
DIGEST

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LaBruzzo

HB No. 16

Abstract: Provides with respect to the crime of price gouging and provides for criminal penalties.

Present law (R.S. 14:329.6) provides that during times of public crisis, certain local public officials may request that the governor proclaim a state of emergency within the territorial limits of the requesting local government. Following such proclamation, present law authorizes the chief law enforcement officer to promulgate orders affecting all or part of the territorial limits of the parish or municipality with respect to several issues, including the ability to prohibit the sale or offer for sale of goods or services for value exceeding the prices ordinarily charged, establish a curfew, prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages, regulate with respect to the possession or use of firearms, and prohibit or control the presence of persons on public streets and places.

Proposed law retains present law with the exception of ordinances involving price gouging. Creates a separate criminal offense of price gouging. Provides that price gouging shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$7,500, two years imprisonment, or both.

Proposed law provides for a definition of "proclaiming officer".

(Amends R.S. 14:329.8 and R.S. 29:734(C); Adds R.S. 14:329.9; Repeals R.S. 14:329.6(A)(9))