

House Calendar

Thursday, January 4, 2024

2nd DAY OF THE ADJOURNED SESSION

House Convenes at 9:30 A.M.

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ACTION CALENDAR

Governor's Veto

H. 158

An act relating to the beverage container redemption system

Text of Veto Message

The text of the communication from His Excellency, the Governor, whereby he vetoed and returned unsigned **House Bill No. H. 158** to the House is as follows:

June 29, 2023

The Honorable BetsyAnn Wrask
Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Ms. Wrask:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I'm returning H.158, *An act relating to the beverage container redemption system*, without my signature with my objections stated below.

I'm a long-time advocate of recycling and support a strong system to help Vermonters do so. But as I've consistently said, I believe expanding the labor intensive 1970s-era bottle deposit system would move us backwards, and we should instead focus on investing in and improving zero-sort (or blue bin) recycling.

I'm concerned this bill will result in higher costs for Vermonters due to deposit fees added to a wide range of beverage products; increased handling fees will be passed onto consumers to fund the redemption system; and increased recycling costs for towns, businesses and residents as high-value cans and bottles are removed.

It simply makes no sense to toss aside the progress we've made since the mandatory Universal Recycling Law of 2012, to expand a separate system that diverts the most valuable recyclables away from the blue bin system.

Finally, I'm concerned that even with the bill's efforts to modernize the redemption system, redemption centers are likely to continue to struggle to find the space needed for more storage and the workforce needed to handle and sort the higher volume.

In light of these objections, I'm returning this legislation without my signature pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Scott
Governor
PBS/kp

CONSENT CALENDAR

Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rules 16a - 16d

The following concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House and will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration in that member's chamber prior to adjournment of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Senate Secretary's Office or the House Clerk's Office, as applicable. For text of resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar and Senate Calendar.

H.C.R. 128

House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont National Guard Deputy Adjutant General Kenneth Gragg for his exemplary career accomplishments

H.C.R. 129

House concurrent resolution designating September 26, 2024 as Mesothelioma Awareness Day in Vermont

H.C.R. 130

House concurrent resolution honoring Richard DeGray for his dedication to the botanical beautification of Brattleboro

H.C.R. 131

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Division I Colchester High School Lakers championship girls' soccer team