



Substitute Senate Bill No. 457

Public Act No. 26-148

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE'S BOTTLE BILL.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 446d of the general statutes, no person shall collect or charge a refund value on a beverage container not purchased in this state.

(b) Any person who wilfully collects or charges a refund value on a beverage container not purchased in this state on the amount of not less than five thousand but not more than nineteen thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine beverage containers in one or more separate transactions during a single calendar year or who directs another person to do so shall have committed a class B misdemeanor.

(c) Any person who wilfully collects or charges a refund value on a beverage container not purchased in this state on the amount of not less than twenty thousand but not more than thirty thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine beverage containers in one or more separate transactions during a one-year period or who directs another person to do so shall have committed a class A misdemeanor.

(d) Any person who wilfully collects or charges a refund value on a

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beverage container not purchased in this state on the amount of forty thousand or more beverage containers in one or more separate transactions during a one-year period or who directs another person to do so shall have committed a class D felony.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to any common or contract carrier or warehouse worker while engaged in lawfully transporting or storing beverage containers as merchandise, or any employee of such carrier or warehouse worker who acts within the scope of such employee's employment.

Sec. 2. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 22a-245 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 1 of public act 26-2, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(2) For the period commencing April 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, the handling fee paid by a distributor for any beverage container described in subdivision (1) of this subsection to any redemption center that, on average, annually processes fifty million or more beverage containers, as confirmed by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in consultation with the Department of Revenue Services, and that does not utilize automated barcode or universal product code scanning for the redemption of all such beverage containers shall be reduced by not more than one cent. On and after July 1, 2027, or at such time that a redemption center subject to such reduction utilizes automated barcode or universal product code scanning for the redemption of all such beverage containers, whichever is earlier, any such reduction in the handling fee shall discontinue. [provided such redemption center utilizes automated barcode or universal product code scanning for the redemption of all such beverage containers.]