

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2818

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 9, 2022

Sponsored by:

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District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman JAMES J. KENNEDY

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Greenstein and Pou

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the Senate on June 29, 2022.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/11/2023)

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

2

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

5

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.

16

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 ¹examine¹:

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

22 (2) ¹**recommend policies and practices the State can implement**
23 **in response to price gouging by retail dealers** how competition and
24 market conditions impact pricing practices¹.

25

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

34 b. The members of the working group shall be appointed within
35 30 days following the date of enactment of this bill.

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

39

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

44

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

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted June 29, 2022.

1 6. This act shall take effect immediately and expire following
2 the issuance of the report required pursuant to section 4 of this act,
3 unless, upon the authorization of the Attorney General, an extension
4 is granted for the working group to further exam the pricing of the
5 motor fuels by retail dealers.