

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1087

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent price gouging during disasters.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 1993

Mr. BAKER of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent price gouging during disasters.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Disaster Area Price
5 Gouging Prevention Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. TITLE 18 AMENDMENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 41 of title 18, United
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
9 following:

1 **“§ 880. Price gouging during disaster**

2 “(a) Whoever engages in price gouging in a disaster
3 area shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more
4 than 5 years, or both.

5 “(b) As used in this section—

6 “(1) the term ‘price gouging’ means selling a
7 good or service at a price greater than or equal to
8 twice the median price prevailing in the locality just
9 before the disaster, but in computing the price in-
10 crease for the purposes of this section, a charge for
11 any attendant business risk and other reasonable ex-
12 penses that result from the disaster shall not be
13 included;

14 “(2) the term ‘in a disaster area’ means in a
15 geographical area with respect to which a declara-
16 tion that such area is a disaster area—

17 “(A) has been made by the chief executive
18 of the State in which such area is located; and

19 “(B) is in effect; and

20 “(3) the term ‘State’ includes the District of
21 Columbia, Puerto Rico, and any other territory or
22 possession of the United States.”.

23 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
24 at the beginning of chapter 41 of title 18, United States
25 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Price gouging during disaster.”.

