



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

**Bill No. 299**

LCO No. 2205



Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. RITTER, 1<sup>st</sup> Dist.

SEN. DUFF, 25<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. ROJAS, 9<sup>th</sup> Dist.

***AN ACT CONCERNING REDEMPTION OF OUT-OF-STATE  
BEVERAGE CONTAINERS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22a-245 of the 2026 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) No person shall establish or operate a redemption center without  
5 receiving approval to operate such a redemption center and annually  
6 registering with the commissioner on a form provided by the  
7 commissioner with such information as the commissioner deems  
8 necessary, including (1) the name of the business principals of the  
9 redemption center and the address of the business; (2) the name and  
10 address of the sponsors and dealers to be served by the redemption  
11 center; (3) the types of beverage containers to be accepted; (4) the hours  
12 of operation; and (5) whether beverage containers will be accepted from

13 consumers. The operator of the redemption center shall report to the  
14 commissioner any change in the information described in subdivisions  
15 (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection not later than forty-eight hours  
16 after such change. On and after July 1, 2026, each registered owner of a  
17 redemption center shall submit an application to the Commissioner of  
18 Energy and Environmental Protection for the issuance of a license to  
19 operate such redemption center. Such application shall be on a form, as  
20 prescribed by the commissioner, which shall, at a minimum, require the  
21 submission of the information described in subdivisions (1) to (5),  
22 inclusive, of this subsection. Each such application shall be accompanied  
23 by an application fee of two thousand five hundred dollars. Upon the  
24 issuance of any such license, any such registration shall be deemed  
25 terminated. On and after July 1, 2026, any person who seeks to operate  
26 a redemption center that was not registered with the commissioner prior  
27 to the effective date of this section shall submit such an application for  
28 a license to operate such redemption center in accordance with the  
29 requirements of this subsection. The commissioner may suspend the  
30 license or impose a civil penalty, or both, against any person who owns  
31 or operates a redemption center in violation of any licensure  
32 requirement established by the commissioner or the provisions of this  
33 section. Any person establishing a redemption center shall have the  
34 right to determine what kind, size and brand of beverage container shall  
35 be accepted, except such person shall not accept any beverage container  
36 that: (A) Such person knows or has reason to know was not originally  
37 sold in this state as a filled beverage container, (B) was previously  
38 redeemed, (C) is damaged in any manner that prevents the reading or  
39 scanning of such container's barcode, or (D) is on a list of beverage  
40 containers provided by a deposit initiator to such redemption center as  
41 not being available for sale in this state. Any redemption center may be  
42 established to serve all persons or to serve certain specified dealers and  
43 shall be subject to the requirements of this chapter. Any redemption  
44 center that accepts more than [two thousand five hundred] one  
45 thousand containers from any one individual in one day shall create and  
46 obtain from such person a record of such person's name, the license

47 plate number of any vehicle used to transport the containers to such  
48 redemption center, a copy of such person's driver's license, the collection  
49 points of the empty containers and the number of containers tendered.  
50 All beverage containers transported in a single vehicle shall be treated  
51 as being attributable to one individual for purposes of this subsection.  
52 The redemption center shall obtain from such person a certification that,  
53 to the best of such person's knowledge, the beverage containers were  
54 originally sold as filled beverages in this state and were not previously  
55 redeemed. No redemption center shall accept more than [five] four  
56 thousand containers in any one day from any person except for a  
57 nonprofit organization or a verified fundraising activity. Each  
58 redemption center and reverse vending machine operator shall retain  
59 the records required by this subsection for a period of not less than two  
60 years and such records for redemptions of more than one thousand  
61 beverage containers from any one individual in one day, including any  
62 such certification, shall be transmitted by such redemption center to the  
63 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection each calendar  
64 quarter. The failure by any redemption center to transmit any records  
65 on a quarterly basis to the commissioner may result in the revocation of  
66 such redemption center's license by the commissioner. The  
67 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Attorney  
68 General, the Chief State's Attorney and any state or municipal law  
69 enforcement agency may examine the accounts and records of any  
70 redemption center and reverse vending machine operator that are  
71 maintained pursuant to this section or any provision of this chapter,  
72 including, but not limited to, any related accounts and records including  
73 receipts, disbursements and any other item the commissioner deems  
74 appropriate.

75 (b) A dealer shall not refuse to accept at such dealer's place of  
76 business, from any person any empty beverage containers of the kind,  
77 size and brand sold by the dealer, or refuse to pay to such person the  
78 refund value of a beverage container unless (1) such container contains  
79 materials which are foreign to the normal contents of the container; (2)

80 such container is not labeled in accordance with subsection (b) of section  
81 22a-244; (3) such dealer sponsors, solely or with others, a redemption  
82 center which is located within a one-mile radius of such place of  
83 business and which accepts beverage containers of the kind, size and  
84 brand sold by such dealer at such place of business; [or] (4) there is  
85 established by others, a redemption center which is located within a  
86 one-mile radius of such place of business and which accepts beverage  
87 containers of the kind, size and brand sold by such dealer at such place  
88 of business; (5) such dealer knows or has reason to know that a beverage  
89 container was not originally sold in this state as a filled beverage  
90 container; (6) such beverage container was previously redeemed; (7)  
91 such beverage container is damaged in any manner that prevents the  
92 reading or scanning of such container's barcode; or (8) such beverage  
93 container is on a list of beverage containers provided by a deposit  
94 initiator to such dealer as not being available for sale in this state. A  
95 dealer shall redeem an empty container of a kind, size or brand the sale  
96 of which has been discontinued by such dealer for not less than sixty  
97 days after the last sale by the dealer of such kind, size or brand of  
98 beverage container. Sixty days before such date, the dealer shall post, at  
99 the point of sale, notice of the last date on which the discontinued kind,  
100 size or brand of beverage container shall be redeemed.

101 (c) A distributor shall not refuse to accept from a dealer or from an  
102 operator of a redemption center, located and operated exclusively  
103 within the territory of the distributor or whose operator certifies to the  
104 distributor that redeemed containers were from a dealer located within  
105 such territory, any empty beverage containers of the kind, size and  
106 brand sold by the distributor, or refuse to pay to such dealer or  
107 redemption center operator the refund value of a beverage container  
108 unless: [such] (1) Such container contains materials which are foreign to  
109 the normal contents of the container, [or unless] (2) such container is not  
110 labeled in accordance with subsection (b) of section 22a-244, (3) such  
111 beverage container was previously redeemed, (4) such beverage  
112 container is damaged in any manner that prevents the reading or

113 scanning of such container's barcode, or (5) such beverage container is  
114 on a list of beverage containers that such distributor previously  
115 provided to redemption centers and dealers as not being available for  
116 sale in this state. A distributor shall remove any empty beverage  
117 container from the premises of a dealer serviced by the distributor or  
118 from the premises of a redemption center sponsored by dealers serviced  
119 by the distributor, provided such premises are located within the  
120 territory of the distributor. No redemption center shall remove any  
121 beverage container from its premises or transfer such containers  
122 between premises under its control before tendering such containers for  
123 removal by a distributor unless authorized to do so, in writing, by the  
124 distributor. A copy of any such written authorization shall be forwarded  
125 to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection by the  
126 owner or operator of such redemption center. The distributor shall pay  
127 the refund value to dealers in accordance with the schedule for payment  
128 by the dealer to the distributor for full beverage containers and shall pay  
129 such refund value to operators of redemption centers not more than  
130 twenty days after receipt of the empty container. For the purposes of  
131 this subsection, a redemption center shall be considered to be sponsored  
132 by a dealer if [(1)] (A) the dealer refuses to redeem beverage containers  
133 and refers consumers to the redemption center, or [(2)] (B) there is an  
134 agreement between the dealer and the operator of the redemption center  
135 requiring the redemption center to remove empty beverage containers  
136 from the premises of the dealer. A distributor shall redeem an empty  
137 container of a kind, size or brand of beverage container the sale of which  
138 has been discontinued by the distributor for not less than one hundred  
139 fifty days after the last delivery of such kind, size or brand of beverage  
140 container. Not less than one hundred twenty days before the last date  
141 such containers may be redeemed, the distributor shall notify such  
142 dealer who bought the discontinued kind, size or brand of beverage  
143 container that such distributor shall not redeem an empty beverage  
144 container of such kind, size or brand of beverage containers.

145 (d) (1) In addition to the refund value of a beverage container, a

146 distributor shall pay to any dealer or operator of a redemption center a  
147 handling fee of at least two and one-half cents for each container of beer,  
148 hard seltzer, hard cider or other malt beverage and three and one-half  
149 cents for each beverage container of mineral waters, soda water and  
150 similar carbonated soft drinks or noncarbonated beverage returned for  
151 redemption. A distributor shall not be required to pay to a manufacturer  
152 the refund value of a nonrefillable beverage container.

153 (2) For the period commencing April 1, 2026, and ending June 30,  
154 2027, the handling fee paid by a distributor for any beverage container  
155 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection to any redemption center  
156 that, on average, annually processes fifty million or more beverage  
157 containers, as confirmed by the Department of Energy and  
158 Environmental Protection in consultation with the Department of  
159 Revenue Services, and that does not utilize automated barcode or  
160 universal product code scanning for the redemption of all such beverage  
161 containers shall be reduced by not more than one cent. On and after July  
162 1, 2027, any such reduction in the handling fee shall discontinue,  
163 provided such redemption center utilizes automated barcode or  
164 universal product code scanning for the redemption of all such beverage  
165 containers.

166 (e) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall  
167 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to  
168 implement the provisions of sections 22a-243 to 22a-245, inclusive, as  
169 amended by this act. Such regulations shall include, but not be limited  
170 to, provisions for the redemption of beverage containers dispensed  
171 through automatic reverse vending machines, the use of vending  
172 machines that reimburse consumers for the redemption value of  
173 beverage containers, scheduling for redemption by dealers and  
174 distributors and for exemptions or modifications to the labeling  
175 requirement of section 22a-244.

176 (f) For the purposes of this section, "refund value" means the refund  
177 value established by subsection (a) of section 22a-244.

178 (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) to (d),  
179 inclusive, of this section, no person shall tender to a dealer, redemption  
180 center, reverse vending machine, distributor or deposit initiator for the  
181 purpose of obtaining a refund value or handling fee for any empty  
182 beverage container that the person knows or has reason to know was  
183 not originally sold in this state as a filled beverage container or that was  
184 previously redeemed through a dealer, redemption center, reverse  
185 vending machine, distributor or deposit initiator. Any violation of the  
186 provisions of this subsection by any dealer or redemption center shall  
187 be deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of  
188 section 42-110b.

189 (h) Each dealer, redemption center or reverse vending machine  
190 operator shall post where empty containers are redeemed a conspicuous  
191 "Redemption Warning" sign using at least a one-inch font that states the  
192 following: "Returning empty beverage containers for refund that were  
193 not purchased in Connecticut or that were previously redeemed is  
194 illegal. Any person who returns empty beverage containers that the  
195 person knows or has reason to know were not originally sold in this  
196 state as filled beverage containers or that were previously redeemed  
197 shall be subject to fines and state enforcement action. Connecticut  
198 General Statutes section 22a-245."

199 (i) Each operator of a redemption center shall report quarterly to the  
200 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, on a form  
201 provided by the commissioner, the number and type of containers such  
202 operator redeems, aggregated by each town in which such operator  
203 operates, each record created by such redemption center pursuant to  
204 subsection (a) of this section and any such other redemption information  
205 the commissioner deems necessary. Any redemption center that fails to  
206 submit a quarterly report pursuant to this subsection may be denied an  
207 annual [registration] license pursuant to this section.

208 (j) (1) The Attorney General may, independently or upon complaint  
209 of the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection or the

210 Commissioner of Revenue Services, investigate the facts and  
211 circumstances concerning any alleged violation of a provision of this  
212 section. The Attorney General may issue subpoenas and written  
213 interrogatories in connection with such investigation, in the same  
214 manner and to the same extent as provided in section 35-42, provided  
215 no information obtained pursuant to the provisions of this subsection  
216 may be used in a criminal proceeding.

217 (2) If the Attorney General finds that a person has violated a  
218 provision of this section, the Attorney General may bring a civil action  
219 in the superior court for the judicial district in which such violation was  
220 committed.

221 (k) No owner or operator of any redemption center shall utilize bulk  
222 bailing for the processing of beverage containers at such redemption  
223 center.

224 Sec. 2. Section 22a-245a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
225 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

226 (a) Each deposit initiator shall open a special interest-bearing account  
227 at a Connecticut branch of a financial institution, as defined in section  
228 45a-557a, to the credit of the deposit initiator. Each deposit initiator shall  
229 deposit in such account an amount equal to the refund value established  
230 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 22a-244, for each beverage  
231 container sold by such deposit initiator. Such deposit shall be made not  
232 more than one month after the date such beverage container is sold,  
233 provided for any beverage container sold during the period from  
234 December 1, 2008, to December 31, 2008, inclusive, such deposit shall be  
235 made not later than January 5, 2009. All interest, dividends and returns  
236 earned on the special account shall be paid directly into such account.  
237 Such moneys shall be kept separate and apart from all other moneys in  
238 the possession of the deposit initiator. The amount required to be  
239 deposited pursuant to this section, when deposited, shall be held to be  
240 a special fund in trust for the state.

241 (b) (1) Any reimbursement of the refund value for a redeemed  
242 beverage container shall be paid from the deposit initiator's special  
243 account, with such payment to be computed, subject to the provisions  
244 of subdivision (2) of this subsection, under the cash receipts and  
245 disbursements method of accounting, as described in Section 446(c)(1)  
246 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding  
247 Internal Revenue Code of the United States, as amended from time to  
248 time.

249 (2) A deposit initiator may petition the Commissioner of Revenue  
250 Services for an alternate method of accounting by filing with such  
251 deposit initiator's return a statement of objections and other proposed  
252 alternate method of accounting, as such deposit initiator believes proper  
253 and equitable under the circumstances, that is accompanied by  
254 supporting details and proof. The Commissioner of Revenue Services  
255 shall promptly notify such deposit initiator whether the proposed  
256 alternate method is accepted as reasonable and equitable and, if so  
257 accepted, shall adjust such deposit initiator's return and payment of  
258 reimbursement accordingly.

259 (c) Not later than August 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the  
260 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall calculate  
261 and publish the average state-wide redemption rate for the preceding  
262 fiscal year, calculated as the number of beverage containers redeemed  
263 for the deposit divided by the number of beverage containers sold.

264 (d) (1) Each deposit initiator shall submit a report on March 15, 2009,  
265 for the period from December 1, 2008, to February 28, 2009, inclusive.  
266 Each deposit initiator shall submit a report on July 31, 2009, for the  
267 period from March 1, 2009, to June 30, 2009, inclusive, and thereafter  
268 shall submit a quarterly report for the immediately preceding calendar  
269 quarter one month after the close of such quarter. Each such report shall  
270 be submitted to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
271 Protection, on a form prescribed by the commissioner and with such  
272 information as the commissioner deems necessary, including, but not

273 limited to: (A) The balance in the special account at the beginning of the  
274 quarter for which the report is prepared; (B) a list of all deposits credited  
275 to such account during such quarter, including all refund values paid to  
276 the deposit initiator and all interest, dividends or returns received on  
277 the account; (C) a list of all withdrawals from such account during such  
278 quarter, all service charges and overdraft charges on the account and all  
279 payments made pursuant to subsection (e) of this section; and (D) the  
280 balance in the account at the close of the quarter for which the report is  
281 prepared.

282 (2) Each deposit initiator shall submit a report on October 31, 2010,  
283 for the calendar quarter beginning July 1, 2010. Subsequently, each  
284 deposit initiator shall submit a quarterly report for the immediately  
285 preceding calendar quarter, on or before the last day of the month next  
286 succeeding the close of such quarter. Each such report shall be  
287 submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Services, on a form  
288 prescribed by the Commissioner of Revenue Services, and with such  
289 information as the Commissioner of Revenue Services deems necessary,  
290 including, but not limited to, the following information: (A) The balance  
291 in the special account at the beginning of the quarter for which the  
292 report is prepared, (B) all deposits credited to such account during such  
293 quarter, including all refund values paid to the deposit initiator and all  
294 interest, dividends or returns received on such account, (C) all  
295 withdrawals from such account during such quarter, including all  
296 service charges and overdraft charges on such account and all payments  
297 made pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, and (D) the balance in  
298 such account at the close of the quarter for which the report is prepared.  
299 Such quarterly report shall be filed electronically with the  
300 Commissioner of Revenue Services, in the manner provided by chapter  
301 228g.

302 (e) (1) On or before April 30, 2009, each deposit initiator shall pay the  
303 balance outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the  
304 period from December 1, 2008, to March 31, 2009, inclusive, to the  
305 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for deposit in

306 the General Fund. Thereafter, the balance outstanding in the special  
307 account that is attributable to the immediately preceding calendar  
308 quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator one month after the close  
309 of such quarter to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
310 Protection for deposit in the General Fund. If the amount of the required  
311 payment pursuant to this subdivision is not paid by the date seven days  
312 after the due date, a penalty of ten per cent of the amount due shall be  
313 added to the amount due. The amount due shall bear interest at the rate  
314 of one and one-half per cent per month or fraction thereof, from the due  
315 date. Any such penalty or interest shall not be paid from funds  
316 maintained in the special account.

317 (2) (A) On or before October 31, 2010, each deposit initiator shall pay  
318 the balance outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the  
319 period from July 1, 2010, to September 30, 2010, inclusive, to the  
320 Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the General Fund.

321 (B) Subsequently:

322 (i) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, ninety-five per cent of the  
323 balance outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the  
324 immediately preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit  
325 initiator on or before the last day of the month next succeeding the close  
326 of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in  
327 the General Fund;

328 (ii) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, (I) for the calendar  
329 quarters ending September 30, 2023, and December 31, 2023, the  
330 balances outstanding in the special account that are attributable to said  
331 calendar quarters shall be retained in the special account by the deposit  
332 initiator for the purpose of reimbursement of the refund value in effect  
333 on January 1, 2024, for a redeemed beverage container in accordance  
334 with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section and section 22a-244,  
335 (II) for the calendar quarter ending March 31, 2024, sixty-five per cent of  
336 the balance outstanding in the special account at the close of such

337 quarter, including any balance outstanding that is attributable to such  
338 quarter and any remaining balance of the amount retained by the  
339 deposit initiator pursuant to subclause (I) of this clause, shall be paid by  
340 the deposit initiator on or before the last day of the month next  
341 succeeding the close of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue  
342 Services for deposit in the General Fund, and (III) for the calendar  
343 quarter ending June 30, 2024, sixty-five per cent of the balance  
344 outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the immediately  
345 preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or  
346 before the last day of the month next succeeding the close of such  
347 quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the  
348 General Fund;

349 (iii) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, fifty per cent of the  
350 balance outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the  
351 immediately preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit  
352 initiator on or before the last day of the month next succeeding the close  
353 of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in  
354 the General Fund;

355 (iv) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, if the redemption rate  
356 calculated under subsection (c) of this section for the preceding fiscal  
357 year is:

358 (I) At least sixty per cent, twenty-five per cent of the balance  
359 outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the immediately  
360 preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or  
361 before the last day of the month next succeeding the close of such  
362 quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the  
363 General Fund; and

364 (II) Less than sixty per cent, forty-five per cent of the balance  
365 outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the immediately  
366 preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or  
367 before the last day of the month next succeeding the close of such

368 quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the  
369 General Fund;

370 (v) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, if the redemption rate  
371 calculated under subsection (c) of this section for the preceding fiscal  
372 year is:

373 (I) At least sixty-five per cent, [five] twenty-five per cent of the  
374 balance outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the  
375 immediately preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit  
376 initiator on or before the last day of the month next succeeding the close  
377 of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in  
378 the General Fund;

379 (II) Less than sixty-five per cent but more than sixty per cent, [twenty-  
380 five] thirty-five per cent of the balance outstanding in the special  
381 account that is attributable to the immediately preceding calendar  
382 quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or before the last day of  
383 the month next succeeding the close of such quarter to the  
384 Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the General Fund; and

385 (III) Sixty per cent or less, forty-five per cent of the balance  
386 outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the immediately  
387 preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or  
388 before the last day of the month next succeeding the close of such  
389 quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the  
390 General Fund; and

391 (vi) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year  
392 thereafter, if the redemption rate calculated under subsection (c) of this  
393 section for the preceding fiscal year is:

394 (I) At least seventy-five per cent, five per cent of the balance  
395 outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the immediately  
396 preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or  
397 before the last day of the month next succeeding the close of such

398 quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the  
399 General Fund;

400 (II) Less than seventy-five per cent but more than sixty-five per cent,  
401 ten per cent of the balance outstanding in the special account that is  
402 attributable to the immediately preceding calendar quarter shall be paid  
403 by the deposit initiator on or before the last day of the month next  
404 succeeding the close of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue  
405 Services for deposit in the General Fund;

406 (III) Sixty-five per cent or less but more than sixty per cent, twenty-  
407 five per cent of the balance outstanding in the special account that is  
408 attributable to the immediately preceding calendar quarter shall be paid  
409 by the deposit initiator on or before the last day of the month next  
410 succeeding the close of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue  
411 Services for deposit in the General Fund; and

412 (IV) Sixty per cent or less, forty-five per cent of the balance  
413 outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the immediately  
414 preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or  
415 before the last day of the month next succeeding the close of such  
416 quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the  
417 General Fund.

418 (C) If the amount of the required payment pursuant to this  
419 subdivision is not paid on or before the due date, a penalty of ten per  
420 cent of the amount due and unpaid, or fifty dollars, whichever is greater,  
421 shall be imposed. The amount due and unpaid shall bear interest at the  
422 rate of one per cent per month or fraction thereof, from the due date.  
423 Any such penalty or interest shall not be paid from funds maintained in  
424 such special account. Such required payment shall be made by  
425 electronic funds transfer to the Commissioner of Revenue Services, in  
426 the manner provided by chapter 228g.

427 (f) If moneys deposited in the special account are insufficient to pay  
428 for withdrawals authorized pursuant to subsection (b) of this section,

429 the amount of such deficiency shall be subtracted from the next  
430 succeeding payment or payments due pursuant to subsection (e) of this  
431 section until the amount of the deficiency has been subtracted in full.

432 (g) The Commissioner of Revenue Services may examine the accounts  
433 and records of any deposit initiator maintained under this section or  
434 sections 22a-243 to 22a-245, inclusive, as amended by this act, and any  
435 related accounts and records, including receipts, disbursements and  
436 such other items as the Commissioner of Revenue Services deems  
437 appropriate.

438 (h) The Attorney General may, independently or upon complaint of  
439 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection or the  
440 Commissioner of Revenue Services, institute any appropriate action or  
441 proceeding to enforce any provision of this section or any regulation  
442 adopted pursuant to section 22a-245, as amended by this act, to  
443 implement the provisions of this section.

444 (i) The provisions of sections 12-548, 12-550 to 12-554, inclusive, and  
445 12-555a shall be deemed to apply to the provisions of this section, except  
446 any provision of sections 12-548, 12-550 to 12-554, inclusive, and 12-555a  
447 that is inconsistent with the provision in this section.

448 (j) Any payment required pursuant to this section shall be treated as  
449 a tax for purposes of sections 12-30b, 12-33a, 12-35a, 12-39g and 12-39h.

450 (k) Not later than July 1, 2010, the Department of Energy and  
451 Environmental Protection or successor agency shall establish a  
452 procedure that allows each such deposit initiator to take a credit against  
453 any payment made pursuant to subsection (e) of this section in the  
454 amount of the deposits refunded on beverage containers which such  
455 deposit initiator donated for any charitable purpose.

456 (l) (1) On or before July 15, 2026, any eligible deposit initiator may  
457 apply to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for a rebate against the  
458 tax imposed under this section. For purposes of this subsection, "eligible

459 deposit initiator" means a deposit initiator that (A) derived not less than  
460 eighty per cent of such deposit initiator's revenue for the fiscal year  
461 ending June 30, 2026, from the distribution of beer, ale, wine or distilled  
462 spirits, and (B) properly reported a negative balance in such deposit  
463 initiator's special account, for the calendar quarter ending June 30, 2026.

464 (2) On or before August 15, 2026, the Commissioner of Revenue  
465 Services shall review each application submitted pursuant to  
466 subdivision (1) of this subsection and determine which deposit initiators  
467 are eligible for such rebate pursuant to this subsection. Any rebate  
468 allowable under this subsection shall be equal to the amount of the  
469 negative balance properly reported in such eligible deposit initiator's  
470 special account for the calendar quarter ending June 30, 2026, provided  
471 the sum of all rebates allowed under this subsection shall not exceed  
472 eighty per cent of the revenue projected for the fiscal year ending June  
473 30, 2027, under this section, as determined on the consensus revenue  
474 estimate issued April 30, 2026. If the sum of negative balances reported  
475 by eligible deposit initiators exceeds said maximum amount, the  
476 commissioner shall reduce the rebate available to each such eligible  
477 deposit initiator under this subsection on a pro rata basis. Each such  
478 eligible deposit initiator shall reduce any such negative balance for such  
479 special account by the amount of the rebate allowed under this section.

480 (3) The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall inform each eligible  
481 deposit initiator, in writing, of the amount of the rebate such eligible  
482 deposit initiator is allowed under this subsection. Such rebate shall be  
483 claimed as a rebate on a form and in a manner prescribed by the  
484 Commissioner of Revenue Services.

485 (m) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in  
486 consultation with the Commissioner of Revenue Services, may require  
487 reporting from deposit initiators and owners or operators of redemption  
488 centers that shall be in addition to any reporting requirements of this  
489 section or section 22a-245, as amended by this act. Any such additional  
490 reporting requirements shall be in furtherance of the requirements and

491 purposes of this section and section 22a-245, as amended by this act.

492 Sec. 3. Section 22a-246 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
493 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

494 Any person who violates any provision of section 22a-244, 22a-245,  
495 as amended by this act, or 22a-245a, as amended by this act, shall be  
496 fined or assessed a civil penalty of not less than [fifty] five hundred  
497 dollars nor more than [one hundred] seven hundred fifty dollars, and  
498 for a second offense shall be fined or assessed a civil penalty of not less  
499 than [one hundred] seven hundred fifty dollars nor more than [two  
500 hundred] one thousand dollars and for a third or subsequent offense  
501 shall be fined or assessed a civil penalty of not less than two [hundred  
502 fifty dollars or more than five hundred dollars] thousand dollars and  
503 shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. The Attorney General, upon  
504 complaint of the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
505 Protection, shall institute a civil action to recover any civil penalty  
506 assessed by the commissioner pursuant to this section. On and after the  
507 effective date of this section, in addition to any other enforcement of the  
508 provisions of this section by any state agency or state police officer, any  
509 municipal police officer may enforce the provisions of this section and  
510 any fine issued by any such municipal police officer shall be payable to  
511 the respective municipality.

512 Sec. 4. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 404 of public act 25-  
513 168 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
514 *from passage*):

515 (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Treasurer shall  
516 transfer two million dollars from the General Fund to the bottle bill  
517 escheats enforcement and assistance account. The Secretary of the Office  
518 of Policy and Management shall [disburse] transfer two hundred fifty  
519 thousand dollars of such amount to [said division] the Department of  
520 Energy and Environmental Protection to be used for the purpose [set  
521 forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section] of designing,

522 implementing and operating redemption center licensing. The  
523 remainder shall be used for reimbursement grants in accordance with  
524 the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22a-245
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22a-245a
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22a-246
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	PA 25-168, Sec. 404(b)(1)