
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 293 (File 307, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits, under the state's beverage container redemption law ("bottle bill"), offering an empty beverage container to a dealer (e.g., retailer), redemption center, reverse vending machine, distributor, or deposit initiator (i.e., the first distributor to collect the deposit), to obtain its refund value or handling fee if the offeror knows, or should know, that the container was already redeemed or originally purchased out-of-state.

The bill correspondingly requires dealers, redemption centers, and reverse vending machine operators to post a conspicuous "Redemption Warning" sign, in at least one-inch font, where empty containers are redeemed. It specifies the language that must be used, which generally informs users about the prohibition and warns them that violating it will subject them to fines and enforcement action.

A violation of the bill's prohibition or signage posting requirement is subject to the same fines that apply to other violations of the bottle bill. Specifically, a fine of between \$50 and \$100 for a first offense, between \$100 and \$200 for a second offense, and between \$250 and \$500 for a third or subsequent offense (CGS § 22a-246).

*Senate Amendment "A" strikes the underlying bill, which (1) required the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to hire a consultant to do a waste characterization and needs assessment and (2) increased, to 100,000 pounds, the gross vehicle weight limit for vehicles hauling solid waste.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Bottle Bill

Under the bottle bill, a deposit must generally be charged on each beverage container at the time of purchase, which is then refunded when redeeming the empty container at a dealer or redemption center. Dealers and distributors generally must take back containers of the kind, size, and brand they sell. Distributors then pay dealers and redemption center operators the refund value plus a per-container handling fee.

Related Bill

SB 191 (File 154), § 3, favorably reported by the Environment Committee, contains a substantially similar beverage container redemption prohibition and warning sign requirement.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/20/2024)