



## BOTTLE BILL HANDLING FEES

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### HOW CONNECTICUT'S BEVERAGE REDEMPTION LAW (BOTTLE BILL) OPERATES

Connecticut's bottle bill requires:

1. a retailer to pay a beverage container distributor 5 cents for each container that the distributor delivers;
2. a consumer to pay the retailer 5 cents for each beer or malt beverage, soft drink, or water container that he or she purchases;
3. the retailer or a redemption center to pay the consumer 5 cents for each container the consumer returns;
4. the distributor to reimburse the retailer or redemption center 5 cents for each container returned, plus a handling fee of either 1.5 or 2 cents depending on the type of container involved; and
5. the distributor to pay the State of Connecticut the 5 cents for each unclaimed deposit ([CGS §§ 22a-243 to 22a-246](#)).

### ISSUE

This report compares state beverage container laws (i.e., bottle bills) based on the types of containers subject to the laws, required deposit amounts, and amount of any applicable handling fees.

The report also summarizes legislation considered in Connecticut, since 2000, to change the amount of the state's handling fee.

### SUMMARY

As Attachment 1 shows, 10 states have bottle bills: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Oregon, and Vermont.

The types of beverage containers covered by a bottle bill varies by state, but may include containers for beer or other malt beverages, soft drinks, waters, or wine or liquor.

The laws generally require a minimum refundable deposit on beverage containers to encourage recycling. The amounts vary depending on the state and type of beverage container involved, ranging from a low of 2 cents in Oregon for reusable containers to a high of 15 cents in Maine for wine or spirit containers.



Most bottle bills also impose a handling fee, an amount paid to retailers or redemption centers for collecting, sorting, and packaging empty beverage containers to be taken back to the bottler or distributor. The fee is often paid by the bottler or distributor. (In California, the state pays the handling fee and it is used to subsidize recyclers in certain areas.) Two states, Michigan and Oregon, have no handling fee. Of the eight states with a handling fee, the per container fees range from a low of 1 cent in Iowa to a high of four cents in Hawaii, Maine, and Vermont for certain containers. There may be different handling fees within a state based on the type of container involved, the facility that receives the containers, or whether containers are commingled such as in Maine and Vermont.

Connecticut's handling fees are 1.5 cents for each beer or malt beverage container and 2 cents for all others ([CGS § 22a-245](#)). As Attachment 2 shows, since 2000 the legislature has considered seven bills to amend the handling fee amounts.

The proposed changes often involved increasing one or both handling fees, although in 2008 the Environment Committee considered a proposal to eliminate the fee for beer and malt beverage containers and to reduce the fee for other containers. Most recently, the committee considered expanding the state's bottle bill to include wine, sparkling wine, champagne, and liquor, coupled with a higher handling fee (5 cents) for these beverages' containers.

**Attachment 1: State Bottle Bill Provisions on Beverage Containers Covered, Deposit Amounts, and Applicable Handling Fees**

State and Citation	Beverage Containers Covered*	Deposit Amount (per container)**	Handling Fee Amount (per container)**
<p align="center">California</p> <p align="center"><a href="#">Cal. Pub. Res. Code §§ 14500 to 14599</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• beer or other malt beverages, including wine or distilled spirit coolers</li> <li>• mineral water, soda water, or similar carbonated soft drinks</li> <li>• water, flavored water, and sports drinks</li> <li>• fruit juice drinks of less than 46 ounces, carbonated fruit drinks, and vegetable juice of up to 16 ounces</li> <li>• coffee and tea drinks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 cents for containers of less than 24 ounces</li> <li>• 10 cents for containers of at least 24 ounces</li> </ul>	<p align="center">1.046 cents</p>
<p align="center">Connecticut</p> <p align="center"><a href="#">CGS §§ 22a-243 to 22a-246</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• beer or other malt beverages</li> <li>• mineral water, soda water, or similar carbonated soft drinks</li> <li>• water, including flavored or nutritionally enhanced water</li> </ul>	<p align="center">5 cents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.5 cents for beer or malt beverage containers</li> <li>• 2 cents for carbonated soft drink or water containers</li> </ul>

Attachment 1 (continued)

<b>State and Citation</b>	<b>Beverage Containers Covered*</b>	<b>Deposit Amount (per container)**</b>	<b>Handling Fee Amount (per container)**</b>
<p>Hawaii</p> <p><a href="#">Haw. Rev. Stat. §§ 342G-101 to 342G-122</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• beer or other malt beverages</li> <li>• mixed wine or spirits</li> <li>• tea or coffee drinks</li> <li>• soda or juice</li> <li>• water</li> </ul>	<p>5 cents</p>	<p>2 to 4 cents, depending on the location of the redemption center and the end use of the recycled containers</p>
<p>Iowa</p> <p><a href="#">Iowa Code §§ 455C.1 to 455C.17</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• alcoholic liquor, beer, and wine</li> <li>• mineral water, soda water, or similar carbonated soft drinks</li> </ul>	<p>5 cents</p>	<p>1 cent</p>
<p>Maine</p> <p><a href="#">Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 38, §§ 3101 to 3117</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• beer, ale, or other alcoholic malt beverages (explicitly includes wine coolers and hard cider)</li> <li>• wine and spirits over 50mL</li> <li>• all nonalcoholic carbonated or noncarbonated beverages, including soda or water, but not milks, dairy-derived products, or certain Maine-produced drinks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 cents for wine or spirit containers</li> <li>• 5 cents for all others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 cents for brand-sorted returned containers</li> <li>• 3.5 cents for returned containers that are part of a commingling agreement</li> </ul>

<b>State and Citation</b>	<b>Beverage Containers Covered*</b>	<b>Deposit Amount (per container)**</b>	<b>Handling Fee Amount (per container)**</b>
<p>Massachusetts</p> <p><a href="#">Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 94, §§ 321 to 327; 300 Mass. Code Regs. 4.00</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• beer or other malt beverages</li> <li>• mineral water, soda water, or similar carbonated soft drinks</li> </ul>	5 cents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 cent for reusable containers returned to a bottler</li> <li>• 2.25 cents for containers returned to a distributor</li> <li>• 3.25 cents for containers returned to a redemption center</li> </ul>
<p>Michigan</p> <p><a href="#">Mich. Comp. Laws §§ 445.571 to 445.576</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• beer, ale, or other alcoholic malt beverages</li> <li>• mixed wine or spirit drinks</li> <li>• nonalcoholic carbonated drinks such as soft drinks or soda or mineral water</li> </ul>	10 cents	None
<p>New York</p> <p><a href="#">N.Y. ENV Law §§ 27-1001 to 27-1019</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• beer or other malt beverages</li> <li>• wine products</li> <li>• carbonated soft drinks</li> <li>• water, including flavored or nutritionally enhanced water</li> </ul>	5 cents	3.5 cents

Attachment 1 (continued)

<b>State and Citation</b>	<b>Beverage Containers Covered*</b>	<b>Deposit Amount (per container)**</b>	<b>Handling Fee Amount (per container)**</b>
<p>Oregon</p> <p><a href="#">Or. Rev. Stat. §§ 459A.700 to 459A.740</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• beer or other malt beverages</li> <li>• mineral water, soda water, or similar carbonated soft drinks</li> <li>• water, including flavored water</li> <li>• will cover all beverages except wine, liquor, milk, and formula by 2018)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 cents for certified reusable containers</li> <li>• 5 cents for all others (may increase to 10 cents if certain collection targets are not met)</li> </ul>	<p>None</p>
<p>Vermont</p> <p><a href="#">Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 10, §§ 1521 to 1529</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• beer or other malt beverages</li> <li>• mixed wine drinks</li> <li>• mineral water, soda water, or carbonated soft drinks</li> <li>• liquor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 cents for liquor of at least 50mL</li> <li>• 5 cents for other containers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 cents for brand-sorted returned containers</li> <li>• 3.5 cents for returned containers that are part of a commingling agreement</li> </ul>

\*Some laws exclude certain types of containers or manufacturers from its requirements. Connecticut, for example, exempts (1) noncarbonated beverage containers of at least three liters in size; (2) beverage containers made from high density polyethylene (i.e., with an HDPE designation or #2 recycling symbol); (3) beverage containers sold on interstate passenger carriers (e.g., planes or trains); and (4) manufacturers that annually bottle and sell up to 250,000 noncarbonated beverage containers that are 20 ounces or less in size.

\*\*The laws often require the deposit amount or handling fee to be at least a certain amount per beverage container. The amounts listed in the table are the amounts that currently apply for each container.

**Attachment 2: Connecticut Legislation to Amend the Bottle Bill's Handling Fee, 2000 to Present**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Description of Handling Fee Changes</b>
2001	<a href="#">HB 6956</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increase, from 1.5 to 2 cents, the fee for beer or malt beverage containers, thus setting the fee for all containers at 2 cents</li> </ul>
2005	<a href="#">SB 871</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increase the fee to 3 cents for all beverage containers</li> </ul>
2007	<a href="#">SB 1289</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>raised and substitute bill increased the fee for all beverage containers to 3 cents</li> <li>subsequent amendment increased the fee to 3 cents for containers other than beer or malt beverage containers which retained the 1.5 cent fee</li> </ul>
2008	<a href="#">SB 357</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>raised bill eliminated the fee for beer or malt beverages containers and set it at 1.5 cents for all other containers</li> <li>substitute bill increased, from 2 cents to 3 cents, the fee for containers other than beer or malt beverage containers</li> </ul>
2009	<a href="#">SB 661</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increase fee to 3 cents for all beverage containers</li> </ul>
2009	<a href="#">SB 662</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increase fee to 3 cents for all beverage containers</li> </ul>
2016	<a href="#">SB 384</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>set at 5 cents a fee for wine, sparkling wine, champagne, and liquor containers (bill would have expanded the law to include these beverage containers)</li> </ul>

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