

**SENATE, No. 3034**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**  
**District 29 (Essex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Prohibits person experiencing coin shortage from charging consumers higher price for cash payment.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



S3034 RUIZ

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1 AN ACT concerning payments by consumers and supplementing  
2 P.L.1960, c.39 (C.56:8-1 et seq.).

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

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7 1. a. A person experiencing a coin shortage and selling or  
8 offering for sale goods or services at retail shall not charge a higher  
9 price to a buyer who elects to use cash as payment in order to  
10 purchase the goods or services.

11 b. A violation of this section is an unlawful practice under  
12 P.L.1960, c.39 (C.56:8-1 et seq.).

13 c. As used in this section, "at retail" shall include any retail  
14 transaction conducted in person and exclude any telephone, mail, or  
15 Internet-based transaction.

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17 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
18 month next following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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23 This bill prohibits a person experiencing a coin shortage and  
24 selling or offering for sale goods or services at retail from charging  
25 a higher price to a buyer who elects to use cash as payment in order  
26 to purchase the goods or services. A violation of the bill is to be an  
27 unlawful practice under the consumer fraud act. Under that act, an  
28 unlawful practice is punishable by a monetary penalty of not more  
29 than \$10,000 for a first offense and not more than \$20,000 for any  
30 subsequent offense. Additionally, violations can result in cease and  
31 desist orders issued by the Attorney General, the assessment of  
32 punitive damages, and the awarding of treble damages and costs to  
33 the injured party.