

LWVCT- UPDATED ACTION ALERT- BOTTLE BILL SUBSTITUTE HB7294

From Kathy Golas, LWVCT Specialist

We are asking for your help passing an updated Bottle Bill, Substitute HB 7294. There is reason to believe this will be the year the bill passes - Ct municipalities are supporting it because of skyrocketing costs of managing trash and single-stream recyclables.

The bill passed out of the Environment Committee with **additional language** allowing juices producers of less than 100,000 gallons per year to apply for an exemption. (See links for SHB 7294 and for the Committee vote tally sheet, <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/envdata/sl/2019HB-07294-R00LCO06232-0318ENV-SL.PDF> and <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/TS/h/pdf/2019HB-07294-R00ENV-CV92-TS.pdf>.)

SUMMARY OF Substitute HB7294, AN ACT CONCERNING BOTTLE REDEMPTION IN THE STATE

1. Add sports drinks, energy drinks, juice and tea (315 million containers in CT in 2015 representing more than 26,000 tons of glass, plastic and aluminum per year).
2. Increase the deposit from five to ten cents (increasing the financial incentive to redeem containers rather than putting them into the trash or single-stream recycling bin and saving municipalities significant waste management costs)
3. Increase the handling fee paid by the distributors to retailers and redemption centers from 1.5 to 3.5 cents for beer and from 2 to 4.5 cents for other beverages (the handling fee has not increased in over 30 years)
4. Allow beverage distributors to retain 20% of the unclaimed deposits (80% to the State)
5. Increase the radius from 1 mile to 5 miles as the distance from a redemption center which allows "dealers"(retailers) to opt out of the requirement to redeem beverage containers

ACTION NEEDED NOW – YOUR LEGISLATORS MUST HEAR FROM CONSTITUENTS asking each one to CO-SPONSOR SHB 7294, OR AT LEAST SUPPORT IT. FYI, the following legislators have co-sponsored the bill already: Rep. Michel, Dist.146; Rep. Dillon, Dist. 92; Rep. Lemar, Dist. 96. If any of these are your legislators, please thank them. Also, if any of your legislators are on the Environment Committee and voted in support on the Vote Tally Sheet, please confirm they will support the bill on the floor and ask if they will co-sponsor it.

Please contact your Representator and Senator ASAP via email (See www.cga.ct.gov for legislator email addresses) or call the appropriate number (House Democrats 860-240-8500; Senate Democrats 860-240-8600; House Republicans 860-240-8700; Senate Republicans 860-240-8800) and ask to speak to the legislator or the legislator's aide.