HOUSE BILL 962

C2, Q7 3lr1686

By: Delegates Bates, Dwyer, Frank, Hough, Kipke, McComas, B. Robinson, Stocksdale, Szeliga, and Vitale

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2013

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1	AN ACT concerning
2	Motor Fuel Taxes - Consumer Disclosure Requirements
3	FOR the purpose of requiring a person who sells motor fuel at retail to mark
4	dispensing equipment conspicuously to show the amount of each tax that is
5	included in the total price; providing for the application of this Act; and
6	generally relating to disclosing motor fuel taxes to consumers.
7	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8	Article – Business Regulation
9	Section 10–315
10	Annotated Code of Maryland
11	(2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)
12	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13	MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
14	Article – Business Regulation
15	10–315.
16	(a) A person who sells motor fuel at retail shall display signs in accordance
17	with this section.
18	(b) (1) All dispensing equipment for motor fuel shall be marked
19	conspicuously to show:
20	(I) in numerals of equal size the TOTAL price, including taxes.
$\frac{20}{21}$	of a gallon of the motor fuel offered for sale; AND
	of a gallon of the motor fact offeroa for bare, this



$\frac{1}{2}$	(II) THE AMOUNT OF EACH TAX THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL PRICE.
3 4 5	(2) If numerals that show a fractional cent are used, the combined height and width of the numerator and denominator shall equal the height and width of the other numerals used.
6 7	(c) (1) A sign or other means on the premises and approaches to a retail outlet that advertises the retail price of motor fuel:
8 9	(i) may list the price and each tax separately if the listing of the total of the price and all taxes is the same size as the separate listing of the price; but
10 11	(ii) shall list the total of the price and all taxes by numerals of uniform size.
12 13	(2) In the listing of the total of the price and all taxes, a denominator need not be used to indicate a fraction, but:
14 15	(i) if a denominator is used, the numerator and denominator combined shall be the same size as the numeral that indicates the whole number; or
16 17	(ii) if a denominator is not used, the numerator shall be the same size as the numeral that indicates the whole number.
18 19 20 21 22	(d) If the retail price of motor fuel is advertised on a sign or by other means on the premises of and approaches to the retail outlet, the grade designation displayed for any motor fuel in the advertisement shall be the same as the grade designation that is required to be displayed for that motor fuel on the retail dispensing pump as specified by the Comptroller.
23 24 25	(e) (1) This subsection does not apply to a retail service station dealer who operates with not more than 3 dispensing units that combined have not more than 6 nozzles.
26 27	(2) (i) Each retail service station dealer shall keep a sign on the premises that:
28 29	1. states the lowest price for a whole measurement unit of regular gasoline sold on the premises;
30	2. states the unit of measurement used; and
31	3. is readable by passing motorists.

1 2 3	(ii) The sign required under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph also may state the lowest price for a whole measurement unit of diesel and other motor fuel products sold on the premises.
4	(3) All numerals on the sign shall:
5	(i) be uniform;
6	(ii) be at least 8 inches high and 3.5 inches wide; and
7	(iii) have a brush stroke of at least 1 inch.
8 9	(4) A numeral in a fraction or a letter shall be at least one–third the height of a numeral that indicates a whole number.
10 11 12	(5) If a new or additional sign is required to comply with this subsection, the supplier of the gasoline shall provide the sign and numerals without cost to the retail service station dealer.
13 14 15	(f) A sign required at a service station by this section or any other State or federal law is exempt from the provisions of a local law, ordinance, or regulation for the purpose of determining:
16	(1) the total number of signs permitted; and
17	(2) the area of signs permitted.
18 19 20 21	(g) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, signs regulated by this section or other State law or by federal law may be regulated by the local zoning authority and shall be consistent with the local law, ordinance, or regulation governing signs.
22 23	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act applies to any retail sales transaction conducted on or after April 1, 2014.
$\begin{array}{c} 24 \\ 25 \end{array}$	SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2013.