

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, With gasoline prices at record levels, Texans want
2 assurances that high prices are not the result of consumer fraud and
3 want information to help them find the lowest possible price for
4 gasoline in their community; and

5 WHEREAS, The average price of \$2.157 per gallon that Texas
6 motorists paid in early April 2005 was the highest gasoline price in
7 Texas ever recorded by the American Automobile Association up to
8 that point; it also was 49.9 cents higher than last year's average
9 of \$1.658 per gallon; less than a week later, the average price had
10 risen even higher, to \$2.175 per gallon; and

11 WHEREAS, When gasoline prices go up, drivers pay more to get
12 where they are going, farmers pay more to run their tractors and
13 combines, and truckers pay more to transport goods; this ripple
14 effect of rising prices impacts all consumer goods and is
15 especially hard on Texans trying to make ends meet; and

16 WHEREAS, The Deceptive Trade Practices Act and other consumer
17 protection statutes are subject to action by the consumer
18 protection division of the Office of the Attorney General of Texas
19 to protect Texans against consumer fraud, including price gouging;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Attorneys general in Texas and other states found
22 evidence of gasoline price gouging following the September 11,
23 2001, terrorist attacks and again in 2003; there is concern that
24 current market conditions may be used as a cover to excessively

1 raise prices once more; and

2 WHEREAS, To promote gasoline price competition, the Florida
3 attorney general launched a website in 2004 to allow citizens to
4 find and report the lowest gasoline prices in their community as
5 well as to report any suspicion of excessively high gasoline
6 prices; and

7 WHEREAS, Illinois is another state where the state attorney
8 general helps residents to check average gasoline prices in any
9 city or town in the state and to file a complaint if price gouging is
10 suspected; and

11 WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the attorney general's
12 consumer protection division to investigate unexplained price
13 hikes that could be the result of consumer fraud; local gasoline
14 price monitoring would provide Texans with an extra level of
15 protection; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
17 Legislature hereby direct the Office of the Attorney General of
18 Texas to conduct a study to ensure that high gasoline prices in
19 Texas are not the result of consumer fraud; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Office of the Attorney General of Texas
21 follow the lead of other state attorneys general and provide
22 information to help Texas consumers find the lowest possible price
23 for gasoline in their community; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of
25 Representatives forward an official copy of this resolution to the
26 attorney general of the State of Texas.

Edwards

H.R. No. 1242

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1242 was adopted by the House on May 27, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House