

SB 522 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Johnson

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/09/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Bentz, Dembrow, Olsen, Prozanski, Roblan

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/14, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits a person, with the intent to defraud, from returning for the refund value specified in ORS 459A.705 during one day 50 or more individual beverage containers that the person knows were not sold in this state. Makes violation a Class D violation with each day that the violation occurs a separate offense.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Increase in beverage containers purchased in neighboring states being returned in Oregon following increase in return value to 10 cents
- Some unintentional returns by persons unaware of how system works; other returns of containers purchased outside of Oregon intentional and well-organized
- Concern regarding low-income persons who rely on refunds

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Prohibits a person, with the intent to defraud, from returning for the refund value specified in ORS 459A.705 during one day 50 or more individual beverage containers that the person knows were not sold in this state.

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 the return for a refund, with the intent to defraud, during one day 50 or more individual beverage containers that the person knows were not sold in this state.