



**IT'S TIME TO UPDATE THE BOTTLE DEPOSIT LAW (AKA BOTTLE BILL), one of Connecticut's most effective recycling and litter reduction programs. The LWVCT has supported policies to promote recycling, including advocating for Connecticut's original Bottle Bill, since the 1970's.**

**WE URGE YOU TO SUPPORT SUBSTITUTE HB 7294 (FILE #561), and TO ADD YOUR NAME TO THE CO-SPONSORS.**

**SUMMARY OF THE BILL HB 7294 (File #561)**

- Adds sports drinks, energy drinks, juices and teas-This adds about 340 million new containers which represents more than 26,000 tons of glass, plastic and aluminum per year.
- Increases the deposit from 5 to 10 cents -This increases the financial incentive to redeem containers rather than litter them, put them into the trash, or into the single-stream recycling bin, and will save municipalities significant litter and waste management costs, **Redeeming beverage containers is a better option than curbside recycling.**
- Increases handling fee paid by 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 (other state handling fees: NY-3.5¢; MA- 2.25 to 3.25¢; VT-3.5-4¢; ME- 3.5-4¢) **As experienced in other states, we can expect additional jobs at new redemption centers.**
- Increases 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.
- Allows beverage distributors to retain 20% of the unredeemed deposits (80% to the State General Fund).
- Establishes State beverage container redemption goal of 90%. **CT CAN RISE TO THIS CHALLENGE!**

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4-17-2019