

House Concurrent Resolution 24

Sponsored by Representative SOLLMAN, Senator STEINER HAYWARD; Representatives ALONSO LEON, DEXTER, DRAZAN, HELM, HOLVEY, HUDSON, LEIF, LEVY, MARSH, MEEK, MOORE-GREEN, NERON, NOSSE, POWER, RAYFIELD, REYNOLDS, RUIZ, SANCHEZ, SCHOUTEN, SMITH DB, WILDE, Senators BEYER, BURDICK, DEMBROW, FINDLEY, FREDERICK, GORSEK, KNOPP, LIEBER, PROZANSKI, TAYLOR, WAGNER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Commemorates 50th anniversary of Oregon Bottle Bill.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Oregon was the first state in the nation to enact a beverage container redemption bill,
3 placing a five-cent redemption value on soda and beer cans and bottles; and

4 Whereas Oregon's "Bottle Bill" in 1971 was a creative solution to widespread littering of
5 single-use bottles and cans along trails, roadways and beaches, and in Oregon's iconic lakes and
6 rivers; and

7 Whereas Governor Tom McCall very early saw the potential national impact of the Bottle Bill,
8 aspiring to "put a price on the head of every beer can and pop bottle in the United States"; and

9 Whereas Oregon's Bottle Bill established responsibility with the producers of single-use
10 beverage containers to ensure that they are properly recycled and do not end up in landfills or litter
11 the landscape; and

12 Whereas private-sector responsibility and administration of Oregon's Bottle Bill ensures that
13 consistently more than 80 percent of redeemable bottles and cans in Oregon are successfully re-
14 turned and recycled; and

15 Whereas Oregon's Bottle Bill has expanded and modernized over time to include additional
16 single-use beverage containers and has increased redemption options and methods for consumers to
17 return their beverage containers; and

18 Whereas more than two billion single-use containers and refillable bottles are redeemed each
19 year in Oregon, demonstrating the scope and effectiveness of Oregon's approach; and

20 Whereas while the environmental and litter-mitigating benefits of bottle bills are widely her-
21 alded, these programs offer additional public benefits as well, with peer-reviewed academic research
22 finding that cities in states with bottle redemption laws, on average, see an 11.3 percent reduction
23 in low-level property crimes compared to cities in states without bottle bills; and

24 Whereas while innovations over time have made container redemption easier than ever for res-
25 idents of Oregon, consumers are also increasingly using the program for charitable purposes and to
26 save for college; and

27 Whereas approximately 2,500 nonprofit entities in Oregon have received more than \$11 million
28 in container redemption donations in the past decade alone; and

29 Whereas families saved a combined \$141,000 for college by directing their redemptions to their
30 Oregon 529 Savings Network higher education accounts in just the first year the program allowed

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 these contributions; and

2 Whereas other states and countries around the world continue to look to Oregon as the global
3 leader in deposit return systems and product stewardship; and

4 Whereas Oregon’s container redemption system operates without any state subsidy; and

5 Whereas Oregon’s trailblazing Bottle Bill continues to grow, evolve and innovate, and it remains
6 one of the state’s most creative and successful solutions to a vexing public policy issue; and

7 Whereas 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of Oregon’s historic Bottle Bill; now, therefore,

8 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

9 That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, celebrate the 50th anniversary
10 of Oregon’s Bottle Bill, and we renew our commitment to this creative, effective and iconic public
11 policy; and be it further

12 Resolved, That we encourage all Oregonians to continue caring for their beloved open spaces
13 and demonstrating robust stewardship by redeeming their cans and bottles for decades to come.

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