



State of Vermont
Department of Liquor and Lottery
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Wendy Knight, Commissioner

February 18, 2026

Representative Amy Sheldon
Chair, House Committee on Environment
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Room EA
Montpelier, Vermont 05633

Chair Sheldon:

The Department of Liquor and Lottery (DLL) already functions as its own producer responsibility organization. We pay 802Spirits agents for the redemption of spirits bottles. We contract with a vendor to pick up all spirits bottles from redemption centers, as well as the liquor warehouse. DLL manages the administrative elements of the redemption program.

In FY25, we reimbursed 802Spirits agents and TOMRA for returning 3,081,632 empty containers. At 3.5 cents per container, we paid \$107,857 in handling fees.

The average rate of redemption in FY25 was 59.6%, a decline compared to the historical average of 73-75%.

DLL believes the language as proposed, which allows DLL to continue operating as a producer responsibility organization or to contract with the newly developed PROs, is practical. DLL could maintain its own operation, report on data as requested, and retain unclaimed deposits. It would also allow DLL the flexibility to contract with PROs to use their services and be treated like a participant in the larger system.

Please let us know if you have further questions.

Thank you,

Wendy Knight

Wendy Knight, Commissioner
Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery

