



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 7672



Offered by:  
SEN. LOPES, 6<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 1115

File No. 666

Cal. No. 355

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

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 Section 22a-245 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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

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

16 sanitary loading, unloading and vehicular access areas; and (7) records  
17 demonstrating sufficient financial resources to operate such redemption  
18 center. The operator of the redemption center shall report any change in  
19 [procedure] operations to the commissioner [within] not later than  
20 forty-eight hours [of] after such change. Any person establishing a  
21 redemption center shall have the right to determine what kind, size and  
22 brand of beverage container shall be accepted. Any redemption center  
23 may be established to serve all persons or to serve certain specified  
24 dealers. 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.

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

50 shall post, at the point of sale, notice of the last date on which the  
51 discontinued kind, size or brand of beverage container shall be  
52 redeemed.

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

84 days before the last date such containers may be redeemed, the  
85 distributor shall notify such dealer who bought the discontinued kind,  
86 size or brand of beverage container that such distributor shall not  
87 redeem an empty beverage container of such kind, size or brand of  
88 beverage containers.

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

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

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

108 (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) to (d),  
109 inclusive, of this section, no person shall tender to a dealer, redemption  
110 center, reverse vending machine, distributor or deposit initiator for the  
111 purpose of obtaining a refund value or handling fee for any empty  
112 beverage container that the person knows or has reason to know was  
113 not originally sold in this state as a filled beverage container or that was  
114 previously redeemed through a dealer, redemption center, reverse  
115 vending machine, distributor or deposit initiator.

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2025	22a-245