

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-457

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE'S BOTTLE BILL.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Department of Revenue Services	GF - Revenue Gain	None	6 million
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	162,608	162,608
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	68,002	68,002
Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which makes several changes to the state's beverage container redemption law, results in the following fiscal impacts:

Section 1 reactivates the existing requirements (with new deadlines) and adds new requirements to the beverage container stewardship organization. The bill requires an approved organization to submit a plan to operate a statewide beverage container stewardship program and requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to review and approve the plan, resulting in the costs described

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.82% of payroll in FY 27.

below.

It is anticipated that the new requirements and expanded role of DEEP (including additional regulatory responsibilities) will result in an annual cost to DEEP of approximately \$230,610. The cost to DEEP is associated with two new full-time Environmental Analyst 2 positions with an annual salary of \$81,304 and corresponding fringe benefits of \$34,001.

Section 2 requires DEEP to study the effectiveness of PA 26-2, *AAC Redemption Of Out-Of-State Beverage Containers*, and specifically determine if the act was effective in reducing the “over-redemption” of beverage containers in Connecticut. This is not anticipated to result in a cost as DEEP has the staff and expertise necessary to complete the study.

Section 5, which increases the amount of unclaimed bottle deposits that deposit initiators must remit (i.e., escheat) to the General Fund, results in a revenue gain of approximately \$6 million annually beginning in FY 28 (assuming a 25% escheatment rate based on a redemption rate of 75% or more).² To the extent the overall redemption rate falls below 75%, the revenue gain could be higher.³

Section 6, which creates a new class A or B misdemeanor, results in a potential cost to the Judicial Department for probation and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines. On average, the marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$600⁴ each year for adults and \$450 each year for juveniles.

The remaining components of the bill make various changes that do not result in any fiscal impact.

² As of the 4th calendar quarter of 2025 the redemption rate was 96.9%.

³ Under the bill, redemption rates of 75% or more result in an escheatment rate of 25% beginning in FY 28; redemption rates below 75% result in higher escheatment rates.

⁴ Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and statewide redemption rates.