW).

12 The signs and selling prices shall be posted so as to be clearly visi-  
13 ble to the driver of an approaching motor vehicle or motorboat. The  
14 name, trade name, brand, mark or symbol, and grade of quality classi-  
15 fication, if any of such motor fuel shall be permanently imprinted on  
16 said motor fuel dispensing device. The provisions of this subdivision  
17 shall not apply to a city, county, town or village which has already  
18 enacted and continues in effect a local law, ordinance, rule or regu-  
19 lation in substantial conformity with this subdivision. The provisions  
20 of this subdivision shall be enforced in the counties outside the city  
21 of New York by the county or city director of weights and measures, as  
22 the case may be, and in the city of New York by the department of  
23 consumer affairs. THE COMMISSIONER, BY RULE, SHALL ESTABLISH THE SIZE  
24 OF THE SIGN OR PLACARD REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (IV) OF THIS PARA-  
25 GRAPH.

26 S 2. Section 63 of the executive law is amended by adding a new subdi-  
27 vision 16 to read as follows:

28 16. (A) NO LATER THAN JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN, ESTABLISH  
29 A TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR RECEIVING COMPLAINTS RELATED TO THE  
30 RETAIL SALE OF MOTOR FUEL. THE TOLL-FREE NUMBER MAY BE AN EXISTING  
31 NUMBER ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW FOR RECEIVING INQUIRIES FROM  
32 CONSUMERS.

33 (B) EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW, UPON RECEIPT OF A COMPLAINT  
34 FROM A CONSUMER THROUGH MEANS OF THE TOLL-FREE NUMBER REGARDING THE  
35 OPERATION OR ACCURACY OF MOTOR FUEL DISPENSING DEVICES, SHALL FORWARD  
36 THE CONTENTS OF SUCH COMPLAINT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND  
37 MARKETS AND THE APPROPRIATE MUNICIPALITY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

38 S 3. This act shall take effect April 1, 2014; provided that the  
39 department of law shall establish the toll-free telephone number as  
40 required by section two of this act on or before January 1, 2014;  
41 provided further that, effective immediately, any rules and regulations  
42 necessary to implement the provisions of this act on its effective date  
43 are authorized and directed to be amended, promulgated and/or repealed  
44 on or before such date.