



*Advocating the views of convenience stores, supermarkets,
independent grocers, wholesalers and consumer product vendors.*

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Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association applauds Senate for its unanimous approval of HB 1918 criminalizing credit card skimming
Organization urges swift action by Gov. Tom Wolf to sign measure into law

HARRISBURG, Pa. (June 19, 2018) – The Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association (PFMA) commends the Pennsylvania Senate for its unanimous approval today of House Bill 1918, legislation that will reduce fraud by criminalizing the use of credit card skimming devices.

The measure, sponsored by state Rep. Kristin Phillips-Hill of York County, now heads to Gov. Tom Wolf for his signature. Specifically, HB 1918 would criminalize the use of a scanning or skimming device, the use of a re-encoder, and the possession or sale of a skimming device – along with imposing stiff penalties. Currently, prosecutors can only levy theft charges against such crimes.

“We strongly urge Gov. Wolf to sign this important piece of legislation that will protect consumers and benefit thousands of Pennsylvania businesses by creating a strong deterrent for identity thieves,” PFMA President and CEO Alex Baloga said. “We’d like to thank Rep. Phillips-Hill, House and Senate leadership and all those who supported and/or voted in favor of this critical bill.”

Hard-to-detect credit card skimming devices are used to copy identifying information of credit cards at gas pumps, cash machines and other common points of payment. Nationwide, credit card fraud costs retailers \$580.5 million in losses and \$6.47 billion in prevention costs annually.

The new crime would be graded as a third-degree felony for a first offense and a second or subsequent offense would be a second-degree felony. If signed into law, Pennsylvania would join 30 other states with similar laws on the books.

The bill would take effect 60 days following the governor’s signature.

About PFMA

The Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, a statewide trade association, advocates the views of nearly 800 convenience stores, supermarkets, independent grocers, wholesalers and consumer product vendors. PFMA members operate more than 3,200 stores and employ more than 150,000 Pennsylvanians. For more information on PFMA, visit www.pfma.org.

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