

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2652**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Bruce E. Tarr***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to preventing price gouging during an emergency.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>3/23/2020</i>

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By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2652) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Bruce E. Tarr, Anne M. Gobi, Patrick M. O'Connor and Brendan P. Crighton for legislation relative to preventing price gouging during an emergency. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to preventing price gouging during an emergency.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           Section 1. Chapter 93A as appearing in the 2018 official edition is hereby amended by  
2 inserting after SECTION 11 at the end thereof the following new section 12:-

3           SECTION 12. (1) It shall be an unfair or deceptive act or practice, during any market  
4 emergency, or any declared statewide emergency, for any petroleum-related business to sell or  
5 offer to sell any petroleum product for an amount that represents an unconscionably high price.

6           (2) A price is unconscionably high if: (a) the amount charged represents a gross disparity  
7 between the price of the petroleum product and 1. the price at which the same product was sold  
8 or offered for sale by the petroleum-related business in the usual course of business immediately  
9 prior to the onset of the market emergency, or 2. the price at which the same or similar petroleum  
10 product is readily obtainable by other buyers in the trade area; and

11 (b) the disparity is not substantially attributable to increased prices charged by the  
12 petroleum-related business suppliers or increased costs due to an abnormal market disruption.

13 (3). It shall be an unfair or deceptive act or practice, during any declared statewide or  
14 national emergency, for any business at any point in the chain of distribution or manufacture to  
15 sell or offer to sell to any consumer or to any other business any goods or services necessary for  
16 the health, safety or welfare of the public for an amount that represents an unconscionably high  
17 price.

18 (4) A price is unconscionably high for the purposes of paragraph 3 of this section  
19 provided the following:

20 (a) there is gross disparity between the price charged or offered; and

21 1. the price at which the same good or service was sold or offered for sale by the business  
22 in the usual course of business immediately prior to the onset of the declared statewide or  
23 national emergency; or

24 2. the price at which the same or similar product is readily obtainable from other  
25 businesses; and

26 (b) the disparity is not substantially attributable to increased prices charged by the  
27 business's suppliers or increased costs due to an abnormal market disruption.