

# Environment Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5353

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING THE GAS CYLINDER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

**Vote Date:** 3/20/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/15/2024

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

Gas cylinder stewardship organizations are groups established to implement an EPR plan for a gas cylinder manufacturer. These organizations can incur penalties because of their respective manufacturers failing to comply with their stewardship plan. This bill allows for civil suits to be brought against the manufacturer without the necessary involvement of DEEP, allowing for damages to be handled between the two gas cylinder parties.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

**Lindsay Seti, Advocacy Manager, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities**

CMM supports providing DEEP protection from lawsuits concerning non-compliant gas cylinder manufacturers. They request the same legal protections should be extended to municipalities, who act as intermediaries in handling gas cylinders.

**Annie Lane, Director, Pressurized Cylinder Industry Association**

The Association's members have concerns that relate to ensuring fairness. They believe there are a few companies that have not complied with existing gas cylinder EPR law. This bill's EPR program does not require visible consumer point-of-sale fees; some cylinders are sold through convenience stores and small business that makes compliance more challenging. Because of the high fee to establish the program, their members are concerned with being priced out of the market:

1. Allow for steps to follow the program to be done prior to the implementation.
2. Require retailers and distributors to only sell brands complying with the program to prevent overseas manufacturers from controlling the market.
3. Add monetary penalties for non-compliance.
4. Allow the Attorney General to invest funds into further enforcement measures.

**Ava Schrage**

The testifier expresses support for the bill.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Julianne Herbert**

The testifier expresses opposition to the bill.

**Reported by: Pamela Bianca**

**Date: March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**