



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 5239



Offered by:
SEN. LOPES, 6th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 457

File No. 479

Cal. No. 291

(As Amended)

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

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

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

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

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

14 beverage container not purchased in this state on the amount of not less
15 than twenty thousand but not more than thirty thousand nine hundred
16 and ninety-nine beverage containers in one or more separate
17 transactions during a one-year period or who directs another person to
18 do so shall have committed a class A misdemeanor.

19 (d) Any person who wilfully collects or charges a refund value on a
20 beverage container not purchased in this state on the amount of forty
21 thousand or more beverage containers in one or more separate
22 transactions during a one-year period or who directs another person to
23 do so shall have committed a class D felony.

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

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31 act 26-2, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof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

33 (2) For the period commencing April 1, 2026, and ending June 30,
34 2027, the handling fee paid by a distributor for any beverage container
35 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection to any redemption center
36 that, on average, annually processes fifty million or more beverage
37 containers, as confirmed by the Department of Energy and
38 Environmental Protection in consultation with the Department of
39 Revenue Services, and that does not utilize automated barcode or
40 universal product code scanning for the redemption of all such beverage
41 containers shall be reduced by not more than one cent. On and after July
42 1, 2027, or at such time that a redemption center subject to such
43 reduction utilizes automated barcode or universal product code
44 scanning for the redemption of all such beverage containers, whichever
45 is earlier, any such reduction in the handling fee shall discontinue. [,

46 provided such redemption center utilizes automated barcode or
47 universal product code scanning for the redemption of all such beverage
48 containers.]"

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22a-245(d)(2)