

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 recommended by the
6 Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and be further amended as
7 follows:

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

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

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

20 (2) Each annual report submitted under subdivision (1) of this
21 subsection shall include a recommendation of whether the beverage container

1 deposit for any of the three beverage categories should be increased to improve
2 redemption of that category of beverage container.

3 Second: By striking out Sec. 7, systems analysis of beverage container
4 system, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 7 to read as
5 follows:

6 Sec. 7. SYSTEMS ANALYSIS OF BEVERAGE CONTAINER SYSTEM

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

10 (1) the total system costs and savings associated with the
11 implementation of the expanded beverage container redemption system under
12 10 V.S.A. chapter 53, including climate impacts;

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

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

1 facilities; the loss to material recovery facilities from the removal of material
2 collected under the beverage container redemption system material from the
3 recycling system; and an estimate of the impacts on tipping fees or solid waste
4 fees at each material recovery facility or solid waste transfer station;

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

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

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

17 (B) the geographic distribution of beverage container redemption
18 sites across the State under the PRO's stewardship plan under each option for
19 the PRO's retention of the abandoned beverage container deposits; and

20 (6) the impact on the Clean Water Fund and State implementation of the
21 State's water quality programs and regulatory requirements if the abandoned

1 beverage container deposits were not deposited into the Clean Water Fund
2 under 10 V.S.A. § 1388.

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

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

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

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

14 The report shall include:

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

18 (2) identification of the points of redemption under the existing
19 stewardship plan, including:

1 (A) an assessment of whether the existing points of redemption allow
2 for convenient and reasonable access of all Vermonters to redemption
3 opportunities;

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

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

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

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16 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE