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H.119

Introduced by Representative Branagan of Georgia

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Conservation and development; beverage containers; deposit

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to expand the scope of the beverage container redemption system to include cider, hard kombucha, noncarbonated water, and noncarbonated soft drinks. The bill also would increase the deposit for a container from five cents to 10 cents.

An act relating to the beverage container redemption system

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

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 1521 is amended to read:

§ 1521. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Beverage” means beer or other malt beverages and mineral waters, cider, hard kombucha, mixed wine drink, ~~soda~~ carbonated and noncarbonated water or seltzer, and carbonated and noncarbonated soft drinks in liquid form and intended for human consumption. “Beverage” also means liquor and ready-to-drink spirits beverage.

* * *

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 cents per container for containers of beverage brands that are
12 not part of a commingling program.

13 * * *

14 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on January 1, 2026.