



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 895**

**Public Act No. 23-76**

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE LABELING OF CERTAIN BEVERAGE CONTAINERS, THE REVIEW OF MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS FUNDED BY NIP PAYMENTS AND THE RETURN OF BEVERAGE CONTAINERS FOR THE REDEMPTION VALUE.**

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

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 22a-12 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The council shall submit annually to the Governor an environmental quality report, which shall set forth: (1) The status of the major environmental categories including, but not limited to, the air, the water and the land environment; (2) current and foreseeable trends in the quality, management and utilization of the environment and the effects of such trends on the social, economic and health requirements of the state; (3) the adequacy of available natural resources for fulfilling human and economic requirements of the state in the light of projected population pressures; (4) a review of the programs and activities of the state and local governments and private organizations, with particular reference to their effect on the environment and on the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, including, but not limited to, programs and measures of local governments implemented

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pursuant to subsection (d) of section 22a-244b; (5) a program for remedying the deficiencies of existing programs and activities, together with recommendations for legislation; and (6) the progress towards achievement of the goals and objectives established in the state-wide environmental plan.

Sec. 2. Section 22a-244 of the general statutes, as amended by section 2 of public act 21-58 and section 9 of public act 22-1 of the November special session, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

(a) (1) Every beverage container containing a carbonated beverage sold or offered for sale in this state, except for any such beverage containers sold or offered for sale for consumption on an interstate passenger carrier, shall have a refund value. Such refund value shall not be less than ten cents and shall be a uniform amount throughout the distribution process in this state. (2) Every beverage container containing a noncarbonated beverage sold or offered for sale in this state shall have a refund value, except for beverage containers containing a noncarbonated beverage that are (A) sold or offered for sale for consumption on an interstate passenger carrier, or (B) that comprise any dealer's existing inventory as of March 31, 2009. Such refund value shall not be less than ten cents and shall be a uniform amount throughout the distribution process in this state.

(b) Every beverage container sold or offered for sale in this state, that has a refund value pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, shall clearly indicate by embossing or by a stamp or by a label or other method securely affixed to the beverage container (1) either the refund value of the container or the words "return for deposit" or "return for refund" or other words as approved by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and (2) either the word "Connecticut" or the abbreviation "Ct.", provided this subdivision shall not apply to glass beverage containers permanently marked or embossed with a brand

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name. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any beverage container that comprises any dealer's inventory as of December 31, 2022, provided such beverage container was not required to have a refund value as of such date pursuant to the provisions of section 22a-243 and this section. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the sale or offering for sale of any beverage container that is embossed, stamped, labeled or otherwise affixed with a refund value of five cents, provided such beverage container comprises any dealer's or distributor's inventory as of December 31, 2023.

(c) No person shall sell or offer for sale in this state any metal beverage container (1) a part of which is designed to be detached in order to open such container, or (2) that is connected to another beverage container by a device constructed of a material which does not decompose by photodegradation, chemical degradation or biodegradation within a reasonable time after exposure to the elements.

(d) On and after January 1, 2024, each beverage container sold or offered for sale in this state that has a refund value pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, shall include a Universal Product Code and barcode. Each deposit initiator shall provide such Universal Product Code and barcode, with packaging information, to the reverse vending machine system administrators and other system operators, not less than thirty days prior to placement of any such beverage container on the market.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On and after January 1, 2024, each distributor and dealer shall undertake efforts to educate consumers of the ten cent redemption value for beverage containers.

(b) No person shall redeem more than two hundred forty beverage containers at any one time at a dealer's reverse vending machine.

(c) For the purposes of this section, "distributor", "dealer",

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"consumer", "beverage container" and "reverse vending machine" each have the same meaning as provided in section 22a-243 of the general statutes.

Approved June 26, 2023