

Comment Report

SSB 3033

A bill for an act relating to beverage containers control provisions, including handling fees, refund value, applicability to certain beverages, and acceptance of beverage containers, and providing penalties.

Subcommittee Members: Brown-CH, Klimesh, Quirmbach

Date: 01/25/2022

Time: 05:00 PM

Location: Room G17

Name: Margaret Whiting

Comment: It should be very convenient for people to return their bottles and cans to a store or redemption center in Iowa, otherwise too many cans and bottles will end up in our ditches and landfills instead of being recycled. This bill is written to allow a dealer not to be a participating dealer if their place of business is in a 15 mile radius of a redemption center. 15 miles is not convenient, since this would be a 30 mile round trip for some people to return their bottles and cans, and not everyone owns a car. The distance should be 10 miles or less. It is great that this bill increases the handling fee from 1 cent to 2 cents. More redemption centers could be built and actually stay open for business. Our current 1 cent handling fee is not enough. I don't understand why the 2 cent fee should be reduced after 2032.

Name: Jean Perri

Comment: Why would you change the bottle deposit law to require a drive of 15 miles to a redemption center instead of a 10 minute drive to redeem your can/bottle deposits? Inconvenience is a priority?

Name: Richard Siefers

Comment: I'm writing to you today about Iowa's bottle deposit law and the push to make changes to the law during this year's legislative session. From what I've read, I'm concerned that the changes being promoted by the grocery store lobby will significantly undermine the effectiveness of this 1978 law. Although I agree that the law needs to be updated, it needs to be updated in a way that keeps this law working for all Iowans. I support changes to the law that include: increasing the deposit amount from 5 cents to 10 cents, increasing the redemption fee to a level that makes the redeeming business an attractive enterprise, expanding the law to include juice and water containers, and penalties for grocery and convenience stores that fail to abide by the law's empty container redemption requirements. I strongly believe that empty container redemption should remain a responsibility of grocery stores and convenience stores that sell beverages subject to the bottle bill deposit, so that all Iowans have a convenient location to return their empty containers. An exemption to this responsibility should be made if there is a redemption center within a 10 minute drive of the grocery or convenience store.

Name: Thomas Reardon

Comment: As I fish, hike and photograph in western Iowa I usually pick up trash found in the area. From my unscientific survey it looks like Iowa's bottle law has been a success most of the bottles found have no deposit markings on them, seemingly coming from the Nebraska side of the river. But the bill could be strengthened. The proposed bill has some good points, increasing the redemption fee and penalizing stores not in compliance. However, we need to strengthen incentives, not weaken them. The distance from store to redemption center should most definitely not be increased and,

in addition, the fee should be increased to 10 cents.