

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 23-76—sSB 895

Environment Committee

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

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

SUMMARY: This act makes the following changes to the state’s beverage container redemption law (“bottle bill”):

1. allows dealers (e.g., retailers) and distributors to sell or offer for sale beverage containers labeled with a five-cent refund value on and after January 1, 2024, as long as they were part of a dealer’s or distributor’s inventory on December 31, 2023;
2. caps at 240 the number of beverage containers a person may redeem at one time at a dealer’s reverse vending machine; and
3. requires dealers and distributors, beginning January 1, 2024, to educate consumers about the 10-cent redemption value for beverage containers that applies on and after that date.

The state’s bottle bill generally requires that a deposit be charged on each beverage container at the time of purchase, which is then refunded to the consumer when redeeming the empty container at the retailer or a redemption center. On January 1, 2024, the deposit amount of these containers increases from five cents to 10 cents.

The act also requires the Council on Environmental Quality to include in the annual environmental quality report it submits to the governor a review of the programs and measures local governments implemented with funds received from the state’s nip surcharge. State law adds a five-cent surcharge on each nip sale. A “nip” is a beverage container containing 50mL or less of a spirit or liquor. Wholesalers must remit the surcharge to the municipality where the sale occurred, and municipalities must use these funds for environmental efforts to reduce the amount of solid waste generated in the municipality or the impact of litter (CGS § 22a-244b).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision on selling outdated five-cent deposit beverage containers is effective January 1, 2024.