

# STATE OF NEW YORK

6543

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

March 6, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. GLICK, SIMON, DINOWITZ, ROSENTHAL, GALLAGHER, RAMOS, PAULIN, R. CARROLL, GONZALEZ-ROJAS, SIMONE, REYES, RIVERA, COLTON, BURDICK, DE LOS SANTOS, SHIMSKY, EPSTEIN, STECK, ALVAREZ, RAGA, LEVENBERG, BORES, STIRPE, LUNSFORD, HEVESI, SAYEGH, KIM, ZINERMAN, SHRESTHA, OTIS, TAYLOR, BICHOTTE HERMELYN, FORREST, MAMDANI, CLARK, BRONSON, SEAWRIGHT, KELLES, LUCAS, MCMAHON, WEPRIN, MEEKS, MITAYNES, TAPIA, LEE, DAVILA, GIBBS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to returnable bottles; to direct the multi-agency bottle bill fraud investigation team to submit a report on findings of pervasive bottle redemption fraud in New York state; and to repeal section 27-1018 of such law relating to the beverage container assistance program

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 27-1003 of the environmental  
2 conservation law, as amended by section 2 of part SS of chapter 59 of  
3 the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:  
4 1. "Beverage" means carbonated soft drinks, noncarbonated soft drinks,  
5 noncarbonated fruit or vegetable juices containing less than one hundred  
6 percent fruit or vegetable juice, coffee and tea beverages, carbonated  
7 fruit beverages, water, beer, other malt beverages, cider as defined in  
8 section three of the alcoholic beverage control law, and [a] wine [~~prod-~~  
9 ~~uct~~] products as defined in [~~subdivision thirty-six-a of~~] section three  
10 of the alcoholic beverage control law. "Malt beverages" means any bever-  
11 age obtained by the alcoholic fermentation or infusion or decoction of  
12 barley, malt, hops, or other wholesome grain or cereal and water includ-  
13 ing, but not limited to ale, stout or malt liquor. "Water" means any  
14 beverage identified through the use of letters, words or symbols on its  
15 product label as a type of water, including any flavored water or nutri-  
16 tionally enhanced water[, ~~provided, however, that "water" does not~~

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

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1 ~~include any beverage identified as a type of water to which a sugar has~~  
2 ~~been added~~].

3 § 2. Subdivision 1 of section 27-1003 of the environmental conserva-  
4 tion law, as amended by section one of this act, is amended to read as  
5 follows:

6 1. "Beverage" means [~~carbonated soft drinks, noncarbonated soft~~  
7 ~~drinks, noncarbonated fruit or vegetable juices containing less than one~~  
8 ~~hundred percent fruit or vegetable juice, coffee and tea beverages,~~  
9 ~~carbonated fruit beverages, water, beer, other malt beverages, cider as~~  
10 ~~defined in section three of the alcoholic beverage control law, and a~~  
11 ~~wine product as defined in section three of the alcoholic beverage~~  
12 ~~control law. "Malt beverages" means any beverage obtained by the alco-~~  
13 ~~holic fermentation or infusion or decoction of barley, malt, hops, or~~  
14 ~~other wholesome grain or cereal and water including, but not limited to~~  
15 ~~ale, stout or malt liquor. "Water" means any beverage identified through~~  
16 ~~the use of letters, words or symbols on its product label as a type of~~  
17 ~~water, including any flavored water or nutritionally enhanced water]~~ any  
18 drinkable liquid intended for human oral consumption. The term beverage  
19 does not include: a drug regulated under the Federal Food, Drug, and  
20 Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.; infant formula; a meal replacement  
21 liquid; dairy products derived from animal milk; plant-based dairy  
22 alternatives; and noncarbonated fruit or vegetable juices containing one  
23 hundred percent fruit or vegetable juice.

24 § 3. Subdivisions 8 and 12 of section 27-1003 of the environmental  
25 conservation law, subdivision 8 as added by chapter 200 of the laws of  
26 1982 and subdivision 12 as added by section 3 of part SS of chapter 59  
27 of the laws of 2009, are amended and five new subdivisions 14, 15, 16,  
28 17 and 18 are added to read as follows:

29 8. "Redeemer" means every person who demands the refund value provided  
30 for herein in exchange for the empty beverage container, regardless of  
31 personal purchase of the beverage container, but shall not include a  
32 dealer as defined in subdivision four of this section.

33 12. "Reverse vending machine" means an automated device that uses a  
34 laser scanner, microprocessor, or other technology to accurately recog-  
35 nize the universal product code (UPC) on containers to determine if the  
36 container is redeemable and accumulates information regarding containers  
37 redeemed, including the number of such containers redeemed, thereby  
38 enabling the reverse vending machine to accept containers from redeemers  
39 and to issue legal tender or a scrip ~~or~~, receipt, or other form of  
40 credit for their refund value. Such definition shall also apply to  
41 alternative technology approved by the commissioner pursuant to subpara-  
42 graph (iii) of paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 27-1007 of  
43 this title. Nothing in this definition shall be construed to relieve a  
44 dealer specified in subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (b) of subdivision  
45 one of section 27-1007 of this title of the requirement to provide an  
46 immediate form of deposit repayment if the reverse vending machine or  
47 alternative technology does not provide such.

48 14. "Refillable beverage container" means any beverage container which  
49 is so constructed and designed that it is structurally capable of being  
50 refilled and resold at least fifty times by a beverage manufacturer, and  
51 which the beverage manufacturer requires to be returned for the purpose  
52 of refilling and resale.

53 15. "Return and reusable system" means a refillable beverage container  
54 reuse system that features an operational and financial arrangement in  
55 which refillable beverage containers are collected for washing and reus-

1 ing. The distances between each point of the system shall be no greater  
2 than two hundred miles.

3 16. "Redemption rate" means the percentage of beverage containers sold  
4 that are redeemed for deposit value.

5 17. "Recycling" means to separate, dismantle or process the materials,  
6 components or commodities contained in discards for the purpose of  
7 preparing the materials, components, or commodities for use or reuse in  
8 new products or components. "Recycling" shall not include:

9 (a) energy recovery or energy generation by any means, including but  
10 not limited to, combustion, incineration, pyrolysis, gasification,  
11 solvolysis, or waste-to-fuel;

12 (b) any chemical conversion process; or

13 (c) landfill disposal.

14 18. "Recycling rate" means the percentage of redeemed beverage  
15 containers that are ultimately recycled. The recycling rate shall be  
16 calculated as the total weight of beverage containers that are recycled  
17 in a given year divided by the total weight of beverage containers  
18 generated by a distributor in that year.

19 § 4. Section 27-1007 of the environmental conservation law, as added  
20 by section 4 of part SS of chapter 59 of the laws of 2009, paragraph (b)  
21 of subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 459 of the laws of 2011, and  
22 subdivision 12 as added by section 3 of part F of chapter 58 of the laws  
23 of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

24 § 27-1007. Mandatory acceptance.

25 Except as provided in section 27-1009 of this title:

26 1. (a) A dealer shall accept at [~~his or her~~] such dealer's place of  
27 business from a redeemer any empty beverage containers of the design,  
28 shape, size, color, composition and brand sold or offered for sale by  
29 the dealer, and shall pay to the redeemer the refund value of each such  
30 beverage container as established in section 27-1005 of this title.  
31 Redemptions of refund value must be in legal tender, or a scrip or  
32 receipt from a reverse vending machine, provided that the scrip or  
33 receipt can be exchanged for legal tender for a period of not less than  
34 sixty days without requiring the purchase of other goods. In the event  
35 such scrip or receipt expires, such scrip or receipt must indicate any  
36 expiration date and the dealer must post a conspicuous sign indicating  
37 how many days a redeemer has to exchange the scrip or receipt for legal  
38 tender. If such notification is not provided, a dealer must redeem the  
39 full refund value indicated on any legible scrip or receipt. The use or  
40 presence of a reverse vending machine shall not relieve a dealer of any  
41 obligations imposed pursuant to this section. If a dealer utilizes a  
42 reverse vending machine to redeem containers, the dealer shall provide  
43 redemption of beverage containers when the reverse vending machine is  
44 full, broken, under repair or does not accept a type of beverage  
45 container sold or offered for sale by such dealer and may not limit the  
46 hours or days of redemption except as provided by subdivision three of  
47 this section. All dealers and redemption centers shall provide consum-  
48 ers the ability to recycle any containers deemed unredeemable.

49 (b) Beginning March first, two thousand ten, a dealer whose place of  
50 business is part of a chain engaged in the same general field of busi-  
51 ness which operates ten or more units in this state under common owner-  
52 ship and whose business has at least: (i) forty thousand but less than  
53 sixty thousand square feet devoted to the display of merchandise for  
54 sale to the public shall install and maintain at least two reverse vend-  
55 ing machines at the dealer's place of business; (ii) sixty thousand but  
56 less than eighty-five thousand square feet devoted to the display of

merchandise for sale to the public shall install and maintain at least three reverse vending machines at the dealer's place of business; or (iii) eighty-five thousand square feet devoted to the display of merchandise for sale to the public shall install and maintain at least four reverse vending machines at the dealer's place of business. The requirements of ~~[paragraph (b) of]~~ this subdivision to install and maintain reverse vending machines shall not apply to a dealer that: (i) sells only beverage containers of twenty ounces or less where such beverage containers are packaged in quantities fewer than six; (ii) sells beverage containers and devotes no more than five percent of its floor space to the display and sale of consumer commodities, as defined in section two hundred fourteen-h of the agriculture and markets law; or (iii) obtains a waiver from the commissioner authorizing dealers to provide consumers with an alternative technology that: (A) determines if the container is redeemable, (B) provides protections against fraud through a system that validates each container redeemed by reading the universal product code and, except with respect to refillable containers, renders the container unredeemable, (C) accumulates information regarding containers redeemed, and (D) issues legal tender, or a scrip, receipt, or other form of credit for the refund value, that can be exchanged for legal tender for a period of not less than sixty days without requiring the purchase of other goods and includes any expiration date on the scrip, receipt, or other form of credit. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the alternative technology does not allow consumers to immediately obtain the refund value of the redeemed container, a dealer shall be permitted to deploy such alternative technology only if it also offers an alternative that allows consumers to conveniently and immediately obtain such refund value through a reverse vending machine or other alternative method.

(c) A dealer to which paragraph (b) of this subdivision does not apply and whose place of business is at least forty thousand square feet which does not utilize reverse vending machines to process empty beverage containers for redemption shall: (i) establish and maintain a dedicated area within such business to accept beverage containers for redemption; (ii) adequately staff such area to facilitate efficient acceptance and processing of such containers during business hours; and (iii) post one or more conspicuous signs conforming to the size and color requirements described in subdivision two of this section at each public entrance to the business which describes where in the business the redemption area is located. The commissioner may establish in rules and regulations additional standards for the efficient processing of beverage containers by such dealers.

(d) For the purposes of this subdivision on any day that a dealer is open for less than twenty-four hours, the dealer may restrict or refuse the payment of refund values during the first and last hour the dealer is open for business.

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:

1 THE RIGHT to return your empties for refund to any dealer who sells  
2 the same brand, type and size, whether you bought the beverage from the  
3 dealer or not. It is illegal to return containers for refund that you  
4 did not pay a deposit on in New York state.

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

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

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

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

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

25 3. On or after June first, two thousand nine, a dealer may limit the  
26 number of empty beverage containers to be accepted for redemption at the  
27 dealer's place of business to no less than seventy-two containers per  
28 visit, per redeemer, per day, provided that:

29 (a) The dealer has a written agreement with a redemption center, be it  
30 either at a fixed physical location within the same county and within  
31 ~~[one-half]~~ one mile of the dealer's place of business, or a mobile  
32 redemption center, operated by a redemption center, that is located  
33 within one-quarter mile of the dealer's place of business. The redemp-  
34 tion center must have a written agreement with the dealer to accept  
35 containers on behalf of the dealer; and the redemption center's hours of  
36 operation must cover at least ~~[9:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m.]~~ eight hours  
37 daily or in the case of a mobile redemption center, the hours of opera-  
38 tion must cover at least four consecutive hours between 8:00 a.m. and  
39 8:00 p.m. daily. The dealer must post a conspicuous, permanent sign,  
40 meeting the size and color specifications set forth in subdivision two  
41 of this section, open to public view, identifying the location and hours  
42 of operation of the affiliated redemption center or mobile redemption  
43 center; and

44 (b) The dealer provides, at a minimum, a consecutive two hour period  
45 between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. daily whereby the dealer will accept up  
46 to two hundred forty containers, per redeemer, per day, and posts a  
47 conspicuous, permanent sign, meeting the size and color specifications  
48 set forth in subdivision two of this section, open to public view, iden-  
49 tifying those hours. The dealer may not change the hours of redemption  
50 without first posting a thirty day notice; and

51 (c) The dealer's primary business is the sale of food or beverages for  
52 consumption off-premises, and the dealer's place of business is less  
53 than ten thousand square feet in size.

54 4. A deposit initiator shall accept from a dealer or operator of a  
55 redemption center any empty beverage container of the design, shape,  
56 size, color, composition and brand sold or offered for sale by the

1 deposit initiator, and shall pay the dealer or operator of a redemption  
2 center the refund value of each such beverage container as established  
3 by section 27-1005 of this title. A deposit initiator shall accept and  
4 redeem all such empty beverage containers from a dealer or redemption  
5 center without limitation on quantity.

6 5. A deposit initiator's or distributor's failure to pick up empty  
7 beverage containers, including containers processed in a reverse vending  
8 machine, from a redemption center, dealer or the operator of a reverse  
9 vending machine, in a timely manner and at reasonable times as provided  
10 by the department pursuant to the regulations promulgated pursuant to  
11 paragraph (c) of subdivision eight of this section shall be a violation  
12 of this title.

13 6. In addition to the refund value of a beverage container as estab-  
14 lished by section 27-1005 of this title, a deposit initiator shall pay  
15 to any dealer or operator of a redemption center a handling fee of  
16 ~~[three and one-half]~~ five cents for each beverage container accepted by  
17 the deposit initiator from such dealer or operator of a redemption  
18 center. Beginning April first, two thousand twenty-seven, the handling  
19 fee shall be six cents. Beginning April first, two thousand thirty-two,  
20 the handling fee shall be six and one-half cents. Payment of the handl-  
21 ing fee shall be as compensation for collecting, sorting and packaging  
22 of empty beverage containers for transport back to the deposit initiator  
23 or its designee. Payment of the handling fee may not be conditioned on  
24 the purchase of any goods or services, nor may such payment be made out  
25 of the refund value account established pursuant to section 27-1012 of  
26 this title. A distributor who does not initiate deposits on a type of  
27 beverage container is considered a dealer only for the purpose of  
28 receiving a handling fee from a deposit initiator.

29 7. A deposit initiator on a brand shall accept from a distributor who  
30 does not initiate deposits on that brand any empty beverage containers  
31 of that brand accepted by the distributor from a dealer or operator of a  
32 redemption center and shall reimburse the distributor the refund value  
33 of each such beverage container, as established by section 27-1005 of  
34 this title. In addition, the deposit initiator shall reimburse such  
35 distributor for each such beverage container the handling fee estab-  
36 lished under subdivision six of this section. Without limiting the  
37 rights of the department or any person, firm or corporation under this  
38 subdivision or any other provision of this section, a distributor shall  
39 have a civil right of action to enforce this subdivision, including,  
40 upon three days notice, the right to apply for temporary and preliminary  
41 injunctive relief against continuing violations, and until arrangements  
42 for collection and return of empty containers or reimbursement of such  
43 distributor for such deposits and handling fees are made.

44 8. It shall be the responsibility of the deposit initiator or distrib-  
45 utor to provide to a dealer or redemption center a sufficient number of  
46 bags, cartons, or other suitable containers, at no cost, for the packag-  
47 ing, handling and pickup of empty beverage containers that are not  
48 redeemed through a reverse vending machine. The bags, cartons, or  
49 containers must be provided by the deposit initiator or distributor on a  
50 schedule that allows the dealer or redemption center sufficient time to  
51 sort the empty beverage containers prior to pick up by the deposit  
52 initiator or distributor. In addition:

53 (a) When picking up empty beverage containers, a deposit initiator or  
54 distributor shall not require a dealer or redemption center to load  
55 their own bags, cartons or containers onto or into the deposit initi-  
56 ator's or distributor's vehicle or vehicles or provide the staff or

1 equipment needed to do so. However, where pallets or skids, bags,  
2 cartons or containers are readily movable only by means of a forklift or  
3 similar equipment, a deposit initiator or distributor may require a  
4 dealer or redemption center to move or load such items at no cost using  
5 a forklift or similar equipment belonging to the dealer or redemption  
6 center provided that such equipment and appropriate staff are readily  
7 available.

8 (b) A deposit initiator or distributor shall not require empty  
9 containers to be counted at a location other than the redemption center  
10 or dealer's place of business. The dealer or redemption center shall  
11 have the right to be present at the count. In the event of a discrepancy  
12 between the count of the dealer or redemption center and the count of  
13 the deposit initiator or distributor for containers not processed  
14 through a reverse vending machine all such empty containers shall be  
15 retained and a re-count may be requested. The re-count may be held at a  
16 location other than the redemption center or dealer's place of business  
17 only if the dealer or redemption center agrees and is present.

18 (c) A deposit initiator or distributor shall pick up empty beverage  
19 containers from the dealer or redemption center in a timely manner and  
20 at reasonable times [~~and intervals~~] as determined in rules or regu-  
21 lations promulgated by the department no later than April first, two  
22 thousand twenty-seven.

23 9. No person shall return or assist another to return to a dealer or  
24 redemption center an empty beverage container for its refund value if  
25 such container had previously been accepted for redemption by a dealer,  
26 redemption center, or deposit initiator who initiates deposits on bever-  
27 age containers of the same brand.

28 10. A redeemer, dealer, distributor or redemption center shall not  
29 knowingly redeem an empty beverage container on which a deposit was  
30 never paid in New York state.

31 11. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision two of section  
32 27-1009 of this title, a deposit initiator or distributor shall accept  
33 and redeem beverage containers as provided in this title, if the dealer  
34 or operator of a redemption center shall have accepted and paid the  
35 refund value of such beverage containers.

36 12. No person shall intentionally program, tamper with, render inaccu-  
37 rate, or circumvent the proper operation of a reverse vending machine to  
38 wrongfully elicit deposit monies when no valid, redeemable beverage  
39 container has been placed in and properly processed by the reverse vend-  
40 ing machine.

41 13. The department and the department of taxation and finance are  
42 authorized to audit any reverse vending machine.

43 14. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, a  
44 dealer shall not be required to accept from a redeemer any empty bever-  
45 age container at a farmers' market as such term is defined by the  
46 department of agriculture and markets.

47 § 5. Subdivision 1 of section 27-1011 of the environmental conserva-  
48 tion law is amended by adding a new paragraph c to read as follows:

49 c. Each beverage container sold or offered for sale in this state that  
50 has a refund value pursuant to paragraph a of this subdivision, shall  
51 include a universal product code and barcode printed on the label that  
52 is readable by reverse vending machine or alternative technology. Each  
53 deposit initiator shall provide such universal product code and barcode  
54 and ownership and packaging information of any such beverage container,  
55 to the department not less than forty-five days prior to such product  
56 being offered for sale in the state. The department shall, not more than

thirty days after receipt of such information, make this information readily available to any redemption center, reverse vending machine system operator, deposit initiator-authorized contracted agents, or any other appropriate stakeholder approved by the department.

§ 6. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 3 of section 27-1011 of the environmental conservation law, as added by section 1 of part PP of chapter 58 of the laws of 2018, is amended and two new subdivisions 4 and 5 are added to read as follows:

(b) comply with [~~minimum post-consumer recycled material content and~~] hole diameter limitations as defined in rules and regulations promulgated by the department no later than April first, two thousand twenty-six, and is recyclable and indicates a resin identification code.

4. Each distributor shall develop and implement a policy with the goal of achieving the following performance requirement: Beginning April first, two thousand thirty-one, it shall be the goal of each distributor that at least twenty-five percent of all beverage containers sold by each distributor in the state shall be refillable containers that are part of a return and reusable system. Each distributor shall work with dealers, reverse vending machine owners, and redemption centers to ensure that refillable beverage containers sold by the distributor achieve at least an eighty percent return rate.

5. Each distributor is required to meet the following performance requirements: a. Beginning April first, two thousand twenty-six, all distributors of non-refillable beverage containers shall report the recycling rate, by material type, of redeemed containers to the department.

b. Beginning April first, two thousand twenty-seven, at least seventy percent of the redeemed beverage container material shall be recycled.

c. Beginning April first, two thousand twenty-nine, at least eighty percent of the redeemed beverage container material shall be recycled.

d. Beginning April first, two thousand thirty-one, at least ninety percent of the redeemed beverage container material, including beverage container caps, lids, and other rigid sealers, shall be recycled.

§ 7. Subdivision 5 of section 27-1012 of the environmental conservation law, as amended by section 2 of part JJ of chapter 58 of the laws of 2017, is amended to read as follows:

5. All moneys collected or received by the department of taxation and finance pursuant to this title shall be deposited to the credit of the comptroller with such responsible banks, banking houses or trust companies as may be designated by the comptroller. Such deposits shall be kept separate and apart from all other moneys in the possession of the comptroller. The comptroller shall require adequate security from all such depositories. Of the total revenue collected, the comptroller shall retain the amount determined by the commissioner of taxation and finance to be necessary for refunds out of which the comptroller must pay any refunds to which a deposit initiator may be entitled. Of the revenue remaining following payments of any refunds, the comptroller shall retain an amount equal to five percent of the total for the beverage container assistance program established pursuant to section 27-1018 of this title. After reserving the amount to pay refunds, the comptroller must, by the tenth day of each month, pay into the state treasury to the credit of the general fund the revenue deposited under this subdivision during the preceding calendar month and remaining to the comptroller's credit on the last day of that preceding month; provided, however, that, beginning April first, two thousand thirteen, nineteen million dollars, and all fiscal years thereafter, twenty-three million dollars plus all

1 funds received from the payments due each fiscal year pursuant to subdivi-  
2 vision four of this section in excess of the greater of the amount  
3 received from April first, two thousand twelve through March thirty-  
4 first, two thousand thirteen or one hundred twenty-two million two  
5 hundred thousand dollars, shall be deposited to the credit of the envi-  
6 ronmental protection fund established pursuant to section ninety-two-s  
7 of the state finance law.

8 § 8. Paragraph c of subdivision 3 of section 27-1012 of the environ-  
9 mental conservation law, as added by section 8 of part SS of chapter 59  
10 of the laws of 2009, is amended and a new subdivision 13 is added to  
11 read as follows:

12 c. all withdrawals from the refund value account during such quarter,  
13 including all reimbursements paid pursuant to subdivision two of this  
14 section, all service charges on the account, provided that such service  
15 charges do not exceed the maximum amount authorized by the commissioner,  
16 and all payments made pursuant to subdivision four of this section; and

17 13. Annually the department, in consultation with the department of  
18 taxation and finance, shall use available information to produce an  
19 annual report at a minimum containing information on redemption rates,  
20 container material types by percent usage, refillable container usage,  
21 fraud and enforcement actions, an analysis of the handling fee and  
22 consumer price index, and information on how this program helps to  
23 achieve the targets of chapter one hundred six of the laws of two thou-  
24 sand nineteen. Such report shall be shared with the legislature and  
25 posted publicly on the department's website.

26 § 9. Paragraph a of subdivision 4 of section 27-1012 of the environ-  
27 mental conservation law, as added by section 8 of part SS of chapter 59  
28 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

29 a. Quarterly payments. An amount equal to eighty percent of the  
30 balance outstanding in the refund value account at the close of each  
31 quarter shall be paid to the commissioner of taxation and finance at the  
32 time the report provided for in subdivision three of this section is  
33 required to be filed. The commissioner of taxation and finance may  
34 require that the payments be made electronically. The remaining twenty  
35 percent of the balance outstanding at the close of each quarter shall be  
36 the monies of the deposit initiator and may be withdrawn from such  
37 account by the deposit initiator. However, a deposit initiator who  
38 initiates deposits on refillable beverage containers which are part of a  
39 return and reusable system may be entitled to pay an amount equal to  
40 seventy-five percent of the balance outstanding in the refund value  
41 account specifically attributable to refillable beverage containers at  
42 the close of each quarter to the commissioner of taxation and finance at  
43 the time the report provided for in subdivision three of this section is  
44 required to be filed. The department shall promulgate rules on the  
45 eligibility of deposit initiators for such refillable beverage container  
46 bonus. If the provisions of this section with respect to such account  
47 have not been fully complied with, each deposit initiator shall pay to  
48 such commissioner at such time, in lieu of the amount described in the  
49 preceding sentence, an amount equal to the balance which would have been  
50 outstanding on such date had such provisions been fully complied with.  
51 The commissioner of taxation and finance may require that the payments  
52 be made electronically.

53 § 10. Paragraph a of subdivision 7 of section 27-1012 of the environ-  
54 mental conservation law, as amended by section 8 of part SS of chapter  
55 59 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

1 a. Any person who is a deposit initiator under this title before April  
2 first, two thousand nine, must apply by June first, two thousand nine to  
3 the commissioner of taxation and finance for registration as a deposit  
4 initiator. Any person who becomes a deposit initiator on or after April  
5 first, two thousand nine shall apply for registration prior to collect-  
6 ing any deposits as such a deposit initiator. Such application shall be  
7 in a form prescribed by the commissioner of taxation and finance and  
8 shall require such information deemed to be necessary for proper admin-  
9 istration of this title. The commissioner of taxation and finance may  
10 require that applications for registration must be submitted electron-  
11 ically. The commissioner of taxation and finance shall electronically  
12 issue a deposit initiator registration certificate in a form prescribed  
13 by the commissioner of taxation and finance within fifteen days of  
14 receipt of such application or may take an additional ten days if the  
15 commissioner of taxation and finance deems it necessary to consult with  
16 the commissioner before issuing such registration certificate. A regis-  
17 tration certificate issued pursuant to this subdivision may be issued  
18 for a specified term of not less than three years and shall be subject  
19 to renewal in accordance with procedures specified by the commissioner  
20 of taxation and finance. The commissioner of taxation and finance shall  
21 furnish to the commissioner a complete list of registered deposit initi-  
22 ators and shall continually update such list as warranted. The commis-  
23 sioner shall share any information with the commissioner of taxation and  
24 finance that is necessary for the administration of this subdivision.  
25 The commissioner shall publish the list of registered deposit initiators  
26 and their covered products, and a list of registered redemption centers  
27 on the department's website.

28 § 11. Section 27-1014 of the environmental conservation law, as  
29 amended by section 10 of part SS of chapter 59 of the laws of 2009, is  
30 amended to read as follows:

31 § 27-1014. Authority to promulgate rules and regulations.

32 In addition to the authority of the commissioner, under sections  
33 27-1007, 27-1009 [and], 27-1011, 27-1012, 27-1013, and 27-1018 of this  
34 title, the commissioner shall have the power to promulgate rules and  
35 regulations necessary and appropriate for the administration of this  
36 title.

37 § 12. Section 27-1018 of the environmental conservation law, as added  
38 by section 13 of part SS of chapter 59 of the laws of 2009, is amended  
39 to read as follows:

40 § 27-1018. Beverage container assistance program.

41 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, within the  
42 amounts retained by the comptroller for use under the beverage container  
43 assistance program pursuant to subdivision five of section 27-1012 of  
44 this title, and within the limits of appropriations therefor, the  
45 commissioner shall make state assistance payments to municipalities,  
46 qualifying small businesses, and not-for-profit organizations located in  
47 the state, upon application, for the cost and installation of reverse  
48 vending machines located or to be located in the state. Such state  
49 assistance payments shall not exceed fifty percent of the costs of  
50 equipment, ~~[and/or the acquisition]~~ installation and/or rehabilitation  
51 of real property or structures located or to be located in the state  
52 related to the collecting, sorting, and packaging of empty beverage  
53 containers subject to the provisions of this title. ~~[Such payments may~~  
54 ~~include costs related to the establishment of redemption centers,~~  
55 ~~including mobile redemption centers.]~~ For the purposes of this section,  
56 municipalities and not-for-profit organizations shall have the meaning

as defined in section 54-0101 of this chapter and qualified small businesses shall mean a dealer~~[, distributor]~~ or redemption center as defined in this title that employs less than fifty employees. Preference for these funds shall be given to registered redemption centers that do not utilize any reverse vending machines. Preference for these funds shall also be given to municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, or qualified small businesses that do not have a registered redemption center within one mile.

§ 13. Subdivision 1 of section 27-1013 of the environmental conservation law, as amended by section 7 of part F of chapter 58 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

1. The commissioner is hereby empowered to promulgate rules and regulations governing (a) the circumstances in which deposit initiators, dealers and distributors, individually or collectively, are required to accept the return of empty beverage containers, including beverage containers processed through reverse vending machines and make payment therefor; (b) the sorting of the containers which a deposit initiator or distributor may require of dealers and redemption centers; (c) the collection of returned beverage containers by deposit initiators or distributors, including the party to whom such expense is to be charged, the frequency of such pick ups, a process for safe pick ups, and the payment for refunds and handling fees thereon; (d) the right of dealers to restrict or limit the number of containers redeemed, the rules for redemption at the dealers' place of business, and the redemption of containers from a beverage for which sales have been discontinued; (e) ~~[to]~~ the right of redemption centers to have timely, transparent, and safe pick ups and transparent verification of container counts; (f) the department shall issue registrations to persons, firms or corporations which establish redemption centers, subject to applicable provisions of local and state laws, at which redeemers and dealers may return empty beverage containers and receive payment of the refund value of such beverage containers~~[, Such]~~, subject to a review that considers safety and accessibility, and shall be renewed every ten years. As of April first, two thousand twenty-seven, such registrations shall be issued at ~~[no cost]~~ the cost of one hundred fifty dollars. Should the department require ~~[by]~~ any additional regulations adopted pursuant to this paragraph ~~[that redemption centers must obtain a registration as a condition of operation,]~~ any redemption center in business as of ~~[March first, two thousand thirteen]~~ April first, two thousand twenty-six that previously provided the department with the notification information required by regulations in effect as of such date may continue to operate as if the department had issued such redemption center a registration required by regulations adopted under this paragraph; provided, however, that such redemption center shall provide the department with any other information required by regulations adopted pursuant to this paragraph. The department may, after due notice and opportunity of hearing, pursuant to the provisions of section 71-1709 of this chapter, deny an application or revoke a registration. In determining whether or not to revoke a registration the commissioner shall at a minimum, take into consideration the compliance history of a violator, good faith efforts of a violator to comply, any economic benefit from noncompliance and whether the violation was procedural in nature. The commissioner's determination to revoke a registration is subject to review under article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules; ~~[and (f)]~~ (g) the operation of mobile redemption centers in order to ensure that to the best extent practicable containers are not proffered for redemption to a deposit

1 initiator or distributor outside of the geographic area where such  
2 deposit initiator sells containers and initiates deposits; (h) yearly  
3 information provided to the department from dealers and redemption  
4 centers including number of containers redeemed and any other informa-  
5 tion required by the department; and (i) climate mitigation including  
6 targets within chapter one hundred six of the laws of two thousand nine-  
7 teen and recommendations on improving redeemed container recycling  
8 rates.

9 § 14. Section 27-1005 of the environmental conservation law, as added  
10 by section 4 of part SS of chapter 59 of the laws of 2009, is amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 § 27-1005. Refund value.

13 No person shall sell or offer for sale a beverage container in this  
14 state unless the deposit on such beverage container is or has been  
15 collected by a registered deposit initiator and unless such container  
16 has a refund value of not less than five cents, and beginning April  
17 first, two thousand twenty-seven, a refund value of not less than ten  
18 cents, which is clearly indicated thereon as provided in section 27-1011  
19 of this title.

20 § 15. Section 27-1018 of the environmental conservation law is  
21 REPEALED.

22 § 16. The multi-agency bottle bill fraud investigation team, led by  
23 the department of environmental conservation and first announced on  
24 October 23, 2023, shall submit a report to the governor, the temporary  
25 president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly no later than  
26 one year after the effective date of this act. Such report shall  
27 include, but not be limited to, any findings of pervasive beverage  
28 container redemption fraud in New York state, and any recommendations  
29 for legislative action in response to such fraud.

30 § 17. This act shall take effect April 1, 2026; provided, however,  
31 that section one of this act shall take effect April 1, 2027; provided,  
32 further, that section two of this act shall take effect April 1, 2030;  
33 provided, further, that the amendments to subdivision 6 of section  
34 27-1007 of the environmental conservation law made by section four of  
35 this act shall take effect immediately; and provided, further, that  
36 section fifteen of this act shall take effect January 1, 2039, with any  
37 proceeds transferred to the environmental protection fund established  
38 pursuant to section 92-s of the state finance law. Effective immediate-  
39 ly, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation  
40 necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are  
41 authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.