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By Mr. Fishman, a petition of Irving Fishman, William M. Bulger, John F. Aylmer and Allan R. McKinnon for legislation to provide for the equitable distribution of retail gasoline in the Commonwealth. Government Regulations.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Four.

### AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RETAIL GASOLINE IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

1 *Whereas*, The current shortage of gasoline has created a  
2 severe and dangerous inconvenience to the general public of  
3 such proportions that the situation is declared to be an emer-  
4 gency, the ensuing act shall take effect upon its passage.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to  
2 the contrary, no retail gasoline dealer shall sell or deliver any  
3 gasoline to any motor vehicle registered by the Commonwealth,  
4 except as herein provided: —

5 (a) Any registered motor vehicle whose license plate ends  
6 with an odd numbered digit shall be eligible to purchase  
7 gasoline on odd numbered calendar days. Any registered  
8 motor vehicle whose license plate ends with an even num-  
9 bered digit shall be eligible to purchase gasoline on **even**  
10 numbered calendar days. The last digit shall be determinative  
11 for any registered motor vehicle whose license plate ends  
12 with a letter.

13 (b) Special license plates, without any digit, shall be eligible  
14 to purchase gasoline on odd numbered calendar days.

15 (c) On purchase days, sales shall be limited to vehicles with  
16 less than one half of a tank of gasoline.

17 (d) All vehicles will be eligible to purchase gasoline on Sat-  
18 urdays regardless of license plate number. The restriction set  
19 forth in Section 1. (c) shall not apply to Saturday purchases.

1 SECTION 2. Motor vehicles engaged in essential public serv-

2 ices and vehicles employed for commercial use, as determined  
3 by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, shall be eligible to pur-  
4 chase gasoline on all days of the week. Identification certifi-  
5 cates for such vehicles shall be made available by the Registry  
6 of Motor Vehicles for a nominal fee.

1 SECTION 3. Nothing herein provided shall apply to motor  
2 vehicles registered outside the Commonwealth nor to any ve-  
3 hicles which are engaged in commerce without the Common-  
4 wealth.

1 SECTION 4. No bulk sales in any auxiliary container or con-  
2 tainers of larger than six gallons shall be made.

1 SECTION 5. To inform motorists as to the availability of  
2 gasoline, participating retail dealers shall employ the follow-  
3 ing color flag system. At least one appropriately colored flag  
4 shall be posted at each station entrance.

5 (a) *A red flag* will signify that a station is out of gasoline,  
6 but may be open for other automotive services.

7 (b) *A yellow flag* will signify that gasoline is being pumped  
8 for priority users as provided in Section 2, or is engaged in  
9 business under a certificate of exemption.

10 (c) *A green flag* will signify that gasoline is available for  
11 the general public on an equal basis.

1 SECTION 6. The Secretary of Consumer Affairs should work  
2 with service station retailers to arrange for staggered hours  
3 of operation in each community.

1 SECTION 7.

2 (a) Willful violations of section one through five of this act  
3 shall be punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred  
4 dollars and/or suspension of the offender's license to oper-  
5 ate a motor vehicle for a period of not more than three  
6 months for each offense.

7 (b) The Attorney General, upon notification that any retail  
8 gasoline dealer is operating in violation of this act, shall  
9 investigate each allegation and shall obtain an injunction or  
10 other appropriate remedy against such repeated violations.

1 SECTION 8. Unless amended to the contrary, this act shall  
2 terminate 90 days from the date of its passage.