

1 H.14

2 Introduced by Representative Harrison of Chittenden

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Conservation and development; solid waste; beverage container

6 redemption

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
8 Secretary of Natural Resources to report to the General Assembly and the  
9 Vermont Climate Council regarding the effectiveness of the beverage container  
10 redemption system.

11 An act relating to the effectiveness of the beverage container redemption  
12 system

13 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

14 Sec. 1. AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES' STUDY OF THE

15 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER

16 REDEMPTION SYSTEM

17 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

18 (1) In 2013, The Secretary of Natural Resources issued a report required

19 by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 148 analyzing the solid waste systems of

20 Vermont (Act 148 2013 report).

1           (2) The Act 148 2013 report included an analysis of the effectiveness of  
2           the existing statutory beverage container deposit and return requirements of  
3           10 V.S.A. chapter 53, including the economic cost and effectiveness of each  
4           part of the beverage container system.

5           (3) The Act 148 2013 report also attempted to analyze the  
6           environmental costs and benefits of the beverage container redemption system,  
7           but the report also acknowledged that the analysis did not include economic or  
8           material costs of the beverage container redemption system outside of defined  
9           system parameters.

10           (4) To fully understand the costs and effects of the State's beverage  
11           container redemption system, the Secretary of Natural Resources should  
12           update the Act 148 2013 report's analysis of the beverage container  
13           redemption system to more accurately reflect the current costs and  
14           effectiveness of the system to affected businesses and consumers.

15           (b) On or before January 15, 2022, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall  
16           submit to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife, the  
17           Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, and the Vermont Climate  
18           Council a report that updates the Act 148 2013 report's analysis of the State  
19           beverage container redemption system. The report shall include all of the  
20           following:

1           (1) an updated accounting of the cost of the beverage container  
2           redemption system;

3           (2) an analysis of the effectiveness of the beverage container redemption  
4           system, including whether or how the beverage container redemption system:

5                   (A) enhances or detracts from overall recycling rates;

6                   (B) negatively or positively affects markets for raw materials; and

7                   (C) addresses the rates or amounts of litter in the State; and

8           (3) an analysis of the effect of the beverage container redemption system  
9           on the greenhouse gas emissions in the State.

10           (c) Prior to issuing the report required by this section, the Secretary shall  
11           consult with and seek input from persons interested in the implementation of  
12           the beverage container redemption system, including beverage manufacturers  
13           and distributors, retail stores, food service establishments, and environmental  
14           advocacy groups.

15           Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

16           This act shall take effect on passage.