

Comment Report

SF 2122

A bill for an act relating to the redemption of and payment of refund value on beverage containers, making appropriations, providing penalties, and including effective date provisions.(See SF 2378.)

Subcommittee Members: Schultz-CH, Brown, Dotzler

Date: 03/14/2022

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: Room G17

Name: Joan Cook

Comment: We firmly believe the environment needs a good Bottle Bill. Consumers need the refunds convenient to where they purchase these items so perhaps the millions of dollars those distributors are pocketing can go back to the needs of the consumers. Please do not tell me legislators will not vote for this since their donors are retaining this money. Could it be our money finds it's way back to these legislators pockets? The Iowa Bottle Bill is antiquated. Do your job and find a way. Thank you, Tom and Joan Cook Iowa City

Name: Terese Grant

Comment: The League of Women Voters of Iowa has been a supporter of this issue for many years. We continue to support the efforts to make it easy for Iowans to redeem cans and bottles. We support this bill, but we think that it could be improved. We think that there should be an increase in the handling and deposit fees. It would be more beneficial for Iowans to be able to redeem containers for deposit fees close to their communities. We also would like to see an expansion of the bill to include bottled waters, noncarbonated sport drinks, and nonalcoholic beverages. The bottle bill has been an effective tool to reduce the amount of waste and garbage in our landfills and in our ditches. We need this effort to continue.

Name: Nancy Porter

Comment: The Bottle Bill is so very important for our environment. It could even be used to encourage young people to invest in an opportunity with a living wage if the Bill was written with consumers and job employment in mind. Any changes that bring the ability of people to return bottles made with deposits easier, which don't add miles and time to their trips, is a good change. Convenience for the consumer, and recycling for the environment are key points. Using the money that has been put aside because of COVID so our beaches would be another place to play with water that is safe and drinkable would help Iowa become the inviting state it once was.

Name: Cheryl Plank

Comment: Hope Haven is supportive of this bill as it is a start and there has been discussion of adding a penny for the redemption centers for a long time and it is time to make this happen. It is as important that the money (bottles/cans not returned for reimbursement) that is left by the consumers with the distributors/wholesellers be placed where the money comes back to the community in some manner. Maybe it could help make the redemption centers whole. Thank you Senator Rozenboom for continuing the fight to support redemption centers. I concur with others there is more that needs to happen, but getting this passed is a step in the right direction. Respectfully, Cheryl Plank Hope Haven provides services in Des Moines, Lee, Henry and Louisa counties with a redemption center in Burlington, Iowa.

Name: Linda Schreiber

Comment:

Thank you for your efforts to improve Iowas bottle bill. The bottle bill isnt just about the industry grocers (retail) and distributors its about consumers. The proposed bill, SF2122, contains attributes of a modernized bottle bill that are appreciated and benefit Iowa consumers and taxpayers. Shifts the responsibility for the administration of deposit and handling fees from distributors to a state agency; Assigns a state agency the responsibility for enforcement and give the agency the appropriate measures to administer the law; Requires distributors and dealers to submit regular (monthly) reports tracking beverage sales and fees to the administering state agency. Transparency is the first step in accurately determining how much money is involved; and transparency is paramount to prevent a near collapse of a system that Iowans previously revered. Expands coverage to include additional containers. High alcohol beers and canned cocktails (introduced during the pandemic) were added. With a few additional steps, Iowas decadesold bill could be improved to provide valueadded measures to benefit Iowa consumers and the environment: Allow Iowans to redeem containers for deposit fees close to their communities traveling 15 or 20miles to redeem deposit fees does not encourage redemption or benefit the environment. Require all redemption centers to register with the states administering agency. Maintain unclaimed deposit fees in the proposed bottle bill fund until a determination can be made about the bills efficiency. The proposed bill requires transferring the remaining bottle deposit funds to a taxpayers relief fund at the end of the fiscal year. Wait, instead to determine if the process is working, and use the unclaimed deposits to enhance the environment. Expand the coverage to include containers that represent the major growth areas bottled waters, noncarbonated (sports) drinks, nonalcoholic beverages and other togo beverages. Phasein this step to avoid overwhelming redemption centers. Increase the handling fees to encourage dealers and redemption centers to stay in redemption or enter the market and increase the deposit fees to encourage consumers to return empty containers. Its important to remember that keeping containers in the supply chain will ensure containers have their highest best use. Plastic thrown in recycling bins is too often contaminated by nonrelated materials, which means that plastic container becomes a singleuse plastic that can only be recycled once and no longer be recycled to maximize its life expectancy of multiple uses. Iowan consumers have been patient they deserve action. Move SF 2122 through the second funnel to have a full debate.

Name:

Gaylen Wobeter

Comment:

The Bottle Bill has been important to the environment of Iowa and we need to continue and strength the Bottle Bill. Raising the handling fee and changing the administration important and would help the citizens of our state. A large majority of Iowans support the Bottle Bill.

Name:

Connie Brinton

Comment:

I support everything that Linda Scheiber has commented. The original bill was intended to keep Iowa clean. We need to continue to improve the process to keep up with the industry of bottled beverages make redemption convenient, designate more for the redemption centers so they can make a living and employ Iowans, expand the coverage to include our portable culture and recycle the maximum amount possible. Unredeemed deposits should support redemption centers and additional recycling efforts. Please help Iowa be a leader in caring for and investing in our environment.

Name: Susan Enzle

Comment: It is long overdue to bring Iowas Bottle Redemption Program into the 21st (or even the late 20th Century). Please support legislation to increase the handling fees and to redirect unclaimed fees from the distributors to the state for support of environmental programs and/or updating redemption technologies. Be sure to consider those Iowans, especially those who live in rural areas, and provide a way for them to redeem bottles and cans easily. It is past time to increase the deposit to bring it into better alignment with current costs of the program. It would also be lovely to expand the redemption program to include other beverage containers. When combined these changes to the Bottle Bill will help to make Iowa beautiful.

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Finally, it would be lovely to expand the redemption program to include other beverage containers.

When combined these changes to the Bottle Bill will help to make Iowa beautiful.