



ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM TONG
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony Regarding Section 2 of
H.B. No. 7271, An Act Establishing A Working Group To Study Beverage Container
Redemption Rates In The State And Reducing The Fee On Infused Beverage Containers
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
*Monday, April 14th, 2025***

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Section 2 of H.B. No. 7271 which proposes to reduce the fee on THC-infused beverages from one dollar to five cents.

Last year, the legislature enacted Public Act 24-76, which expanded enforcement authority over unlicensed businesses engaged in the marketing and sale of cannabis. This enforcement included investigations into legal and illegal businesses that manufacture, wholesale and distribute intoxicating hemp and cannabis products in Connecticut. Public Act 24-76 supported collaboration amongst state and local law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance with the new cannabis laws.

Public Act 24-76 provided for a one dollar per container fee from the sale of THC-infused beverages. These funds are used in part, to effectuate the legislature's purposes in enacting Public Act 24-76: funding enforcement actions brought by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), in partnership with the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) and local law enforcement.

By calling for a 95% reduction in the infused-beverage fee, Section 2 of H.B. 7271 would hamstring these recently beefed-up enforcement efforts and weaken the State's ability to safeguard its legal cannabis market. Connecticut has been a pioneer in bringing enforcement actions against retailers and distributors selling intoxicating hemp and cannabis products outside of the State's legal framework regulating growing, manufacturing, packaging, marketing, taxation and age verification. Our office has brought 15 enforcement actions against businesses engaging in these illegal sales and we have obtained 10 judgments to date, helping to put a stop to the sale of unlicensed, unregulated cannabis and hemp products. Unlicensed and unregulated means unsafe for the public: these products may contain dangerous levels of THC and harmful adulterants and are being sold without the rigorous testing required for products sold in the regulated market. Worse, these products are often packaged in a way that appeals to young people.

The OAG's enforcement actions require significant resources in the form of investigators who conduct undercover purchases and accompany local law enforcement and DCP drug control agents when they conduct inspections and attorneys who litigate the actions. The OAG and DCP have also leveraged these resources to assist cities and towns in bringing their own enforcement actions to curb the sale of intoxicating hemp products in their communities.

The infused-beverage fee provides significant funds to allow the OAG and DCP to continue this important work, which not only protects the health and safety of Connecticut citizens but promotes the legal, regulated market by discouraging retailers and distributors from selling these products.



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For the reasons above, the Office of the Attorney General opposes Section 2 of H.B. No. 7271.

For additional information, please contact Nate Kalechman, Director of Legislative Affairs for the Office of the Attorney General at Nathan.Kalechman@ct.gov.