

Veto #5



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE
BUREAU

2018 OCT 25 AM 9:30
PA. CODE & BULLETIN

THE GOVERNOR

October 24, 2018

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 1172, Printer's Number 2094.

Instead of protecting consumers by prohibiting price gouging for needed goods and services during a state of disaster emergency, this legislation shifts the burden to a consumer during a state of disaster emergency. The purpose of the Price Gouging Act is to prohibit parties from taking an unfair advantage of consumers by charging unconscionably excessive prices during an emergency. This legislation alters the existing standard in determining price gouging and permits pre-established increased costs during emergencies. Further, the legislation encourages the prices of consumer goods and services to be increased prior to a state of disaster emergency being declared. This legislation undermines the purpose of the act by reducing the standard for determining an unconscionable excessive price and shortens the period of this prohibition.

My administration has outlined legislative actions that can be taken to further address declarations of emergencies, including the declaration of public health emergencies. Rather than burdening consumers, I look forward to continuing to work with the General Assembly to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth during a public health emergency.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from Senate Bill 1172, Printer's Number 2094.

Sincerely,


TOM WOLF
Governor





Ian J. Harlow
Acting Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs