



Senate Bill No. 299

Public Act No. 26-2

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

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

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 Section 22a-245 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) No person shall establish or operate a redemption center without receiving approval to operate such a redemption center and annually registering with the commissioner on a form provided by the commissioner with such information as the commissioner deems necessary, including (1) the name of the business principals of the redemption center and the address of the business; (2) the name and address of the sponsors and dealers to be served by the redemption center; (3) the types of beverage containers to be accepted; (4) the hours of operation; and (5) whether beverage containers will be accepted from consumers. The operator of the redemption center shall report to the commissioner any change in the information described in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection not later than forty-eight hours after such change. On and after July 1, 2026, each registered owner of a redemption center shall submit an application to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for the issuance of a license to

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operate such redemption center. Such application shall be on a form, as prescribed by the commissioner, which shall, at a minimum, require the submission of the information described in subdivisions (1) to (5), inclusive, of this subsection. Each such application shall be accompanied by an application fee of two thousand five hundred dollars. Upon the issuance of any such license, any such registration shall be deemed terminated. On and after July 1, 2026, any person who seeks to operate a redemption center that was not registered with the commissioner prior to the effective date of this section shall submit such an application for a license to operate such redemption center in accordance with the requirements of this subsection. The commissioner may suspend the license or impose a civil penalty, or both, against any person who owns or operates a redemption center in violation of any licensure requirement established by the commissioner or the provisions of this section. Any person establishing a redemption center shall have the right to determine what kind, size and brand of beverage container shall be accepted, except such person shall not accept any beverage container that: (A) Such person knows or has reason to know was not originally sold in this state as a filled beverage container, (B) was previously redeemed, (C) is damaged in any manner that prevents the reading or scanning of such container's barcode, or (D) is on a list of beverage containers provided by a deposit initiator to such redemption center as not being available for sale in this state. Any redemption center may be established to serve all persons or to serve certain specified dealers and shall be subject to the requirements of this chapter. Any redemption center that accepts more than [two thousand five hundred] one thousand containers from any one individual in one day shall create and obtain from such person a record of such person's name, the license plate number of any vehicle used to transport the containers to such redemption center, a copy of such person's driver's license, the collection points of the empty containers and the number of containers tendered. All beverage containers transported in a single vehicle shall be treated as being attributable to one individual for purposes of this subsection.

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The redemption center shall obtain from such person a certification that, to the best of such person's knowledge, the beverage containers were originally sold as filled beverages in this state and were not previously redeemed. No redemption center shall accept more than ~~[five]~~ four thousand containers in any one day from any person except for a nonprofit organization or a verified fundraising activity. Each redemption center and reverse vending machine operator shall retain the records required by this subsection for a period of not less than two years and such records for redemptions of more than one thousand beverage containers from any one individual in one day, including any such certification, shall be transmitted by such redemption center to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection each calendar quarter. The failure by any redemption center to transmit any records on a quarterly basis to the commissioner may result in the revocation of such redemption center's license by the commissioner. The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Attorney General, the Chief State's Attorney and any state or municipal law enforcement agency may examine the accounts and records of any redemption center and reverse vending machine operator that are maintained pursuant to this section or any provision of this chapter, including, but not limited to, any related accounts and records including receipts, disbursements and any other item the commissioner deems appropriate.

(b) A dealer shall not refuse to accept at such dealer's place of business, from any person any empty beverage containers of the kind, size and brand sold by the dealer, or refuse to pay to such person the refund value of a beverage container unless (1) such container contains materials which are foreign to the normal contents of the container; (2) such container is not labeled in accordance with subsection (b) of section 22a-244; (3) such dealer sponsors, solely or with others, a redemption center which is located within a one-mile radius of such place of business and which accepts beverage containers of the kind, size and

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brand sold by such dealer at such place of business; [or] (4) there is established by others, a redemption center which is located within a one-mile radius of such place of business and which accepts beverage containers of the kind, size and brand sold by such dealer at such place of business; (5) such dealer knows or has reason to know that a beverage container was not originally sold in this state as a filled beverage container; (6) such beverage container was previously redeemed; (7) such beverage container is damaged in any manner that prevents the reading or scanning of such container's barcode; or (8) such beverage container is on a list of beverage containers provided by a deposit initiator to such dealer as not being available for sale in this state. A dealer shall redeem an empty container of a kind, size or brand the sale of which has been discontinued by such dealer for not less than sixty days after the last sale by the dealer of such kind, size or brand of beverage container. Sixty days before such date, the dealer shall post, at the point of sale, notice of the last date on which the discontinued kind, size or brand of beverage container shall be redeemed.

(c) A distributor shall not refuse to accept from a dealer or from an operator of a redemption center, located and operated exclusively within the territory of the distributor or whose operator certifies to the distributor that redeemed containers were from a dealer located within such territory, any empty beverage containers of the kind, size and brand sold by the distributor, or refuse to pay to such dealer or redemption center operator the refund value of a beverage container unless: [such] (1) Such container contains materials which are foreign to the normal contents of the container, [or unless] (2) such container is not labeled in accordance with subsection (b) of section 22a-244, (3) such beverage container was previously redeemed, (4) such beverage container is damaged in any manner that prevents the reading or scanning of such container's barcode, or (5) such beverage container is on a list of beverage containers that such distributor previously provided to redemption centers and dealers as not being available for

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sale in this state. A distributor shall remove any empty beverage container from the premises of a dealer serviced by the distributor or from the premises of a redemption center sponsored by dealers serviced by the distributor, provided such premises are located within the territory of the distributor. No redemption center shall remove any beverage container from its premises or transfer such containers between premises under its control before tendering such containers for removal by a distributor unless authorized to do so, in writing, by the distributor. A copy of any such written authorization shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection by the owner or operator of such redemption center. The distributor shall pay the refund value to dealers in accordance with the schedule for payment by the dealer to the distributor for full beverage containers and shall pay such refund value to operators of redemption centers not more than twenty days after receipt of the empty container. For the purposes of this subsection, a redemption center shall be considered to be sponsored by a dealer if [(1)] (A) the dealer refuses to redeem beverage containers and refers consumers to the redemption center, or [(2)] (B) there is an agreement between the dealer and the operator of the redemption center requiring the redemption center to remove empty beverage containers from the premises of the dealer. A distributor shall redeem an empty container of a kind, size or brand of beverage container the sale of which has been discontinued by the distributor for not less than one hundred fifty days after the last delivery of such kind, size or brand of beverage container. Not less than one hundred twenty days before the last date such containers may be redeemed, the distributor shall notify such dealer who bought the discontinued kind, size or brand of beverage container that such distributor shall not redeem an empty beverage container of such kind, size or brand of beverage containers.

(d) (1) In addition to the refund value of a beverage container, a distributor shall pay to any dealer or operator of a redemption center a handling fee of at least two and one-half cents for each container of beer,

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hard seltzer, hard cider or other malt beverage and three and one-half cents for each beverage container of mineral waters, soda water and similar carbonated soft drinks or noncarbonated beverage returned for redemption. A distributor shall not be required to pay to a manufacturer the refund value of a nonrefillable beverage container.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(j) (1) The Attorney General may, independently or upon complaint

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

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

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

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

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

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deposited pursuant to this section, when deposited, shall be held to be a special fund in trust for the state.

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

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

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

(d) (1) Each deposit initiator shall submit a report on March 15, 2009, for the period from December 1, 2008, to February 28, 2009, inclusive. Each deposit initiator shall submit a report on July 31, 2009, for the period from March 1, 2009, to June 30, 2009, inclusive, and thereafter shall submit a quarterly report for the immediately preceding calendar

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quarter one month after the close of such quarter. Each such report shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, on a form prescribed by the commissioner and with such information as the commissioner deems necessary, including, but not limited to: (A) The balance in the special account at the beginning of the quarter for which the report is prepared; (B) a list of all deposits credited to such account during such quarter, including all refund values paid to the deposit initiator and all interest, dividends or returns received on the account; (C) a list of all withdrawals from such account during such quarter, all service charges and overdraft charges on the account and all payments made pursuant to subsection (e) of this section; and (D) the balance in the account at the close of the quarter for which the report is prepared.

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

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(e) (1) On or before April 30, 2009, each deposit initiator shall pay the balance outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the period from December 1, 2008, to March 31, 2009, inclusive, to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for deposit in the General Fund. Thereafter, the balance outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the immediately preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator one month after the close of such quarter to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for deposit in the General Fund. If the amount of the required payment pursuant to this subdivision is not paid by the date seven days after the due date, a penalty of ten per cent of the amount due shall be added to the amount due. The amount due shall bear interest at the rate of one and one-half per cent per month or fraction thereof, from the due date. Any such penalty or interest shall not be paid from funds maintained in the special account.

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

(B) Subsequently:

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

(ii) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, (I) for the calendar quarters ending September 30, 2023, and December 31, 2023, the

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balances outstanding in the special account that are attributable to said calendar quarters shall be retained in the special account by the deposit initiator for the purpose of reimbursement of the refund value in effect on January 1, 2024, for a redeemed beverage container in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section and section 22a-244, (II) for the calendar quarter ending March 31, 2024, sixty-five per cent of the balance outstanding in the special account at the close of such quarter, including any balance outstanding that is attributable to such quarter and any remaining balance of the amount retained by the deposit initiator pursuant to subclause (I) of this clause, shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or before the last day of the month next succeeding the close of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the General Fund, and (III) for the calendar quarter ending June 30, 2024, sixty-five per cent of the balance outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the immediately preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or before the last day of the month next succeeding the close of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the General Fund;

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

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

(I) At least sixty per cent, twenty-five per cent of the balance outstanding in the special account that is attributable to the immediately preceding calendar quarter shall be paid by the deposit initiator on or

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before the last day of the month next succeeding the close of such quarter to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for deposit in the General Fund; and

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

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

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

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

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

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General Fund; and

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

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

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

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

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

(C) If the amount of the required payment pursuant to this

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

(f) If moneys deposited in the special account are insufficient to pay for withdrawals authorized pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the amount of such deficiency shall be subtracted from the next succeeding payment or payments due pursuant to subsection (e) of this section until the amount of the deficiency has been subtracted in full.

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

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

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

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

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

(l) (1) On or before July 15, 2026, any eligible deposit initiator may apply to the Commissioner of Revenue Services for a rebate against the tax imposed under this section. For purposes of this subsection, "eligible deposit initiator" means a deposit initiator that (A) derived not less than eighty per cent of such deposit initiator's revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, from the distribution of beer, ale, wine or distilled spirits, and (B) properly reported a negative balance in such deposit initiator's special account, for the calendar quarter ending June 30, 2026.

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

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special account by the amount of the rebate allowed under this section.

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

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

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

Any person who violates any provision of section 22a-244, 22a-245, as amended by this act, or 22a-245a, as amended by this act, shall be fined or assessed a civil penalty of not less than [fifty] five hundred dollars nor more than [one hundred] seven hundred fifty dollars, and for a second offense shall be fined or assessed a civil penalty of not less than [one hundred] seven hundred fifty dollars nor more than [two hundred] one thousand dollars and for a third or subsequent offense shall be fined or assessed a civil penalty of not less than two [hundred fifty dollars or more than five hundred dollars] thousand dollars and shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. The Attorney General, upon complaint of the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall institute a civil action to recover any civil penalty assessed by the commissioner pursuant to this section. On and after the effective date of this section, in addition to any other enforcement of the provisions of this section by any state agency or state police officer, any

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municipal police officer may enforce the provisions of this section and any fine issued by any such municipal police officer shall be payable to the respective municipality.

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

(b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Treasurer shall transfer two million dollars from the General Fund to the bottle bill escheats enforcement and assistance account. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall [disburse] transfer two hundred fifty thousand dollars of such amount to [said division] the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to be used for the purpose [set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section] of designing, implementing and operating redemption center licensing. The remainder shall be used for reimbursement grants in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

Governor's Action:
Approved March 3, 2026