

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Finance to which was referred House Bill No. 158
3 entitled “An act relating to the beverage container redemption system”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as follows:

6 First: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. chapter 53, in section 1534, by striking out
7 subsections (b) and (c) in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new
8 subsection (b) to read as follows:

9 (b)(1) Beginning on July 1, 2025 and annually thereafter, the Secretary of
10 Natural Resources shall submit to the Senate Committees on Natural
11 Resources and Energy and on Finance and the House Committees on
12 Environment and Energy and on Ways and Means a written report containing
13 the current beverage container redemption rate in the State for the following
14 three categories of beverage containers:

- 15 (A) liquor bottles;
16 (B) vinous beverage containers; and
17 (C) all other beverage containers.

18 (2) Each annual report submitted under subdivision (1) of this
19 subsection shall include a recommendation of whether the beverage container
20 deposit for any of the three beverage categories should be increased to improve
21 redemption of that category of beverage container.

1 Second: By striking out Sec. 7 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a
2 new Sec. 7 to read as follows:

3 Sec. 7. SYSTEMS ANALYSIS OF BEVERAGE CONTAINER SYSTEM

4 (a) The Agency of Natural Resources shall contract with an independent
5 third party consultant to conduct a systems analysis of the efficacy and cost of
6 the Vermont’s beverage container redemption system. The analysis shall
7 estimate:

8 (1) the total system costs and savings associated with the
9 implementation of the expanded beverage container redemption system under
10 10 V.S.A. chapter 53, including climate impacts;

11 (2) the cost to consumers of complying with an expanded beverage
12 container redemption system, including transportation costs, compliance costs,
13 carbon impact, and externalities, such as lost time;

14 (3) the impacts of an expanded beverage container redemption system
15 on the recycling system, including how much additional beverage container
16 material will be collected by the expansion of the beverage container
17 redemption system; the cost to solid waste entities of an expanded beverage
18 container redemption system, including lost revenues from the sale of
19 recyclable materials; the operational savings, if any, on material recovery
20 facilities; the loss to material recovery facilities from the removal of material
21 collected under the beverage container redemption system material from the

1 recycling system; and an estimate of the impacts on tipping fees or solid waste
2 fees at each material recovery facility or solid waste transfer station;

3 (4) the costs of operating a redemption center and other alternate points
4 of redemption under a stewardship plan and a recommendation on whether the
5 handling fee for redeemed containers should be altered or replaced with an
6 alternative means of compensating points of redemption;

7 (5) the impact on overall recycling in the State and the redemption rates
8 of beverage containers under 10 V.S.A. chapter 53 if the producer
9 responsibility organization (PRO) implementing the stewardship plan under
10 that chapter were authorized to retain 100 percent, 50 percent, or none of the
11 abandoned beverage container deposits, including:

12 (A) the estimated number of beverage container redemption sites in
13 the State under the PRO's stewardship plan under each option for the PRO's
14 retention of the abandoned beverage container deposits; and

15 (B) the geographic distribution of beverage container redemption
16 sites across the State under the PRO's stewardship plan under each option for
17 the PRO's retention of the abandoned beverage container deposits.

18 (6) the impact on the Clean Water Fund and State implementation of the
19 State's water quality programs and regulatory requirements if the abandoned
20 beverage container deposits were not deposited into the Clean Water Fund
21 under 10 V.S.A. § 1388.

1 (b) On or before January 15, 2025, the Agency of Natural Resources shall
2 submit to the House Committee on Environment and Energy and the Senate
3 Committee on Natural Resources and Energy a written report containing the
4 results of the systems analysis required under subsection (a) of this section.

5 Third: By adding a Sec. 7a to read as follows:

6 Sec. 7a. ANR REPORT ON STATUS REPORT OF RECYCLING SYSTEM

7 On or before January 15, 2026, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall
8 submit to the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on
9 Finance and the House Committees on Environment and Energy and on Ways
10 and Means a report on the status of the State’s recycling system prior to the
11 expansion of the beverage container redemption system required under this act.

12 The report shall include:

13 (1) a summary of the operation of Agency of Natural Resources
14 approved stewardship plan since March 1, 2025 by the producer responsibility
15 organization registered with the Agency;

16 (2) identification of the points of redemption under the existing
17 stewardship plan, including:

18 (A) an assessment of whether the existing points of redemption allow
19 for convenient and reasonable access of all Vermonters to redemption
20 opportunities;

1 (B) an assessment of whether the existing points of redemption are
2 suitable for redemption by all Vermonters under the planned expansion of the
3 beverage container system; and

4 (C) any recommendations to improve the convenience of redemption
5 prior to the expansion of the beverage container redemption system; and

6 (3) a summary of the infrastructure in the State, other than points of
7 redemption, available for the management and processing of beverage
8 containers and an assessment of whether additional infrastructure is needed
9 prior to the expansion of the beverage container redemption system.

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13 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE