

Supporters say it would reduce plastic pollution in the state.



Annapolis, Md A beverage container recycling and refund program would be established in Maryland under a bill before the 2024 General Assembly. Often called “bottle bills,” the legislation would charge customers who purchase beverages in metal, plastic or glass containers a small deposit. It would be 10 cents for containers less than 24 ounces, bottles or cans; it would be 15-cents for containers up to three liters. Customers would get that fee refunded when they drop off the used containers at a redemption facility, which could be the store where the containers were purchased. This was a practice many years ago, but there’s a difference, says Martha Ainsworth, with the Maryland Sierra Club’s Zero Waste Team. She says the materials dropped off would be recycled and then reused as beverage containers. “One of the virtues of these bottle bills is they keep beverage containers separate from the things that can contaminate them. So they can be recycled directly into new beverage containers. They won’t be down-cycled into some other products,” she says. Ainsworth says another advantage to these “bottle bills”: is they cut down on pollution by two-thirds, especially plastics. “A lot of beverage containers are plastic. In fact, of the four-billion, two to three billion are plastic,. So we’re in the middle of a plastic pollution crisis,” she says. A lot of these plastics end up in Maryland’s waterways, Ainsworth says. Ainsworth says these types of recycle and refund programs have been operating successfully in ten states for many years. “it reduces the amount of virgin materials needed to make those beverage containers. So in the case of plastic, it means less virgin plastic produced; more of it being used,” she said. . “And that stuff is being diverted from landfills and incinerators.” She also pointed out that plastics are not harmless. “Plastic just breaks down into smaller plastic pieces. It affects wildlife. It affects people,” Ainsworth said. “We know that there have been plastic particles found in every human organ, including the brain, including blood, a woman’s placenta,” says Ainsworth. Bills to set up a beverage container recycling and refund program in Maryland have been introduced in the House of Delegates and the State Senate. Frederick County Delegate Kris Fair has signed on as a co-sponsor of the House bill; State Senator Karen Lewis Young is a co-sponsor of the Senate bill. If it doesn’t pass this year, Ainsworth says it will be back. “It’s going to make a couple of years, but we’re here too. So we’re hoping we’ll get some traction,” she says.

By Kevin McManus

[Maryland - Past Campaigns - Bottle Bill Resource Guide](#)

The 2008 **Maryland** Campaign. After 2007's push for a **bottle bill**, **Maryland** is proposing a feasibility study for future deposit legislation. The **bills** containing the proposal are HB 509 and SB 336. **Bill** Number and Name. HB509 and SB336, Task Force to Study Required Deposits on Returnable

No time to read this whole website? [View the PowerPoint presentation instead.](#) [Container Deposit Legislation: Past, Present, Future](#) provides a quick look at the most important facts about bottle bills. This presentation is also a great tool for activists needing to present information in support of a bottle bill.

[Maryland Bottle Bill \(surfrider.org\)](#)

picture

#### Pass a Bottle Bill in Maryland

Surfrider Foundation is calling on Governor Moore and our Maryland State elected officials to pass the *Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program Bill* ([HB 735](#) and [SB 642](#)), commonly known as the “bottle bill”.

About 5.2 billion beverage containers are sold in Maryland annually, but only 23% of them are recycled. The rest of the bottles are either incinerated, landfilled, or littered. No surprise that bottles are one of the top items found in beach cleanups.

Littered plastic bottles are part of the plastic pollution crisis; plastic particles have been found in drinking water, food, human bodies, and in practically every inch of the globe. This pollution poses significant health risks to humans, especially those in underserved communities where the majority of plastic manufacturing and waste management infrastructure is located.

Bottle bills are a proven way to drastically increase the rate of recycling for beverage containers, reducing the need to manufacture virgin bottles and lessening the amount incinerated or landfilled. Two states – Michigan and Oregon – have achieved recycling rates of 90% with a 10-cent deposit.

How it works: Customers pay a small deposit when they purchase beverage containers, which is then refunded to them when they return the container to a retailer or redemption facility. The program is self-financing, saving costs to taxpayers and local governments. A share of the unclaimed deposits will fund a grant program for development of refill/reuse bottle systems.

Bottle bills are proven policies to reduce litter, increase recycling rates, and increase the use of recycled materials--help us pass a bottle bill in Maryland, [take a few minutes and send your elected official a message](#) about this bill!

“ I support the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program (HB 735 and SB 642), commonly known as the “bottle bill”.

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<https://www.ncsl.org> > [environment-and-natural-resources](#) > [state-beverage-container-deposit-laws](#)

#### Summary State Beverage Container Deposit Laws - National Conference of ...

Beverage container deposit laws, or **bottle bills**, are designed to reduce litter and capture **bottles**, cans, and other containers for recycling. Ten states and Guam have a deposit-refund system for beverage containers. The chart below contains a citation and summary of each state law. Deposit amounts vary NCSL – Nat’l Conference of State Legislatures

State	Statute	Year	Summary			
			Deposit Amount	Beverages Covered	Containers Covered	Unredeemed Deposits
California	Cal. Public Resources Code §§14501 - 14599	1986	5¢ (<24 oz.)  10¢ (≥24oz.)	Beer, malt, wine and distilled spirit coolers; all non-alcoholic beverages, except milk. Excludes vegetable juices over 16 oz.	Any container composed of aluminum, glass, plastic, or bi-metal; Exempts refillables	Property of program; Used for program administration
Connecticut	Conn. Gen. Stat. §§22a-243 – 22a-246	1978	5¢	Beer, malt, carbonated soft drinks, bottled water	Any sealed bottle, can, jar, or carton composed of glass, metal or plastic; Excludes containers over three liters containing non-carbonated beverages, and HDPE containers	Returned to the state
Hawaii	Hawaii Rev. Stat. §§342G-101 – 342G-122	2002	5¢	Beer, malt, mixed spirits and wine; all non-alcoholic drinks, except dairy products	Any container up to 68 oz. composed of aluminum, bi-metal, glass, or plastic	Property of state; Used for program administration
Iowa	Iowa Code §455C.1 – 455C.17	1978	5¢	Beer, wine coolers, wine, liquor, carbonated soft drinks, mineral water	Any sealed bottle, can, jar, or carton composed of glass, metal or plastic	Retained by distributor and bottlers
Maine	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 38, §§3101 - 3118	1976	15¢ (wine/liquor)  5¢ (all others)	All beverages except dairy products and unprocessed cider	Any sealed container of four liters or less composed of glass, metal or plastic	Property of state
Massachusetts	Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 94, §§321 - 327	1981	5¢	Beer, malt, carbonated soft drinks, mineral water	Any sealable bottle, can, jar, or carton composed of glass, metal, plastic, or a combination; Excludes biodegradables	Property of state general fund
Michigan	Mich. Comp. Laws §§445.571 – 445.576	1976	10¢	Beer, wine coolers, canned cocktails, soft drinks, carbonated and mineral water	Any airtight container under one gallon composed of metal, glass, paper, or plastic	75% to state for environmental programs; 25% to retailers
New York	N.Y. Environmental Conservation Law §§27-1001 – 27-1019 (Amended 2013 SB 2608)	1982	5¢	Beer, malt, wine products, carbonated soft drinks, soda water, and water not containing sugar	Any sealed bottle, can, or jar less than one gallon composed of glass, metal, aluminum, steel, or plastic	80% to the state general fund; 20% retained by distributor
Oregon	Or. Rev. Stat. §§459A.700 – 459A.740	1971	10¢  2¢ (standard refillable)	Beer, malt, carbonated soft drinks, bottled water (will cover all beverages except wine, distilled liquor, milk, milk substitutes and infant formula by 2018).	Any sealed bottle, can, or jar composed of glass, metal or plastic	Retained by distributor and bottlers
Vermont	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 10, §§1521 - 1529	1972	15¢ (liquor)  5¢ (all others)	Beer, malt, mixed wine, liquor, carbonated soft drinks.	Any bottle, can, jar, or carton composed of glass, metal, paper, plastic, or a combination; Excludes biodegradables	Retained by distributor and bottlers
Guam	Guam Code tit. 10,	2010	5¢	Beer, ale, malt, mixed spirits, mixed wine, and	Any sealed glass, metal, or plastic	Retained by EPA

State	Statute	Year	Summary			
			Deposit Amount	Beverages Covered	Containers Covered	Unredeemed Deposits
	§§44101 - 44119			all non-alcoholic beverages. Excludes milk, supplements, medicines	container up to 64 oz.	

State Container Deposit Laws

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Lawmakers Work to Create New Bottle Bills Across the Country

Mar 9, 2023We're excited that **Maryland** and Rhode Island are working hard to join the ranks of **bottle bill** states." On average, states across the country without **bottle bill** programs only collect about 27% of their empty beverage containers for recycling. States with 10-cent deposits on beverage

<https://www.sierraclub.org> › [sites](#) › [default](#) › [files](#) › [2024-02](#) › [02\\_06\\_2024-](#) Updated Bottle Bill for webpage.pdf

[PDF](#) **Maryland Needs a Bottle Bill! - sierraclub.org**

The Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction **bill** (HB 735/SB 642) would create a beverage container deposit program in **Maryland** with a 10- or 15-cent refundable deposit on metal, glass, and plastic beverage containers, depending on container size. The deposit is refunded to the