



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

***Raised Bill No. 457***

LCO No. 2745



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE'S BOTTLE BILL.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 22a-246b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall  
4 approve the formation of a beverage container stewardship  
5 organization constituted by deposit initiators. [if] Not later than  
6 December 1, 2027, or a later date, if approved by the commissioner, such  
7 organization [submits] shall submit an application to the commissioner  
8 that demonstrates such organization meets the following criteria: (1)  
9 The organization is established and operated as an organization  
10 described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as  
11 amended from time to time, and is exempt from taxation under said  
12 section, (2) the governing board of such organization consists of deposit  
13 initiators that represent the range of beverages and beverage container  
14 materials subject to the state's beverage container redemption program,  
15 and (3) such organization demonstrates that it has adequate financial  
16 responsibility and financial controls in place, including fraud

17 prevention measures and an audit schedule, to ensure proper  
18 management of funds.

19 (b) All deposit initiators shall register with and join any beverage  
20 container stewardship organization approved pursuant to subsection  
21 (a) of this section not later than three months after such organization's  
22 approval by the commissioner. Any deposit initiator that wishes to  
23 initiate the sale of beverage containers in the state after such three-  
24 month period elapses shall register and join such organization not less  
25 than ninety days prior to selling beverage containers in the state.

26 (c) [On or before July 1, 2022, any] Any organization approved  
27 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall submit a plan, for the  
28 commissioner's review and approval, to operate a state-wide beverage  
29 container stewardship program, as described in this subsection. Such  
30 plan shall be submitted not less than one hundred eighty days following  
31 approval of such organization pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.  
32 In developing any such plan, such organization shall obtain input from  
33 members of the independent redemption centers community, municipal  
34 resource recovery facilities, municipal leaders, wine and spirits  
35 distributors and reverse vending machine operators. Such plan shall  
36 demonstrate, in detail, how such organization will operate and finance  
37 a program to provide for the redemption and recycling of beverage  
38 containers in the state, including, but not limited to: (1) Achieving and  
39 exceeding an annual redemption rate of eighty per cent by a specified  
40 timeline, (2) achieving financial self-sustainability, (3) achieving  
41 verifiable performance metrics for enhanced customer satisfaction with  
42 and access to the beverage container redemption system, (4) adopting  
43 policies and making investments to ensure that recovered materials are  
44 returned to their highest and best use, (5) providing a detailed  
45 description of how existing collection and redemption centers  
46 throughout the state are to be utilized as part of such beverage container  
47 stewardship program, (6) disclosing applicable rates of redemption as  
48 of the time of such plan and those projected over the next five years  
49 under the proposed beverage container stewardship program and the

50 recommended refund value for such containers that is necessary to  
51 achieve such redemption rates, (7) identifying how the plan will yield  
52 costs to the state or any participant of said program, (8) specifying  
53 revenues that escheat to the state pursuant to said beverage container  
54 stewardship program and any projected diminishment in the state's use  
55 or collection of such revenues in the next five fiscal years beginning July  
56 1, 2022, (9) identifying any legislative changes necessary to carry out  
57 such plan, (10) preventing redemption within the state of containers  
58 purchased outside of the state and related fraudulent activities, and  
59 ~~[(10)]~~ (11) any other parameters or requirements specified by the  
60 commissioner. The commissioner may provide conditions of approval  
61 to ensure compliance with any of such requirements. The commissioner  
62 shall not approve any such plan without verification that such  
63 organization obtained input from members of the independent  
64 redemption centers community, municipal resource recovery facilities,  
65 municipal leaders, wine and spirits distributors and reverse vending  
66 machine operators.

67 (d) Not later than [October 1, 2022] December 1, 2027, the  
68 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall submit  
69 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General  
70 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment  
71 concerning any plan submitted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

72 (e) Not less than one year following approval of such a plan by the  
73 commissioner, and annually on each December first thereafter, such  
74 organization shall submit to the commissioner a report that details such  
75 organization's and applicable program's compliance with such  
76 approved plan.

77 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) Not later than December 31,  
78 2026, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall  
79 study the efficacy of the provisions of senate bill 299 of the current  
80 session and determine if the measures contained in such bill were  
81 effective in reducing the over redemption of beverage containers in the

82 state. If the commissioner determines that such measures have not been  
83 effective in both: (1) Creating a state-wide redemption rate of less than  
84 one hundred per cent but not less than seventy-five per cent, and (2)  
85 significantly lowering the individual redemption rates for distributors  
86 that were more than one hundred per cent redeemed as of the effective  
87 date of senate bill 299 of the current session, the commissioner shall seek  
88 an opinion of the Attorney General on the likely outcome of a statutory  
89 requirement for manufacturers to label beverage containers with state  
90 specific indicia for the purpose of identifying such containers sold in this  
91 state. Any such request of the commissioner shall seek an assessment by  
92 the Attorney General of such likely outcome as analyzed under the  
93 precedent of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and  
94 any other directly applicable precedents with consideration of the  
95 measures contained in senate bill 299 of the current session and any  
96 other requirements or provisions of chapter 446d of the general statutes  
97 intended to deter fraud and the illegal redemption of beverage  
98 containers in this state. Not later than March 1, 2027, the commissioner  
99 shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
100 of the general statutes, on such study and any attendant opinion of the  
101 Attorney General to the joint standing committee of the General  
102 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment.  
103 Such report shall include, but not be limited to, any legislative  
104 recommendations from such study and Attorney General opinion, as  
105 applicable.

106       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) Notwithstanding any  
107 provision of chapter 446d of the general statutes, each distributor, as  
108 defined in section 22a-243 of the general statutes, shall remove all  
109 accumulated empty beverage containers of such distributor not more  
110 than seven days after receipt of written or electronic notice from any  
111 dealer or redemption center, as defined in section 22a-243 of the general  
112 statutes. Any distributor who violates the provisions of this section shall  
113 be fined in accordance with the provisions of section 22a-246 of the  
114 general statutes.

115       Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Notwithstanding the  
116 provisions of chapter 446d of the general statutes, no distributor or  
117 deposit initiator, as defined in section 22a-243 of the general statutes,  
118 shall refuse to accept the scrap equivalent from any dealer or  
119 redemption center that uses a reverse vending machine for the  
120 redemption of any redeemed beverage container of the kind, size and  
121 brand sold or distributed by such distributor or deposit initiator solely  
122 because such container was processed and comingled through a reverse  
123 vending machine, provided such reverse vending machine meets the  
124 requirements established by the Commissioner of Energy and  
125 Environmental Protection pursuant to this subsection.

126       (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 446d of the general  
127 statutes, no distributor or deposit initiator shall refuse to pay the refund  
128 value, handling fee or other payment required pursuant to this section  
129 for any beverage container processed through a reverse vending  
130 machine in accordance with this section.

131       (c) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall  
132 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the  
133 general statutes, to establish standards for reverse vending machines,  
134 including, but not limited to, standards for accuracy, fraud prevention,  
135 data retention and reporting requirements.

136       Sec. 5. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section  
137 22a-245a of the general statutes, as amended by section 2 of senate bill  
138 299 of the current session, is repealed and the following is substituted in  
139 lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

140       (B) Subsequently:

141       (i) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, ninety-five per cent of the  
142 balance outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the  
143 immediately preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit  
144 initiator on or before the last day of the month next succeeding the close  
145 of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in

146 the General Fund;

147 (ii) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, (I) for the calendar  
148 quarters ending September 30, 2023, and December 31, 2023, the  
149 balances outstanding in the special account that are attributable to said  
150 calendar quarters shall be retained in the special account by the deposit  
151 initiator for the purpose of reimbursement of the refund value in effect  
152 on January 1, 2024, for a redeemed beverage container in accordance  
153 with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section and section 22a-244,  
154 (II) for the calendar quarter ending March 31, 2024, sixty-five per cent of  
155 the balance outstanding in the special account at the close of such  
156 quarter, including any balance outstanding that is attributable to such  
157 quarter and any remaining balance of the amount retained by the  
158 deposit initiator pursuant to subclause (I) of this clause, shall be paid by  
159 the deposit initiator on or before the last day of the month next  
160 succeeding the close of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue  
161 Services for deposit in the General Fund, and (III) for the calendar  
162 quarter ending June 30, 2024, sixty-five per cent of the balance  
163 outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the immediately  
164 preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or  
165 before the last day of the month next succeeding the close of such  
166 quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the  
167 General Fund;

168 (iii) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, fifty per cent of the  
169 balance outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the  
170 immediately preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit  
171 initiator on or before the last day of the month next succeeding the close  
172 of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in  
173 the General Fund;

174 (iv) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, if the redemption rate  
175 calculated under subsection (c) of this section for the preceding fiscal  
176 year is:

177 (I) At least sixty per cent, twenty-five per cent of the balance  
178 outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the immediately  
179 preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or  
180 before the last day of the month next succeeding the close of such  
181 quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the  
182 General Fund; and

183 (II) Less than sixty per cent, forty-five per cent of the balance  
184 outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the immediately  
185 preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or  
186 before the last day of the month next succeeding the close of such  
187 quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the  
188 General Fund;

189 (v) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, if the redemption rate  
190 calculated under subsection (c) of this section for the preceding fiscal  
191 year is:

192 (I) At least sixty-five per cent, twenty-five per cent of the balance  
193 outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the immediately  
194 preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or  
195 before the last day of the month next succeeding the close of such  
196 quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the  
197 General Fund;

198 (II) Less than sixty-five per cent but more than sixty per cent, thirty-  
199 five per cent of the balance outstanding in the special account that is  
200 attributable to the immediately preceding calendar quarter shall be paid  
201 by the deposit initiator on or before the last day of the month next  
202 succeeding the close of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue  
203 Services for deposit in the General Fund; and

204 (III) Sixty per cent or less, forty-five per cent of the balance  
205 outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the immediately  
206 preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or  
207 before the last day of the month next succeeding the close of such

208 quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the  
209 General Fund; and

210 (vi) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year  
211 thereafter, if the redemption rate calculated under subsection (c) of this  
212 section for the preceding fiscal year is:

213 (I) At least seventy-five per cent, [~~five~~] twenty-five per cent of the  
214 balance outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the  
215 immediately preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit  
216 initiator on or before the last day of the month next succeeding the close  
217 of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in  
218 the General Fund;

219 (II) Less than seventy-five per cent but more than sixty-five per cent,  
220 [~~ten~~] fifty per cent of the balance outstanding in the special account that  
221 is attributable to the immediately preceding calendar quarter shall be  
222 paid by the deposit initiator on or before the last day of the month next  
223 succeeding the close of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue  
224 Services for deposit in the General Fund;

225 (III) Sixty-five per cent or less but more than sixty per cent, [~~twenty-~~  
226 ~~five~~] seventy-five per cent of the balance outstanding in the special  
227 account that is attributable to the immediately preceding calendar  
228 quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or before the last day of  
229 the month next succeeding the close of such quarter to the  
230 Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the General Fund; and

231 (IV) Sixty per cent or less, [~~forty-five~~] one hundred per cent of the  
232 balance outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the  
233 immediately preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit  
234 initiator on or before the last day of the month next succeeding the close  
235 of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in  
236 the General Fund.

237 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) Notwithstanding any

238 provision of chapter 446d of the general statutes, no dealer, as defined  
 239 in section 22a-243 of the general statutes, shall collect or charge a refund  
 240 value on a beverage container not purchased in this state. Any person  
 241 who wilfully collects or charges a refund value on a beverage container  
 242 not purchased in this state on the amount of five thousand or more  
 243 beverage containers in one or more separate transactions during a single  
 244 calendar year or who directs another person to do so shall have  
 245 committed a class B misdemeanor. Any person who wilfully collects or  
 246 charges a refund value on a beverage container not purchased in this  
 247 state on the amount of twenty thousand or more beverage containers in  
 248 one or more separate transactions during a one-year period or who  
 249 directs another person to do so shall have committed a class A  
 250 misdemeanor. Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to any  
 251 common or contract carrier or warehouse worker while engaged in  
 252 lawfully transporting or storing beverage containers as merchandise, or  
 253 any employee of such carrier or warehouse worker that acts within the  
 254 scope of such employee's employment.

255       Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) No dealer or redemption  
 256 center, as such terms are defined in section 22a-243 of the general  
 257 statutes, shall misrepresent the size, brand or quantity of beverage  
 258 containers provided to a distributor for removal from the premises of  
 259 such dealer or redemption center. Any dealer or redemption center who  
 260 violates the provisions of this section shall be fined in accordance with  
 261 the provisions of section 22a-246 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	22a-246b
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	22a-245a(e)(2)(B)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To (1) require the development of a product stewardship program for beverage containers sold in the state, (2) examine the legal implications of requiring state-specific labeling for beverage containers sold in the state, (3) establish a timeline for the picking up of beverage containers by distributors, (4) prohibit transshipment of beverage containers, (5) require the acceptance of certain processed beverage containers by distributors, (6) make permanent certain escheat distributions from beverage containers, and (7) prohibit the act of short bagging by redemption centers.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*