

What is a Bottle Bill?



What is Mandatory Deposit Legislation?

While exact requirements vary by state, all forced deposit programs share common elements: **all impose a mandatory, pre-paid fee** on certain **beverage containers**; all require **consumers to return containers** to designated locations to **reclaim the fee**; all subject businesses and government to **lost revenues through fraud**; and all require retailers or some type of redemption center to **take back returned beverage containers**.

Who has them?

Oregon passed the first bottle bill in **1971**, followed by **Vermont, Michigan, Maine, Iowa, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts** and **New York**. **California's** unique system has been in place since **1986**. Most recently, **Hawaii** passed a deposit law to that took effect in **2005**. In 2007, the legislatures in Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia have filed bottle bills.

What are the cost implications?

The **operating costs** of deposit programs are at least **four times the cost of comprehensive recycling**. And new programs, such as California's, have **high state costs** as well. **California's bureaucracy** has **200 workers** and costs **\$20 million per year** just for oversight.

Details of Senator Berger's bill follow:

Senate Bill 215:

- **Does not require retailers to accept deposit bottles.**
- Imposes a 10¢ deposit on all beverage containers sold in North Carolina.
- Containers included are all alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages including **milk, juices, water, beer, soda, teas, wine, and liquor**. Containers made from **glass, plastic, aluminum, and cardboard**, regardless of size (2 oz to 100 oz) are included.
- Beverage containers would be **redeemed at state-run redemption centers**. The bill is vague as to where redemption centers will be located.
- Increase in refund value by 5¢ every five years if the return rate for containers of similar composition is **less than 75%** as determined by the state.
- Retailers of beverage containers (including vending machine operators) *must*:
 - Pay collected deposits to beverage distributors
 - Collect the refund value from consumers beginning **January 1, 2008**.
 - Post a sign indicating the location of the nearest certified redemption center
- Consumers are required to pay the 10¢ deposit on all beverage containers purchased starting **January 1, 2008**; but **no refunds** would be payable until **July 1, 2008**.