

SB 522 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 5/7, 5/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits a person, with the intent to defraud, from returning 50 or more beverage containers in a single day for the refund value described in ORS 459A.705, if the person knows the beverages were not sold in Oregon. Establishes that violation of this provision is a Class D violation, and that each day a violation occurs is a separate offense.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Senate Vote (4/16/19): Carried by Johnson. Passed. Ayes, 27; Excused, 3--Roblan, Steiner Hayward, Winters.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 1971, Oregon enacted the "Bottle Bill," which is the nation's longest-standing beverage container deposit law. In 2007, the legislature expanded coverage of the five-cent deposit to include water and flavored water. In 2011, the legislature expanded the types of beverage containers subject to the deposit to include juices, teas, and more; set a trigger for the deposit to increase to 10 cents if the recycling rate fell below 80 percent for two consecutive years; and set up a redemption center pilot project. The bottle deposit increased to 10 cents on April 1, 2017. The only containers that may be legally redeemed under the Bottle Bill are containers that were purchased in Oregon.

Senate Bill 522 A would prohibit a person, with the intent to defraud, from returning 50 or more beverage containers in a single day for their refund value, if the person knows the beverages were not sold in Oregon. The Act would establish that a violation would constitute a Class D violation and that each day a violation occurs would be a separate offense.