

By: Edwards

H.R. No. 1242

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.