



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 1115

LCO No. 5325



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ENFORCEMENT OF CROSS-BORDER
BOTTLE REDEMPTION PROHIBITIONS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22a-245 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3 (a) No person shall establish a redemption center without receiving
4 approval from and annually registering with the [commissioner]
5 Commissioner of Revenue Services on a form provided by the
6 commissioner with such information as the commissioner deems
7 necessary to approve the operation of the redemption center, including
8 (1) the name of the business principals of the redemption center and the
9 address of the business; (2) the name and address of the sponsors and
10 dealers to be served by the redemption center; (3) the types of beverage
11 containers to be accepted; (4) the hours of operation; [and] (5) whether
12 beverage containers will be accepted from consumers; (6) a floor plan
13 for such redemption center that provides for: (A) Adequate and sanitary
14 storage space, and (B) safe and sanitary loading, unloading and
15 vehicular access areas; and (7) records demonstrating sufficient financial

16 resources to operate such redemption center. The operator of the
17 redemption center shall report any change in [procedure] operations to
18 the commissioner [within] not later than forty-eight hours [of] after such
19 change. Any person establishing a redemption center shall have the
20 right to determine what kind, size and brand of beverage container shall
21 be accepted. Any redemption center may be established to serve all
22 persons or to serve certain specified dealers and shall be subject to the
23 requirements of section 22a-245a, as amended by this act, and this
24 chapter. Any redemption center that accepts more than one thousand
25 two hundred containers from any one individual in one day shall create
26 and obtain from such person a record of such person's name, the license
27 plate number of any vehicle used to transport the containers to such
28 redemption center, the collection points of the empty containers and the
29 number of containers tendered. The redemption center shall obtain from
30 such person a certification that, to the best of such person's knowledge,
31 the beverage containers were originally sold as filled beverages in this
32 state and were not previously redeemed. The Commissioner of Revenue
33 Services shall establish a reasonable annual registration fee for each
34 redemption center to be used for partial funding of examination and
35 enforcement actions authorized under this section and subsections (g)
36 and (h) of section 22a-245a, as amended by this act.

37 (b) A dealer shall not refuse to accept at such dealer's place of
38 business, from any person any empty beverage containers of the kind,
39 size and brand sold by the dealer, or refuse to pay to such person the
40 refund value of a beverage container unless (1) such container contains
41 materials which are foreign to the normal contents of the container; (2)
42 such container is not labeled in accordance with subsection (b) of section
43 22a-244; (3) such dealer sponsors, solely or with others, a redemption
44 center which is located within a one-mile radius of such place of
45 business and which accepts beverage containers of the kind, size and
46 brand sold by such dealer at such place of business; or (4) there is
47 established by others, a redemption center which is located within a
48 one-mile radius of such place of business and which accepts beverage
49 containers of the kind, size and brand sold by such dealer at such place

50 of business. A dealer shall redeem an empty container of a kind, size or
51 brand the sale of which has been discontinued by such dealer for not
52 less than sixty days after the last sale by the dealer of such kind, size or
53 brand of beverage container. Sixty days before such date, the dealer
54 shall post, at the point of sale, notice of the last date on which the
55 discontinued kind, size or brand of beverage container shall be
56 redeemed.

57 (c) A distributor shall not refuse to accept from a dealer or from an
58 operator of a redemption center, located and operated exclusively
59 within the territory of the distributor or whose operator certifies to the
60 distributor that redeemed containers were from a dealer located within
61 such territory, any empty beverage containers of the kind, size and
62 brand sold by the distributor, or refuse to pay to such dealer or
63 redemption center operator the refund value of a beverage container
64 unless such container contains materials which are foreign to the normal
65 contents of the container or unless such container is not labeled in
66 accordance with subsection (b) of section 22a-244. A distributor shall
67 remove any empty beverage container from the premises of a dealer
68 serviced by the distributor or from the premises of a redemption center
69 sponsored by dealers serviced by the distributor, provided such
70 premises are located within the territory of the distributor. No dealer or
71 redemption center shall remove any beverage container from its
72 premises or transfer such containers between premises under its control
73 before tendering such containers for removal by a distributor. The
74 distributor shall pay the refund value to dealers in accordance with the
75 schedule for payment by the dealer to the distributor for full beverage
76 containers and shall pay such refund value to operators of redemption
77 centers not more than twenty days after receipt of the empty container.
78 For the purposes of this subsection, a redemption center shall be
79 considered to be sponsored by a dealer if (1) the dealer refuses to redeem
80 beverage containers and refers consumers to the redemption center, or
81 (2) there is an agreement between the dealer and the operator of the
82 redemption center requiring the redemption center to remove empty
83 beverage containers from the premises of the dealer. A distributor shall

84 redeem an empty container of a kind, size or brand of beverage
85 container the sale of which has been discontinued by the distributor for
86 not less than one hundred fifty days after the last delivery of such kind,
87 size or brand of beverage container. Not less than one hundred twenty
88 days before the last date such containers may be redeemed, the
89 distributor shall notify such dealer who bought the discontinued kind,
90 size or brand of beverage container that such distributor shall not
91 redeem an empty beverage container of such kind, size or brand of
92 beverage containers.

93 (d) In addition to the refund value of a beverage container, a
94 distributor shall pay to any dealer or operator of a redemption center a
95 handling fee of at least two and one-half cents for each container of beer,
96 hard seltzer, hard cider or other malt beverage and three and one-half
97 cents for each beverage container of mineral waters, soda water and
98 similar carbonated soft drinks or noncarbonated beverage returned for
99 redemption. A distributor shall not be required to pay to a manufacturer
100 the refund value of a nonrefillable beverage container.

101 (e) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
102 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
103 implement the provisions of sections 22a-243 to 22a-245, inclusive, as
104 amended by this act. Such regulations shall include, but not be limited
105 to, provisions for the redemption of beverage containers dispensed
106 through automatic reverse vending machines, the use of vending
107 machines that reimburse consumers for the redemption value of
108 beverage containers, scheduling for redemption by dealers and
109 distributors and for exemptions or modifications to the labeling
110 requirement of section 22a-244.

111 (f) For the purposes of this section, "refund value" means the refund
112 value established by subsection (a) of section 22a-244.

113 (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) to (d),
114 inclusive, of this section, no person shall tender to a dealer, redemption
115 center, reverse vending machine, distributor or deposit initiator for the

116 purpose of obtaining a refund value or handling fee for any empty
117 beverage container that the person knows or has reason to know was
118 not originally sold in this state as a filled beverage container or that was
119 previously redeemed through a dealer, redemption center, reverse
120 vending machine, distributor or deposit initiator.

121 (h) Each dealer, redemption center or reverse vending machine
122 operator shall post where empty containers are redeemed a conspicuous
123 "Redemption Warning" sign using at least a one-inch font that states the
124 following: "Returning empty beverage containers for refund that were
125 not purchased in Connecticut or that were previously redeemed is
126 illegal. Any person who returns empty beverage containers that the
127 person knows or has reason to know were not originally sold in this
128 state as filled beverage containers or that were previously redeemed
129 shall be subject to fines and state enforcement action. Connecticut
130 General Statutes section 22a-245, as amended by this act.".

131 (i) Each operator of a redemption center and reverse vending
132 machine shall report monthly to the Commissioner of Energy and
133 Environmental Protection, on a form provided by the commissioner, the
134 number and type of containers such operator redeems, aggregated by
135 each town in which such operator operates and any such other
136 redemption information the commissioner deems necessary.

137 Sec. 2. Subsections (f) and (g) of section 22a-245a of the general
138 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
139 (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

140 (f) If moneys deposited in the special account are insufficient to pay
141 for withdrawals authorized pursuant to subsection (b) of this section,
142 the amount of such deficiency shall be subtracted from the next
143 succeeding payment or payments due pursuant to subsection (e) of this
144 section until the amount of the deficiency has been subtracted in full.
145 The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall remit from the General
146 Fund to a deposit initiator payment of the amount of any deficiency
147 credit accumulated by a deposit initiator plus the handling fee for each

148 container paid by the deposit initiator in excess of the number of
149 containers sold by the deposit initiator through the quarter ending June
150 30, 2025. For any calendar quarter beginning September 30, 2025, if
151 moneys deposited in the special account are insufficient to pay for
152 withdrawals authorized pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the
153 amount of such deficiency shall not be paid by the deposit initiator to
154 the Commissioner of Revenue Services and the commissioner shall
155 remit from the General Fund, to a deposit initiator, payment of the
156 amount of the refund value plus the handling fee for each container paid
157 by the deposit initiator in excess of the number of containers sold by the
158 deposit initiator during such quarter.

159 (g) The Commissioner of Revenue Services may examine the accounts
160 and records of any deposit initiator, dealer or redemption center
161 maintained under this section or sections 22a-243 to 22a-245, inclusive,
162 as amended by this act, and any related accounts and records, including
163 receipts, disbursements and such other items as the Commissioner of
164 Revenue Services deems appropriate. The Commissioner of Revenue
165 Services may hire employees in sufficient number to carry out the
166 examination and enforcement actions authorized under this subsection
167 and subsections (a) and (h) of this section.

168 Sec. 3. Section 22a-246 of the general statutes is repealed and the
169 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

170 Any person who violates any provision of section 22a-244, 22a-245,
171 as amended by this act, or 22a-245a, as amended by this act, shall be
172 fined not less than fifty dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, and
173 for a second offense shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor
174 more than two hundred dollars and for a third or subsequent offense
175 shall be fined not less than two hundred fifty dollars or more than five
176 hundred dollars. The Commissioner of Revenue Services may, after
177 notice and hearing, suspend or revoke the registration of a person
178 operating a redemption center who violates any provision of subsection
179 (a) of section 22a-245, as amended by this act, or subsection (c) of section
180 22a-245, as amended by this act, or impose a fine of not less than five

181 hundred dollars and not more than one thousand dollars for each such
182 offense. Any person aggrieved by such action of the Commissioner of
183 Revenue Services may appeal such action, in accordance with section 4-
184 183.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2025	22a-245
Sec. 2	October 1, 2025	22a-245a(f) and (g)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2025	22a-246

Section 1	October 1, 2025	22a-245
Sec. 2	October 1, 2025	22a-245a(f) and (g)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2025	22a-246

ENV *Joint Favorable*

JUD *Joint Favorable*