

ASSEMBLY, No. 4394

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 27, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JAMES J. KENNEDY

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Working Group to Study Pricing of Motor Fuels by Retail Dealers.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



A4394 KENNEDY

2

1 AN ACT concerning the pricing of motor fuels in New Jersey.

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3 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
4 of New Jersey:

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6 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

7 a. New Jersey residents and visitors to the State, along with
8 consumers across the country, face fluctuating prices when
9 purchasing motor fuel.

10 b. It is essential to the financial well-being of consumers to
11 ensure that retail dealers in the business of dispensing motor fuels
12 do not establish excessive prices for the purchase of motor fuels.

13 c. The development of a working group to monitor the pricing
14 of motor fuel is intended to protect New Jersey residents and
15 visitors to the State from abusive practices by retail dealers.

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17 2. a. There is hereby established the “Working Group to Study
18 Pricing of Motor Fuels by Retail Dealers.”

19 b. It shall be the duty of the working group to:

20 (1) examine the practices of retail dealers in the pricing of motor
21 fuels dispensed in the State; and

22 (2) recommend policies and practices the State can implement in
23 response to price gouging by retail dealers.

24

25 3. a. The working group shall consist of nine members to be
26 appointed by the Attorney General. One shall be the Director of the
27 Division of Consumer Affairs, which is in the Department of Law
28 and Public Safety, who shall chair the working group; four
29 members shall be individuals who investigate price gouging for the
30 Office of Consumer Protections in the Division of Consumer
31 Affairs; and four shall be individuals who investigate pricing of
32 motor fuel for the Office of Weights and Measures.

33 b. The members of the working group shall be appointed within
34 30 days following the date of enactment of this bill.

35 c. Any vacancy in the membership of the working group shall
36 be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was
37 made.

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39 4. The findings of the working group shall be issued at the end
40 of the third month following the appointments of the members of
41 the working group to the Governor and to the State Legislature,
42 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

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44 5. As used in this act, “motor fuel” and “retail dealer” shall
45 have the same meaning used in P.L.1938, c.163 (C.56:6-1 et seq.).

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47 6. This act shall take effect immediately and expire following
48 the issuance of the report required pursuant to section 4 of this act,

1 unless, upon the authorization of the Attorney General, an extension
2 is granted for the working group to further examine the pricing of
3 the motor fuels by retail dealers.

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STATEMENT

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8 This bill establishes the “Working Group to Study Pricing of
9 Motor Fuels by Retail Dealers.” The intent of the working group is
10 to examine the practices of retail detailers in the pricing of motor
11 fuels and recommend policies and practices the State can implement
12 in response to price gouging by retail dealers. It is to consist of nine
13 members, appointed by the Attorney General, including the director
14 of the Division of Consumer Affairs, who is to chair the working
15 group. The findings of the working group are to be released to the
16 Governor and Legislature after three months of review. The
17 working group is to expire following the issuance of the report
18 required under the bill, unless the Attorney General authorizes an
19 extension for the working group to further examine the pricing of
20 the motor fuels by retail dealers.