

1 **BOARD BILL NO. 169 INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN BILL WATERHOUSE**

2 An ordinance pertaining to gasoline pre-payment or pre-approval; requiring business  
3 establishments that sell gasoline and/or diesel fuel to require pre-payment or pre-approval of  
4 sales of fuel prior to activation or authorization of any fuel dispensing unit or fuel pumping  
5 device; and containing an emergency clause.

6 WHEREAS, a significant number of motorists throughout the area are filling their fuel  
7 tanks and driving off without paying, and

8 WHEREAS, the St. Louis City Police Department (SLPD) expends significant time and  
9 expense in investigating these incidents; and

10 WHEREAS, the time and expense of the SLPD expended in investigating these incidents  
11 detracts from proactive policing opportunities regarding other community matters; and

12 WHEREAS, the necessary investigations result in significant costs to the City and its  
13 taxpayers; and

14 WHEREAS, fuel thefts have the potential of escalating to more serious crimes and create  
15 a greater risk of harm to the victim, officers, offender and to the general public; and

16 WHEREAS, requiring pre-payment for fuel is in the best interest of the City and its  
17 citizens and is designed to promote the public safety and welfare of its citizens; NOW

18 THEREFORE,

19 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:**

20 **SECTION ONE: DEFINITIONS.**

- 21 1. As used in this ordinance
- 22 2. the following terms shall have the meanings given in this subsection: (a) Pre-
- 23 approval means the business has issued an identification card to the purchaser that

1 verifies and records the purchaser's drivers license information; and (b) Pre-pay  
2 means payment in advance for any quantity of gasoline or diesel fuel sold at any time  
3 by cash, credit card, debit card, check or any other legal means.

4 **SECTION TWO: PAYMENT OR APPROVAL IN ADVANCE REQUIRED FOR**  
5 **GASOLINE AND/OR DIESEL FUEL SOLD.** Business establishments that sell

6 gasoline and/or diesel fuel shall require pre-payment or pre-approval of sales of fuel  
7 prior to activation or authorization of any fuel dispensing unit or fuel pumping  
8 device.

9 **SECTION THREE: PENALTY**

10 Failure or refusal to comply with this ordinance will be a basis for the non-renewal of  
11 a business license to such business establishment that sells gasoline and/or diesel fuel  
12 for failing to require pre-payment or pre-approval of sales of fuel prior to activation  
13 or authorization of any fuel dispensing unit or fuel pumping device as set forth in  
14 this section.

15 **SECTION FOUR: EFFECTIVE DATE.**

16 This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage  
17 and approval and shall remain in effect until amended or repealed by the Board  
18 of Aldermen.

19 **SECTION FIVE: EMERGENCY CLAUSE.**

20 This being an ordinance necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace,  
21 health and safety, it is hereby declared to be an emergency measure within the  
22 meaning of Sections 19 and 20 of Article IV of the Charter of the City of St. Louis  
23 and therefore this Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and

1 approval by the Mayor.

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