

House File 2026 - Introduced

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BY FRY and LUNDGREN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to persons authorized to refuse to accept and
2 pay the refund value of an empty beverage container, and
3 making penalties applicable.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 455C.4, subsection 2, paragraph a,
2 subparagraph (1), Code 2024, is amended by striking the
3 subparagraph.

4 EXPLANATION

5 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
6 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

7 This bill relates to persons authorized to refuse to accept
8 and pay the refund value of an empty beverage container.

9 Under current law, when a dealer sells beverages in eligible
10 containers to a consumer, the dealer charges a 5-cent deposit
11 on each beverage container. A consumer can take eligible empty
12 beverage containers to a participating dealer or redemption
13 center and receive a 5-cent refund for every eligible beverage
14 container that the consumer returned. A dealer may choose
15 to not be a participating dealer if the dealer holds a food
16 establishment license and meets certain requirements, the
17 dealer has entered an agreement with an approved redemption
18 center for the operation of a mobile redemption system, or the
19 dealer's place of business is within a certain distance of
20 an approved redemption center based on the population of the
21 county.

22 The bill strikes the exception for a dealer who holds a food
23 establishment license, thus requiring a dealer who holds a food
24 establishment license to accept and pay the refund value of
25 empty beverage containers unless the dealer is otherwise exempt
26 from being a participating dealer. A participating dealer
27 who refuses to accept or pay the refund value of a beverage
28 container when so required commits a simple misdemeanor. A
29 simple misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more
30 than 30 days and a fine of at least \$105 but not more than \$855.