


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cename, Deputy Finance Director <i>RC</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Finance Room 454, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	24-0480 Motor Fuel Credit Price - Signage		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

February 8th, 2024

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 24-0480, Motor Fuel Credit Price - Signage, for the purpose of requiring a certain retail dealer in motor fuel to display the credit price of motor fuel on a certain sign; defining certain terms; establishing certain penalties; and generally relating to a retail dealer in motor fuel's credit price for motor fuel.

Background

The Director of Finance is given the authority under Article 2, § 10-2 of the Baltimore City Code to issue licenses for motor fuel sales to operate and sell motor fuel within the City of Baltimore. Motor fuel cannot be sold within the city limits without a license. The same subtitle contains various regulations for businesses that engage in motor fuel sales. Currently, businesses engaged in the sale of motor fuels must only post the cash price of fuel.

Generally, when customers use credit cards and other noncash methods of payment, there is a fee placed on the transaction by the company that is responsible for the noncash method of payment. This fee, which can either be a flat fee or a percentage of the sale, is paid for by the business. This fee is passed on to the consumer and general results in a higher cost per gallon compared to the cash price. City Council Bill 24-0480 would require a business that sells motor fuels to post signage stating the price of motor fuels if purchased using credit cards and other noncash methods of payment.

Fiscal Impact

The Department of Finance expects minimal fiscal impact to implement this legislation. The Department will add the requirements contained in City Council Bill 24-0480, Motor Fuel Credit Price – Signage to the inspection list.

Conclusion

City Council Bill 24-0480, Motor Fuel Credit Price – Signage would require retail dealers of motor fuel to display the credit card price for motor fuel. The Department of Finance is in charge of licensing motor fuel retailers. The Department of Finance expects minimal costs to implement this legislation.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 24-0480.

cc: Michael Mocksten
Nina Themelis

