



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

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Pennsylvania anti-credit card skimming law goes into effect

CAMP HILL, PA (August 31, 2018) – A state law aimed at curbing credit card fraud that unanimously passed the Pennsylvania House and Senate this summer has now gone into effect.

Act 60 – which criminalizes and establishes stiff penalties for thieves using tools to steal others' credit card information – was signed by Gov. Tom Wolf on June 28. Under the law, anyone convicted of using or possessing a scanning or skimming device now faces a third-degree felony for a first offense and a second-degree felony for a second or subsequent offense.

“The goal of the anti-credit card skimming law was always to protect businesses and consumers in Pennsylvania from unscrupulous thieves trying to separate people from their hard-earned money,” PFMA President & CEO Alex Baloga said. “It was made law thanks to the hard work and support of many businesses and elected officials, notably the legislation’s sponsor, state Rep. Kristin Phillips-Hill.”

Credit card fraud is one of retailers’ worst nightmares, costing a collective \$580.6 million in losses and \$6.47 billion in prevention costs. Although card holders are generally protected from liability when a fraudulent crime happens, it still costs a significant amount of time, stress, and fees in filing suspicious activity reports with banks credit card companies, and credit reporting agencies.

“The law was one of PFMA’s top legislative priorities in 2018, and we are excited to see it go into effect and start cutting down on fraud in Pennsylvania,” Baloga said.

With the law, Pennsylvania joins 30 other states that have enacted similar legislation.

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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