



May 12, 2021

State of Emergency - Price Gouging Law in Effect

Additional Waivers Granted

The attack by international computer hackers on Colonial Pipeline continues to have a profound impact on members and their customers across the state. Availability of petroleum products and when to expect the pipeline to restart has become a major concern across the Commonwealth.

Some have chosen to continue to help maintain remaining gallons by significantly increasing prices to preserve availability for those that need fuel the most. **That policy, no matter how well intentioned, needs to stop this morning.** Although the instances are very limited, state prosecutions of petroleum distributors have occurred in recent years when prices were raised during a state of emergency, which is now in effect statewide ([click here to view the executive order.](#)) The law states that any distributor that raises street prices more than 20 percent over the prevailing prices in your area in the ten days before the emergency (in this instance from May 1-1, 2021) is price gouging and leaves that company with exposure to prosecution.

However, if the price increases are simply passing on the additional costs imposed by your suppliers, that is **NOT** price gouging as long as it can be demonstrated via invoices.

In the past two days working with EMA and leaders in state government the following waivers have been granted to provide added flexibility to petroleum distributors. Waivers granted are listed and linked below.

[Weight Waiver](#)

[RVP](#)

[Hours of Service](#)

[RFG](#)