



## The Bottle Bill

### Overview

While our industry supports increasing recyclability of packaging, as drafted [House Bill 1607](#) / [Senate Bill 5502](#) seems to recreate a recycling system solely for the beverage industry, the costs of which are placed on our industry, customers, and communities.

This legislation would add a 10-cent charge to all cans, water bottles, alcohol bottles, wine bottles and other beverage containers sold to a customer.

To get their 10-cent charge returned, businesses would need to:

- Return the bottle to an as-yet-unknown deposit site, or
- Hold on to the empty bottles in the back of the house until the distributor can pick them up.

Businesses that reject either of those options and instead use the curbside recycling service that they are already required to have will not be able to recoup the 10-cent extra cost of the product.

Requiring operators to return bottles to deposit sites puts additional costs onto their balance sheets.

And for many operators, holding hundreds of empty bottles in the back of the house isn't feasible, and would create safety issues for many.

That's assuming their distributor will eventually pick up the empty bottles.

The association will continue to work through the challenges in the bill at the direction of our Government Affairs Committee.

## Talking points

- Share your story on how holding on to empty containers is not feasible.
- Share how unrealistic it is to assume distributors will come pick up empty products on a regular basis.
- Share your support for Washington's current curbside recycling and ask that program be enhanced and not duplicated.
- Ask your legislator to oppose the bottle bill.

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