

SB 522 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

Carrier: Rep. Reschke

Action Date: 05/14/19

Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Findley, Helm, Reschke, Salinas, Schouten, Sollman, Wilde, Williams, Zika

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Purchasing beverage containers without a deposit in Washington and returning them for a refund in Oregon is not currently illegal
- Impacts specific to communities near the state border
- Dumping of contents of beverage containers in grocery store parking lots

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. Bottle Bill provisions (ORS 459A.700-459A.740) establish a refund for beverage containers purchased in Oregon with a deposit; however, returning beverage containers purchased out of state for a refund is not explicitly prohibited in statute.

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.