



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

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PFMA COMMENDS HOUSE FOR PASSAGE OF BILL TO PREVENT AND PUNISH USE OF CREDIT-DEBIT CARD SKIMMING DEVICES

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania — The Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association (PFMA), a statewide trade association advocating for the retail food industry, commends the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for unanimously passing legislation yesterday that would update and upgrade Pennsylvania law to help prevent, eliminate and punish the use of fraudulent credit-debit card devices.

HB1918, sponsored by Representative Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York), would make skimmer and scanner devices and their use illegal. It would also create strong penalties for the using these devices. The first use of a skimmer or scanner to obtain information from an encoded card, computer chip or magnetic strip would be punished as a third-degree felony, while a second offense would make it a second-degree felony.

“We commend Representative Phillips-Hill and the House of Representatives for passing this important legislation to prevent and punish the use of credit-debit card devices,” said Alex Baloga, PFMA president and CEO. “PFMA members are committed to keeping their customers’ information safe when they shop in their stores. This legislation is an important step to combat and deter the use of these devices, and we urge the Senate to pass it as well.”

The bill now heads to the Pennsylvania Senate for consideration.

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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.