

SB 992 -1, -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/17, 4/2, 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission to study the modernization of the beverage container redemption and recycling law. Directs the commission to submit findings to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the environment by September 15, 2026.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 An explanation of the -1 amendment is available on the [staff measure summary](#) for the public hearing for Senate Bill 992 on 2/17/25.

-3 The measure authorizes the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission to approve one or more Alternative Access Redemption Centers and modifies the requirements for dealers operating within the Alternative Access Redemption Center convenient zone. In addition, Senate Bill 992-3 requires OLCC to establish Low Impact Convenience Zones and modifies the requirements for dealers operating within the Low Impact Convenience Zone. The Act also addresses hours of operation and the type of containers that a winery is required to accept for return.

Detailed Summary:

Replaces measure.

Alternative Access Redemption Centers (Section 2 – 3)

Authorizes Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (Commission) to approve one or more **Alternative Access Redemption Centers** (Alternative Redemption Center), effective October 1, 2025, at which people may return empty beverage containers and receive payment of refund value to expand alternative redemption access opportunities for individuals who redeem empty beverage containers on a daily or near daily basis. Stipulates an Alternative Redemption Center:

- may not refuse to accept and to pay refund value of up to **350 beverage containers** returned by any one person during one day;
- must provide **hand counting of up to 50 individual beverage containers** returned by any one person during one day; and
- is authorized to provide **drop off service and an accounting mechanism** by which the person may redeem the refund for at least 125 individual empty beverage containers returned by any one person during one day.

Authorizes a person operating Alternative Redemption Center, with the support of the sponsoring distributor cooperative, to apply to Commission for approval of **mobile or satellite redemption sites** (Satellite Redemption Sites). Requires the satellite site to maintain consistent service hours and days at fixed points within specified convenience zone; and provide refund value in cash at the time of redemption. Authorizes Commission to adopt rules establishing standards for satellite redemption sites and requirements for dealers located in applicable

convenience zone. Stipulates that OLCC may not accept an application for mobile or satellite reception site before January 1, 2026.

Requires Alternative Redemption Centers to be established and operated by a nonprofit that has entered into an agreement with a distributor cooperative to be a sponsor and located within a city with a population greater than 500,000. Requires **application** with certain information to be filed with Commission. Requires Commission to approve application if it is found that the Alternative Redemption Center will provide alternative redemption access opportunities. Requires **order** approving Alternative Redemption Center to include certain information. Specifies Alternative Redemption Center is not a recycling depot. Specifies that within five days of approving Alternative Redemption Center the Commission must provide notice, that includes certain information, to each identified dealer not to be served by or not participating in Alternative Redemption Center. Establishes process for Commission to review, provide notice and withdraw approval if Commission finds there has not been compliance or the Alternative Redemption Center no longer provides alternative redemption access opportunities.

Requires Commission to specify **convenience zones for Alternative Redemption Center** and Satellite Redemption Sites. Requires convenience zone for:

- Alternative Redemption Center to be contiguous area, and that boundaries do not exceed three and one-half miles from the Alternative Redemption Center; and
- Satellite Redemption Site be within an area that extends no more than five miles from the Alternative Redemption Center.

Specifies the following **redemption requirements for dealers within the Alternative Redemption Center**

Convenience zone:

- Dealers that occupy **5,000 square feet** or more that chose to participate in, be served by, and be charged the cost of participating in the Alternative Redemption Center do not have to accept and refund empty beverage containers.
- Dealers within the convenience zone that occupy a **space less than 5,000 square feet** must accept and refund 24 beverage containers per person per day during the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Dealers that occupy 5,000 square feet or more, other than dealers that operate a dealer redemption center, that **choose to not participate** in the Alternative Redemption Center must accept and refund up to 350 beverage containers per person per day, per person and provide services equivalent to the Alternative Redemption Center. In addition, the dealer must post certain signage, and provide specified amount of automated reverse vending machines. Exempts dealers that report and sell fewer than 100,000 beverages in the previous calendar year.

Low Impact Convenience Zone (Section 4, 5, and 6)

Direct Commission classify two existing convenience zones as a single **low-impact convenience zone** if specific conditions are met. Specifies the following redemption requirements for dealers within the low-impact convenience zone:

- Dealers that occupy **5,000 square feet or more** that chose to participate in, be served by, and be charged the cost of participating in full-service redemption center do not have to accept and refund empty beverage containers.
- Dealers that occupy a **space less than 5,000 square feet** must accept and refund 24 beverage containers per person per day.

Requires Commission to **review each convenient zone** once every three years. Requires Commission, in consultation with distributor cooperative and association representing retail grocers to review each convenience zone and classify any convince zone as low-impact convenience zone if it meets specified criteria no later than

January 1, 2026.

Amendments to Statute – ORS 459A.715 Refusal of dealer or distributor to accept or pay refund in certain cases (Section 8)

Clarifies dealer requirements. Requires dealers that are required to accept and refund beverage containers to accept and pay refund value between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Stipulates dealer that holds **winery** license may refuse to accept and pay the refund for a beverage container that is of a kind, size and brand the dealer does not sell at the winery.

Additional Siting Requirements for Full-Service Redemption Centers (Section 9)

Requires, effective October 1, 2025, the order the Commission issues approving a full-service redemption center shall state whether it will be located in an area zoned for **industrial use**. Requires applicant to **notify state Senator and state Representative** in whose districts the full-service redemption center will be located of the proposed full-service redemption center and the applicant's plan for community engagement. Requires Commission to provide opportunity for **public comment** before concluding that a full-service redemption center provides a convenient service. Authorizes the Commission to consider public comment when determining approval for full-service redemption center. Stipulates requirements apply to applications filed on or after October 1, 2025.

Declares emergency; effective on passage

- Minimal Fiscal Impact
- No Revenue Impact

BACKGROUND:

The original Bottle Bill legislation was enacted in 1971, and it is the nation's longest-standing beverage container deposit law. Since its passage, nine other states have enacted similar programs. Since enactment, the Bottle Bill has undergone multiple updates and changes. Legislation enacted in 2013 authorized a redemption center program to improve customer convenience and reduce the burden on retailers to accept and process empty containers, known as "BottleDrops." In addition, the Legislative Assembly expanded coverage to include additional containers and, in 2017, increased the deposit from five to 10 cents. Under the current law, people pay a 10-cent container deposit when they buy beverage containers three liters or less in size, except distilled liquor, wine (with exception of wine in cans which will be included in the bottle bill July 1, 2025), dairy or plant-based milk, and infant formula. Consumers can return the empty containers to dealers and BottleDrops and receive the 10-cent refund value for each container returned.