

1 H.175

2 Introduced by Representative McCullough of Williston

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Conservation and development; beverage container redemption;  
6 deposit amount; handling fee

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to expand the  
8 beverage container deposit-redemption system to include water bottles, wine  
9 bottles, and containers for all noncarbonated and carbonated drinks, except for  
10 milk, rice milk, soy milk, almond milk, hemp seed milk, and dairy products.

11 The bill also would increase the deposit on all beverage containers, except  
12 those containing liquor, from five cents to ten cents. The bill would require a  
13 deposit for all containers containing liquor and would increase the handling fee  
14 for non-commingled containers from four cents to five cents per container.

15 An act relating to the beverage container redemption system

16 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

17 \* \* \* Beverage Container Redemption \* \* \*

18 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. chapter 53 is amended to read:

19 CHAPTER 53. BEVERAGE CONTAINERS; DEPOSIT-REDEMPTION  
20 SYSTEM

1 § 1521. DEFINITIONS

2 ~~For the purpose of~~ As used in this chapter:

3 (1) “Beverage” means beer or other malt beverages ~~and~~<sub>2</sub> mineral waters,  
4 mixed wine ~~drink~~ drinks, wine, soda water and<sub>2</sub> carbonated and noncarbonated  
5 soft drinks, carbonated and noncarbonated water, and all other nonalcoholic  
6 carbonated and noncarbonated drinks in liquid form and intended for human  
7 consumption, except for milk, rice milk, soy milk, almond milk, hemp seed  
8 milk, and dairy products. As of January 1, 1990<sub>2</sub> “beverage” also ~~shall mean~~  
9 means liquor.

10 (2) “Biodegradable material” means material that is capable of being  
11 broken down by bacteria into basic elements.

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

16 (4) “Distributor” means every person who engages in the sale of  
17 consumer products in containers to a dealer in this State including any  
18 manufacturer who engages in such sales. Any dealer or retailer who sells, at  
19 the retail level, beverages in containers without having purchased them from a  
20 person otherwise classified as a distributor, ~~shall be~~ is a distributor.

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

3           (6) “Recycling” means the process of sorting, cleansing, treating, and  
4 reconstituting waste and other discarded materials for the purpose of reusing  
5 the materials in the same or altered form.

6           (7) “Redemption center” means a store or other location where any  
7 person may, during normal business hours, redeem the amount of the deposit  
8 for any empty beverage container labeled or certified pursuant to section 1524  
9 of this title.

10          (8) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Natural Resources.

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

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

18          § 1522. BEVERAGE CONTAINERS; DEPOSIT

19          (a) Except with respect to beverage containers that contain liquor, a deposit  
20 of not less than ~~five~~ ten cents shall be paid by the consumer on each beverage  
21 container sold at the retail level and refunded to the consumer upon return of

1 the empty beverage container. With respect to beverage containers of volume  
2 ~~greater than 50 ml.~~ that contain liquor, a deposit of 15 cents shall be paid by  
3 the consumer on each beverage container sold at the retail level and refunded  
4 to the consumer upon return of the empty beverage container. The difference  
5 between liquor bottle deposits collected and refunds made is hereby retained  
6 by the Liquor Control Enterprise Fund for administration of this subsection.

7 (b) A retailer or a person operating a redemption center who redeems  
8 beverage containers shall be reimbursed by the manufacturer or distributor of  
9 such beverage containers in an amount that is three and one-half cents per  
10 container for containers of beverage brands that are part of a commingling  
11 program and ~~four~~ five cents per container for containers of beverage brands  
12 that are not part of a commingling program.

13 (c) [Repealed.]

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

16 \* \* \*

17 § 1524. LABELING

18 (a) Every beverage container sold or offered for sale at retail in this State  
19 shall clearly indicate by embossing or imprinting on the normal product label,  
20 or ~~in the case of a metal beverage container on the top of the container~~ other  
21 approved method secured to the container, the word "Vermont" or the letters

1 “VT” and the refund value of the container in not less than one-eighth inch  
2 type size or such other alternate indications as may be approved by the  
3 Secretary. This subsection does not prohibit including names or abbreviations  
4 of other states with deposit legislation comparable to this chapter.

5 (b) The Commissioner of Liquor and Lottery may allow, in the case of  
6 liquor bottles, a conspicuous, adhesive sticker to be attached to indicate the  
7 deposit information required in subsection (a) of this section, provided that the  
8 size, placement, and adhesive qualities of the sticker are as approved by the  
9 Commissioner. The stickers shall be affixed to the bottles by the  
10 manufacturer, except that liquor that is sold in the State in quantities less than  
11 100 cases per year may have stickers affixed by personnel employed by the  
12 Division of Liquor Control.

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

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

19 \* \* \*

20 Sec. 2. Subdivision 10-109(b) of the Agency of Natural Resources’

21 Environmental Protection Regulations for the Deposit for Beverage

1 Containers is amended to read:

2 (b) Any commingling agreement shall contain, at a minimum, the  
3 following criteria:

4 (1) The agreement shall include pick up of commingled beverage  
5 containers from:

6 (A) at least 30 percent of the beverage containers redeemed in the  
7 ~~state~~ State of Vermont; or

8 (B) as otherwise approved by the Secretary.

9 \* \* \*

10 \* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

11 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.