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H.415

Introduced by Representatives Donovan of Burlington, Chesnut-Tangerman of
Middletown Springs, Christie of Hartford, Colburn of
Burlington, Gonzalez of Winooski, Hooper of Burlington,
Macaig of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, Sullivan of
Burlington, Till of Jericho, Troiano of Stannard, and Walz of
Barre City

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Commerce and trade; consumer protection

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prevent a
heating company from charging extra for deliveries on weekends or holidays
from October 15 through April 15.

An act relating to consumer protection and prohibiting special heating fuel
charges

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. § 2461d is amended to read:

§ 2461d. PRICE GOUGING OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND
HEATING FUEL PRODUCTS

(a) Definitions. For the purposes of this section:

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(2) “Petroleum or heating fuel product” means motor fuels, liquefied petroleum gas, fuel oil, kerosene, and wood pellets used for heating or cooking purposes.

(3) “Petroleum or heating fuel-related business” means any producer, supplier, wholesaler, distributor, or retail seller of any petroleum or heating fuel product.

(b) It is an unfair and deceptive act and practice in commerce and a violation of section 2453 of this title for any petroleum or heating fuel-related business:

(1) during a market emergency, or seven days prior thereto, to sell or offer to sell any petroleum product or heating fuel product for an amount that represents an unconscionably high price; or

(2) from October 15 through April 15, to impose a delivery surcharge or fee, or otherwise enhance the normal delivery price, to deliver a petroleum product or heating fuel product to a residential consumer on a holiday or weekend.

* * *

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.