

## **Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

**Bill No.:** HB-6185

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY DRINKS BY

**Title:** CHILDREN.

**Vote Date:** 2/18/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/6/2025

**File No.:**

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### **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Committee on Children

### **CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Rep. Liz Linehan, 103<sup>rd</sup> District

Rep. Rebecca Martinez, 22<sup>nd</sup> District

### **REASONS FOR BILL:**

HB 6185 proposes establishing a working group to study the medical risks associated with the consumption of energy drinks by children and the effects of prohibiting the sale of energy drinks to minors.

It requires the Department of Consumer Protection to mandate signage that informs consumers about the medical risks. As well as the Department of Public Health to create a document detailing the medical risk for distribution to medical offices and licensed athletic trainers.

It was introduced to address concerns about the potential health risks of energy drink consumption. It calls to study the risks further and educate the public and explore whether prohibiting sales to minors would be necessary.

### **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

[The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, Children's Policy Analyst, Thomas Nuccio](#) supports this bill and references a study on the adverse health and

psychological effects of energy drinks. They go into the side effects of energy drink consumption in children; i.e. poor sleep, low academic performance and other health effects.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

[James Maciel](#) supports this bill as a college student-athlete seeking more information and an education on the risks of energy drinks. As it rises in popularity among his teammates and counterparts.

[Sonali Gupta, MD](#) and [Pediatrician, Molly Markowitz](#) support due to the protection of the health and well-being of children, seeing firsthand the negative health effects that occur.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

[Redbull North America, Senior Director, Megan Boyle](#) opposes this bill because it is aimed at one source of caffeine in the diet, while not considering that there may be beverages like coffee, soft drinks and tea consumed in a day. Also, energy drink manufacturers do not market their products to children under twelve years of age, within K-12 schools or activities and events. Redbull specifically, labeling cans with a disclaimer that it is not recommended for children.

[American Beverage Association, Sandra Grace](#) opposes due to their members commitment to responsible marketing and transparency. They disclose their ingredients, caffeine content and are engaged in initiatives to drive public awareness. Members of the ABA do not market their products to children under thirteen years of age, K-12 schools, or at school events, activities nor do they provide coupons in the immediate vicinity of K-12 schools.

[Connecticut Retail Network, President, Tim Phelan](#) opposes due to only addressing one source of caffeine in a child's diet. Additionally, the pre-determined conclusion of the working group before it has been established.

[Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Donna Seger, MD](#), and [James Coughlin, Ph.D.](#) oppose due to singling out energy drinks in the diet and no other methods of caffeine consumption. Both citing a [study](#) that energy drinks represent 6% of daily caffeine intake while coffee represents 69% of daily caffeine intake.

**Reported by: Nicole Chambrello**

**Date: 02/21/2025**