
ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2018

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 285.

An act relating to universal recycling requirements.

Pending Question:

Shall the recommendation of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy be amended as moved by Senator Pollina?

Text of amendment:

Senator Pollina has moved that the recommendation of amendment of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy be amended by striking out Sec. 4 (effective date) and its reader assistance and inserting in lieu thereof six new sections to be Secs. 4–9 and their reader assistances to read as follows:

* * * Beverage Container Redemption * * *

Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 1521 is amended to read:

§ 1521. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of As used in this chapter:

(1) “Beverage” means beer or other malt beverages ~~and~~₂ mineral waters, mixed wine ~~drink,~~ drinks, wine, soda water, ~~and~~ carbonated ~~and~~ noncarbonated soft drinks, noncarbonated water, and all nonalcoholic carbonated and noncarbonated drinks in liquid form and intended for human consumption, except for rice milk, soymilk, almond milk, hempseed milk, milk, and dairy products. As of January 1, 1990₂ “beverage” also shall mean liquor.

* * *

(3) “Container” means the individual, separate, bottle, can, jar, or carton composed of glass, metal, paper, plastic, or any combination of those materials containing a consumer product. This definition shall not include containers made of biodegradable material.

(4) “Distributor” means every person who engages in the sale of consumer products in containers to a dealer in this state State, including any

manufacturer who engages in such sales. Any dealer or retailer who sells, at the retail level, beverages in containers without having purchased them from a person otherwise classified as a distributor, shall be a distributor.

(5) "Manufacturer" means every person bottling, canning, packing, or otherwise filling containers for sale to distributors or dealers.

* * *

(8) "Secretary" means the ~~secretary of the agency of natural resources~~ Secretary of Natural Resources.

(9) "Mixed wine drink" means a beverage containing wine and more than 15 percent added plain, carbonated, or sparkling water; and ~~which that~~ contains added natural or artificial blended material, such as fruit juices, flavors, flavoring, adjuncts, coloring, or preservatives; which that contains not more than 16 percent alcohol by volume; or other similar product marketed as a wine cooler.

(10) "Liquor" means spirits as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 2.

(11) "Deposit initiator" means the first distributor or manufacturer to collect the deposit on a beverage container sold to any person within the State.

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 1522 is amended to read:

§ 1522. BEVERAGE CONTAINERS; DEPOSIT

(a) Except with respect to beverage containers ~~which that~~ contain liquor, a deposit of ~~not less than five cents~~ \$0.05 shall be paid by the consumer on each beverage container sold at the retail level and shall be refunded to the consumer upon return of the empty beverage container. With respect to beverage containers of volume greater than 50 ml. ~~which that~~ contain liquor or wine, a deposit of ~~15 cents~~ \$0.15 shall be paid by the consumer on each beverage container sold at the retail level and shall be refunded to the consumer upon return of the empty beverage container. The difference between liquor bottle deposits collected and refunds made is ~~hereby~~ retained by the Liquor Control Enterprise Fund for administration of this subsection.

(b) A retailer or a person operating a redemption center who redeems beverage containers shall be reimbursed by the manufacturer or distributor of such beverage containers in an amount ~~which is three and one-half cents~~ of \$0.035 per container for containers of beverage brands that are part of a commingling program and ~~four cents~~ \$0.04 per container for containers of beverage brands that are not part of a commingling program.

(c) ~~[Deleted.]~~ [Repealed.]

(d) Containers shall be redeemed during no fewer than 40 hours per week during the regular operating hours of the establishment.

Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 1524 is amended to read:

§ 1524. LABELING

(a) Every beverage container sold or offered for sale at retail in this ~~state~~ State shall clearly indicate by embossing or imprinting on the normal product label, or in the case of a metal beverage container on the top of the container, the word "Vermont" or the letters "VT" and the refund value of the container in not less than one-eighth inch type size or such other alternate indications as may be approved by the ~~secretary~~ Secretary. This subsection does not prohibit including names or abbreviations of other states with deposit legislation comparable to this chapter.

(b) ~~The commissioner of the department of liquor control~~ Commissioner of Liquor Control may allow, in the case of liquor bottles, a conspicuous, adhesive sticker to be attached to indicate the deposit information required in subsection (a) of this section, provided that the size, placement, and adhesive qualities of the sticker are as approved by the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner. The stickers shall be affixed to the bottles by the manufacturer, except that liquor ~~which that~~ is sold in the ~~state~~ State in quantities less than 100 cases per year may have stickers affixed by personnel employed by the ~~department~~ Department.

(c) This section shall not apply to permanently labeled beverage containers.

(d) The Secretary may allow, in the case of wine bottles, a conspicuous, adhesive sticker to be attached to indicate the deposit information required in subsection (a) of this section, provided that the size, placement, and adhesive qualities of the sticker are as approved by the Secretary. The stickers shall be affixed by the manufacturer.

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 1530 is added to read:

§ 1530. ABANDONED BEVERAGE CONTAINER DEPOSITS; DEPOSIT TRANSACTION ACCOUNT; BEVERAGE REDEMPTION FUND

(a) A deposit initiator shall open a separate interest-bearing account in a Vermont branch of a financial institution to be known as the deposit transaction account. The deposit initiator shall keep the deposit transaction account separate from all other revenues and accounts.

(b) Beginning on July 1, 2019, each deposit initiator shall deposit in its deposit transaction account the refund value established by section 1522 of this title for all beverage containers sold by the deposit initiator. The deposit initiator shall deposit the refund value for each beverage container in the account not more than three business days after the date on which the beverage container is sold. All interest, dividends, and returns earned on the deposit transaction account shall be paid directly to the account. The deposit initiator

shall pay all refunds on returned beverage containers from the deposit transaction account.

(c) Beginning on August 10, 2019, and by the tenth day of each month thereafter, every deposit initiator shall report to the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Commissioner of Taxes concerning transactions affecting the deposit initiator's deposit transaction account in the preceding month. The deposit initiator shall submit the report on a form provided by the Commissioner of Taxes. The report shall include:

(1) the balance of the account at the beginning of the preceding month;

(2) the number of nonreusable beverage containers sold in the preceding month and the number of nonreusable beverage containers returned in the preceding month;

(3) the amount of beverage container deposits received by the deposit initiator and deposited into the deposit transaction account;

(4) the amount of refund payments made from the deposit transaction account in the preceding month;

(5) any income earned on the deposit transaction account in the preceding month;

(6) any other transactions, withdrawals, or service charges on the deposit transaction account from the preceding month; and

(7) any additional information required by the Commissioner of Taxes.

(d) On or before August 10, 2019, and on the tenth day of each month thereafter, each deposit initiator shall remit from its deposit transaction account to the Commissioner of Taxes any abandoned beverage container deposits from the preceding month. The amount of abandoned beverage container deposits for a month is the amount equal to the amount of deposits that should be in the fund less the sum of:

(1) income earned on amounts on the account during that month; and

(2) the total amount of refund value received by the deposit initiator for nonrefillable containers during that month.

(e) The Secretary of Natural Resources may prohibit the sale of a beverage that is sold or distributed in the State by a deposit initiator who fails to comply with the requirements of this chapter. The Secretary may allow the sale of a beverage upon the deposit initiator's coming into compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

(f) The Commissioner of Taxes shall deposit in the Solid Waste Management Assistance Account of the Waste Management Assistance Fund

established under section 6618 of this title all abandoned beverage container deposits remitted under subsection (d) of this section.

Sec. 8. 10 V.S.A. § 6618 is amended to read:

§ 6618. WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE FUND

(a) There is hereby created in the State Treasury a fund to be known as the Waste Management Assistance Fund, to be expended by the Secretary of Natural Resources. The Fund shall have three accounts: one for Solid Waste Management Assistance, one for Hazardous Waste Management Assistance, and one for Electronic Waste Collection and Recycling Assistance. The Hazardous Waste Management Assistance Account shall consist of a percentage of the tax on hazardous waste under the provisions of 32 V.S.A. chapter 237, as established by the Secretary, the toxics use reduction fees under subsection 6628(j) of this title, and appropriations of the General Assembly. In no event shall the amount of the hazardous waste tax ~~which~~ that is deposited to the Hazardous Waste Management Assistance Account exceed 40 percent of the annual tax receipts. The Solid Waste Management Assistance Account shall consist of the franchise tax on waste facilities assessed under the provisions of 32 V.S.A. chapter 151, subchapter 13, abandoned beverage container deposits remitted to the State under section 1530 of this title, and appropriations of the General Assembly. The Electronic Waste Collection and Recycling Account shall consist of the program and implementation fees required under section 7553 of this title. All balances in the Fund accounts at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward and remain a part of the Fund accounts, except as provided in subsection (e) of this section. Interest earned by the Fund shall be deposited into the appropriate Fund account. Disbursements from the Fund accounts shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants drawn by the Commissioner of Finance and Management.

(b) The Secretary may authorize disbursements from the Solid Waste Management Assistance Account for the purpose of enhancing solid waste management in the State in accordance with the adopted waste management plan. This includes:

* * *

(9) The Secretary shall annually allocate 17 percent of the receipts of this account, based on the projected revenue for that year, for implementation of the Plan adopted pursuant to section 6604 of this title and Solid Waste Implementation Plans adopted pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2202a.

* * *

(11) Costs of solid waste management entities and commercial haulers in complying with universal recycling requirements.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 197.

An act relating to liability for toxic substance exposures or releases.

Pending Question:

Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Judiciary?

Text of the report of the Committee on Judiciary:

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Strict Liability; Toxic Substance Release * * *

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. chapter 159, subchapter 5 is added to read:

Subchapter 5. Strict Liability for Toxic Substance Release

§ 6685. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Harm" means any personal injury or property damage.

(2) "Release" means any intentional or unintentional, permitted or unpermitted, act or omission that allows a toxic substance to enter the air, land, surface water, groundwater, or any other place where the toxic substance may be located in one or more of the following amounts:

(A) more than two gallons or pounds;

(B) two gallons or pounds or less if the amount released poses a potential or actual threat to human health; or

(C) for any toxic substance regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601-9675, as amended, the reportable quantity specified under 40 C.F.R. § 302.4.

(3)(A) "Toxic substance" means any substance, mixture, or compound that has the capacity to produce personal injury or illness to humans through ingestion, inhalation, or absorption through any body surface and that satisfies one or more of the following: