

Testimony of MLI Redemption Services, Stratford, CT  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee  
March 13, 2017

In Support of House Bill 5618:  
AN ACT CONCERNING AN INCREASE IN THE HANDLING FEE FOR BOTTLE REDEMPTION CENTERS

I would like to thank the entire Environment Committee, and Co-Chairs Senator Ted Kennedy, Senator Craig Miner, and Representative Mike Demicco, for allowing me to testify in support of House Bill 5618. My name is Fred Miers and I own MLI Redemption Services in Stratford, Connecticut.

I ask all of you to support this amendment to the current Beverage Container Redemption law. However, I strongly suggest improving and modernizing the law further by offering the following proposal:

1. Under Sec. 22a-245. (Formerly Sec. 22a-79), the handling fee must be increased if possible by July 1, 2017, to at least 3.5 cents per container. Dealers and redemption centers have never had an "increase" under this law, which was enacted in 1980. Dealers and redemption centers are in desperate need of relief to offset the ever rising cost of inflation and business operations that have been endured over the last 36 years.
2. Under Sec. 22a-243. (Formerly Sec. 22a-77), the law should be modernized to include additional types of non-carbonated beverage containers (lemonade, iced tea, power / sports drinks and fruit juice containers) by October 1, 2017. This will increase the current revenue that escheats to the State by 15% (\$7 million).
3. Share 15% of all escheats with the distributors. Distributors cannot cover their costs associated with participating in the bottle law. This will provide distributors the incentive and funds necessary to run their redemption recovery program and continue to fully participate in their responsibilities under the Bill.
4. The law should have evolving provisions to 1) increase the handling fee periodically (for instance ½ a cent (.50 cents) every 10 years) to offset future inflation and rising costs of business operations, and 2) add wording to cover all unforeseen future marketable beverage containers to the law.

All of the other Northeast states have modernized their bottle bills. I urge each of you to push for an amendment to the Connecticut Beverage Container Redemption law to be enacted on or before October 1, 2017, to include items 1-4 cited above.

I have attached further information on why these changes must be made and will make myself available for discussion at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

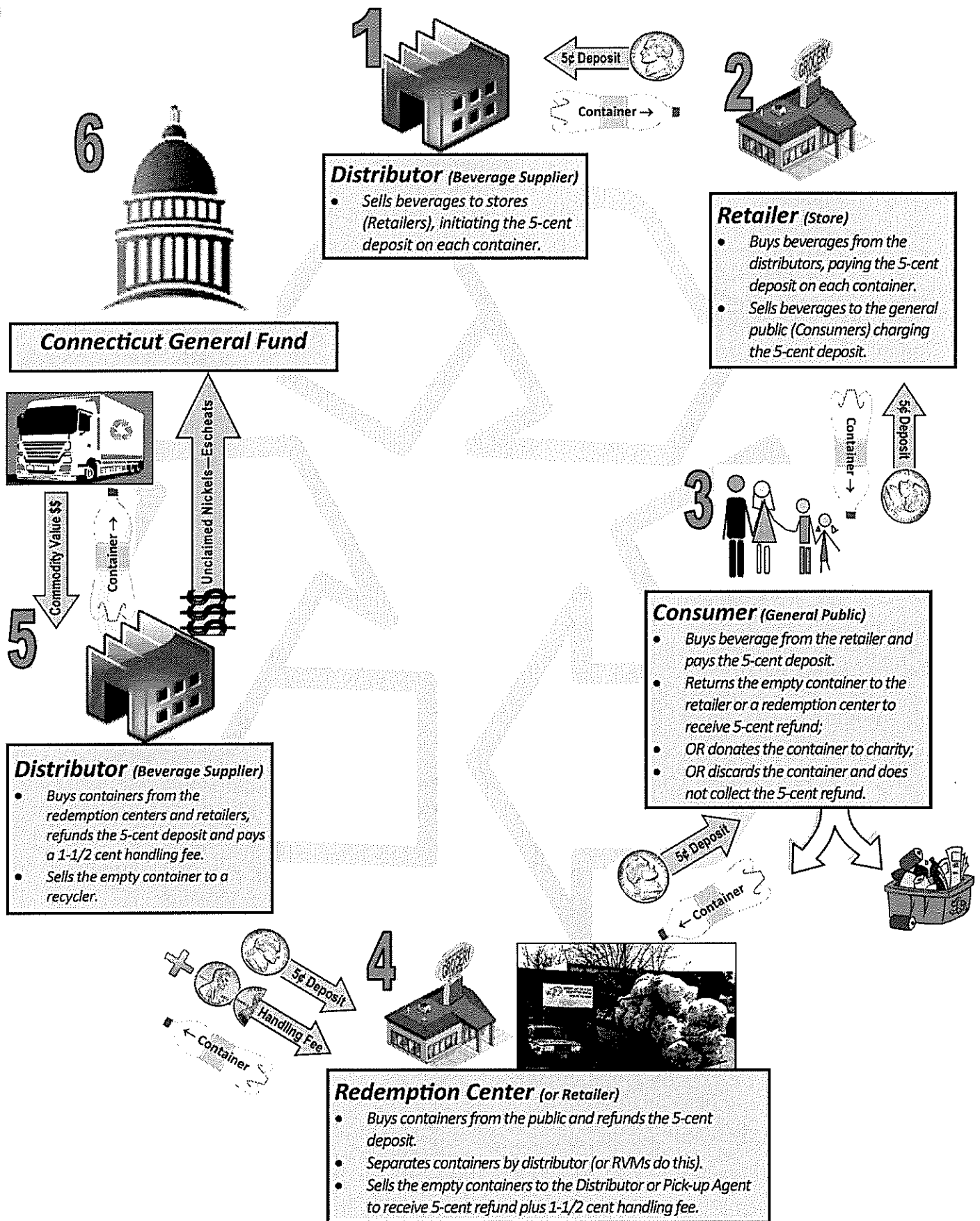
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Submitted-March 10, 2017

# Connecticut Bottle Bill

## Process Flow

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### Bottle Bill Comparison - Connecticut vs Massachusetts, Maine & New York

State	Name	Dates	Beverages Covered	Containers Covered	Amount of Deposit	Handling Fee	Other Fees	Scrap Revenue	Reclamation System	Unredeemed Deposits	Program Success	History
Connecticut	Beverage Container Deposit and Redemption Law	Enacted 6/4/78; Implemented 1/1/80	Beer, malt, carbonated soft drinks, and bottled water	Any individual, separate, sealed glass, metal or plastic bottle, can, jar or carton containing a beverage. Excluded are containers over 3L containing noncarbonated beverages, and HDPE containers.	5¢	Beer 1.5¢, other beverages 2¢	N/A	Retained by the distributors	Retail stores and redemption centers	Returned to the State	FY'14 (Jul. '13 - June '14) 56.5%	Amended in 1993, 1995, and 2002
	Notes: For sources and references, see the Connecticut Quick Facts page. "Dislocation fund" for workers who lost their jobs due to bottle bill											
Massachusetts	Beverage Container Recovery Law	Enacted 6/4/81; Implemented 1/1/83	Beer, malt, carbonated soft drinks, & mineral water	any sealable bottle, can, jar, or carton of glass, metal, plastic, or combo. Excludes biodegradables.	5¢	Redemption Centers 3.25¢ Retailers 2.25¢		Retained by the distributors	Retail stores and redemption centers	Property of state general fund	CY '15 (Jan - Dec. 2015) 57.1% FY '15 (Jul. '14 - June '15) 58.97%	Amended in 1990 and 2003 Handling fee Amended 2013
	Notes: For sources and references, see the Massachusetts Quick Facts page. Wholesalers must file monthly reports with Dept. of Revenue re: deposit & refund. Survived repeal by referendum effort in 1982 by a 60% to 40% vote.											
Maine	Maine Returnable Beverage Container Law	Enacted 1/1/76; Implemented 6/1/78	All beverages except dairy products and unprocessed cider	all sealed containers made of glass, metal or plastic, containing 4 liters or less, excluding aseptic	Wine/liquor: 15¢ All others: 5¢	4¢ (1.5¢ less if part of qualified commingling agreement)		Retained by the distributors	Retail stores and redemption centers; Dealers may refuse containers if they have an agreement with a nearby redemption center	Most containers are under a commingling agreement, and unclaimed deposits are property of distributor. If not under a commingling agreement, then unclaimed deposits are property of State.	Maine's law has no reporting mechanism to track the data. Informal recycling rate is 90%	Amended in 1990, 1993, 1994, 2003, 2008
	Notes: For sources and references, see the Maine Quick Facts page. Distributors who initiate deposits have the obligation to pick up containers from the dealers they deliver to or from the licensed redemption center that serves those dealers. They											
New York	New York State Returnable Beverage Container Law	Enacted 6/15/82; Implemented 7/1/83	Carbonated Soft Drinks, Soda Water, Beer and Other Malt Beverages, Wine Products and Water which does not contain sugar (including flavored or nutritionally enhanced water)	An individual, separate, sealed glass, metal, aluminum, steel or plastic bottle, can or jar less than 1 gallon or 3.78 liters.	5¢	3.5¢		Retained by the distributors	Retail stores and redemption centers	80% to the state General Fund; 20% retained by distributor	2015 (12/1/14 - 11/30/15) Overall: 65%	Amended in 1993, 1998, and 2009
	Notes: For sources and references, see the New York Quick Facts page. Requires reporting of containers sold and redeemed by bottlers and distributors.											