

SF3909 - 0 - Excessive Price Prohibition; Market Disruptions

Chief Author: **Nick Frentz**
 Committee: **Commerce And Consumer Protection**
 Date Completed: **2/27/2024 11:57:31 AM**
 Agency: **Attorney General**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative.
 Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)		Biennium			Biennium	
		FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
Total		-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Susan Nelson **Date:** 2/27/2024 11:57:30 AM
Phone: 651-296-6054 **Email:** susan.nelson@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
	Biennial Total			-		-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
	Biennial Total			-		-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
	Biennial Total			-		-

Bill Description

This bill would amend 325E.80, regarding price-gouging prohibitions, in three ways:

1. The bill would broaden the prohibition in subdivision 5 on price gouging by residential contractors in charging for home repair in areas impacted by severe weather events to also prohibit price gouging by tree trimmers or restoration and mitigation services providers regarding services provided in areas impacted by severe weather events.
2. The bill adds language to subdivision 6 to clarify that its civil penalty limitations only apply to unconscionably excessive pricing practices governed by subdivision 4.
3. The bill adds language to subdivision 7 to specify that the Attorney General may investigate and bring an action using the authority granted to the Attorney General under Minn. Stat. § 8.31, and to broaden the scope of the Attorney General's authority to include actions against tree trimmers or restoration and mitigation services providers.

Assumptions

The Attorney General's Office does not project any defined expenditures, absorbed costs, or revenues from the bill's amendments to section 325E.80. Investigations of alleged violations of section 325E.80 or litigation to enforce the law would be pursued by the Office's existing attorneys and investigators dedicated to consumer protection issues.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

n/a

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

n/a

Local Fiscal Impact

n/a

References/Sources

n/a

Agency Contact: Laura Sayles

Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: Laura Capuana

Phone: 651-402-2213

Date: 2/27/2024 9:40:27 AM

Email: laura.capuana@ag.state.mn.us