

By: Alvarado

S.B. No. 2197

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the jurisdiction of county attorneys to file price gouging lawsuits in a declared emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 17, Business & Commerce Code, is amended by adding Section 17.46a to read as follows:

Sec. 17.46a. COUNTY ATTORNEY AUTHORITY TO FILE ACTION REGARDING PRICE GOUGING IN A DECLARED EMERGENCY. A county attorney has concurrent jurisdiction with the attorney general to pursue an action under Sec. 17.46(b)(27).

SECTION 2. Section 17.46a, Business & Commerce Code, as added by this Act, does not apply to a cause of action that accrued before the effective date of this Act. A cause of action that accrued before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law applicable to the cause of action immediately before that date, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.