STATE OF NEW YORK

7388

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

April 29, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. SCHIMMINGER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to mandatory acceptance of empty beverage containers

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 and subdivision 2 of section 27-1007 of the environmental conservation law, as added by section 4 of part SS of chapter 59 of the laws of 2009, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A dealer shall accept at his or her place of business**, provided that such place of business is not less than two thousand square feet or such place of business is not less than five thousand square feet when licensed under article twenty-C of the agriculture and markets law or that such place of business is not located in a city with a population of one million or more,** from a redeemer any empty beverage containers of the design, shape, size, color, composition and brand sold or offered for sale by the dealer, and shall pay to the redeemer the refund value of each such beverage container as established in section 27-1005 of this title. Redemptions of refund value must be in legal tender, or a scrip or receipt from a reverse vending machine, provided that the scrip or receipt can be exchanged for legal tender for a period of not less than sixty days without requiring the purchase of other goods. The use or presence of a reverse vending machine shall not relieve a dealer of any obligations imposed pursuant to this section. If a dealer utilizes a reverse vending machine to redeem containers, the dealer shall provide redemption of beverage containers when the reverse vending machine is full, broken, under repair or does not accept a type of beverage container sold or offered for sale by such dealer and may not limit the hours or days of redemption except as provided by subdivision three of this section.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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2. A dealer shall post a conspicuous sign, at the point of sale, that states:

"NEW YORK BOTTLE BILL OF RIGHTS

STATE LAW REQUIRES US TO REDEEM EMPTY RETURNABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS OF THE SAME TYPE AND BRAND THAT WE SELL OR OFFER FOR SALE

YOU HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS UNDER THE NEW YORK STATE RETURNABLE CONTAINER ACT:

THE RIGHT to return your empties for refund to any dealer who sells the same brand, type and size, whether you bought the beverage from the dealer or not**, provided such dealer's place of business is larger than two thousand square feet or such dealer's place of business is larger than five thousand square feet when licensed under article twenty-C of the agriculture and markets law or that such place of business is not located in a city with a population of one million or more**. It is illegal to return containers for refund that you did not pay a deposit on in New York state.

THE RIGHT to get your deposit refund in cash, without proof of purchase.

THE RIGHT to return your empties any day, any hour, except for the first and last hour of the dealer's business day (empty containers may be redeemed at any time in 24-hour stores).

THE RIGHT to return your containers if they are empty and intact. Washing containers is not required by law, but is strongly recommended to maintain sanitary conditions.

The New York state returnable container act can be enforced by the New York state department of environmental conservation, the New York state department of agriculture and markets, the New York state department of taxation and finance, the New York state attorney general and/or by your local government."

Such sign must be no less than eight inches by ten inches in size and have lettering a minimum of one quarter inch high, and of a color which contrasts with the background. The department shall maintain a toll free telephone number for a "bottle bill complaint line" that shall be available from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each business day to receive reports of violations of this title. The telephone number shall be listed on any sign required by this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.