

CALL to ACTION

on

BOTTLE BILL

to be voted on May 9

Kathy Golas, LWVCT's Legislative Specialist on the Bottle Bill, asks that many phone calls and emails to go to legislators in favor of the Bottle Bill before it comes to a vote *tomorrow* in the House. In our Lobby/Advocacy Day today, we were reminded that the number of personal contacts is still important. Please briefly include your own personal reasons for your support of this bill.

She adds:

IT'S TIME TO UPDATE THE BOTTLE DEPOSIT LAW (AKA BOTTLE BILL), one of Connecticut's most effective recycling and litter reduction programs. This law allows consumers to get their deposit back, reduces litter, and removes material from the waste management system. Recycling fees are skyrocketing for our towns. Redeeming containers saves money for our towns and taxpayers.

Here is the amended bill:

**VOTE YES ON HB 7294 AS AMENDED BY LCO No. 7946 (for a neutral fiscal note)
PLEASE CO-SPONSOR AMENDMENT LCO No. 7946
SOME FACTS**

- **WE HAVE A RECYCLING CRISIS.** The cost of recycling mixed materials from the blue bin has skyrocketed. Towns and taxpayers now pay or will soon pay as much as \$98 per ton. **What was once a recycling fee credit is now a significant expense. HB 7294, as amended, provides a cost savings,** by diverting millions of containers - 60% of the weight of these containers is glass.
- **HB 7294, as amended,** increases the deposit from 5 to 10¢. -This creates a greater financial incentive to redeem containers rather than litter them, put them into the trash, or into the recycling bin. **Redeeming beverage containers is a better option than curbside recycling. It provides a cleaner material for which there are adequate markets**
- **HB 7294, as amended,** increases the handling fee paid by distributors to retailers and redemption centers for each beverage container that is redeemed. The handling fee has not increased in over 30 years. New York added 100 redemption centers when the handling fee was increased to 3.5¢. **As experienced in N.Y, we can expect as many as 18 new redemption centers, creating additional jobs.**
- **HB 7294, as amended,** establishes a State beverage container redemption goal of 90%.

DON'T BE FOOLED!

- **The 10¢ deposit is not a tax or a fee.** It is a refundable deposit. Consumers get the 10¢ back when they redeem containers. More redemption centers will make redeeming containers more convenient.

- Increasing the deposit to 10¢ will increase the incentive to redeem beverage containers, rather than litter them, put them in the trash, or put them into the blue recycling bin - **saving municipalities and taxpayers significant dollars.**
- Yes, glass in the blue recycling bins is not being recycled. However, HB 7294, as amended, diverts additional glass from the blue bins because 1) it expands the deposit containers to include additional non-carbonated beverages like **teas and juices** in glass containers, and 2) a 10¢ deposit increases the number of glass **beer** containers redeemed.
- The increased handling fee paid to retailers and redemption centers by the distributors will **preserve over 500 jobs and create new jobs** as the number of redemption centers is expected to increase across the State. Also, this will make redeeming containers more convenient.
- The industries that produce and market these containers (distributors) must take responsibility for the costs associated with the litter pick up and solid waste management of this packaging. None the less, HB 7294, as amended, provides some cost relief to these businesses by providing 18-20% of the unredeemed deposits. Currently, they get 0%. These new dollars are not meant to cover all the costs. Nor should they.

LET'S PASS THIS BILL THIS YEAR!

House Dems 860-240-85008, Home Republicans 860-240-8700.

cga.ct.gov

Thank you