



New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling Inc.

New York State's Recycling Professionals

NYSAR3 Strongly Supports Article 7 Bill S.6809/A.9809, part GG “The Bigger, Better Bottle Bill Provisions”

The New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR3) is New York State's premier recycling association. NYSAR3 is the New York State affiliate of the National Recycling Coalition with over 150 members representing municipal recycling staff, not-for-profit environmental organizations, businesses and individuals with expertise in waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:

Governor's Budget Bill includes language to update New York's 25-year-old Returnable Container Act (a.k.a. “the bottle bill”), which requires a minimum 5-cent refundable deposit on beer, soda, sparkling water, and wine cooler containers sold in the New York State. It expands the bottle bill to include non-carbonated beverages, with the exception of milk, wine or liquor. It also requires beverage distributors and bottlers to place unredeemed deposits in a State government account, to be credited to the Environmental Protection Fund.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT:

NYSAR3 believes that the Bigger Better Bottle Bill (BBBB) complements curbside recycling by providing people the option of either the convenience of curbside recycling or the financial incentive of deposit programs. Combining these two approaches creates very high recycling rates for beverage containers.

This legislation would support municipal and private solid waste and recycling programs by reducing the amount of waste and recyclables that would need to be collected at curbside, thus reducing collection costs. It would also reduce the amount of material that would need to be handled by material recovery facilities, particularly reducing the amount of glass containers that are expensive to process, difficult to market and of little value. Glass containers are very heavy compared to other containers and thus represent a disproportionate cost for beverage container disposal. Glass is generated by tea and specialty drink bottles that would be covered by the bill. Furthermore, the legislation would virtually eliminate the need for businesses and institutions to set up beverage container recycling programs to bring them in compliance with local recycling laws, as deposit containers provide enough financial incentive to assure that they will be recycled.

Further, this legislation would generate over \$100 million annually (except for the first year, which is only one quarter of a budget year) for environment programs including recycling and waste prevention, by directing the unclaimed deposits toward local government and not-for profit environmental programs as is done by other states such as Massachusetts and Michigan. Faced with significant budget challenges, local governments in New York could use every nickel they can get for these programs.

**NYSAR3 Strongly Supports Passage of the
“Bigger, Better Bottle Bill Provisions of the Governor's Budget Bill.”**

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Recycled Content Paper