

Subject Prohibition of Price Gouging

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Summary

Section	Description
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1	[325E.80] Abnormal market disruptions; unconscionably excessive prices.
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Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines “abnormal market disruption,” “essential consumer good or service,” and “unconscionably excessive.”

Subd. 2. Abnormal market disruption. (a) Allows the governor to declare an abnormal market disruption under certain circumstances. Allows the governor to specify an effective period for a declaration that is less than the effective period for the related state of emergency.

(b) Requires the abnormal market disruption to state that it is activating this section and specify the geographic area that it applies to.

(c) Provides that, unless an earlier date is specified, an abnormal market disruption terminates 30 days after the related state of emergency.

Subd. 3. Notice. Requires the governor to post on applicable government websites and notify the media and requires the commissioner of commerce to inform sellers directly. Notification is required when there is an implementation, renewal, limitation, or termination of an abnormal market disruption.

Subd. 4. Prohibition. Prohibits a person from selling or offering to sell an essential consumer good or service for an unconscionably excessive price during an abnormal market disruption.

Subd. 5. Civil Penalty. Subjects a person who violates this section to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per sale or transaction with a maximum penalty of \$25,000.

Subd. 6. Enforcement authority. (a) Allows the attorney general to investigate violations of this section.

(b) Clarifies that this section does not create a private cost of action.

Section **Description**

Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.



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