



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 1078

LCO No. 3408

Referred to Committee on General Law

Introduced by:

(GL)

AN ACT PROTECTING PURCHASERS OF HOME HEATING OIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) Each person, firm or corporation engaged in the
2 retail sale of home heating oil shall apply annually for a certificate of
3 registration with the Department of Consumer Protection as a home
4 heating oil dealer on forms prescribed by the Commissioner of
5 Consumer Protection. The commissioner shall require all such
6 applicants to provide proof of general liability insurance coverage and
7 insurance that covers cleanup costs associated with any oil spill caused
8 by such applicant as a registered dealer. Each registered dealer shall
9 provide the department with proof of each renewal of or change to
10 such insurance coverage not later than five days after such renewal or
11 change during the period of registration.

12 Sec. 2. (NEW) A contract for the retail sale of home heating oil that
13 guarantees a certain price or service, known as "capped", "fixed price"
14 or other similar terms, shall be in writing. The effect of any term or
15 condition that could lead to a limitation, exception or variance from
16 the base price or service provided for in the contract shall be explained
17 in a disclosure. Such disclosure shall immediately follow the language

18 concerning the price or service that could be affected and shall be
19 printed in no less than twelve-point boldface type of uniform font in
20 an easily readable style.

21 Sec. 3. (NEW) The Department of Consumer Protection shall, at least
22 annually, and as frequently as the Commissioner of Consumer
23 Protection deems necessary, test and certify as accurate any fuel
24 dispensing meter used by any home heating oil dealer registered
25 under section 1 of this act.

26 Sec. 4. (NEW) Any person, firm or corporation required to register
27 as a home heating oil dealer under section 1 of this act that offers
28 plumbing and piping work or heating, piping and cooling work shall
29 submit proof, deemed satisfactory by the Commissioner of Consumer
30 Protection, when registering, that such person, firm or corporation
31 subcontracts with or employs only persons licensed or registered
32 pursuant to chapter 393 of the general statutes to perform such work.
33 Such person, firm or corporation shall attest, when applying for
34 registration as a dealer, that all plumbing and piping work or heating,
35 piping and cooling work shall be performed in accordance with the
36 provisions of chapter 393 of the general statutes.

Statement of Purpose:

To require registration of home heating oil dealers and to protect consumers contracting with home heating oil dealers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]