

1 H.158

2 Introduced by Representatives Sheldon of Middlebury, Bongartz of
3 Manchester, Morris of Springfield, Satcowitz of Randolph, and
4 Torre of Moretown

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Conservation and development; beverage container redemption;
8 extended producer responsibility

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to expand the
10 scope of beverages subject to the beverage container redemption system to
11 include all drinks in liquid form and intended for human consumption, except
12 for milk, dairy products, plant-based beverages, infant formula, meal
13 replacement drinks, or nonalcoholic cider. The bill would also require all
14 manufacturers and distributors of covered beverages to participate in a
15 producer responsibility organization that shall manage the collection and
16 disposition of beverage containers. In addition, the bill would increase from
17 four cents a container to five cents a container the fee a manufacturer or
18 distributor of a beverage container pays to a retailer or redemption center for
19 redemption of a container of a beverage brand that is not part of a
20 commingling program.

1 An act relating to the beverage container redemption system

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

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

4 CHAPTER 53. BEVERAGE CONTAINERS; DEPOSIT-REDEMPTION
5 SYSTEM

6 § 1521. DEFINITIONS

7 As used in this chapter:

8 (1)(A) “Beverage” means ~~beer or other malt beverages and mineral~~
9 ~~waters, mixed wine drink, soda water and carbonated soft~~ all drinks in liquid
10 form and intended for human consumption, except for milk, dairy products,
11 plant-based beverages, infant formula, meal replacement drinks, or
12 nonalcoholic cider.

13 (B) “Beverage” also means liquor and ready-to-drink spirits
14 beverage.

15 (C) Notwithstanding subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1),
16 “beverage” does not include vinous beverages until January 1, 2027.

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

19 (3) “Container” means the individual, and separate, bottle, can, or jar, ~~or~~
20 ~~carton~~ composed of glass, metal, ~~paper,~~ or plastic, or any combination of those

1 materials, and containing a ~~consumer product~~ beverage. This definition ~~shall~~
2 does not include:

3 (A) containers made of biodegradable material;

4 (B) noncarbonated beverage containers with a volume greater than
5 two and one-half liters and carbonated beverage containers with a volume
6 greater than three liters; or

7 (C) pouches.

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

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

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

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

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

2 (9) “Mixed wine drink” means a beverage containing wine and more
3 than 15 percent added plain, carbonated, or sparkling water; and that contains
4 added natural or artificial blended material, such as fruit juices, flavors,
5 flavoring, adjuncts, coloring, or preservatives; that contains not more than
6 16 percent alcohol by volume; or other similar product marketed as a wine
7 cooler.

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

9 (11) “Cider” has the same meaning as in 7 V.S.A. § 2.

10 (12) “Plant-based beverage” means a liquid intended for human
11 consumption that imitates dairy milk, consists of plant material suspended in
12 water, and the primary protein source in the beverage is from plant material or
13 a derivative of plant materials. Plant-based beverages include beverages made
14 from rice, soy, nuts, oats, and hemp.

15 (13) “Ready-to-drink spirit beverage” has the same meaning as in 7
16 V.S.A. § 2.

17 (14) “Vinous beverages” means all fermented beverages of any name or
18 description manufactured or obtained for sale from the natural sugar content of
19 fruits or other agricultural product, containing sugar, the total alcoholic content
20 of which is not less than one percent nor more than 16 percent by volume at 60

1 degrees Fahrenheit. As used in this section, “vinous beverages” does not mean
2 cider.

3 § 1522. BEVERAGE CONTAINERS; DEPOSIT

4 (a) Except with respect to beverage containers that contain liquor, a deposit
5 of not less than five cents shall be paid by the consumer on each beverage
6 container sold at the retail level and refunded to the consumer upon return of
7 the empty beverage container. With respect to beverage containers of volume
8 greater than 50 ml. that contain liquor, a deposit of 15 cents shall be paid by
9 the consumer on each beverage container sold at the retail level and refunded
10 to the consumer upon return of the empty beverage container. The difference
11 between liquor bottle deposits collected and refunds made is hereby retained
12 by the Liquor Control Enterprise Fund for administration of this subsection.

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

19 (c) [Repealed.]

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

1 § 1522a. RULES

2 ~~The Secretary may adopt rules, in accordance with 3 V.S.A. chapter 25,~~
3 ~~necessary for the administration of this chapter. These rules may include the~~
4 ~~following:~~

5 ~~(1) Provisions to ensure that beverage containers not labeled in~~
6 ~~accordance with section 1524 of this title are not redeemed.~~

7 ~~(2) Provisions to ensure that beverage containers are commingled.~~

8 ~~(3) Administrative penalties for the failure by a redemption center or~~
9 ~~retailer to remove beverage containers that are not labeled prior to pickup by a~~
10 ~~distributor or manufacturer. Penalties may include nonpayment of the deposit~~
11 ~~and handling fee established under section 1522 of this title for a reasonable~~
12 ~~period of time and for the number of beverage containers that were not labeled.~~

13 ~~(4) Any other provision that may be necessary for the implementation of~~
14 ~~this chapter. [Repealed.]~~

15 § 1523. ACCEPTANCE OF BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

16 (a) Except as provided in section 1522 of this title:

17 (1) A retailer shall not refuse to accept from any person any empty
18 beverage containers, labeled in accordance with section 1524 of this title, of
19 the kind, size, and brand sold by the retailer, or refuse to pay to that person the
20 refund value of a beverage container as established by section 1522 of this
21 title, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

1 (2) A manufacturer or distributor may not refuse to pick up from a
2 retailer that sells its product or a person operating a certified redemption center
3 any empty beverage containers, labeled in accordance with section 1524 of this
4 title, of the kind, size, and brand sold by the manufacturer or distributor, or
5 refuse to pay the retailer or a person operating a redemption center the refund
6 value of a beverage container as established by section 1522 of this title.

7 (b) A retailer, ~~with the prior approval of the Secretary,~~ may refuse to
8 redeem beverage containers if a ~~redemption center or centers are established~~
9 ~~that serve the public need~~ stewardship plan that meets the requirements of
10 section 1532 of this title has been implemented by a producer responsibility
11 organization in the State and the retailer's building is less than 5,000 square
12 feet.

13 (c) A retailer or a person operating a redemption center may refuse to
14 redeem beverage containers that are not clean; or are broken; and shall not
15 redeem beverage containers that are not labeled in accordance with
16 section 1524 of this title.

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. The label shall be on the top lid of the beverage container, the side
4 of the beverage container, or in a clearly visible location of the beverage
5 container. This subsection does not prohibit including names or abbreviations
6 of other states with deposit legislation comparable to this chapter.

7 (b) Each beverage container sold or offered for sale in the State that has a
8 deposit pursuant to section 1522 of this title shall include a Universal Product
9 Code and barcode. Each distributor shall provide the Universal Product Code
10 and barcode as part of its beverage registration or within 60 days of March 1,
11 2025, whichever occurs first.

12 (c) The Commissioner of Liquor and Lottery may allow, in the case of
13 liquor bottles, a conspicuous, adhesive sticker to be attached to indicate the
14 deposit information required in subsection (a) of this section, provided that the
15 size, placement, and adhesive qualities of the sticker are as approved by the
16 Commissioner. The stickers shall be affixed to the bottles by the
17 manufacturer, except that liquor that is sold in the State in quantities less than
18 100 cases per year may have stickers affixed by personnel employed by the
19 Division of Liquor Control.

20 (e)(d) This section shall not apply to permanently labeled beverage
21 containers.

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§ 1527. ~~PENALTY~~

~~A person who violates a provision of this chapter shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 for each violation. [Repealed.]~~

§ 1528. BEVERAGE REGISTRATION

No distributor or manufacturer shall sell a beverage container in the State of Vermont without ~~the manufacturer registering the beverage container with the Agency of Natural Resources prior to sale,~~ registering 30 days in advance of initiating sale of the beverage container and participating in a stewardship plan approved by the Secretary unless distributed by the Department of Liquor and Lottery. ~~This registration shall take place on a form provided by the Secretary and include the following:~~

- ~~(1) the name and principal business address of the manufacturer;~~
- ~~(2) the name of the beverage and the container size;~~
- ~~(3) whether the beverage is a part of an approved commingling agreement; and~~
- ~~(4) the name of the person picking up the empty beverage container, if that person is different from the manufacturer.~~

§ 1529. REDEMPTION CENTER CERTIFICATION

A person operating a redemption center may obtain a certification from the Secretary. A redemption center certification shall include the following:

- 1 (1) Specification of the name and location of the facility;
- 2 (2) ~~If the certified redemption center redeems more than 250,000~~
3 ~~containers per year, a requirement that the certified redemption center shall~~
4 ~~participate in an approved commingling agreement; and~~
- 5 (3) Additional conditions, requirements, and restrictions as the Secretary
6 may deem necessary to implement the requirements of this chapter. This may
7 include requirements concerning reporting, recording, and inspections of the
8 operation of the site.

9 * * *

10 § 1531. MANUFACTURER PARTICIPATION IN PRODUCER

11 RESPONSIBILITY ORGANIZATION

12 (a) No manufacturer or distributor may sell or distribute a beverage
13 container in this State without participating in a Secretary-approved producer
14 responsibility organization.

15 (b) On or before January 1, 2024, a manufacturer or manufacturers
16 representing at least 51 percent of the beverage containers sold or distributed
17 within the State may apply to the Secretary to form a producer responsibility
18 organization.

19 (c) The Secretary may approve, for a period not longer than 10 years, a
20 producer responsibility organization, provided that:

1 (1) the producer responsibility organization has the capacity to
2 administer the requirements of a stewardship plan required by section 1532 of
3 this title; and

4 (2) the producer responsibility organization does not create any
5 unreasonable barriers to joining the producer responsibility organization and
6 shall take into the consideration the needs of small manufacturers that do not
7 generate a significant volume of containers.

8 (d) After approval, a producer responsibility organization shall maintain a
9 website that identifies:

10 (1) the name and principal business address of each manufacturer
11 participating in the producer responsibility organization; and

12 (2) the name of each beverage and the container size covered by the
13 stewardship plan.

14 (e) If a producer responsibility organization fails to implement the
15 requirements of this chapter, the rules adopted by the Secretary, or an approved
16 stewardship plan, the Secretary may dissolve the producer responsibility
17 organization.

18 (f) If no producer responsibility organization is formed, the Secretary may
19 require the formation of a producer responsibility organization or adopt and
20 administer a plan that meets the requirements of section 1532 of this title. If
21 the Secretary administers the plan adopted under section 1532, the Secretary

1 shall charge each manufacturer the costs of plan administration, the Agency's
2 oversight costs, and a recycling market development assessment of 10 percent
3 of the plan's total cost to be deposited Waste Management Assistance Fund,
4 Solid Waste Account for the purpose of providing grants to develop markets to
5 recycle materials.

6 (g) The producer responsibility organization shall reimburse the Agency of
7 Natural Resources for all oversight costs in administering this chapter.

8 § 1532. STEWARDSHIP PLAN; MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

9 (a) Plan elements. On or before October 1, 2024, an approved producer
10 responsibility organization shall submit a stewardship plan to the Secretary. A
11 stewardship plan shall, at a minimum, meet all of the following the
12 requirements of this section:

13 (1) Convenience of collection. A plan shall ensure that consumers have
14 convenient opportunities to redeem beverage containers. The plan shall take
15 reasonable efforts to site points of collection in areas with high population
16 density or located in centers designated under 24 V.S.A. chapter 76A. A plan
17 shall document how redemption services will be available to consumers as
18 follows:

19 (A) at least three points of redemption per county that provide an
20 immediate return of a deposit to a consumer unless a waiver is granted by the
21 Secretary;

1 (B) at least one point of redemption per municipality with a
2 population of 7,000 or more persons that provides an immediate return of a
3 deposit to a consumer unless a waiver is granted by the Secretary; and

4 (C) statewide coverage of points of redemption so that consumers are
5 not required to drive more than 15 minutes unless a waiver is granted by the
6 Secretary.

7 (2) Fair operation and compensation to redemption centers. The plan
8 shall satisfy all of the following requirements.

9 (A) The plan shall describe how all locations that redeem beverage
10 containers are fairly compensated for their participation in the collection
11 program.

12 (B) There shall not be barriers to the participation in the collection
13 program for a redemption center, except for restrictions that are authorized by
14 the Secretary, by rule.

15 (C) The plan shall describe how management and sorting of
16 containers at redemption centers is minimized. The plan shall document how
17 brand sorting will be eliminated at points of redemption.

18 (D) The plan shall describe how materials will be picked up from
19 redemption centers on a timely basis.

20 (E) The plan shall maximize the use of existing infrastructure when
21 establishing points of collection under subdivision (a)(1) of this section.

1 (3) Impacts to municipal recycling. The plan shall propose a protocol
2 for documenting the amount of materials collected under the plan that are
3 processed and marketed by solid waste management entities, including at
4 materials recovery facilities, and shall propose a compensation formula for
5 glass-, plastic-, and aluminum-covered beverage containers that are made
6 usable as recycled commodities.

7 (4) Education to consumers. The plan shall describe what education
8 efforts will be undertaken to increase the number of beverage containers
9 redeemed in the State.

10 (5) Consultation with stakeholders. The producer responsibility
11 organization shall consult with stakeholders on the development of the plan.
12 The plan shall include processes for regular consultation, which shall be not
13 less than annually, with stakeholders including the Agency, redemption
14 centers, municipal and private recycling organizations, and other stakeholders.

15 (b) Reporting. At a frequency required by the Secretary but not less than
16 annually, the producer responsibility organization shall report the following to
17 the Secretary:

18 (1) the name, address, and business hours of each redemption center
19 participating in the approved stewardship plan;

20 (2) the amount, in containers and tons, and material type of beverage
21 containers redeemed under the plan;

1 (3) the location and amount of beverage container material that was
2 recycled and what products that beverage container material was recycled into;

3 (4) the carbon impacts associated with the administration of the
4 stewardship plan;

5 (5) the costs associated with administration of the stewardship plan,
6 including the costs of collection, management, and transportation of redeemed
7 containers and the amount received for commodities;

8 (6) a description of any improvements made in the reporting year to
9 increase ease and convenience for consumers to return beverage containers for
10 redemption;

11 (7) efforts taken by or on behalf of the distributor to reduce
12 environmental impacts throughout the product life cycle and to increase
13 reusability or recyclability at the end of the life cycle by material type;

14 (8) efforts taken by or on behalf of the producer responsibility
15 organization to improve the environmental outcomes of the program by
16 improving operational efficiency, such as reduction of truck trips through
17 improved material handling or compaction or the increased use of refillable
18 containers in a local refilling system;

19 (9) a description and copies of educational materials and educational
20 strategies the producer uses for the purposes of this program; and

21 (10) any additional information required by the Secretary.

1 (c) Secretary of Natural Resources approval. The plan shall be submitted
2 to the Secretary, and, after concluding that the elements of the plan will
3 maximize diversion of recyclable materials, provide convenience to users, and
4 create a more circular economy, the Secretary's approval pursuant to this
5 subsection shall be for a period not greater than five years.

6 § 1533. PROGRAM AND FISCAL AUDIT

7 (a) Program audit. Every five years, the producer responsibility
8 organization shall conduct an independent third-party program audit of the
9 operation of the stewardship plan. The audit shall make recommendations to
10 improve the operation of the collection program established by this chapter.

11 (b) Fiscal audit. Annually, the producer responsibility organization shall
12 conduct an independent third-party fiscal audit of the program. The fiscal
13 audit shall provide a transparent fiscal analysis of the producer responsibility
14 organization, its expenditures, the number of beverage containers collected,
15 and the amount of unclaimed deposits. The audit shall also provide the
16 redemption rate of beverage containers redeemed in the State after approval by
17 the Secretary.

18 § 1534. BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION RATE GOAL;

19 REPORT

20 (a) It is a goal of the State that the following minimum beverage container
21 redemption rates shall be satisfied by the specified dates:

1 (1) Beginning on July 1, 2026: 75 percent.

2 (2) Beginning on July 1, 2030: 80 percent.

3 (3) Beginning on July 1, 2035: 85 percent.

4 (4) Beginning on July 1, 2050: 90 percent.

5 (b) Beginning on July 1, 2025 and every five years thereafter, the Secretary
6 of Natural Resources shall submit to the Senate Committees on Natural
7 Resources and Energy and on Finance and the House Committees on
8 Environment and Energy and on Ways and Means a written report containing:

9 (1) the current beverage container redemption rate in the State; and

10 (2) a recommendation of whether the beverage container deposit should
11 be increased to improve redemption of beverage containers.

12 § 1535. RULEMAKING

13 The Secretary may adopt rules, in accordance with 3 V.S.A. chapter 25,
14 necessary for the administration of this chapter.

15 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 1530(c)(1) is amended to read:

16 (c)(1) ~~On or before January 1, 2020, and quarterly thereafter,~~ Every quarter,
17 at the time a report is filed pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, each
18 deposit initiator shall remit to the Commissioner of Taxes ~~any~~ 50 percent of the
19 abandoned beverage container deposits from the preceding quarter. The
20 remaining 50 percent of the abandoned beverage container deposits shall be
21 retained by the producer responsibility organization implementing the

1 requirements of this chapter for the deposit initiator. The amount of
2 abandoned beverage container deposits for a quarter is the amount equal to the
3 amount of deposits that the deposit initiator collected in the quarter less the
4 amount of the total refund value paid out by the deposit initiator for beverage
5 containers during the quarter.

6 Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 1530(c)(1) is amended to read:

7 (c)(1) Every quarter, at the time a report is filed pursuant to subsection (d)
8 of this section, each deposit initiator shall remit to the Commissioner of Taxes
9 ~~50 percent of the~~ any abandoned beverage container deposits from the
10 preceding quarter. ~~The remaining 50 percent of the abandoned beverage~~
11 ~~container deposits shall be retained by the producer responsibility organization~~
12 ~~implementing the requirements of this chapter for the deposit initiator.~~ The
13 amount of abandoned beverage container deposits for a quarter is the amount
14 equal to the amount of deposits that the deposit initiator collected in the quarter
15 less the amount of the total refund value paid out by the deposit initiator for
16 beverage containers during the quarter.

17 Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 7714 is amended to read:

18 § 7714. TYPE 3 PROCEDURES

19 (a) Purpose; scope.

20 (1) The purpose of this section is to establish the public notice and
21 comment requirements that the Department must follow when adopting general

1 permits, except for general permits governed by section 7712 of this chapter,
2 and when considering other permits listed in this section.

3 (2) The procedures under this section shall be known as Type 3
4 Procedures. This section governs each of the following:

5 (A) Each general permit issued pursuant to the Secretary's authority
6 under this title other than a general permit subject to section 7712 of this
7 chapter. However, this section does not apply to a notice of intent under a
8 general permit.

9 (B) Issuance of a dam safety order under chapter 43 of this title,
10 except for an unsafe dam order under section 1095 of this title.

11 (C) An application or request for approval of:

12 (i) an aquatic nuisance control permit under chapter 50 of this
13 title;

14 (ii) a change in treatment for a public water supply under chapter
15 56 of this title;

16 (iii) a collection plan for mercury-containing lamps under section
17 7156 of this title;

18 (iv) an individual plan for the collection and recycling of
19 electronic waste under section 7554 of this title; ~~and~~

20 (v) a primary battery stewardship plan under section 7586 of this
21 title; and

1 (vi) approval of a stewardship plan required under chapter 53 of
2 this title.

3 (b) Notice of application. The Secretary shall provide notice of an
4 administratively complete application through the environmental notice
5 bulletin.

6 (c) Notice of draft decision; comment period. The Secretary shall provide
7 notice of the draft decision through the environmental notice bulletin and shall
8 post the draft decision to the bulletin. The Secretary shall provide a public
9 comment period.

10 (d) Public meeting. The Secretary shall hold a public meeting whenever
11 any person files a written request for such a meeting. The Secretary otherwise
12 may hold a public meeting at ~~his or her~~ the Secretary's discretion.

13 (e) Notice of final decision. The Secretary shall provide notice of the final
14 decision through the environmental notice bulletin and shall post the final
15 decision to the bulletin. The Secretary shall provide a response to comments.

16 Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 1388 is amended to read:

17 § 1388. CLEAN WATER FUND

18 (a) There is created a special fund to be known as the Clean Water Fund to
19 be administered by the Secretary of Administration. The Fund shall consist of:

20 (1) revenues from the Property Transfer Tax surcharge established under
21 32 V.S.A. § 9602a;

1 (2) other gifts, donations, and impact fees received from any source,
2 public or private, dedicated for deposit into the Fund and approved by the
3 Secretary of Administration;

4 (3) 50 percent of the unclaimed beverage container deposits (escheats)
5 remitted to the State under chapter 53 of this title;

6 (4) six percent of the revenues from the meals and rooms taxes imposed
7 under 32 V.S.A. chapter 225; and

8 (5) other revenues dedicated for deposit into the Fund by the General
9 Assembly.

10 (b) Notwithstanding any contrary provisions of 32 V.S.A. chapter 7,
11 subchapter 5, unexpended balances and any earnings shall remain in the Fund
12 from year to year.

13 Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 6618(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) There is hereby created in the State Treasury a fund to be known as the
15 Waste Management Assistance Fund, to be expended by the Secretary of
16 Natural Resources. The Fund shall have three accounts: one for Solid Waste
17 Management Assistance, one for Hazardous Waste Management Assistance,
18 and one for Electronic Waste Collection and Recycling Assistance. The
19 Hazardous Waste Management Assistance Account shall consist of a
20 percentage of the tax on hazardous waste under the provisions of 32 V.S.A.
21 chapter 237, as established by the Secretary, the toxics use reduction fees

1 under subsection 6628(j) of this title, and appropriations of the General
2 Assembly. In no event shall the amount of the hazardous waste tax that is
3 deposited to the Hazardous Waste Management Assistance Account exceed
4 40 percent of the annual tax receipts. The Solid Waste Management
5 Assistance Account shall consist of the franchise tax on waste facilities
6 assessed under the provisions of 32 V.S.A. chapter 151, subchapter 13;
7 50 percent of the unclaimed beverage container deposits remitted to the State
8 under chapter 53 of this title; and appropriations of the General Assembly.

9 The Electronic Waste Collection and Recycling Account shall consist of the
10 program and implementation fees required under section 7553 of this title. All
11 balances in the Fund accounts at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried
12 forward and remain a part of the Fund accounts, except as provided in
13 subsection (e) of this section. Interest earned by the Fund shall be deposited
14 into the appropriate Fund account. Disbursements from the Fund accounts
15 shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants drawn by the Commissioner
16 of Finance and Management.

17 Sec. 7. SYSTEMS ANALYSIS OF BEVERAGE CONTAINER SYSTEM

18 On or before January 15, 2029, the Agency of Natural Resources shall
19 submit to the House Committee Environment and Energy and the Senate
20 Committee on Natural Resources and Energy a written report on the total

1 system costs associated with the implementation of the beverage container
2 redemption system under 10 V.S.A. chapter 53, including climate impacts.

3 Sec. 8. BEVERAGE CONTAINER SCOPE AND IMPLEMENTATION
4 STUDY

5 (a) On or before January 15, 2024, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall
6 submit to the House Committee on Environment and Energy and the Senate
7 Committee on Natural Resources and Energy a written report including all of
8 the following:

9 (1) a recommendation on whether minimum and maximum size limits
10 on containers should be included as part of the beverage container deposit
11 redemption system in 10 V.S.A. chapter 53;

12 (2) a recommended beverage container deposit amount for glass wine
13 bottles;

14 (3) a summary of the logistical and financial impacts of wine bottles on
15 the operation of the beverage container deposit-redemption system and
16 municipal recycling infrastructure; and

17 (4) recommended strategies to aid in the development of markets for the
18 use of recycled glass.

19 (b) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall convene a stakeholder process
20 or processes when developing recommendations required by subsection (a) of

1 this section. The process shall include all current stakeholders in the bottle
2 redemption system as well as the nonbottle redemption system.

3 Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATES

4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023, except that:

5 (1) in Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 1521(1) (expansion of the definition of
6 beverage types) shall take effect on January 1, 2026;

7 (2) in Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 1523 (requiring product registration to take
8 place with the producer responsibility organization) shall take effect on
9 March 1, 2025;

10 (3) in Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 1524(b) (requiring a UPC label on containers)
11 shall take effect on March 1, 2025;

12 (4) in Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 1531(a) (prohibiting the sale or distribution
13 without participating in a producer responsibility organization) shall take effect
14 on March 1, 2025;

15 (5) Sec. 2 (remittance of abandoned beverage container deposits) shall
16 take effect on January 1, 2026;

17 (6) Sec. 3. (repeal of remittance of beverage container deposit) shall take
18 effect on July 1, 2031;

19 (7) Sec. 5 (changing the amount of funds deposited in the Clean Water
20 Fund) shall take effect on July 1, 2031; and

1 (8) Sec. 6 (Waste Management Assistance Fund) shall take effect on
2 July 1, 2031.