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## **IT'S TIME TO UPDATE THE BOTTLE DEPOSIT LAW (AKA BOTTLE BILL)**

### **THE LWV URGES YOU TO**

- 1. SUPPORT an increase in the beverage container handling fee to 3.5¢ per container.**
- 2. CO-SPONSOR the House AMENDMENT No. 3434 to Substitute HB 5457 (File No. 260, Cal 193) to raise the fee to 3.5¢ and give grocers, package stores and redemption centers the raise they haven't gotten in 32 years.**

AMENDMENT 3434 will strike the current language in Substitute HB 5457 and restore the original language of the bill, which was heard at the public hearing on March 16. The original language increases the handling fee to 3.5¢. This fee is paid by distributors to "dealers" (grocers, package stores, etc.) and redemption centers for redeeming the beverage containers. The 5¢ deposit is not changed.

In committee, the original language was deleted. It was replaced with language requiring redemption centers (but not dealers, such as grocers and package stores) to pay consumers 4¢, instead of the 5¢ deposit. This cheats consumers, weakens the existing bottle deposit program, hurts redemption centers, and burdens grocers and package stores who are required to pay back the 5¢ deposit. The redemption centers oppose this new language.

**The LWV OPPOSES the current language of Substitute HB 5457, but SUPPORTS Amendment No 3434.**

**Please CO-SPONSOR the Amendment and show the broad bipartisan support in both chambers that we know exists.**

### **SOME FACTS**

- The handling fee has not been changed since 1986. **That's 32 years without a raise!** It's time to help these, mostly small, businesses. They employ over 500 people to handle redeemed containers. Four redemption centers have closed in the past 2 years, weakening the bottle deposit program and costing jobs.
- Neighboring bottle bill states have raised the handling fees: NY-3.5¢; MA- 2.25 to 3.25¢; VT-3.5-4¢; ME- 3.5-4¢.
- When the handling fee increased to 3.5¢ in New York State, additional redemption centers opened. These centers created additional jobs and made redeeming containers more convenient for consumers. **We can expect additional jobs and convenience in Connecticut when the increase passes.**
- **The 5-cent deposit does not change.**
- Redeemed containers collected by retailers and redemption centers provide high-quality material for recycling. Connecticut is home to a glass processor in South Windsor which pays for redeemed glass containers, but charges for glass containers from curbside single-stream recycling because of the high levels of contamination. **Redeeming containers is a better option than curbside recycling for beverage containers.**

Please update the bottle deposit law and give these businesses a raise. **#SAVEJOBS-ADD JOBS**

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