

1 H.915

2 An act relating to establishing an extended producer responsibility program  
3 for beverage containers

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

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

6 CHAPTER 53. BEVERAGE CONTAINERS; DEPOSIT-REDEMPTION  
7 SYSTEM

8 § 1521. DEFINITIONS

9 As used in this chapter:

10 (1) "Beverage" means beer or other malt beverages and mineral waters,  
11 mixed wine drink, soda water and carbonated soft drinks in liquid form and  
12 intended for human consumption. "Beverage" also means liquor and ready-to-  
13 drink spirits beverage.

14 (2) ~~"Biodegradable material" means material that is capable of being~~  
15 ~~broken down by bacteria into basic elements. [Repealed.]~~

16 (3) "Container" means the individual, and separate, bottle, can, or jar, ~~or~~  
17 ~~carton~~ composed of glass, aluminum or other metal, paper, plastic polyethylene  
18 terephthalate, high density polyethylene, or any combination of those  
19 materials, and containing a consumer product beverage. This definition ~~shall~~  
20 does not include containers made of biodegradable material carbonated  
21 beverage containers with a volume greater than three liters.

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

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

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

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

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

16           (9) “Mixed wine drink” means a beverage containing wine and more  
17 than 15 percent added plain, carbonated, or sparkling water and that contains  
18 added natural or artificial blended material, such as fruit juices, flavors,  
19 flavoring, adjuncts, coloring, or preservatives; that contains not more than  
20 16 percent alcohol by volume; or other similar product marketed as a wine  
21 cooler.



1       (d) Containers shall be redeemed during no fewer than 40 hours per week  
2 during the regular operating hours of the establishment. [Repealed.]

3       § 1522a. RULES

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

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

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

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

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

17       § 1523. ACCEPTANCE OF BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

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

19           (1) A retailer shall not refuse to accept from any person any empty  
20 beverage containers, labeled in accordance with section 1524 of this title, of  
21 the kind, size, and brand sold by the retailer, or refuse to pay to that person the

1 refund value of a beverage container as established by section 1522 of this  
2 title, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

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

9 (b)(1) A retailer, ~~with the prior approval of the Secretary,~~ may refuse to  
10 redeem beverage containers if a ~~redemption center or centers are established~~  
11 ~~that serve the public need~~ stewardship plan that meets the requirements of  
12 section 1532 of this title has been implemented by the producer responsibility  
13 organization in the State and the retailer's building is less than 5,000 square  
14 feet.

15 (2) A manufacturer or distributor that sells directly to a consumer from a  
16 retail location may refuse to redeem beverage containers if the retail location  
17 where the manufacturer or distributor sells beverage containers is less than  
18 5,000 square feet.

19 (c) A retailer ~~or that is not exempt,~~ a person operating a redemption center,  
20 or any other point of redemption may only refuse to redeem beverage

1 containers that are not clean, or are broken, and shall not redeem beverage  
2 containers that are not labeled in accordance with section 1524 of this title.

3 § 1524. LABELING

4 (a)(1) Every beverage container sold or offered for sale at retail in this State  
5 shall clearly indicate by embossing ~~or on the normal product label~~, imprinting  
6 on the normal product label, or ~~in the case of a metal beverage container on the~~  
7 ~~top of the container~~, other approved method secured to the container the word  
8 “Vermont” or the letters “VT” and the refund value of the container in not less  
9 than one-eighth inch type size or such other alternate indications as may be  
10 approved by the Secretary.

11 (2) The label shall be on the top lid of the beverage container, the side of  
12 the beverage container, or in a clearly visible location on the beverage  
13 container. This subsection does not prohibit including names or abbreviations  
14 of other states with deposit legislation comparable to this chapter.

15 (b) The Commissioner of Liquor and Lottery may allow, in the case of  
16 liquor bottles, a conspicuous, adhesive sticker to be attached to indicate the  
17 deposit information required in subsection (a) of this section, provided that the  
18 size, placement, and adhesive qualities of the sticker are as approved by the  
19 Commissioner. The stickers shall be affixed to the bottles by the  
20 manufacturer, except that liquor that is sold in the State in quantities less than

1 100 cases per year may have stickers affixed by personnel employed by the  
2 Division of Liquor Control.

3 (c) ~~This section shall not apply to permanently labeled beverage containers~~  
4 Every beverage container sold or offered for sale in the State shall contain a  
5 Universal Product Code and a barcode displayed on the container.

6 \* \* \*

7 § 1527. PENALTY REDEMPTION OF LIQUOR BOTTLES

8 ~~A person who violates a provision of this chapter shall be fined not more~~  
9 ~~than \$1,000.00 for each violation~~ Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
10 chapter to the contrary, redemption of beverage containers of volume greater  
11 than 50 ml that contain liquor shall be subject to the following requirements:

12 (1) Deposit. Beverage containers subject to this section shall have a  
13 deposit of 15 cents on each container sold at the retail level and returned to the  
14 consumer upon return of the empty beverage container.

15 (2) Handling fee. Distributors of beverage containers subject to this  
16 section shall pay a retailer that redeems a beverage container three and one-  
17 half cents per container.

18 (3) Retail redemption. A retailer shall not refuse to accept beverage  
19 containers subject to this section or refuse to pay that person the refund value  
20 established by subdivision (1) of this section for any container sold by the  
21 retailer unless the container is not clean, broken, or has an exemption issued by

1 the Secretary. The Department of Liquor and Lottery shall not refuse to pick  
2 up empty beverage containers subject to this section, pay the refund value, or  
3 pay the handling fee to a retailer subject to this section.

4 (4) Coordination with producer responsibility organization. The  
5 Department of Liquor and Lottery may coordinate with and compensate the  
6 producer responsibility organization to collect beverages subject to this section  
7 at points of redemption that are a part of the collection plan developed by the  
8 producer responsibility organization. Containers collected at these points of  
9 collection shall not be subject to the handling fee established by subdivision  
10 (2) of this section.

11 (5) Performance goals and reporting. The Department of Liquor and  
12 Lottery shall be subject to the redemption rate goals established in section  
13 1534 of this title for beverage containers containing liquor. Beginning on  
14 January 15, 2027, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Liquor and  
15 Lottery shall report to the Secretary of Natural Resources:

16 (A) the amount and tonnage of liquor bottles that the Department of  
17 Liquor and Lottery collected in the previous calendar year; and

18 (B) the redemption rate for liquor bottles in the previous calendar  
19 year.

20 \* \* \*

1 § 1529. REDEMPTION CENTER CERTIFICATION

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

5 (1) Specification of the name and location of the facility;

6 (2) ~~If the certified redemption center redeems more than 250,000~~  
7 ~~containers per year, a requirement that the certified redemption center shall~~  
8 ~~participate in an approved commingling agreement; and~~

9 (3) Additional conditions, requirements, and restrictions as the Secretary  
10 may deem necessary to implement the requirements of this chapter. This ~~may~~  
11 shall include requirements concerning reporting, recording, and inspections of  
12 the operation of the site.

13 \* \* \*

14 § 1531. MANUFACTURER AND DISTRIBUTOR PARTICIPATION IN  
15 PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANIZATION

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

19 (b) On or before January 1, 2027, manufacturers or distributors of beverage  
20 containers sold or distributed within the State shall apply to the Secretary to

1 form a producer responsibility organization to fulfill the requirements of  
2 manufacturers or distributors under this chapter.

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

5 (1) the producer responsibility organization or its subsidiary is registered  
6 under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) as a nonprofit entity;

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

10 (3) the producer responsibility organization does not create any  
11 unreasonable barriers to joining the producer responsibility organization and  
12 shall take into the consideration the needs of small manufacturers that do not  
13 generate a significant volume of containers.

14 (d) After approval, the producer responsibility organization shall maintain a  
15 website that identifies:

16 (1) the name and principal business address of each manufacturer or  
17 distributor participating in the producer responsibility organization;

18 (2) the name of each beverage and the container size covered by the  
19 stewardship plan; and

20 (3) for each beverage container subject to the plan, a Universal Product  
21 Code and a barcode shall be displayed on the container.

1       (e) If the producer responsibility organization fails to implement the  
2       requirements of this chapter, the rules adopted by the Secretary, or an approved  
3       stewardship plan, the Secretary may dissolve the producer responsibility  
4       organization.

5       (f) If no producer responsibility organization is formed, the Secretary shall  
6       either require the formation of the producer responsibility organization or  
7       adopt and administer a plan that meets the requirements of section 1532 of this  
8       title. If the Secretary administers the plan adopted under section 1532, the  
9       Secretary shall charge each manufacturer or distributor the costs of plan  
10       administration, the Agency's oversight costs, and a recycling market  
11       development assessment of 10 percent of the plan's total cost to be deposited  
12       in the Solid Waste Management Assistance Account of the Waste Management  
13       Assistance Fund, for the purpose of providing grants to develop markets to  
14       recycle materials.

15       (g) The producer responsibility organization shall reimburse the Secretary  
16       for the costs of overseeing the administration of the program under this chapter  
17       as follows:

18               (1) The Secretary shall annually provide an estimate of the costs of  
19               overseeing the administration of the program to the producer responsibility  
20               organization, including staff costs, compliance, and oversight of the system.

1           (2) The producer responsibility organization shall provide any  
2           comments to the Secretary's budget within 30 days following receipt. The  
3           Agency of Natural Resources shall respond to all comments provided by the  
4           producer responsibility organization and may make changes to its budget in  
5           response to those comments. These comments and the responses shall be  
6           provided to the General Assembly as a part of the Secretary's budget.

7           (3) Reimbursement of Agency of Natural Resources costs under this  
8           subsection shall be subject to the State budgeting process, and the producer  
9           responsibility organization shall not be required to reimburse any Agency cost  
10          unless that cost is approved as a part of the Agency's budget.

11          (h) Manufacturers and distributors of liquor are exempt from the  
12          requirements of this section and the requirement to implement a stewardship  
13          plan under section 1532 of this title.

14          § 1532. STEWARDSHIP PLAN; MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

15          (a) Plan elements. On or before April 1, 2028, an approved producer  
16          responsibility organization shall submit a stewardship plan to the Secretary. A  
17          stewardship plan shall, at a minimum, meet all of the following requirements  
18          of this section:

19                  (1) Convenience of collection.

20                          (A) A plan shall ensure that consumers have convenient opportunities  
21                          to redeem beverage containers. The plan shall take reasonable efforts to site

1 points of redemption equitably across all regions of the State to allow for  
2 convenient and reasonable access of all Vermonters to redemption  
3 opportunities. A plan shall document how redemption services will be  
4 available to consumers as follows:

5 (i) at least three points of redemption per county, at least one of  
6 which provides an immediate return of a deposit to a consumer;

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

10 (iii) how sites of redemption are or will be sited in areas with high  
11 population density or located in centers designated under 24 V.S.A. chapter  
12 76A.

13 (B) When approving the convenience of collection requirements in a  
14 proposed plan, the Secretary may alter the number of points of redemption,  
15 depending on the adequacy of redemption service in that area, provided that, in  
16 no case, shall the Secretary reduce the number of redemption points below the  
17 levels required under subdivisions (1)(A)(i) and (ii) of this subsection (a).

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

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

4           (B) There shall not be barriers to the participation in the collection  
5           program for a redemption center, except for restrictions that are authorized by  
6           the Secretary.

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

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

12          (E) The plan shall maximize the use of existing infrastructure, when  
13          establishing points of collection under subdivision (1) of this subsection (a).

14          (3) Collection location standards. All locations that provide for  
15          redemption of beverage containers shall:

16           (A) provide expeditious redemption services that limit the need for  
17           persons redeeming containers to wait for redemption services;

18           (B) be at sites that are secure, sufficiently lighted, and managed to  
19           ensure the safety of persons redeeming containers at a location; and

20           (C) comply with all applicable laws related to the collection,  
21           transportation, and disposition of mandated recyclables.

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

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

9           Prior to submitting a proposed plan to the Agency, the producer responsibility  
10           organization shall allow the stakeholders to comment on the proposed plan.

11           The producer responsibility organization shall either make changes in response  
12           to those comments or provide a written response on why the change was not  
13           made to the stakeholders and the Agency.

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

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

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

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 manufacturer or distributor to  
12          reduce 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 responsibility organization uses for the purposes of this  
21          program; and

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

2           (c) Secretary of Natural Resources approval. Within 90 days after receipt  
3 of a plan submitted under this section, the Secretary shall review the plan and  
4 determine whether to approve the plan. The plan shall be approved after  
5 concluding that the plan meets the criteria established in this section and the  
6 elements of the plan will maximize diversion of recyclable materials, provide  
7 convenience to users, and create a more circular economy. The Secretary's  
8 approval pursuant to this subsection shall be for a period not greater than five  
9 years.

10          (d) Plan implementation. The producer responsibility organization shall  
11 implement an approved plan not later than nine months after the Secretary's  
12 approval.

13          (e) Revision of stewardship goals. If the producer responsibility  
14 organization fails to meet the beverage container redemption rate in section  
15 1534 of this title for all other beverage containers, the Secretary may require  
16 the producer responsibility organization to implement activities to enhance the  
17 rate of redemption, including additional public education and outreach,  
18 additional redemption sites, or additional redemption opportunities.

19          § 1533. PROGRAM AND FISCAL AUDIT

20          (a) Program audit. Beginning on October 1, 2033, and every five years  
21 thereafter, the producer responsibility organization shall conduct an

1 independent third-party program audit of the operation of the stewardship plan.  
2 The program audit shall examine how the product stewardship organization  
3 compensates redemption centers as a part of its report. The audit shall make  
4 recommendations to improve the operation of the collection program  
5 established by this chapter, including any recommendation to the  
6 compensation structure for redemption centers.

7 (b) Fiscal audit. Beginning on October 1, 2029, and annually thereafter,  
8 the producer responsibility organization shall conduct an independent third-  
9 party fiscal audit of the program. The fiscal audit shall provide a transparent  
10 fiscal analysis of the producer responsibility organization, its expenditures, the  
11 number of beverage containers collected, and the amount of unclaimed  
12 deposits. The audit shall also provide the redemption rate of beverage  
13 containers redeemed in the State. The Secretary shall approve the audit results  
14 and the redemption rate of beverage containers included in the audit.

15 (c) Submission to Secretary. The results of each audit required under  
16 subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall be submitted to the Secretary for  
17 purposes of reviewing performance of the stewardship plan and for oversight  
18 of the requirements of this chapter.

1     § 1534. BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION RATE GOAL;

2             REPORT

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

5                 (1) Beginning on July 1, 2029: 75 percent.

6                 (2) Beginning on July 1, 2032: 80 percent.

7             (b)(1) Beginning on July 1, 2029, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of  
8 Natural Resources shall submit to the House Committees on Environment and  
9 on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and  
10 Energy and on Finance a written report containing the current beverage  
11 container redemption rate in the State for the following two categories of  
12 beverage containers:

13                 (A) liquor bottles; and

14                 (B) all other beverage containers.

15             (2) Each annual report submitted under subdivision (1) of this subsection  
16 shall include a recommendation of whether the beverage container deposit for  
17 either of the beverage categories should be increased to improve redemption of  
18 that category of beverage container.

19     § 1535. RULEMAKING

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

1     § 1536. ANTITRUST; CONDUCT AUTHORIZED

2           (a) Activity authorized. A manufacturer, distributor, group of  
3     manufacturers or distributors, or producer responsibility organization  
4     implementing or participating in an approved collection plan under this chapter  
5     for the collection, transport, processing, and management of beverage  
6     container is individually or jointly immune from liability for conduct under  
7     State laws relating to antitrust, restraint of trade, unfair trade practices, and  
8     other regulation of trade or commerce under 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 1  
9     to the extent that the conduct is reasonably necessary to plan, implement, and  
10    comply with the producer responsibility organization's chosen system for  
11    beverage containers.

12           (b) Limitations on antitrust activity. Subsection (a) of this section shall not  
13    apply to an agreement among manufacturers, distributors, groups of  
14    manufacturers or distributors, retailers, wholesalers, or the producer  
15    responsibility organization affecting the price of beverage containers or any  
16    agreement restricting the geographic area in which or customers to whom  
17    beverage containers shall be sold.

18    Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 7714 is amended to read:

19    § 7714. TYPE 3 PROCEDURES

20           (a) Purpose; scope.

1           (1) The purpose of this section is to establish the public notice and  
2 comment requirements that the Department must follow when adopting general  
3 permits, except for general permits governed by section 7712 of this chapter,  
4 and when considering other permits listed in this section.

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

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

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

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

14           (i) an aquatic nuisance control permit under chapter 50 of this  
15 title;

16           (ii) a change in treatment for a public water supply under chapter  
17 56 of this title;

18           (iii) a collection plan for mercury-containing lamps under section  
19 7156 of this title;

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

1                   (v) a primary battery stewardship plan under section 7586 of this  
2 title;

3                   (vi) a covered household products collection plan under section  
4 7813 of this title; and

5                   (vii) a stewardship plan required under chapter 53 of this title.

6           (b) Notice of application. The Secretary shall provide notice of an  
7 administratively complete application through the environmental notice  
8 bulletin.

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

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

16           (e) Notice of final decision. The Secretary shall provide notice of the final  
17 decision through the environmental notice bulletin and shall post the final  
18 decision to the bulletin. The Secretary shall provide a response to comments.

1 Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 1388 is amended to read:

2 § 1388. CLEAN WATER FUND

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

5 (1) revenues from the Property Transfer Tax surcharge established under  
6 32 V.S.A. § 9602a;

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

10 (3) the unclaimed beverage container deposits (escheats) remitted to the  
11 State under chapter 53 of this title, except as follows:

12 (A) in State fiscal year 2030, the Secretary may transfer up to  
13 \$1,000,000.00 to the Solid Waste Management Assistance Account of the fund  
14 created pursuant to section 6618 of this title for grants pursuant to subdivision  
15 6618(b)(11) of this title;

16 (B) in State fiscal year 2031, the Secretary may transfer up to  
17 \$1,000,000.00 to the Solid Waste Management Assistance Account of the fund  
18 created pursuant to section 6618 of this title for grants pursuant to subdivision  
19 6618(b)(11) of this title;

20 (C) in State fiscal year 2032, the Secretary may transfer up to  
21 \$750,000.00 to the Solid Waste Management Assistance Account of the fund

1 created pursuant to section 6618 of this title for grants pursuant to subdivision  
2 6618(b)(11) of this title; and

3 (D) in State fiscal year 2033, the Secretary may transfer up to  
4 \$750,000.00 to the Solid Waste Management Assistance Account of the fund  
5 created pursuant to section 6618 of this title for grants pursuant to subdivision  
6 6618(b)(11) of this title;

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

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

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

14 Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 6618 is amended to read:

15 § 6618. WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE FUND

16 (a) There is hereby created in the State Treasury a fund to be known as the  
17 Waste Management Assistance Fund to be expended by the Secretary of  
18 Natural Resources. The Fund shall have three accounts: one for Solid Waste  
19 Management Assistance, one for Hazardous Waste Management Assistance,  
20 and one for Electronic Waste Collection and Recycling Assistance. The  
21 Hazardous Waste Management Assistance Account shall consist of a

1 percentage of the tax on hazardous waste under the provisions of 32 V.S.A.  
2 chapter 237, as established by the Secretary; the toxics use reduction fees  
3 under subsection 6628(j) of this title; and appropriations of the General  
4 Assembly. In no event shall the amount of the hazardous waste tax that is  
5 deposited to the Hazardous Waste Management Assistance Account exceed 40  
6 percent of the annual tax receipts. The Solid Waste Management Assistance  
7 Account shall consist of the franchise tax on waste facilities assessed under the  
8 provisions of 32 V.S.A. chapter 151, subchapter 13, transfers from the Clean  
9 Water Fund, and appropriations of the General Assembly. The Electronic  
10 Waste Collection and Recycling Account shall consist of the program and  
11 implementation fees required under section 7553 of this title. All balances in  
12 the Fund accounts at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward and  
13 remain a part of the Fund accounts, except as provided in subsection (e) of this  
14 section. Interest earned by the Fund shall be deposited into the appropriate  
15 Fund account. Disbursements from the Fund accounts shall be made by the  
16 State Treasurer on warrants drawn by the Commissioner of Finance and  
17 Management.

18 (b) The Secretary may authorize disbursements from the Solid Waste  
19 Management Assistance Account for the purpose of enhancing solid waste  
20 management in the State in accordance with the adopted waste management  
21 plan. This includes:

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20

\* \* \*

(11) Bottle bill implementation grants. The Secretary shall enter a grant with the producer responsibility organization approved under chapter 53 of this title. The grant shall be for four years and reimburse the cost of equipment and improvements to infrastructure documented by the producer responsibility organization in its approved stewardship plan.

Sec. 5. BOTTLE BILL RECYCLING AND MATERIALS REPORTING

A manufacturer or distributor collecting beverage containers subject to 10 V.S.A chapter 53 shall report recycling information to the Secretary of Natural Resources in the same manner as recycled materials are reported to the Secretary under 10 V.S.A. chapter 159. The information shall include:

(1) the amount in containers and tons and material type of beverage container collected; and

(2) the location and amount of beverage container material and what products the beverage containers were recycled into.

Sec. 6. REPEAL

In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 1529 (redemption center certification) shall be repealed on March 1, 2028.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026, except that:

1           (1) in Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 1524(c) (requiring a UPC label on containers)  
2           shall take effect on July 1, 2027; and  
3           (2) in Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 1531(a) (prohibiting the sale or distribution  
4           without participating in the producer responsibility organization) shall take  
5           effect on March 1, 2028.