

LC 284  
2026 Regular Session  
1/9/26 (STN/ps)

# D R A F T

## SUMMARY

Digest: This Act exempts some berry and meat, poultry, fish and seafood packaging from a recycling law. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.6).

Exempts packaging for certain berries and meat, poultry, fish and seafood from producer responsibility requirements for packaging, paper and food serviceware.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

## 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT

2 Relating to packaging subject to producer responsibility requirements;  
3 amending ORS 459A.863; and prescribing an effective date.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 459A.863 is amended to read:

6 459A.863. As used in ORS 459A.860 to 459A.975:

7 (1) “Brand” means any mark, word, name, symbol, design, device or  
8 graphical element, or a combination thereof, including a registered or un-  
9 registered trademark, that identifies a product and distinguishes the product  
10 from other products.

11 (2) “Commingled recycling” means the recycling or recovery of two or  
12 more materials that are mixed together and that generally would be sepa-  
13 rated into individual materials at a commingled recycling processing facility  
14 in order to be marketed.

15 (3)(a) “Commingled recycling processing facility” means a facility that:  
16 (A) Receives source separated commingled recyclable materials that are  
17 collected commingled from a collection program providing the opportunity  
18 to recycle; and

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1       (B) Separates the recyclable materials described in subparagraph (A) of  
2       this paragraph into marketable commodities or streams of materials that are  
3       intended for use or further processing by others.

4       (b) "Commingled recycling processing facility" does not include:

5       (A) Scrap metal recycling facilities;

6       (B) Scrap automotive or appliance recycling facilities;

7       (C) Full-service redemption centers, dealer redemption centers or alter-  
8       native access redemption centers, as those terms are defined in ORS  
9       459A.700, and recycling facilities owned and operated by a distributor coop-  
10       erative established under ORS 459A.718;

11       (D) Recycling facilities handling covered electronic devices, as defined in  
12       ORS 459A.305;

13       (E) Recycling processing facilities that process only noncommingled,  
14       source separated recyclable material from commercial entities;

15       (F) Recycling processing facilities that recover commingled recyclable  
16       material primarily from the construction and demolition debris waste stream;

17       (G) Recycling depots;

18       (H) Recycling reload facilities; or

19       (I) Limited sort facilities, as defined by rule by the Environmental Quality  
20       Commission.

21       (4) "Contaminant" means:

22       (a) A material set out for recycling collection that is not properly pre-  
23       pared and on the list of materials accepted for recycling collection by a re-  
24       cycling collection program; or

25       (b) A material shipped to a recycling end market that is not accepted or  
26       desired by that end market.

27       (5) "Contamination" means the presence of one or more contaminants in  
28       a recycling collection or commodity stream in an amount or concentration  
29       that negatively impacts the value of the material or negatively impacts a  
30       processor's ability to sort that material.

31       (6)(a) "Covered product" means:

- 1       (A) Packaging;
- 2       (B) Printing and writing paper; and
- 3       (C) Food serviceware.
- 4       (b) "Covered product" does not include:
  - 5       (A) A beverage container, as defined in ORS 459A.700.
  - 6       (B) Bound books.
  - 7       (C) Napkins, paper towels or other paper intended to be used for cleaning
  - 8       or the absorption of liquids.
  - 9       (D) Rigid pallets used as the structural foundation for transporting goods
  - 10      lifted by a forklift, pallet jack or similar device.
  - 11      (E) Specialty packaging items that are used exclusively in industrial or
  - 12      manufacturing processes, including but not limited to:
    - 13       (i) Cores and wraps for rolls of packaging sold by a mill to a packaging
    - 14       converter or food processor; and
    - 15       (ii) Trays, whether designed for a single use or multiple uses, used for the
    - 16       transport of component parts from a parts supplier to a manufacturer that
    - 17       assembles those parts.
  - 18      (F) Liquified petroleum gas containers that are designed to be refilled.
  - 19      (G) A material that the producer demonstrates is exempt under ORS
  - 20      459A.869.
  - 21      (H) Pallet wrap or similar packaging used to secure a palletized load if
  - 22      added by a person that is not the producer of the palletized covered products.
  - 23      (I) Packaging related to containers for architectural paint, as defined in
  - 24      ORS 459A.822, that has been collected by a producer responsibility organ-
  - 25      ization under the program established under ORS 459A.820 to 459A.855.
  - 26      (J) Any item that is not ultimately discarded inside this state, whether
  - 27      for purposes of recovery or disposal.
  - 28      (K) Items sold on a farm or used on a farm, including items used for farm
  - 29      use, as defined in ORS 215.203, or for processing on a farm, provided that
  - 30      an item used on a farm is not subsequently sold at a retail establishment
  - 31      that is not located on a farm.

1       (L) Items used by a nursery licensed under ORS 571.055 that generates the  
2 majority of the nursery's revenue through the sale of nursery stock, as de-  
3 fined in ORS 571.005, provided that the items are not sold through retail  
4 sales.

5       (M) Packaging and paper products sold or supplied in connection with:  
6           (i) Prescription drugs as defined in ORS 689.005;  
7           (ii) Nonprescription drugs as defined in ORS 689.005;  
8           (iii) Drugs marketed under a brand name as defined in ORS 689.515; or  
9           (iv) Drugs marketed under a generic name as defined in ORS 689.515.

10       (N) Packaging and paper products sold or supplied in connection with  
11 drugs that are used for animal medicines, including but not limited to  
12 parasiticide drugs for animals.

13       (O) Packaging and paper products sold or supplied in connection with:  
14           (i) Infant formula as defined in 21 U.S.C. 321(z);  
15           (ii) Medical food as defined in 21 U.S.C. 360ee(b)(3); or  
16           (iii) Fortified oral nutritional supplements used for individuals who re-  
17 quire supplemental or sole source nutrition to meet nutritional needs due to  
18 special dietary needs directly related to cancer, chronic kidney disease,  
19 diabetes, malnutrition, or failure to thrive, as those terms are defined as by  
20 the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, or other medical  
21 conditions as determined by the commission.

22       (P) Wine and spirit containers for which a refund value is established  
23 under Oregon law.

24       (Q) Packaging for products:

25           (i) That are required under 40 C.F.R. 156.140, or other federal regulation  
26 pertaining to toxic or hazardous materials, to state on the label or container  
27 that the packaging should not be recycled or should be disposed of in a  
28 manner other than recycling; or

29           (ii) Identified by the commission by rule as product that is required by  
30 law to state on the label or container that the packaging should not be re-  
31 cycled or should be disposed of in a manner other than recycling.

1       **(R) Packaging sold and supplied in connection with blueberries,**  
2       **strawberries or cane berries that are:**

3           **(i) Sold as a raw agricultural commodity, as defined in 21 U.S.C.**  
4       **321(r), as in effect on January 1, 2026; and**

5           **(ii) Subject to federal packaging requirements contained in 21**  
6       **C.F.R. part 112, as in effect on January 1, 2026.**

7       **(S) Noncompostable packaging that comes in direct contact with**  
8       **any amount of fresh or processed meat, poultry, fish or seafood.**

9       **[(R)] (T) Any other material, as determined by the commission by rule,**  
10      **after consultation with the Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council.**

11       **(7) “Food serviceware” means paper or plastic plates, wraps, cups, bowls,**  
12      **pizza boxes, cutlery, straws, lids, bags, aluminum foil or clamshells or similar**  
13      **containers:**

14        **(a) That are generally intended for single use; and**

15        **(b) That are sold to a retailer or a dine-in food establishment or a take-**  
16      **out food establishment, regardless of whether the item is used to prepackage**  
17      **food for resale, is filled on site for food ordered by a customer or is resold**  
18      **as is.**

19       **(8) “Large producer” means a producer that is among the 25 largest pro-**  
20      **ducers of covered products based on market share.**

21       **(9) “Licensee” means a person that is licensed by a brand and manufac-**  
22      **tures a covered product or a packaged item under that brand.**

23       **(10) “Litter” means waste that is improperly placed so as to be a nuisance**  
24      **or aesthetic, health or environmental concern.**

25       **(11) “Local government” means:**

26        **(a) A city;**

27        **(b) A county; or**

28        **(c) A metropolitan service district.**

29       **(12) “Local government’s service provider” means:**

30        **(a) A collection service franchise holder under ORS 459A.085;**

31        **(b) Any person authorized by a city or county to provide recycling col-**

1 lection services described in subsection (25)(a) to (d) of this section; or  
2 (c) Any person authorized by a metropolitan service district to provide  
3 recycling collection services described in subsection (25)(d) of this section.

4 (13) "Market share" means a producer's percentage of all covered products  
5 sold in or into this state during a specified time period, as calculated in ac-  
6 cordance with methods established by the commission by rule.

7 (14) "Mechanical recycling" means a form of recycling that does not  
8 change the basic molecular structure of the material being recycled.

9 (15) "Metropolitan service district" means a metropolitan service district  
10 established under ORS chapter 268.

11 (16) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization or group of organ-  
12 izations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is  
13 exempt from income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

14 (17) "Opportunity to recycle" has the meaning given that term in ORS  
15 459A.005.

16 (18)(a) "Packaging" means:

17 (A) Materials used for the containment or protection of products, includ-  
18 ing but not limited to paper, plastic, glass or metal or a mixture thereof;

19 (B) Single-use bags, including but not limited to shopping bags; and

20 (C) Nondurable materials used in storage, shipping or moving, including  
21 but not limited to packing materials, moving boxes, file boxes and folders.

22 (b) "Packaging" does not include:

23 (A) Food serviceware; or

24 (B) Sharps, as defined in ORS 459.386.

25 (19) "Person" has the meaning given that term in ORS 459.005.

26 (20) "Printing and writing paper" includes, but is not limited to, newspa-  
27 per, magazines, flyers, brochures, booklets, catalogs, telephone directories  
28 and paper used for copying, writing or other general use.

29 (21) "Processor" means a person that owns or operates a commingled re-  
30 cycling processing facility.

31 (22) "Producer" means a person that is determined to be the producer of

1 a covered product under ORS 459A.866.

2 (23) "Producer responsibility organization" means a nonprofit organiza-  
3 tion established by a producer or group of producers to administer a pro-  
4 ducer responsibility program.

5 (24) "Producer responsibility program" means a statewide program for the  
6 responsible management of covered products that is administered by a pro-  
7 ducer responsibility organization pursuant to a plan approved by the De-  
8 partment of Environmental Quality under ORS 459A.878.

9 (25) "Recycling collection" means the act or process of gathering  
10 recyclable materials by:

11 (a) On-route residential collection from the generator at the place of  
12 generation;

13 (b) On-site nonresidential collection from the generator at the place of  
14 generation;

15 (c) Multifamily on-route residential collection from each multifamily  
16 dwelling that has five or more units;

17 (d) Recycling depots at a disposal site or another designated location that  
18 is more convenient to the population being served and expanded depots as  
19 described in ORS 459A.007; or

20 (e) Other collection methods included in an approved producer responsi-  
21 bility program plan.

22 (26) "Recycling depot" means a location where recyclable materials are  
23 accepted from the public or commercial businesses and transported to a lo-  
24 cation for processing or to an end market.

25 (27) "Recycling reload facility" means a facility other than a recycling  
26 depot where recyclable materials are received, consolidated and made ready  
27 for transport to another location for processing or to a responsible end  
28 market.

29 (28) "Recycling system" means all aspects of the programs and partic-  
30 ipants that have a role in Oregon's statewide recycling structure, including  
31 producers of products sold in or into Oregon, generators of recyclable mate-

1     rials, governments that regulate materials management programs, businesses  
2     that collect and process recyclable materials and persons that receive  
3     recyclable materials to convert to new feedstock or products.

4       (29) "Responsible end market" means a materials market in which the  
5     recycling or recovery of materials or the disposal of contaminants is con-  
6     ducted in a way that benefits the environment and minimizes risks to public  
7     health and worker health and safety.

8       (30) "Responsible management" means the handling, tracking and dispo-  
9     sition of covered products from the point of collection through the final  
10    destination of the collected material in a way that benefits the environment  
11    and minimizes risks to public health and worker health and safety.

12      (31) "Responsible recycling" means the handling of covered products for  
13     recycling and removal of contaminants by a certified or permitted processor  
14     and disposition to a responsible end market.

15      (32) "Small producer" means a producer that:

16       (a) Is a nonprofit organization;

17       (b) Is a public body, as defined in ORS 174.109;

18       (c) Has a gross revenue of less than \$5 million for the organization's most  
19     recent fiscal year;

20       (d) Sold in or into Oregon less than one metric ton of covered products  
21     for use in this state in the most recent calendar year;

22       (e) Is a manufacturer of a beverage sold in a beverage container, as those  
23     terms are defined in ORS 459A.700, that sold in or into Oregon less than five  
24     metric tons of covered products, including but not limited to secondary and  
25     tertiary packaging for beverage containers, for use in this state in the most  
26     recent calendar year;

27       (f)(A) Is a restaurant, food cart or similar business establishment that  
28     primarily sells to members of the public food that is generally intended to  
29     be consumed immediately and without the need for further preparation, ei-  
30     ther on or off the premises; and

31       (B) Is not a producer of food serviceware as described in ORS 459A.866;

1 or

2 (g) Operates a single retail sales establishment, has no online sales and  
3 is not supplied or operated as part of a franchise or a chain.

4 (33) "Specifically identified material" means a material or covered product  
5 identified by the department under ORS 459A.917.

6 (34) "Uniform statewide collection list" means the list of materials es-  
7 tablished in accordance with the requirements of ORS 459A.914 (4).

8 **SECTION 2. This 2026 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date**  
9 **on which the 2026 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative As-**  
10 **sembly adjourns sine die.**

11 \_\_\_\_\_