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2
3 REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND COMMERCE TO STUDY
4 THE IMPACT INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES HAVE ON CRIME AT RETAIL
5 CONVENIENCE STORES.
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7 WHEREAS, retail convenience stores are convenient to both criminals and
8 consumers alike; and
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10 WHEREAS, retail convenience stores have long been targets for nighttime
11 robberies and other crimes; and
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13 WHEREAS, it was once estimated by law enforcement officials that six
14 percent (6%) of all robberies of businesses in the United States involved
15 retail convenience stores; and
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17 WHEREAS, employees in the retail trade sector are at a higher risk of
18 violence and homicide than in other industry sectors, and within the retail
19 sector, employees in gasoline stations or retail convenience stores, are at a
20 higher risk compared with employees in other types of retail and the overall
21 workforce; and
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23 WHEREAS, according to 2021 Federal Bureau of Investigation crime data,
24 there were over twenty-two thousand seven hundred eighty-eight (22,788)
25 incidents of violent crime that occurred at retail convenience stores in the
26 United States, double the incidents of violent crime that occurred at retail
27 convenience stores in 2017, and represented three percent (3%) of the
28 nation's total violent crime statistics for 2021; and
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30 WHEREAS, the increase in nighttime robberies and other crimes at retail
31 convenience stores heightens the risk of danger, exposure to violent
32 incidents, and crime to consumers and employees; and
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34 WHEREAS, some states have mandated certain minimum security measures at
35 retail convenience stores to enhance and protect customers and employees of

1 convenience stores during the nighttime hours, including without limitation
2 Florida, Maine, and New Mexico; and

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4 WHEREAS, increased security measures can decrease the amount of retail
5 convenience store crimes,

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7 NOW THEREFORE,
8 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND COMMERCE OF THE
9 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

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11 THAT the House Committee on Insurance and Commerce study without
12 limitation the following:

13 (1) The best policies and practices for increased security
14 measures to protect employees and consumers at retail convenience stores;

15 (2) The best policies and practices to reduce the incidents of
16 violent crime at retail convenience stores between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and
17 6:00 a.m.;

18 (3) Any recommendations for mandating minimum increased security
19 measures to decrease violent crime at retail convenience stores including
20 without limitation:

21 (A) Require a minimum of two (2) employees on the premises
22 of a retail convenience store between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.;

23 (B) Require a security camera system capable of recording
24 and retrieving an image to assist in offender identification and
25 apprehension;

26 (C) Have a drop safe or cash management device for
27 restricted access to cash receipts and post a conspicuous notice to this
28 effect at the retail convenience store;

29 (D) Maintain a lighted parking lot illuminated at an
30 intensity of at least two (2) foot-candle per square foot at eighteen inches
31 (18") above the parking lot's surface;

32 (E) Post a conspicuous notice at the entrance of the
33 retail convenience store that states that the cash register contains fifty
34 dollars (\$50) or less;

1 (F) Maintain window signage that allows a clear and
2 unobstructed view from outside the building and in a normal line of sight of
3 the cash register and sales transaction area;

4 (G) Install height markers at the entrance of the retail
5 convenience store that displays height measures for offender identification;

6 (H) Develop a cash management policy to limit the amount
7 of cash on hand at all times after 9:00 p.m.;

8 (I) Conduct regular employee training;

9 (J) Maintain a silent alarm to law enforcement or a
10 private security agency; and

11 (K) Lock the business premises throughout the hours of
12 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. and only transact business through an indirect pass-
13 through trough, trapdoor, or window;

14 (4) The benefits or drawbacks of implementing minimum increased
15 security measures at retail convenience stores, including costs and training;

16 (5) The impacts of decreasing incidents of violent crime at
17 retail convenience stores to the state;

18 (6) Future areas of concern regarding mandating minimum
19 increased security measures at retail convenience stores; and

20 (7) The development of best practices and standards concerning
21 minimum increased security measures to decrease incidents of violent crime at
22 retail convenience stores.

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25 Respectfully submitted,

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29 Representative Jay Richardson

30 District 49

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32 Prepared by: ANS/ANS