

HOUSE BILL 538

By Coley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 41-2-123; Section 57-5-201; Section 67-4-402; Title 68, Chapter 211 and Chapter 616 of the Public Acts of 2010 relative to the Tennessee Beverage Container Recycling Refunds Act.

WHEREAS, the general assembly finds that recycling is an important element of an integrated solid waste management system that can protect and preserve natural resources, conserve energy, and reduce economic costs to residents, businesses, and local governments within the state; and

WHEREAS, the general assembly finds that reducing litter is important for promoting tourism and recreation, for reducing costs to businesses, farmers, and governments, and for enhancing the quality of life for all residents of this state; and

WHEREAS, the general assembly finds a need to expand participation in recycling programs, to maximize the economic benefits of such programs to businesses, government, and residents, to increase green jobs in the state, and to reduce litter; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of this act are to increase recycling rates for specified deposit beverage containers, to encourage recycling in general, to reduce litter, and to provide a connection between manufacturing decisions and recycling program management; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 211, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 30 of this act as a new, appropriately designated part.

SECTION 2. This part shall be known as and may be cited as the “Tennessee Beverage Container Recycling Refunds Act.”

SECTION 3. As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Administrative allowance" means an amount paid by the deposit beverage container program as defined in this section to a certified processor to defray the certified processor's costs of complying with the administrative requirements described in Section 22;

(2) "Board" means the underground storage tanks and solid waste disposal control board created pursuant to § 68-211-111;

(3) "Cancel" means to crush, flatten, shred, or otherwise render a deposit beverage container unfit for redemption;

(4) "Certified processor" means a facility, including a scrap yard, manufacturer, material recovery facility ("MRF") or similar entity, that is designed for the collection, processing, and sale or reuse of secondary resources that would otherwise be disposed of as municipal solid waste, and that has been certified by the department to receive, purchase, quantify, process, document, cancel, and reuse or sell for reuse deposit beverage containers that have been redeemed by a certified redemption center;

(5) "Certified redemption center":

(A) means an operation, including an attended operation, automated operation, or mechanical device that has been certified by the department:

(i) To accept empty deposit beverage containers from consumers;

(ii) To issue a refund by cash, printed check, electronic refund, redeemable credit slip, or authorized donation with a value not less than the container's refund value; and

(iii) To perform other responsibilities as defined or stipulated in this act.

(B) May be owned or operated by any qualifying entity, including:

(i) An individual;

(ii) A business, including a grocery store or other retailer;

(iii) A certified processor;

(iv) A nonprofit agency, organization, or facility;

(v) A local government; or

(vi) A public or private recycling program or recycling service, including a recycling convenience center, a waste transfer station, a materials recovery facility, a curbside recycling service, a drop-off recycling service, or a landfill;

(6) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of environment and conservation;

(7) "Comptroller" means the office of the comptroller of the treasury;

(8) "Consumer":

(A) Means a person who buys a beverage in a deposit beverage container for use or consumption and pays the deposit;

(B) Includes a lodging, eating, or drinking establishment if beverages are generally consumed on the establishment's premises; and

(C) Does not include a person who purchases the beverage from the establishment for consumption on the premises;

(9) "Container-recovery fee" means an amount paid to the state by a deposit beverage distributor to provide uninterrupted funding of the county litter grants program and defray the costs of initiating the deposit program;

(10) "Dealer" means a person who engages in the sale of beverages in deposit beverage containers to a consumer for off-premises consumption in the state;

(11) "Department" means the department of environment and conservation;

(12) "Deposit beverage":

(A) Means:

(i) Beer, ale, or other drink produced by fermenting malt;

(ii) Carbonated soft drinks;

(iii) Carbonated and noncarbonated water, including flavored and sugared waters;

(iv) Tea and coffee drinks regardless of dairy-derived product content;

(v) Juices, including one hundred percent (100%) juices and juice blends;

(vi) Flavored malt beverages, coolers, and any other juice-based beverage with an alcohol content of not more than seven percent (7%) by volume; and

(vii) All nonalcoholic drinks in liquid form and intended for internal human consumption that are contained in a deposit beverage container; and

(B) Excludes the following:

(i) Any liquid that is:

(a) A syrup;

(b) In a concentrated form; or

(c) Typically added as a minor flavoring ingredient in food or drink, such as extracts, cooking additives, sauces, or condiments;

(ii) Any liquid that is a drug, medical food, or infant formula as defined by the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, compiled at 21 U.S.C. § 301 et seq.;

(iii) A liquid which is designed and consumed only as a dietary supplement and not as a beverage as defined in the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-417);

(iv) Products frozen at the time of sale to the consumer, or, in the case of institutional users such as hospitals and nursing homes, at the time of sale to the users;

(v) Products designed to be consumed in a frozen state;

(vi) Instant drink powders;

(vii) Soups or broths, but not juices;

(viii) Milk and all other dairy-derived products, except tea and coffee drinks containing small amounts of such products; and

(ix) Wine and spirits;

(13) "Deposit beverage container" means an individual, separate, and sealed container that is not considered a refillable beverage container as defined in this section, and that is made of glass, aluminum, steel, bimetal, or any plastic, in any size and used for containing, at the time of sale to the consumer, a deposit beverage intended for use or consumption in this state;

(14) "Deposit beverage container fund" or "fund," means a fund created in the state treasury by the department of revenue into which are deposited all initial deposits, container-recovery fees, fines, interest, grants, donations, and any allocations made to the fund independent of this act, and out of which are paid all program costs, refund values, overhead allowances, administrative allowances, and other allocations;

(15) "Deposit beverage container program" or "program," means an administrative entity created within the division of solid and hazardous waste management of the department, to carry out the requirements of this part;

(16) "Deposit beverage distributor":

(A) Means a person who engages in the sale of beverages in deposit beverage containers to a dealer in this state, including any manufacturer who engages in these sales;

(B) Includes any person who imports beverages from outside of this state for sale to dealers or consumers in this state, and any federal agency and military distributors; and

(C) Does not include airlines and shipping companies that merely transport deposit beverage containers;

(17) "Drop-off redemption center" means a certified redemption center that:

(A) Accepts labeled bags containing deposit beverage containers from participating consumers;

(B) Ensures that the containers are transported to and processed by a certified processor; and

(C) Issues the appropriate refund by cash, check, credit slip, electronic deposit, or authorized donation;

(18) "Fiscal year" means the twelve-month period beginning on any July 1 and ending on the following June 30;

(19) "Fraudulent return" means any effort, whether or not successful, and whether or not deliberate, to receive a refund on a beverage container that does not meet the requirements for a refund under this act, including, but not limited to, a container purchased in another state; a container purchased in this state before April 1, 2014; a container on which the TN5¢ indicia is not present or cannot be detected; a container that has been previously redeemed; or a container presented for weight-count that has been made artificially heavy by any deliberate means;

(20) "Import" means to buy, bring, or accept delivery of deposit beverage containers from an address, supplier, or any entity outside of the state;

(21) "Importer" means any person who buys, brings, or accepts delivery of deposit beverage containers from outside the state for sale or use within the state;

(22) "Microsite redemption center" means a certified redemption center housed in a portable, attended roll-off trailer that is typically located adjacent to a hosting grocery store or other entity;

(23) "Mobile redemption center" means a certified redemption center designed to bring redemption services to residences, office parks, institutions, conventions, special events, and other entities;

(24) "On-premises consumption" means consumption of a deposit beverage by a consumer immediately and within the area under control of the establishment, including bars, restaurants, passenger ships, and airplanes;

(25) "Overhead allowance" means an amount paid by the program to a certified redemption center to defray operating costs, pursuant to Section 21;

(26) "Person" means an individual, partnership, firm, association, public or private corporation, federal agency, the state or any of its political subdivisions, trust, estate, or any other legal entity;

(27) "Redemption rate":

(A) Means the number of refunds paid out by the fund in a given period, relative to the number of deposits paid into the fund during the same period;

(B) Is expressed as a percentage, with the numerator being the number of refunds paid out, and the denominator being the number of deposits paid in;
and

(C) Includes refunds known to be, or suspected to be, fraudulent;

(28) "Refillable beverage container" means a beverage container that is intended to be returned intact to the manufacturer or distributor to be washed, refilled, and resold; that is sold in a container which has a brand name permanently marked on it; and that bears a manufacturers' refund value of at least five cents (5¢); and

(29) "Reverse vending machine" means a self-service certified redemption center, typically located adjacent to a grocery store or similar entity, that electronically scans empty deposit beverage containers, sorts and cancels the container, records the transaction information, and issues a credit slip or other form of refund.

SECTION 4.

(a) By September 1, 2013, all deposit beverage distributors operating within the state shall register with the department of revenue in a manner and form prescribed by the department of revenue. After September 1, 2013, any person who desires to conduct business in the state as a deposit beverage distributor shall register with the department of revenue no later than one (1) month prior to commencement of business.

(b) All deposit beverage distributors shall maintain records reflecting the manufacture and import of beverages in deposit beverage containers as well as in refillable beverage containers. The records shall be made available, upon request, for inspection by the department and the department of revenue; provided, that any proprietary information obtained by either department shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed to any other person, except:

(1) As may be reasonably required in an administrative or judicial proceeding to enforce this part or any rule adopted pursuant to this part; or

(2) Under an order issued by a court or administrative hearing officer.

SECTION 5.

(a) Beginning October 1, 2013, every deposit beverage distributor shall pay to the department of revenue a container-recovery fee for each deposit beverage container manufactured in or imported into this state. The fee shall be imposed only once on the same deposit beverage container, and shall be implemented as follows:

(1) From October 1, 2013, until June 30, 2014, the amount of the container-recovery fee shall be one-quarter of one cent (\$0.0025) per deposit beverage container;

(2) From July 1, 2014, until June 30, 2017, the amount of the container-recovery fee shall be one-tenth of one cent (\$0.001) per deposit beverage container; and

(3) Beginning on July 1, 2017, the amount of the container-recovery fee shall be one-eighth of one cent (\$0.00125) per deposit beverage container and shall remain at that level until changed by an act of the general assembly.

(b) Payment shall be accompanied by an inventory report, in a manner and form prescribed by the department of revenue, that identifies the number of beverages in deposit beverage containers, by container size and type, manufactured in or imported into the state during the reporting period.

(c) All inventory reports and payments shall be made monthly and received no later than the fifteenth day of the month following the end of the reporting period.

(d) Payment shall be made by check, money order, or electronic deposit to the department of revenue.

(e) No local government shall impose or collect any assessment or fee on deposit beverage containers for the same or similar purpose that is the subject of this part.

SECTION 6.

(a) Beginning March 1, 2015, every deposit beverage distributor shall pay to the department of revenue a deposit on each deposit beverage container manufactured in or imported into the state.

(b) The deposit shall be five cents (5¢) and shall remain at that level until changed by an act of the general assembly.

(c) Payment of the deposit shall be made simultaneously with, and according to the same terms as, payment of the container-recovery fee as described in Section 5(b)-(e).

SECTION 7.

(a) Beginning April 1, 2015, every deposit beverage distributor shall charge the dealer or consumer a deposit equal to the refund value for each deposit beverage container sold in this state. The deposit charge shall appear as a separate line item on any invoice or sales receipt. None of the deposit charge shall be subject to any state tax under title 67.

(b) Beginning April 1, 2015, every dealer shall charge the consumer at the point of sale a deposit equal to the refund value for each deposit beverage container sold in this state, except on beverages intended for on-premises consumption. The deposit charge shall appear as a separate line item on any sales receipt or invoice. None of the deposit charge shall be subject to any state tax under title 67.

SECTION 8.

(a) Beginning April 1, 2015, every deposit beverage container sold in this state shall have a Tennessee refund value of five cents (5¢). The refund value is the amount of the deposit required. Once a refund value has been applied to a deposit beverage container, the deposit on that container shall not be changed nor be collected more than once.

(b) The refund value shall be clearly printed, embossed, stamped, labeled, or otherwise marked on the container, along with the word "Tennessee" or the letters "TN." The names or letters representing other states with comparable deposit legislation may also be included in the indication of refund value. Other indicia may be required as specified in rules, and in a form and manner prescribed by the board.

(c) Each deposit beverage container shall encode within the universal product code, or similar machine-readable indicia, information regarding the size and type of container and the refund value of the container in the states in which the container is intended to be sold.

(d) Inventory already in circulation on April 1, 2015, shall be affixed or sold with an adhesive sticker bearing the refund value of the container, the words "Tennessee" or the letters "TN" and a bar code bearing the redemption information. These stickers shall be purchased from the department of revenue by the beverage distributors, who shall pay the deposit value of five cents (5¢) per sticker.

(e) This section does not apply to any type of refillable beverage container.

SECTION 9.

(a) There is established in the state treasury by the department of revenue the "deposit beverage container fund" into which shall be deposited all:

- (1) Revenues generated from the container-recovery fee;
- (2) Revenues generated from the deposit beverage container deposit;
- (3) Interest generated by this fund;
- (4) Monetary civil penalties assessed for violations of this part; and
- (5) Any public or private grants, donations, or allocations to the program

made independent of this part in support of its purposes.

(b) Moneys in the fund shall be used to:

(1) Reimburse refund values for deposit beverage containers redeemed by certified redemption centers pursuant to Section 17;

(2) Pay overhead allowances to certified redemption centers pursuant to Section 21;

(3) Pay administrative allowances to certified processors pursuant to Section 22;

(4) Reimburse the department of transportation for the loss of funding of the existing county litter grants program provided for in §§ 41-2-123, 57-5-201, and 67-4-402, and pursuant to Section 10;

(5) Pay certified redemption centers or certified processors their share of fines collected pursuant to Section 29;

(6) Fund all administrative, accounting, auditing, and compliance activities associated with the deposit beverage container program;

(7) Employ personnel to oversee the implementation of the deposit beverage container program, including permitting and enforcement activities; and

(8) Defray associated office expenses.

(c) To the extent that additional funds are available after complying with the requirements of subsection (b), moneys deposited in the fund may also be used to:

(1) Identify, enlist, or contract with vendors of microsite certified redemption centers, pursuant to Section 16; and

(2) Provide grants to local governments, certified redemption centers, certified processors, nonprofit groups, or other entities to support solid waste management, recycling, curbside recycling, litter control, and other programs and activities related to the purposes of this part.

(d) Any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall remain in reserve in the fund until expended for purposes authorized by or consistent with this act, shall not revert to the general fund on any June 30, and shall not be allocated to any use, nor appropriated for any purpose, not specifically authorized by this act. Any revenues from interest on moneys in the fund shall not revert to the general fund on any June 30, but shall remain in the fund and available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years. Any unexpended allocation of moneys in the fund shall not revert to the general fund on any June 30, but shall remain available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years.

SECTION 10. A sum sufficient shall be allocated annually from the fund to reimburse the department of transportation for the loss of funding of the existing county litter grants program, including funding for litter education and eradication activities by county governments and Keep Tennessee Beautiful, provided in §§ 41-2-123, 57-5-201, and 67-4-402.

(1) The amount of payment shall be based on sales of malt beverages and soft drinks in this state during the preceding fiscal year, as determined by tax returns filed with the department of revenue by manufacturers, bottlers, importers, or distributors of malt beverages and soft drinks;

(2) The payment amount shall be equal to the sum of the following calculations:

(A) Fifty cents (50¢) per taxable thirty-one (31) gallon barrel or partial barrel of malt beverage sold during the payment period; and

(B) Four-tenths of one percent (0.4%) of taxable gross receipts of soft drinks sold during the payment period.

(3) Payment shall be made no later than September 1 of each year, with the first payment to reflect sales made in fiscal year 2012-2013 and due no later than September 1, 2014.

SECTION 11.

(a) The deposit beverage container program shall be administered by the division of solid waste management within the department, with accounting functions performed by the department of revenue.

(b) The board shall create a separate administrative entity to meet the administrative requirements of the program. This entity shall be known as the deposit beverage container program and may be established as follows:

(1) The board may create the entity within the division of solid waste management, with dedicated positions funded by the fund; or

(2) The board may contract the services of a third party to meet the administrative requirements of the program. The costs for these services shall be reimbursed by the fund.

(c) The commissioner of revenue may contract the services of a third party to meet the accounting requirements of the program. The costs for these services shall be reimbursed by the fund.

(d) The department or contracted third-party administrator may produce brochures, websites, videos, or other promotional materials that the board determines to be necessary to inform the public about the goals, operations, benefits, and outcomes of the program. The costs for these materials shall be paid for by the fund.

SECTION 12. The comptroller shall conduct a management and financial audit of the deposit beverage container program for fiscal years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016, and for each fiscal year thereafter ending in an even-numbered year. The comptroller shall submit the audit report, including the amount of unredeemed refund value and recommendations, to the general assembly and the departments of revenue and environment and conservation on or before January 2 following the end of the preceding reporting period. The costs incurred by the

comptroller for the audit shall be reimbursed by the fund. The comptroller may contract the audit services of a third party to conduct the audit.

SECTION 13. The board and the department of revenue are authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated as set forth in the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 14. Full implementation of the program shall commence on April 1, 2015.

SECTION 15. Every dealer shall post a clear and conspicuous sign at each public entrance to the dealer's place of business that specifies the names, addresses, telephone number, and hours of operation of the closest certified redemption centers.

SECTION 16. The board shall promulgate by rule the definition of an underserved area with regard to certified redemption centers. If an area is determined to be underserved according to this definition, the department, with input from the affected county, shall use its best efforts to see that a certified redemption center is established in that area. If the area remains underserved in spite of these best efforts, moneys from the fund may be used to identify, enlist, or contract with a vendor, operator, or provider of certified redemption centers, to ensure that a microsite certified redemption center or other certified redemption center is established in that area.

SECTION 17.

(a) Prior to participating in the program, any redemption center wishing to operate in this state shall be certified by the department according to regulations promulgated by the board. These regulations shall require that all information submitted to the department be under penalty of perjury. Applications for certification shall be filed with the department in a form and manner prescribed by the board.

(b) No person shall be prohibited from applying for certification to operate a certified redemption center.

(c) The department shall establish criteria to determine the minimum and optimum number of certified redemption centers needed to adequately serve each county, based on population density, population distribution, consultation with the respective counties, and other factors. The department shall use these criteria in issuing certifications.

(d) The department may, at any time, review the certification of a certified redemption center. After written notice to the person responsible for the establishment and operation of the certified redemption center, the department, after it has afforded the certified redemption center operator a hearing as set forth in the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5, may withdraw the certification of the center if the department finds that there has not been compliance with applicable laws, rules, permit conditions, or certification requirements.

(e) All certified redemption centers shall:

(1) Accept all types of empty deposit beverage containers on which a Tennessee deposit has been paid;

(2) Accept deposit beverage containers from the public a minimum number of hours or days per week according to rules promulgated by the board;

(3) Maintain redemption areas in full compliance with applicable laws and according to orders and rules established by the board, including permitting and certification requirements;

(4) Take reasonable actions to identify and prevent payment of a refund value for any beverage container or other product on which a Tennessee deposit

has not been paid, including containers that the certified redemption center knows, or should know, have been brought into this state from another state;

(5) Determine the quantities of deposit beverage containers by manual count, electronic scan, weight, volume, or other method authorized by the board, and in a form and manner prescribed by the board;

(6) Pay to the consumer, or to a charity or other recipient designated or intended by the consumer, an amount not less than the established refund value for all valid deposit beverage containers;

(7) Maintain a log of consumer transactions, including amounts of any refunds donated to charity;

(8) Sort, consolidate, and, if authorized by the department, cancel the redeemed deposit beverage containers according to rules promulgated by the board;

(9) Take reasonable precautions to ensure that redeemed deposit beverage containers are placed in a secure area while awaiting purchase or receipt by a certified processor;

(10) Ensure that all redeemed deposit beverage containers are purchased or received by a certified processor. If container material is purchased, prices paid shall be consistent with prevailing market scrap values, transportation costs and other factors, and the unit price and total amount paid shall be noted on transaction receipts. If a container material has a market scrap value of zero or less than zero, the negative value shall be noted on transaction receipts, and the payment amount entered as zero;

(11) Provide to the certified processor or the processor's agent, a shipping report, in a form and manner prescribed by the board, and including, but not limited to:

- (A) Quantities of each container type by unit and by weight;
- (B) Quantification method, whether manual count, electronic scan, weight, volume, or a combination thereof;
- (C) Refund values paid;
- (D) Weight tickets, if applicable;
- (E) Printouts of electronic transaction logs, if applicable;

(12) Prepare, maintain, and provide to the department upon request, all records and documentation of redemption activity, including but not limited to consumer transaction logs, shipping reports, weight tickets, transaction receipts received from certified processors, electronic transaction printouts as applicable, and any documents authorizing the canceling of redeemed deposit beverage containers;

(13) Provide to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the board, and no later than October 1 of each year, a summary of redemption center activity for the preceding fiscal year, including but not limited to quantities of deposit beverage containers redeemed, by container type and collectively; quantities of refillable deposit beverage containers redeemed; the name of each certified processor receiving the containers; the dollar amount of any charitable donations made on behalf of consumers authorizing donation of their refunds; and

(14) Conspicuously display a sign in letters that are at least one (1) inch in height with the following information: "WARNING: Persons tendering

containers for redemption that were not originally purchased in Tennessee may be subject to a fine of the greater of one hundred dollars (\$100) per container or twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each tender.”

(f) Any certified redemption center that wishes to cancel redeemed deposit beverage containers as part of its handling procedures must apply for and receive authorization to do so from the department and shall perform and document the cancellations in a form and manner prescribed by the board.

(g) Any certified redemption center that wishes to accept refillable beverage containers from consumers shall do the following:

(1) Pay to the consumer the manufacturer’s refund value for the refillable beverage container;

(2) Record the transaction in the consumer transaction log;

(3) Ensure that the refillable beverage container is received by a certified processor, a willing purchaser, or the originating beverage distributor, who shall reimburse the manufacturer’s refund value to the certified redemption center.

The certified redemption center may negotiate with the receiving entity a reasonable fee to cover the cost of accepting and handling these containers.

(h) Any certified redemption center that wishes to accept non-deposit containers or other recyclable materials as a convenience to its customers or as an additional source of scrap revenue, may do so provided it complies with all applicable requirements and regulations. Certified processors may purchase or receive non-deposit materials from certified redemption centers, but are not obligated to do so.

(i) The types and tonnages of any material collected by a certified redemption center and subsequently recycled shall be reported or credited to the municipal or county government where the certified redemption center is located, for purposes of

calculating solid waste diversion amounts and meeting regional solid waste reduction goals.

SECTION 18. Reverse vending machines may be used to satisfy the requirements of Section 17, except that reverse vending machines are not required to accept refillable beverage containers; provided, that:

(1) The machines accept all types of empty deposit beverage containers that bear a valid Tennessee refund value;

(2) The machines are routinely serviced to ensure proper operation and continuous acceptance of containers and payment of refunds;

(3) The machines are monitored during operating hours by an attendant who is authorized to issue refunds should the reverse vending machine fail to accept, recognize, or process a valid Tennessee deposit beverage container; and

(4) The machines display a toll-free telephone number and a web site or mailing address that a consumer may contact in the absence of an attendant.

SECTION 19. Certified redemption centers may refuse to pay the refund value on any deposit beverage container which:

(1) Does not properly indicate a Tennessee refund value;

(2) Is broken, corroded, dismembered or flattened;

(3) Contains more than trace amounts of liquid; or

(4) Contains a significant amount of foreign material.

SECTION 20.

(a) Prior to participating in the program, processors shall be certified by the department and registered with the department of revenue according to regulations promulgated by the board. These regulations shall require that all information submitted to the department or to the department of revenue be under penalty of perjury.

Applications for certification shall be filed with the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the board. Applications for registration shall be filed with the department of revenue, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner of revenue.

(b) The department may, at any time, review the certification of a certified processor. After written notice to the person of record responsible for the establishment and operation of the certified processor, the department, after it has afforded the certified processor operator a hearing as set forth in the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5, may withdraw the certification of the facility if it finds that there has not been compliance with applicable laws, rules, permit conditions, or certification requirements.

(c) Certified processors shall:

(1) Accept from certified redemption centers all types of deposit beverage containers that have been redeemed, quantified, sorted, and canceled in accordance with program rules, and that are accompanied by a shipping report prepared by the certified redemption center in accordance with program rules;

(2) Perform a random sampling or samplings, in a form and manner prescribed by the board, of the redeemed deposit beverage containers, to ascertain that they were eligible for redemption;

(3) Independently determine quantities of each type of deposit beverage container, either by manual count, electronic scan, volume, weight, or a combination of these methods, according to standards, averages, and rules prescribed by the board; and document the quantities in a form and manner prescribed by the board;

(A) If a significant discrepancy exists between the quantities determined by the certified processor and the quantities stated on the

shipping report prepared by the certified redemption center, or if a random sampling of redeemed beverage containers shows a significant proportion of beverage containers that were not eligible for redemption, the certified processor shall notify the department and may withhold payment to the certified redemption center, or the department of revenue may withhold payment to the certified processor, pending further investigation by the department, according to procedures prescribed by the board;

(B) The board shall establish by rule what constitutes "significant discrepancy" and "significant proportion" relative to this subdivision (c)(3);

(4) Cancel the redeemed deposit beverage containers, if they have not already been canceled;

(5)

(A) Process the containers as needed for remanufacturing or for sale to or receipt by a manufacturer, secondary processor, or other end-user. If, after making a good-faith effort, a certified processor is unable to locate a willing purchaser or recipient of a specific beverage container material, the certified processor may apply to the department for permission to dispose of the material in a form and manner prescribed by the department, and with reasonable disposal costs to be reimbursed by the program.

(B) The board shall establish by rule what constitutes "good-faith effort" and "reasonable disposal costs" relative to this subdivision (c)(5);

(6) Issue payment to certified redemption centers, as follows:

(A) The amount of payment shall be the sum of the following:

(i) The collective refund values of the redeemed deposit beverage containers received from the certified redemption center;

(ii) The overhead allowance due pursuant to Section 21;

and

(iii) Payment for the container materials in an amount consistent with prevailing market scrap prices, incurred transportation costs, and other factors.

(B) Payment shall be made to the certified redemption center within ten (10) business days, unless a significant discrepancy exists pursuant to subdivision (c)(3) of this section, in which case payment may be withheld pending the outcome of an investigation by the department, according to procedures prescribed by the board.

(7) Provide to the certified redemption center a transaction receipt, prepared in a form and manner prescribed by the board, and including, at a minimum, the following information:

(A) The unit quantities, by container type and collectively, of deposit beverage containers received from the certified redemption center, and whether quantities were determined by manual count, electronic scan, volume, weight, or a combination of these;

(B) The weight, by container type and collectively, of deposit beverage containers received from the certified redemption center;

(C) The amounts paid in refund values to the certified redemption center, by container type and collectively;

(D) The amount paid as overhead allowance to the certified redemption center; and

(E) The amounts paid in scrap values for each type of deposit beverage container purchased from the certified redemption center.

Container material with a market value of zero or less than zero shall be noted, and the payment entered as zero.

(8) Submit to the department of revenue, pursuant to Section 23 and in a form and manner prescribed by the board, an invoice for reimbursement of refund values and overhead allowances and payment of administrative allowances due;

(9) For any refillable beverage containers received from the certified redemption center, reimburse the manufacturer's refund value to the certified redemption center and ensure that the refillable beverage containers are conveyed to the originating beverage distributor or sold to a willing purchaser. The certified processor may negotiate a reasonable fee with the originating distributor or willing purchaser to cover the cost of accepting and handling these containers; and

(10) Maintain copies of all documentation, including but not limited to, shipping reports, weight tickets, transaction receipts, requests-for-disposal, and end-market information. These documents shall be made available, upon request, to the departments of revenue and environment and conservation.

SECTION 21.

(a) Beginning April 1, 2015, the department of revenue shall pay to a certified redemption center, by agency of a certified processor pursuant to Section 23(a)(2), an

overhead allowance for each transaction conducted in accordance with regulations and standards established by the board.

(b) The amount of the overhead allowance shall be a percentage of refund values paid during the period covered by the transaction, as reported to the department of revenue in the processor's invoice pursuant to Section 23(a)(1).

(c) The amount of the overhead allowance shall be based on the collective average of statewide redemption rates in the penultimate quarter and according to the following schedule, except that, if moneys in the fund accrue to, or decrease to, a level that warrants modifying the schedule, the schedule may be modified as often as quarterly by the board in consultation with the commissioner of revenue:

(1) If the collective statewide redemption rate in the penultimate quarter was less than or equal to seventy-five percent (75%), the overhead allowance in the current quarter shall be twenty percent (20%);

(2) If the collective statewide redemption rate in the penultimate quarter was greater than seventy-five percent (75%) but less than or equal to eighty percent (80%), the overhead allowance in the current quarter shall be fifteen percent (15%);

(3) If the collective statewide redemption rate in the penultimate quarter was greater than eighty percent (80%) but less than or equal to eighty-five percent (85%), the overhead allowance in the current quarter shall be ten percent (10%);

(4) If the collective statewide redemption rate in the penultimate quarter was greater than eighty-five percent (85%) but less than or equal to ninety percent (90%), the overhead allowance in the current quarter shall be five percent (5%);

(5) If the collective statewide redemption rate in the penultimate quarter was greater than ninety-five percent (95%), the overhead allowance in the current quarter shall be zero.

SECTION 22.

(a) Beginning April 1, 2015, the department of revenue shall pay to a certified processor an administrative allowance for each transaction conducted in accordance with regulations and standards established by the board to defray the certified processor's costs of complying with the administrative requirements of this program.

(b) The amount of the administrative allowance shall be two percent (2%) of total refund values paid during the period covered by the transaction, as reported to the department of revenue in the processor's invoice pursuant to Section 23(a)(1). If moneys in the fund increase to a level at which the fund can sustain in the long term an administrative allowance greater than two percent (2%) of refund values, the percentage may be increased by the board, in consultation with the commissioner of revenue, and according to terms promulgated by the board by rule. If moneys in the fund should subsequently decline to a level at which the fund can no longer sustain the increase, the percentage may be reduced by the board, in consultation with the commissioner of revenue and according to terms promulgated by the board by rule, but in no case shall be reduced below two percent (2%).

SECTION 23.

(a) Beginning April 1, 2015, for every completed transaction with a certified redemption center, a certified processor shall submit to the department of revenue a processor's invoice for an amount equal to the sum of all of the following:

(1) The total amount of refund values paid by the certified processor to the certified redemption center, pursuant to Section 20(c)(6)(A)(i);

(2) The overhead allowance paid by the certified processor to the certified redemption center, pursuant to Section 21; and

(3) The administrative allowance due to the certified processor, pursuant to Section 22.

(b) The processor's invoice shall be accompanied by supporting documentation that shall include but not be limited to:

(1) A copy of the transaction receipt prepared by the certified processor;

(2) A copy of the shipping report prepared by the certified redemption center; and

(3) Where applicable, a printout of any electronic transaction logs.

(c) The department of revenue must issue payment to the certified processor within ten (10) business days of receipt of a properly submitted invoice, unless a discrepancy is noted pursuant to Section 20(c)(6), in which case payment may be withheld pending investigation by the department, according to procedures prescribed by the board.

SECTION 24. Deposit beverage distributors, certified redemption centers, and certified processors shall, upon request and under penalty of perjury, make their records available for inspection by the departments of revenue and environment and conservation, duly authorized agents of these departments, the comptroller of the treasury, or the comptroller's auditor.

SECTION 25. The department, in consultation with the department of revenue, shall compile a report on the deposit beverage container program for each fiscal year, except that the first report shall be for the period from October 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015. These reports shall be delivered to the general assembly and the governor on January 2 following the end of the preceding reporting period. Reports shall contain, but not be limited to:

(1) Performance indicators;

(2) Revenues and expenditures;

(3) Measures of effectiveness, including redemption rates and impacts on litter;

and

(4) Economic impacts, including numbers of certified redemption centers, number of jobs supported or created, and tonnage, market value, and end uses of recovered materials.

SECTION 26.

(a) The board shall convene an advisory committee to assist it in developing any rules needed to implement this part. The board shall select members of the committee so as to obtain input from state agencies, as well as from representatives of any or all of the following:

(1) Bottlers;

(2) Consumers;

(3) Counties, including county sheriffs' departments;

(4) Dealers;

(5) Distributors;

(6) Importers;

(7) Keep Tennessee Beautiful;

(8) Manufacturers and end-users;

(9) Municipalities;

(10) Nonprofit organizations;

(11) Recyclers, including scrap dealers and providers of curbside recycling;

(12) Redemption centers;

(13) Redemption-service providers;

(14) Solid waste professionals; or

(15) Others as recommended by the commissioner.

(b) Members of the committee shall be appointed by the commissioner and shall serve at the commissioner's pleasure. A simple majority of the committee members shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of recommending rules and providing input to the commissioner.

SECTION 27. Except as provided otherwise in Section 29, any person who violates this part or any rule adopted pursuant to this part shall be assessed a civil penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each separate offense. This penalty shall be assessed by the commissioner pursuant to Section 28. Each day of each violation shall constitute a separate offense. Any action taken to impose or collect the penalty provided for in this section shall be made through administrative or civil actions.

SECTION 28.

(a) If the commissioner determines that any person has violated or is violating this part, any rule adopted pursuant to this part, or any term or condition of a certification or permit issued pursuant to this part, the commissioner may do any one (1) or more of the following:

(1) Issue a field citation assessing a civil penalty and ordering corrective action immediately or within a specified time;

(2) Issue an order assessing a civil penalty for any past or current violation;

(3) Require compliance immediately or within a specified time; or

(4) Commence a civil action in chancery or circuit court in Davidson County, to seek appropriate relief, including a temporary, preliminary or

permanent injunction against violations of this act, the imposition and collection of civil penalties or other relief.

(b) Any order issued pursuant to this section may include a suspension, modification, or revocation of a certification or permit issued pursuant to this part and shall state with reasonable specificity the nature of the violation.

(c) Any order issued under this part shall become final unless the person named in the order requests in writing a hearing before the board no later than twenty (20) days after the notice of order is served. Any penalty imposed pursuant to this part shall become due and payable twenty (20) days after the notice of penalty is served, unless the person named in the order requests in writing a hearing before the board. Whenever a hearing is requested on any penalty imposed pursuant to this part, the penalty shall become due and payable upon the issuance of a final order confirming the penalty in whole or in part.

(d) Any hearing conducted pursuant to this section shall be conducted as a contested case as set forth in the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5. If, after a hearing held pursuant to this section, the board finds that a violation or violations have occurred, the board shall:

(1) Affirm or modify any penalties imposed or modify or affirm the order previously issued; or

(2) Issue an appropriate order or orders for the prevention, abatement, or control of the violation involved, or for the taking of other corrective action as may be appropriate.

(e) If, after a hearing on an order or penalty contained in a notice, the board finds that no violation has occurred or is occurring, it shall rescind the order or penalty. Any order issued after a hearing may prescribe the date or dates by which the violation

or violations shall cease and may prescribe timetables for necessary action in preventing, abating, or controlling the violation.

(f) If the amount of any penalty is not paid to the department within thirty (30) days after an order becomes final, the commissioner may institute a civil action in the name of the state to collect the final penalty amount. In any proceeding to collect the administrative penalty imposed, the board shall show that:

(1) Notice was given;

(2) A hearing was held or the time granted for requesting a hearing expired without a request for a hearing;

(3) The administrative penalty was imposed; and

(4) The penalty remains unpaid.

(g) In connection with any hearing held pursuant to this section, the board shall have the power to subpoena the attendance of witnesses and the production of evidence on behalf of all parties.

SECTION 29.

(a) The obligations to accept empty beverage containers and pay the refund value as described in this part apply only to containers originally sold in this state as filled deposit beverage containers.

(b) It is an offense for a person who, during any single transaction, tenders or tries to tender to a certified redemption center more than twenty-four (24) empty beverage containers that the person knows or has reason to know were not originally sold in this state as filled deposit beverage containers. A violation of this subsection (b) is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by fine as provided in subsection (c).

(c) A person who violates this section is subject to a fine of up to the greater of one hundred dollars (\$100) for each container or twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each tender of more than twenty-four (24) containers.

(d) The balance of each fine collected pursuant to this section, after deducting court costs, shall be placed in the fund and shall remain in the fund to be expended for activities authorized by this part; with the exception that if the violation was detected and reported by a certified redemption center or a certified processor, then the fine shall be disposed of as follows:

(1) Fifty percent (50%) of the fine shall remain in the fund to be expended for activities authorized by this act; and

(2) Fifty percent (50%) of the fine shall be awarded to the certified redemption center or certified processor reporting the violation, as an incentive to be vigilant for and respond to illegal tenders or attempts to otherwise defraud the program.

SECTION 30. The provisions of this part shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this part unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 31. Chapter 616, Section 1, of the Public Acts of 2010 is amended by deleting the language "June 30, 2016, or until June 30 of any year following the enactment of any state or federal law which imposes mandatory deposits by consumers on beverage containers sold in Tennessee" and by substituting instead the language "June 30, 2012."

SECTION 32. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.