



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Raised Bill No. 6544

LCO No. 3727



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY PRICE
GOUGING DURING RELEASE OF FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL
NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDS.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study whether any food stores in the state engage in price gouging
3 coinciding with the release of federal supplemental nutrition assistance
4 program funds to low-income recipients. Such study shall include, but
5 not be limited to: (1) A comparison of the prices of milk, bread, meat
6 and other food items in the seven days before and after the release of
7 such funds, as reported by consumers on the task force and verified
8 with dated receipts and, if applicable, advertisements by the stores;
9 and (2) an analysis of other factors which may lead to price increases
10 during the period when such funds are released.

11 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

12 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
13 one of whom shall be a consumer who is a recipient of supplemental

14 nutrition assistance program funds and one representative of the
15 Connecticut Association for Community Action;

16 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
17 of whom shall be a consumer who is a recipient of supplemental
18 nutrition assistance program funds and one representative of the
19 Connecticut Association for Community Action;

20 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
21 Representatives;

22 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

23 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
24 Representatives;

25 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

26 (7) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the
27 commissioner's designee;

28 (8) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's
29 designee; and

30 (9) A representative of the Connecticut Food Association, who shall
31 be appointed by the Governor.

32 (c) A member of the task force appointed under subdivision (3), (4),
33 (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the
34 General Assembly.

35 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
36 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
37 filled by the appointing authority.

38 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
39 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task
40 force, from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons

41 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held
42 not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

43 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
44 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
45 services shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

46 (g) Not later than January 1, 2014, the task force shall submit a
47 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
48 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
49 relating to human services and consumer protection, in accordance
50 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task
51 force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January
52 1, 2014, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To determine whether any stores selling food in the state engage in price gouging during the release of federal supplemental nutrition assistance program funds.

[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.]