

# Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1115

AN ACT CONCERNING ENFORCEMENT OF CROSS-BORDER BOTTLE

**Title:** REDEMPTION PROHIBITIONS.

**Vote Date:** 3/24/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/17/2025

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Environment Committee

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

Sen. Rick Lopes, 6th Dist.

Rep. Tony J. Scott, 112th Dist.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill seeks to prevent people from taking advantage of Connecticut's higher bottle deposit rate by redeeming containers purchased in neighboring states, thus receiving a higher refund. Bottle redemption fraud undermines the state's recycling system, causing centers chaos by overwhelming them, and harming Connecticut's citizens. By setting a redemption limit and increasing fines for fraud, this bill continues to enforce the prohibition on cross-border bottle redemption.

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

**None submitted.**

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

### **Tina Bergers, President, Container Collection Systems**

Ms. Bergers expresses that Connecticut needs higher fines and greater enforcement to prevent cross-border redemption in her public hearing testimony. She expresses support for this bill's intent to reduce this by increasing fines, although she recommends that the bill

increase both the fine limit and the container trigger limit, which are capped at \$500 and 1,200 respectively.

**Susan Collins, President, Container Recycling Institute**

Ms. Collins supports the bill broadening enforcement powers and fines, with some comments. The first being a request to clarify redemption center qualifications and rights, clarify that the bill does not intend on affecting legal bag drop programs, and explain general language vagueness.

**Wayne Pesce, President, Connecticut Food Association**

Mr. Pesce strongly supports this bill in his submitted testimony, emphasizing its position effect on Connecticut's bottle deposit system. He explains how the cross-border redemption fraud is a growing issue thanks to Connecticut's deposit sitting at ten cents. Illegal border redemption harms Connecticut consumers and local recycling efforts. Without strong enforcement and deterring mechanisms, this problem will only grow.

**6 citizens expressed support.**

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Frederick Miers, President, Miers Limited Inc Soda Stop Plus**

Mr. Miers opposes this bill, expressing concern that the burden of discerning where containers originated gets placed on redemption centers. As of right now, there are no labels on containers with this information. He also says that requiring centers to log customers returning over 1,200 contains introduces administrative and financial burden, including collecting personal information and verifying identity.

**Sam Tracy, Director of Legislative Affairs & Business Development, CLYNK**

Mr. Tracy opposes this bill due to a major issue. It requires dealer-to-redemption center transportation to be done by distributors. Currently they handle transportation internally, which works with their limited space. Sam Tracy explains that this requirement encumbers both the workers and the customers by slowing them down and increasing inconvenience.

**13 citizens expressed opposition.**

**Reported by: Phoebe Mann**

**Date: March 27, 2025**