H. 158; An Act Relating to Beverage Container Redemption System

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10 V.S.A. Chapter 53 : Beverage Containers; Deposit-redemption System

- Commonly called Vermont's "Bottle Bill"
- Anti-litter law
- took effect in 1973
- Considered a "FORM" of Product stewardship (manufacturers must manage returned containers) but not true EPR (manufacturers do not Fully fund the cost of the system)
- Deposit is 5 cents per container except for liquor (added in 1990) with a deposit of 15 cents per container



VERMONT'S BOTTLE BILL: How the money flows

PRODUCT SALE

DEPOSIT INITIATOR

(BEVERAGE MANUFACTURER / DISTRIBUTOR)

- Charges retailer 5¢ deposit per container
- May charge handling fee to retailer (typically 3.5-4¢, not required by law)

(at this point, Deposit Initiator is holding 5¢ deposit plus any handling fee charged*)

RETAILER

- Charges customer/consumer 5¢ deposit per container
- · May pass handling fee on to consumer

(at this point, retailer is even)

CONSUMER

 Pays 5¢ deposit per container when purchasing, along with any handling fee passed on by retailer

(at this point, consumer has paid 5¢ deposit, plus any handling fee passed along by retailer)

CONTAINER RETURN

CONSUMER

• Returns container to redemption center or retailer

RETAILER

(RETAILER / REDEMPTION CENTER)



· Gets back 5¢ deposit per container

• Pays 5¢ deposit per container to consumer

(at this point, retailer is out 5¢ deposit per container and has incurred handling costs)

DEPOSIT INITIATOR

(BEVERAGE MANUFACTURER / DISTRIBUTOR)

- · Pays retailer 5¢ deposit per container
- Pays retailer 3.5-4¢ handling fee per container

(at this point, retailer is even; deposit initiator is even if handling fee was passed on to consumer)



^{*}Although not required by law, most beverage manufacturers/distributors pass the per container handling fee (3.5¢ for commingled brands, 4¢ for non-commingled brands) on to the retailers, who pass it on to the consumers, so that consumers are paying the costs associated with recycling.

Map Of Certified Redemption centers





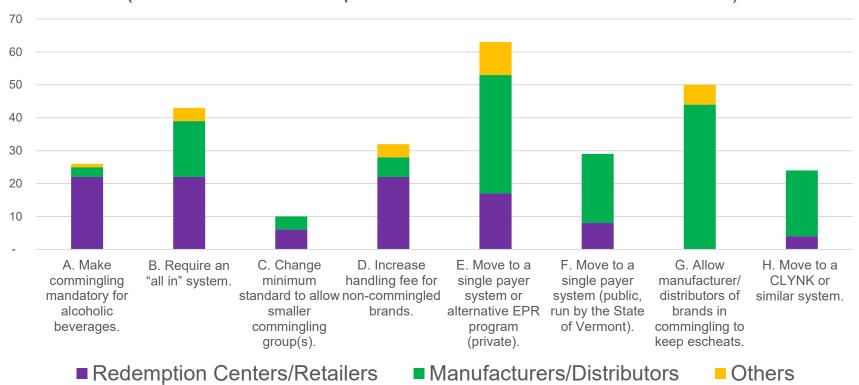
Redemption & Recycling Rates

- 2013 systems analysis study estimated a 75% redemption rate
- 2018 waste composition study shows 72% recycling rate for mandated recyclables
- Bottle Bill containers are estimated to be less than 1% of landfilled waste so most of the 25% unredeemed get recycled
- From 2020-2022, 76% of non-liquor bottle bill containers were redeemed (according to escheats remittance filings to VT Tax)



2018-2019 Bottle Bill Stakeholder process

Preferred Changes to Vermont Bottle Bill System (All Stakeholder Responses—Stacked Cumulative Points)





Overall Comments on H. 175

- Support the efforts to modernize the bottle bill to make it more convenient for consumers, fewer administrative burdens for redemption centers, and overall more effective.
- In an ideal world, we would modernize the system and concurrently look at the impacts of expansion on the existing recycling system and any future system to manage packaging and printed materials before expansion occurs.

