



# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 1366

S.P. 498

In Senate, April 23, 2015

### **An Act To Promote Recycling Program Integration and Efficiencies**

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Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Reference to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin.  
Cosponsored by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington and  
Representatives: DUCHESNE of Hudson, HARLOW of Portland, WELSH of Rockport.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §1841, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2, is  
3 amended to read:

4 **3. Glass prohibited.** The use of glass is prohibited in games of skill pursuant to  
5 Title ~~32~~ 38, section ~~4873~~ 3118.

6 **Sec. 2. 28-A MRSA §705, sub-§1-D**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 349, §2, is  
7 amended to read:

8 **1-D. Credit for deposits.** This section does not prohibit a licensee from giving  
9 credit to a purchaser for the actual amount of the deposit on beverage containers as  
10 defined in Title ~~32~~ 38, section ~~4862~~ 3102, subsection 2 or on the packages or original  
11 containers as a credit on any sale or from paying the amount actually charged for such a  
12 deposit on the packages or original containers.

13 **Sec. 3. 28-A MRSA §1355-A, sub-§2, ¶G**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 629, §22,  
14 is amended to read:

15 G. A licensee that is a brewery or small brewery may sell on the premises during  
16 regular business hours and within the hours of legal sale to nonlicensees liquor  
17 produced at the licensed premises. The volume of the package may not exceed 15.5  
18 gallons and must be consumed off the premises. The sale of packages described in  
19 this paragraph must comply with keg tagging requirements provided in section 714.  
20 Each licensee shall submit a monthly report to its wholesaler detailing sales made  
21 directly from the premises. The wholesaler shall calculate the fees for any bottle  
22 deposit and submit an invoice to the licensee for expenses associated with the  
23 requirements prescribed in Title ~~32~~ 38, chapter ~~28~~ 33 including the retailer handling  
24 fee, state container deposit and a mutually agreed-upon pick-up fee.

25 **Sec. 4. 28-A MRSA §1355-A, sub-§3, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 629, §22,  
26 is amended to read:

27 C. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Title, a brewery or small brewery  
28 licensed in accordance with this section may sell from the establishment at the site of  
29 the brewery licensed for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be consumed on the  
30 premises malt liquor to be consumed off the premises under the conditions specified  
31 in this paragraph.

32 (1) Only malt liquor brewed at the brewery where the on-premises establishment  
33 is licensed may be sold at the on-premises establishment.

34 (2) Malt liquor must be dispensed in bottles provided by and with labels unique  
35 to the brewery of 32 to 64 ounces in volume.

36 (3) No more than 6 bottles may be prefilled at any one time.

37 (4) A deposit may be charged per bottle. Bottles sold under this paragraph are  
38 not subject to Title ~~32~~ 38, chapter ~~28~~ 33.

1 (5) The bottle in which the malt liquor is dispensed must be sealed by the  
2 licensee with a seal that is tamper-evident.

3 (6) Malt liquor dispensed in accordance with this paragraph must be consumed  
4 off the premises.

5 (7) All sales of malt liquor from the on-premises establishment for off-premises  
6 consumption must be accompanied by a sales receipt with a time stamp that  
7 indicates time of purchase.

8 (8) Sale of malt liquor from the on-premises establishment for off-premises  
9 consumption may not be made after 10:00 p.m.

10 The bureau may adopt rules to enforce this paragraph. Rules adopted in accordance  
11 with this paragraph are routine technical rules in accordance with Title 5, chapter  
12 375, subchapter 2-A.

13 **Sec. 5. 28-A MRSA §1403-A, sub-§15**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 373, §1, is  
14 amended to read:

15 **15. Not subject to beverage container law.** Notwithstanding Title ~~32~~ 38, chapter  
16 ~~28~~ 33, wine shipped pursuant to this section does not require a refund value for beverage  
17 container control purposes.

18 **Sec. 6. 28-A MRSA §1651, sub-§1, ¶C**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 615, §5, is  
19 further amended to read:

20 C. The commission shall add any cost to the State related to handling containers  
21 returned for refund pursuant to Title ~~32~~ 38, section ~~1863-A~~ 3103 to the established  
22 price without markup.

23 **Sec. 7. 28-A MRSA §2075, sub-§2-A**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. P, §6  
24 and affected by Pt. X, §2, is further amended to read:

25 **2-A. Evidence.** The possession of more than 8 quarts of spirits in one or more  
26 containers that are not labeled in accordance with Title ~~32~~ 38, section ~~1865~~ 3105 is prima  
27 facie evidence of a violation of this section.

28 **Sec. 8. 28-A MRSA §2077, sub-§2-A**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. P, §7  
29 and affected by Pt. X, §2, is further amended to read:

30 **2-A. Evidence.** The possession of more than 6 gallons of malt liquor or 8 quarts of  
31 wine in one or more containers that are not labeled in accordance with Title ~~32~~ 38,  
32 section ~~1865~~ 3105 is prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

33 **Sec. 9. 30-A MRSA §3771, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 549, §1, is  
34 amended to read:

35 **1. Beverage container.** "Beverage container" means a can, bottle, jar or other  
36 container made of aluminum or metal that is sealed by a manufacturer and contained, at  
37 the time of sale, a beverage, as defined by Title ~~32~~ 38, section ~~1862~~ 3102, subsection 2,  
38 but does not include a beer keg.



1 human consumption, except for unflavored rice milk, unflavored soymilk, milk and dairy-  
2 derived products.

3 **2. Beverage container.** "Beverage container" means a bottle, can, jar or other  
4 container made of glass, metal or plastic that has been sealed by a manufacturer and at the  
5 time of sale contains 4 liters or less of a beverage. "Beverage container" does not include  
6 a container composed, in whole or in part, of aluminum and plastic or aluminum and  
7 paper in combination as long as the aluminum content represents 10% or less of the  
8 unfilled container weight, the container materials represent 5% or less of the total weight  
9 of the container and its contents and the container is filled with a nonalcoholic beverage.

10 **3. Commingling agreement.** "Commingling agreement" means an agreement  
11 between 2 or more initiators of deposit allowing the beverage containers for which they  
12 have initiated deposits to be commingled by dealers and redemption centers, as described  
13 in section 3107.

14 **4. Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Environmental  
15 Protection.

16 **5. Consumer.** "Consumer" means an individual who purchases a beverage in a  
17 beverage container for use or consumption.

18 **6. Dealer.** "Dealer" means a person who sells, offers to sell or engages in the sale of  
19 beverages in beverage containers to a consumer, including, but not limited to, an operator  
20 of a vending machine containing beverages in beverage containers.

21 **7. Department.** "Department" means the Department of Environmental Protection.

22 **8. Distributor.** "Distributor" means a person who engages in the sale of beverages  
23 in beverage containers to a dealer in this State and includes a manufacturer who engages  
24 in such sales.

25 **9. Hard cider.** "Hard cider" means a beverage produced by fermentation of the  
26 juice of fruit, including, but not limited to, flavored, sparkling or carbonated cider that  
27 contains not less than 1/2 of 1% alcohol by volume and not more than 7% alcohol by  
28 volume.

29 **10. In this State.** "In this State" or "in the State" means within the exterior limits of  
30 the State and includes all territory within these limits owned by or ceded to the United  
31 States of America.

32 **11. Initiator of deposit or initiator.** "Initiator of deposit" or "initiator" means a  
33 manufacturer, distributor or other person who initiates a deposit on a beverage container  
34 under section 3103.

35 **12. Local redemption center.** "Local redemption center" means a place of business  
36 that deals in acceptance of empty returnable beverage containers from either consumers  
37 or from dealers, or both, and that must be licensed under section 3113.

1           **13. Manufacturer.** "Manufacturer" means a person who bottles, cans or otherwise  
2 places beverages in beverage containers for sale to distributors or dealers.

3           **14. Nonrefillable.** "Nonrefillable" means a beverage container that, after being used  
4 by a consumer, is not to be reused as a beverage container by a manufacturer.

5           **15. Operator of a vending machine.** "Operator of a vending machine" means an  
6 owner of a vending machine, the person who refills it or the owner or lessee of the  
7 property upon which it is located.

8           **16. Person.** "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation or other legal  
9 entity.

10          **17. Premises.** "Premises" means the property of the dealer or the dealer's lessor on  
11 which a sale is made.

12          **18. Refillable.** "Refillable" means a beverage container that, after being used by a  
13 consumer, is to be reused as a beverage container at least 5 times by a manufacturer.

14          **19. Spirits.** "Spirits" has the same meaning as in Title 28-A, section 2, subsection  
15 31.

16          **20. Reverse vending machine.** "Reverse vending machine" means an automated  
17 device that uses a laser scanner and microprocessor to accurately recognize the universal  
18 product code on beverage containers and to accumulate information regarding containers  
19 redeemed, enabling the reverse vending machine to accept containers from redeemers and  
20 to issue script for the containers' refund value. "Reverse vending machine" does not  
21 include a hand scanner or other similar device.

22          **21. Rice milk.** "Rice milk" means any liquid intended for internal human  
23 consumption of which the primary protein source is rice protein derived from partially  
24 milled brown rice.

25          **22. Unflavored soymilk.** "Unflavored soymilk" means any liquid containing no  
26 additional flavoring ingredients and intended for internal human consumption, the  
27 primary protein source of which is soy protein derived from whole soybeans, isolated soy  
28 protein, soy protein concentrate, soy flour, spray-dried tofu or spray-dried soymilk.

29          **23. Use or consumption.** "Use or consumption" means the exercise of any right or  
30 power over a beverage incident to the ownership thereof, other than the sale, storage or  
31 retention for the purpose of sale of a beverage.

32          **24. Wine.** "Wine" has the same meaning as in Title 28-A, section 2, subsection 36,  
33 except that, for the purposes of this chapter, "wine" does not include wine coolers.

34          **25. Wine cooler.** "Wine cooler" means a beverage of less than 8% alcohol content  
35 by volume consisting of wine and:

36            **A. Plain, sparkling or carbonated water; and**

37            **B. Any one or more of the following:**

- 1           (1) Fruit juices;
- 2           (2) Fruit adjuncts;
- 3           (3) Artificial or natural flavors or flavorings;
- 4           (4) Preservatives;
- 5           (5) Coloring; or
- 6           (6) Any other natural or artificial blending material.

7           **§3103. Refund value**

8           To encourage container reuse and recycling, every beverage container sold or offered  
9           for sale to a consumer in this State must have a deposit and refund value. The deposit  
10           and refund value are determined according to the provisions of this section.

11           **1. Refillable containers.** For refillable beverage containers, except wine and spirits  
12           containers, the manufacturer shall determine the deposit and refund value according to  
13           the type, kind and size of the beverage container. The deposit and refund value may not  
14           be less than 5¢.

15           **2. Nonrefillable containers; exclusive distributorships.** For nonrefillable beverage  
16           containers, except wine and spirits containers, sold through geographically exclusive  
17           distributorships, the distributor shall determine and initiate the deposit and refund value  
18           according to the type, kind and size of the beverage container. The deposit and refund  
19           value may not be less than 5¢.

20           **3. Nonrefillable containers; nonexclusive distributorships.** For nonrefillable  
21           beverage containers, except wine and spirits containers, not sold through geographically  
22           exclusive distributorships, the deposit and refund value may not be less than 5¢.

23           **4. Wine and spirits containers.** For wine and spirits containers of greater than 50  
24           milliliters, the refund value may not be less than 15¢.

25           **§3104. Dealer as distributor**

26           Whenever a dealer or group of dealers receives a shipment or consignment of, or in  
27           any other manner acquires, beverage containers outside the State for sale to consumers in  
28           the State, the dealer or dealers shall comply with this chapter as if they were distributors,  
29           as well as dealers.

30           **§3105. Labels; stamps; brand names**

31           **1. Labels.** Except as provided under subsections 2 and 4, the refund value and the  
32           word "Maine" or the abbreviation "ME" must be clearly indicated on every refundable  
33           beverage container sold or offered for sale by a dealer in this State, by embossing,  
34           stamping, labeling or other method of secure attachment to the beverage container. The  
35           refund value may not be indicated on the bottom of the container. Metal beverage  
36           containers must be embossed or stamped on the top of the container.

1           **2. Labels; nonrefillable containers; nonexclusive distributorships.** With respect  
2 to nonrefillable beverage containers the deposits for which are initiated pursuant to  
3 section 3103, subsection 3, the refund value and the word "Maine" or the abbreviation  
4 "ME" must be clearly indicated on every refundable beverage container sold or offered  
5 for sale by a dealer in this State, by permanently embossing or permanently stamping the  
6 beverage containers, except in instances when the initiator of the deposit has specific  
7 permission from the department to use stickers or similar devices. The refund value may  
8 not be indicated on the bottom of the container. Metal beverage containers must be  
9 permanently embossed or permanently stamped on the tops of the containers.

10           **3. Labels; nonrefillable containers; exclusive distributorships.** Notwithstanding  
11 subsection 1 and with respect to nonrefillable beverage containers, for the deposits that  
12 are initiated pursuant to section 3103, subsection 2, the refund value and the word  
13 "Maine" or the abbreviation "ME" may be clearly indicated on refundable beverage  
14 containers sold or offered for sale by a dealer in this State by use of stickers or similar  
15 devices if those containers are not otherwise marked in accordance with subsection 1. A  
16 redemption center shall accept containers identified by stickers in accordance with this  
17 subsection or by embossing or stamping in accordance with subsection 1.

18           **4. Brand name.** Refillable glass beverage containers of carbonated beverages, for  
19 which the deposit is initiated under section 3103, subsection 1, that have a refund value of  
20 not less than 5¢ and a brand name permanently marked on the container are not required  
21 to comply with subsection 1. The exception provided by this subsection does not apply to  
22 glass beverage containers that contain spirits, wine or malt liquor as those terms are  
23 defined by Title 28-A, section 2.

24           **5. Label registration.** An initiator of deposit shall register the container label of any  
25 beverage offered for sale in the State on which it initiates a deposit. Registration must be  
26 on forms or in an electronic format provided by the department and must include the  
27 universal product code for each combination of beverage and container manufactured.  
28 The initiator of deposit shall renew a label registration annually and whenever that label  
29 is revised by altering the universal product code or whenever the container on which it  
30 appears is changed in size, composition or glass color. The initiator of deposit shall also  
31 include as part of the registration the method of collection for that type of container,  
32 identification of a collection agent, identification of all of the parties to a commingling  
33 agreement that applies to the container and proof of the collection agreement. The  
34 department may charge a fee for registration and registration renewals under this  
35 subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection that establish fees are major  
36 substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A and subject to review  
37 by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environmental  
38 and natural resources matters.

39           **6. Removal of product.** A product that is sold or distributed in the State that is not  
40 in compliance with the initiator of deposit or the labeling registration requirements  
41 established in this section may be removed from sale by the department.



1           **§3106. Application**

2           **1. Dealer acceptance.** Except as provided in this section, a dealer may not refuse to  
3 accept from any consumer or other person not a dealer any empty, unbroken and  
4 reasonably clean beverage container of the kind, size and brand sold by the dealer, or  
5 refuse to pay in cash the refund value of the returned beverage container as established by  
6 section 3103. This section does not require an operator of a vending machine to maintain  
7 a person to accept returned beverage containers on the premises where the vending  
8 machine is located.

9           **2. Permissive refusal by dealer.** A dealer may refuse to accept from a consumer or  
10 other person and to pay the refund value on any beverage container, if the place of  
11 business of the dealer and the kind, size and brand of beverage container are included in  
12 an order of the department approving a redemption center under section 3109.

13           **3. Limitation or number of returnables accepted.** A dealer may limit the total  
14 number of beverage containers that the dealer will accept from any one consumer or other  
15 person in any one business day to 240 containers, or any other number greater than 240.

16           **4. Limitation on hours for returning containers.** A dealer may refuse to accept  
17 beverage containers during no more than 3 hours in any one business day. If a dealer  
18 refuses to accept containers under this subsection, the hours during which the dealer will  
19 not accept containers must be conspicuously posted.

20           **5. Distributor acceptance.** A distributor may not refuse to accept from any dealer  
21 or local redemption center any empty, unbroken and reasonably clean beverage container  
22 or any beverage container that has been processed through an approved reverse vending  
23 machine that meets the requirements of rules adopted by the department pursuant to this  
24 chapter of the kind, size and brand sold by the distributor or refuse to pay to the dealer or  
25 local redemption center the refund value of a beverage container as established by section  
26 3103.

27           **6. Obligation to preserve recycling value.** Notwithstanding subsection 8, a  
28 distributor or its agent may refuse to accept, or pay the refund value and handling costs to  
29 a dealer, redemption center or other person for, a beverage container that has been  
30 processed by a reverse vending machine in a way that has reduced the recycling value of  
31 the container below current market value. This subsection may not be interpreted to  
32 prohibit a written processing agreement between a distributor and a dealer or redemption  
33 center and does not relieve a distributor of its obligation under subsection 8 to accept  
34 empty, unbroken and reasonably clean beverage containers. The department shall adopt  
35 rules to establish the recycling value of beverage containers under this subsection and the  
36 rules may authorize the use of a 3rd-party vendor to determine if a beverage container has  
37 been processed by a reverse vending machine in a manner that has reduced the recycling  
38 value below current market value. The rules must outline the method of allocating  
39 among the parties involved the payment for 3rd-party vendor costs. Rules adopted under  
40 this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter  
41 2-A.

1           **7. Reimbursement of handling costs.** Reimbursement of handling costs is  
2 governed by this subsection.

3           A. In addition to the payment of the refund value, the initiator of the deposit under  
4 section 3103, subsections 1, 2 and 4 shall reimburse the dealer or local redemption  
5 center for the cost of handling beverage containers subject to section 3103, in an  
6 amount that equals at least 3¢ per returned container for containers picked up by the  
7 initiator before March 1, 2004, at least 3 1/2¢ for containers picked up on or after  
8 March 1, 2004 and before March 1, 2010 and at least 4¢ for containers picked up on  
9 or after March 1, 2010. The initiator of the deposit may reimburse the dealer or local  
10 redemption center directly or indirectly through a party with which it has entered into  
11 a commingling agreement.

12           B. In addition to the payment of the refund value, the initiator of the deposit under  
13 section 3103, subsection 3 shall reimburse the dealer or local redemption center for  
14 the cost of handling beverage containers subject to section 3103 in an amount that  
15 equals at least 3¢ per returned container for containers picked up by the initiator  
16 before March 1, 2004, at least 3 1/2¢ for containers picked up on or after March 1,  
17 2004 and before March 1, 2010 and at least 4¢ for containers picked up on or after  
18 March 1, 2010. The initiator of the deposit may reimburse the dealer or local  
19 redemption center directly or indirectly through a contracted agent or through a party  
20 with which it has entered into a commingling agreement.

21           C. The reimbursement that the initiator of the deposit is obligated to pay the dealer or  
22 redemption center pursuant to paragraph A or B must be reduced by 1/2¢ for any  
23 returned container that is subject to a qualified commingling agreement that allows  
24 the dealer or redemption center to commingle beverage containers of like product  
25 group, material and size. A commingling agreement is qualified for purposes of this  
26 paragraph if the department determines that 50% or more of the beverage containers  
27 of like product group, material and size for which the deposits are being initiated in  
28 the State are covered by the commingling agreement or that the initiators of deposit  
29 covered by the commingling agreement are initiators of deposit for wine containers  
30 who each sell no more than 100,000 gallons of wine or 500,000 beverage containers  
31 that contain wine in a calendar year. Once the initiator of deposit has established a  
32 qualified commingling agreement for containers of a like product group, material and  
33 size, the department shall allow additional brands to be included from a different  
34 product group if they are of like material. The State, through the Department of  
35 Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery  
36 Operations, shall make every reasonable effort to enter into a qualified commingling  
37 agreement under this paragraph with every other initiator of deposit for beverage  
38 containers that are of like product group, size and material as the beverage containers  
39 for which the State is the initiator of deposit.

40           D. Paragraphs A, B and C do not apply to a brewer who annually produces no more  
41 than 50,000 gallons of its product or a bottler of water who annually sells no more  
42 than 250,000 containers each containing no more than one gallon of its product. In  
43 addition to the payment of the refund value, an initiator of deposit under section  
44 3103, subsections 1 to 4 who is also a brewer who annually produces no more than  
45 50,000 gallons of its product or a bottler of water who annually sells no more than  
46 250,000 containers each containing no more than one gallon of its product shall

1 reimburse the dealer or local redemption center for the cost of handling beverage  
2 containers subject to section 3103 in an amount that equals at least 3¢ per returned  
3 container.

4 **8. Obligation to pick up containers.** The obligation to pick up beverage containers  
5 subject to this chapter is determined as follows.

6 A. A distributor that initiates the deposit under section 3103, subsection 2 or 4 has  
7 the obligation to pick up any empty, unbroken and reasonably clean beverage  
8 containers of the particular kind, size and brand sold by the distributor from dealers to  
9 whom that distributor has sold those beverages and from licensed redemption centers  
10 designated to serve those dealers pursuant to an order entered under section 3109. A  
11 distributor that, within this State, sells beverages under a particular label exclusively  
12 to one dealer, which dealer offers those labeled beverages for sale at retail  
13 exclusively at the dealer's establishment, shall pick up any empty, unbroken and  
14 reasonably clean beverage containers of the kind, size and brand sold by the  
15 distributor to the dealer only from those licensed redemption centers that serve the  
16 various establishments of the dealer, under an order entered under section 3109. A  
17 dealer that manufactures its own beverages for exclusive sale by that dealer at retail  
18 has the obligation of a distributor under this section. The commissioner may  
19 establish by rule, in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act,  
20 criteria prescribing the manner in which distributors shall fulfill the obligations  
21 imposed by this paragraph. The rules may establish a minimum number or value of  
22 containers below which a distributor is not required to respond to a request to pick up  
23 empty containers. Any rules adopted under this paragraph must allocate the burdens  
24 associated with the handling, storage and transportation of empty containers to  
25 prevent unreasonable financial or other hardship.

26 B. The initiator of the deposit under section 3103, subsection 3 has the obligation to  
27 pick up any empty, unbroken and reasonably clean beverage containers of the  
28 particular kind, size and brand sold by the initiator from dealers to whom a distributor  
29 has sold those beverages and from licensed redemption centers designated to serve  
30 those dealers pursuant to an order entered under section 3109. The obligation may be  
31 fulfilled by the initiator directly or indirectly through a contracted agent.

32 C. An initiator of the deposit under section 3103, subsection 2, 3 or 4 has the  
33 obligation to pick up any empty, unbroken and reasonably clean beverage containers  
34 that are commingled pursuant to a commingling agreement along with any beverage  
35 containers that the initiator is otherwise obligated to pick up pursuant to paragraphs A  
36 and B.

37 D. The initiator of deposit or initiators of deposit who are members of a  
38 commingling agreement have the obligation under this subsection to pick up empty,  
39 unbroken and reasonably clean beverage containers of the particular kind, size and  
40 brand sold by the initiator from dealers to whom a distributor has sold those  
41 beverages and from licensed redemption centers designated to serve those dealers  
42 every 15 days. The initiator of deposit or initiators of deposit who are members of a  
43 commingling agreement have the obligation to make additional pickups when a  
44 redemption center has collected 10,000 beverage containers from that initiator of

1 deposit or from the initiators of deposit who are members of a commingling  
2 agreement.

3 The obligation of the initiator of the deposit under this subsection may be fulfilled by the  
4 initiator directly or through a party with which it has entered into a commingling  
5 agreement. A contracted agent hired to pick up beverage containers for one or more  
6 initiators of deposit is deemed to have made a pickup at a redemption center for those  
7 initiators of deposit when it picks up beverage containers belonging to those initiators of  
8 deposit.

9 **9. Plastic bags.** A dealer or redemption center has an obligation to pick up plastic  
10 bags that are used by that dealer or redemption center to contain beverage containers.  
11 Plastic bags used by a dealer or redemption center and the cost allocation of these bags  
12 must conform to rules adopted by the department concerning size and gauge. Rules  
13 adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,  
14 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

15 **10. Application to containers originally sold in the State.** The obligations to  
16 accept or take empty beverage containers and to pay the refund value and handling fees  
17 for such containers as described in subsections 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 apply only to containers  
18 originally sold in this State as filled beverage containers. A person who tenders to a  
19 dealer, distributor, redemption center or bottler more than 48 empty beverage containers  
20 that the person knows or has reason to know were not originally sold in this State as filled  
21 beverage containers is subject to the enforcement action and civil penalties set forth in  
22 this subsection. At each location where consumers tender containers for redemption,  
23 dealers and redemption centers must conspicuously display a sign in letters that are at  
24 least one inch in height with the following information: "WARNING: Persons tendering  
25 containers for redemption that were not originally purchased in this State may be subject  
26 to a fine of the greater of \$100 per container or \$25,000 for each tender. (38 MRSA  
27 Section 3106)." A person who violates the provisions of this subsection is subject to a  
28 civil penalty of the greater of \$100 for each container or \$25,000 for each tender of  
29 containers.

30 **11. License revocation.** The department may revoke the license of a dealer or  
31 redemption center that has been adjudged to have committed a violation of this section.

32 **12. Bulk redemption.** In order to prevent fraud from the redemption of beverage  
33 containers not originally sold in this State, this subsection governs the redemption of  
34 more than 2,500 beverage containers.

35 A. A person tendering for redemption more than 2,500 beverage containers at one  
36 time to a dealer or redemption center must provide to the dealer or redemption center  
37 that person's name and address and the license plate number of the vehicle used to  
38 transport the beverage containers. The dealer or redemption center redeeming these  
39 beverage containers shall forward that information to the department within 10 days,  
40 and the information must be kept on file for a minimum of 12 months.

41 B. After complying at least once with the requirements of paragraph A, a person  
42 need not comply with paragraph A each subsequent time that person tenders to a  
43 dealer or redemption center for redemption more than 2,500 beverage containers if:

1           (1) All of the containers were collected at one location in this State;

2           (2) All proceeds of the refund value benefit a nonprofit organization that has  
3           been determined by the United States Internal Revenue Service to be exempt  
4           from taxation under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Section  
5           501(c)(3); and

6           (3) The person tendering the containers for redemption signs a declaration  
7           indicating the person's name, the address of the collection point and the name of  
8           the organization or organizations that will receive the refund value.

9           **13. Private right of action; containers not originally sold in the State.** An  
10          initiator of deposit may maintain a civil action in Superior Court against a person, other  
11          than a local redemption center licensed in accordance with section 3113, that tenders to a  
12          redemption center or retailer more than 48 empty beverage containers that the person  
13          knows or has reason to know were not originally sold in this State as filled beverage  
14          containers. If the initiator of deposit prevails in any action, the initiator of deposit is  
15          entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs, including expert witness  
16          fees.

17          **§3107. Commingling of beverage containers**

18          Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, 2 or more  
19          initiators of deposit may enter into a commingling agreement through which some or all  
20          of the beverage containers for which the initiators have initiated deposits may be  
21          commingled by dealers and operators of redemption centers as provided in this section.

22          An initiator of deposit that enters into a commingling agreement pursuant to this  
23          section shall permit any other initiator of deposit to become a party to that agreement on  
24          the same terms and conditions as the original agreement.

25          **1. Commingling requirement.** If initiators of deposit enter into a commingling  
26          agreement pursuant to this section, commingling of beverage containers must be by all  
27          containers of like product group, material and size. An initiator of deposit required  
28          pursuant to section 3106, subsection 8 to pick up beverage containers subject to a  
29          commingling agreement also shall pick up all other beverage containers subject to the  
30          same agreement. The initiator of deposit may not require beverage containers that are  
31          subject to a commingling agreement to be sorted separately by a dealer or redemption  
32          center.

33          **2. Commingling of like materials.** For purposes of this section, containers are  
34          considered to be of like materials if made up of one of the following:

35               A. Plastic;

36               B. Aluminum;

37               C. Metal other than aluminum; and

38               D. Glass.

1           **3. Commingling of like products.** For purposes of this section, like products are  
2 those that are made up of one of the following:

3           A. Beer, ale or other beverage produced by fermenting malt, wine and wine coolers;

4           B. Spirits;

5           C. Soda;

6           D. Noncarbonated water; and

7           E. All other beverages.

8           **4. Registration of commingling agreements.** Not later than 48 hours following the  
9 execution or amendment of a commingling agreement, including an amendment that adds  
10 an additional party to an existing agreement, the parties shall file a copy of the  
11 commingling agreement or amendment with the department.

### 12 **§3108. Unclaimed deposits**

13           The provisions of this section apply only to those beverage containers that are not  
14 subject to a commingling agreement pursuant to section 3107.

15           **1. Deposit transaction fund.** An initiator of deposit shall maintain a separate  
16 account to be known as the initiator's deposit transaction fund. The initiator shall keep  
17 that fund separate from all other revenues and accounts. The initiator shall place in that  
18 fund the refund value for all nonrefillable beverage containers it sells subject to the  
19 provisions of this chapter. Except as specified in subsections 3 and 4, amounts in the  
20 initiator's deposit transaction fund may only be expended to pay refund values for  
21 returned nonrefillable beverage containers. Amounts in the fund may not be used to pay  
22 the handling fees required by this chapter. The fund must be maintained by the initiator  
23 on behalf of consumers who have purchased products in refundable nonrefillable  
24 beverage containers and on behalf of the State; except as specified in subsections 3 and 4,  
25 amounts in the fund may not be regarded as income of the initiator.

26           **2. Reports.** An initiator of deposit shall report to the State Tax Assessor by the 20th  
27 day of each month concerning transactions affecting its deposit transaction fund in the  
28 preceding month. The report must be in a form prescribed by the assessor and must  
29 include: the number of nonrefillable beverage containers sold and the number of  
30 nonrefillable beverage containers returned in the applicable month; the amount of  
31 deposits received in and payments made from the fund in the applicable month and the  
32 most recent 3-month period; any income earned on amounts in the fund during the  
33 applicable month; the balance in the fund at the close of the applicable month; and such  
34 other information as the assessor may require. The report required by this subsection  
35 must be treated by the assessor as a return, as the term is defined by Title 36, section 111,  
36 subsection 4.

37           **3. Determination of abandoned deposit amounts.** The initiator's abandoned  
38 deposit amount, at the end of each month, is the amount equal to the amount of deposits  
39 that are or should be in the fund, less the sum of:

40           A. Income earned on amounts in the fund during that month; and

1           B. The total amount of refund values received by the initiator for nonrefillable  
2           beverage containers during that month and the 2 preceding months.

3           Income on the fund may be transferred from the fund for use as funds of the initiator.

4           **4. Transfer of abandoned deposit amounts.** By the 20th day of each month, an  
5           initiator shall turn over to the State Tax Assessor the initiator's abandoned deposit  
6           amounts determined pursuant to subsection 3. Those amounts may be paid from the  
7           deposit transaction fund. Amounts collected by the assessor pursuant to this subsection  
8           must be treated by the assessor as a tax, as that term is defined by Title 36, section 111,  
9           subsection 5, and must be deposited in the General Fund.

10          **5. Reimbursement of initiators of deposit.** If in any month the authorized  
11          payments from the deposit transaction fund by an initiator pursuant to this section exceed  
12          the funds that are or should be in the initiator's deposit transaction fund, the State Tax  
13          Assessor shall reimburse the initiator, from amounts received pursuant to subsection 4,  
14          for those refunds paid by the initiator for nonrefillable beverage containers for which the  
15          funds that are or should be in the initiator's deposit transaction fund are insufficient;  
16          except that reimbursements paid by the assessor to an initiator may not exceed amounts  
17          paid by the initiator pursuant to subsection 4 in the preceding 24 months less amounts  
18          paid to the initiator pursuant to this subsection during that same 24-month period.

19          **6. Administration by State Tax Assessor.** The uniform tax administration  
20          provisions of Title 36, chapter 7 apply to the State Tax Assessor's administration of the  
21          reports and payments required by this section.

22          **7. Small manufacturers, bottlers and brewers exempt.** Except as otherwise  
23          provided in this subsection, a manufacturer who produces no more than 50,000 gallons of  
24          its product in a calendar year is exempt from the requirements of this section for that  
25          year. A brewer who produces no more than 50,000 gallons of its product or a bottler of  
26          water who sells no more than 250,000 containers each containing no more than one  
27          gallon of its product in a calendar year is exempt from the requirements of this section for  
28          that year.

29          **8. Removal of beverage.** The department may remove from sale a beverage that is  
30          sold or distributed in the State by an initiator of deposit who is not in compliance with the  
31          reporting and payment requirements established in this section if the department is  
32          notified by the State Tax Assessor of that noncompliance. The department shall allow the  
33          sale of the beverage to resume upon notification by the State Tax Assessor that all  
34          delinquent reports have been submitted and all payments are current.

35          **§3109. Redemption centers**

36          **1. Establishment.** Local redemption centers may be established and operated by  
37          any person or municipality, agency or regional association as defined in section 1303-C,  
38          subsection 24, subject to the approval of the commissioner, to serve local dealers and  
39          consumers, at which consumers may return empty beverage containers as provided under  
40          section 3106.

1           **2. Application for approval.** Application for approval of a local redemption center  
2 must be filed with the department. The application must state the name and address of the  
3 person responsible for the establishment and operation of the center, the kinds, sizes and  
4 brand names of beverage containers that will be accepted and the names and addresses of  
5 dealers to be served and their distances from the local redemption center.

6           **3. Approval.** The commissioner may approve the licensing of a local redemption  
7 center if the redemption center complies with the requirements established under section  
8 3113. The order approving a local redemption center license must state the dealers to be  
9 served and the kinds, sizes and brand names of empty beverage containers that the center  
10 accepts.

11           **4. Redemption center acceptance refund account.** A local redemption center may  
12 not refuse to accept from any consumer or other person not a dealer any empty, unbroken  
13 and reasonably clean beverage container of the kind, size and brand sold by a dealer  
14 served by the center as long as the label for the container is registered under section 3105,  
15 subsection 5 or refuse to pay in cash the refund value of the returned beverage container  
16 as established by section 3103. A redemption center or reverse vending machine is not  
17 obligated to count containers or to pay a cash refund at the time the beverage container is  
18 returned as long as the amount of the refund value due is placed into an account to be  
19 held for the benefit of the consumer and funded in a manner that allows the consumer to  
20 obtain deposits due within 2 business days of the time of the return.

21           **5. Posted lists.** A list of the dealers served and the kinds, sizes and brand names of  
22 empty beverage containers accepted must be prominently displayed at each local  
23 redemption center.

24           **6. Withdrawal of approval.** The District Court may, in a manner consistent with  
25 the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, withdraw approval of a local redemption center  
26 if there has not been compliance with the approval order or if the local redemption center  
27 no longer provides a convenient service to the public.

28           **§3110. Prohibition on certain types of containers and holders**

29           A beverage may not be sold or offered for sale to consumers in this State:

30           **1. Flip tops.** In a metal container designed or constructed so that part of the  
31 container is detachable for the purpose of opening the container without the aid of a  
32 separate can opener, except that nothing in this subsection prohibits the sale of a  
33 container, the only detachable part of which is a piece of adhesive-backed tape; and

34           **2. Plastic cans.** In a container composed of one or more plastics if the basic  
35 structure of the container, exclusive of the closure device, also includes aluminum or  
36 steel.

37           **§3111. Penalties**

38           **1. Civil violation.** A violation of this chapter by any person is a civil violation for  
39 which a fine of not more than \$100 may be adjudged.



1           **2. Separate violations.** Each day that a violation under subsection 1 continues or  
2 exists constitutes a separate offense.

3           **3. Container pickup.** Notwithstanding subsection 1, a person who knowingly  
4 violates a provision of section 3106, subsection 8 commits a civil violation for which a  
5 fine of \$1,000 may be adjudged.

6           **§3112. Exception for beverage containers used on international flights**

7           This chapter does not apply to any beverage container sold to an airline and  
8 containing a beverage intended for consumption on an aircraft flight in interstate or  
9 foreign commerce.

10          **§3113. Licensing requirements**

11          A license issued annually by the department is required before any person may  
12 initiate deposits under section 3103, operate a redemption center under section 3109 or  
13 act as a contracted agent for the collection of beverage containers under section 3106,  
14 subsection 8, paragraph B.

15          **1. Procedures; licensing fees.** The department shall adopt rules establishing the  
16 requirements and procedures for issuance of licenses and annual renewals under this  
17 section, including a fee structure. Initial rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are  
18 routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Rules adopted  
19 effective after calendar year 2003 are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5,  
20 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A and are subject to review by the joint standing committee of  
21 the Legislature having jurisdiction over environmental and natural resources matters.

22          **2. Criteria for licensing rules.** In developing rules under subsection 1 for licensing  
23 redemption centers, the department shall consider at least the following:

24           A. The health and safety of the public, including sanitation protection when food is  
25 also sold on the premises;

26           B. The convenience for the public, including standards governing the distribution of  
27 centers by population or by distance, or both;

28           C. The proximity of the proposed redemption center to existing redemption centers  
29 and the potential impact that the location of the proposed redemption center may have  
30 on an existing redemption center;

31           D. The proposed owner's record of compliance with this chapter and rules adopted  
32 by the department pursuant to this chapter; and

33           E. The hours of operation of the proposed redemption center and existing redemption  
34 centers in the proximity of the proposed redemption center.

35          **3. Location of redemption centers; population requirements.** The department  
36 may grant a license to a redemption center if the following requirements are met:

37           A. The department may license up to 5 redemption centers in a municipality with a  
38 population over 30,000;

1           B. The department may license up to 3 redemption centers in a municipality with a  
2           population over 20,000 but no more than 30,000; and

3           C. The department may license up to 2 redemption centers in a municipality with a  
4           population over 5,000 but no more than 20,000.

5           For a municipality with a population of no more than 5,000, the department may license  
6           redemption centers in accordance with rules adopted by the department. Rules adopted  
7           pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,  
8           subchapter 2-A.

9           **4. Exceptions.** Notwithstanding subsection 3:

10          A. An owner of a redemption center who is renewing the license of a redemption  
11          center licensed by the department as of April 1, 2009 need not comply with  
12          subsection 3;

13          B. An entity that is a food establishment or distributor licensed by or registered with  
14          the department need not comply with subsection 3;

15          C. A reverse vending machine is not considered a redemption center for purposes of  
16          subsection 3 when it is located in a licensed redemption center; and

17          D. The department may grant a license that is inconsistent with the requirements set  
18          out in subsection 3 only if the applicant has demonstrated a compelling public need  
19          for an additional redemption center in the municipality.

20          **§3114. Beverage Container Enforcement Fund**

21          **1. Creation.** The Beverage Container Enforcement Fund, referred to in this section  
22          as "the fund," is created under the jurisdiction and control of the department.

23          **2. Sources of money.** The fund consists of the following:

24          A. Fees for issuance of licenses and license renewals under section 3113;

25          B. Fees for registration of beverage container labels and registration renewals under  
26          section 3105, subsection 5; and

27          C. All other money appropriated or allocated for inclusion in the fund.

28          **3. Application of fund.** The department may combine administration and inspection  
29          responsibilities of other programs it administers with administration and enforcement  
30          responsibilities under this chapter for efficiency purposes; however, money in the fund  
31          may be used to fund only the portion of staff time devoted to administration and  
32          enforcement activities under this chapter.

33          **4. Revolving fund.** The fund is a nonlapsing, revolving fund. All money in the fund  
34          must be continuously applied by the department to carry out the administrative and  
35          enforcement responsibilities of the department under this chapter.

1           **§3115. Department administration**

2           The department shall administer this chapter and has the authority, following public  
3 hearing, to adopt necessary rules to carry it into effect. The department may adopt rules  
4 governing local redemption centers that receive beverage containers from dealers  
5 supplied by distributors other than the distributors servicing the area in which the local  
6 redemption center is located in order to prevent the distributors servicing the area within  
7 which the redemption center is located from being unfairly penalized. In addition to  
8 other actions required by this chapter, department responsibilities include the following.

9           **1. Registry of labels.** The department shall establish and maintain a registry of  
10 beverage container labels. The registry must contain the information for each beverage  
11 type and beverage container filed under section 3105, subsection 5 arranged and  
12 displayed in an organized and comprehensible manner. The department shall update the  
13 registry regularly and make information from the registry available upon request.

14           **2. Provision of information.** The department shall provide information about the  
15 operation of this chapter to any affected person whose premises it inspects or visits as  
16 part of its licensing and inspection responsibilities.

17           **§3116. Denial of redemption center license**

18           **1. Denial of application.** The department shall notify an applicant denied a license  
19 for a redemption center of the reasons for the denial. Written notification must be sent to  
20 the mailing address given by the applicant in the application for a redemption center  
21 license.

22           **2. Aggrieved applicants.** An applicant aggrieved by a decision made by the  
23 department may appeal the decision by filing an appeal with the Superior Court and  
24 -serving a copy of the appeal upon the department in accordance with the Maine Rules of  
25 Civil Procedure, Rule 80C. The appeal must be filed and served within 30 days of the  
26 mailing of the department's decision.

27           **§3117. Unlawful possession of beverage containers**

28           A person is guilty of a violation of this section if that person possesses more than 48  
29 beverage containers that are not labeled under section 3105. This section does not apply  
30 to licensed waste facilities as defined in section 1303-C, subsection 40.

31           **1. Penalty.** A violation of this section is a civil violation for which a fine of \$100  
32 per container in excess of 48 beverage containers may be adjudged.

33           **2. Enforcement.** The Maine State Police shall enforce this section and prosecute  
34 any persons found in violation.

35           **3. Private right of action; containers not originally sold in the State.** An initiator  
36 of deposit may maintain a civil action in Superior Court against a person, other than a  
37 local redemption center licensed in accordance with section 3113, in possession of more  
38 than 48 beverage containers that the person knows or has reason to know were not  
39 originally sold in this State as filled beverage containers. If the initiator of deposit

1 prevails in any action, the initiator of deposit is entitled to an award of reasonable  
2 attorney's fees and court costs, including expert witness fees.

3 **4. Exempt facilities.** The department may, by rule, adopt procedures for designating  
4 certain transportation activities and storage or production facilities or portions of facilities  
5 as exempt from this section. Any exemption granted under this subsection must be based  
6 on a showing by the person owning or operating the facility or undertaking the activity  
7 that:

8 A. The beverage containers stored or transported are intended solely for retail sale  
9 outside of the State;

10 B. The beverage containers are being transported to and stored in a facility licensed  
11 under Title 28-A, section 1371, subsection 1 prior to labeling and subsequent retail  
12 sale within the State; or

13 C. The person is licensed under Title 28-A, section 1401 to import malt liquor and  
14 wine into the State, the beverage containers contain malt liquor or wine and these  
15 containers are being transported or stored prior to labeling and subsequent retail sale  
16 within the State.

17 The department may require reporting of the numbers of beverage containers imported  
18 into and exported from the State under the terms of this subsection.

19 **§3118. Glass-breaking games**

20 A person, firm, corporation, association or organization may not hold, conduct or  
21 operate games of skill, as defined in Title 17, section 1831, subsection 6, that involve the  
22 breaking of glass. A violation of this section is a Class E crime.

23 **Sec. 15. Transition.** The following provisions govern the transfer of the  
24 administration of the provisions regarding returnable beverage containers under the  
25 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, chapter 28 from the Department of Agriculture,  
26 Conservation and Forestry to the Department of Environmental Protection.

27 1. The Department of Environmental Protection is the successor in every way to the  
28 powers, duties and functions of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
29 under Title 32, chapter 28. The department may enter into a memorandum of  
30 understanding to foster the administration of this program.

31 2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted by  
32 the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or any of its administrative  
33 units or officers pursuant to Title 32, chapter 28 are hereby declared in effect and  
34 continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the proper authority. All rules,  
35 regulations and procedures administered pursuant to Title 32, chapter 28 are administered  
36 by the Department of Environmental Protection.

37 3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts in effect under the authority of  
38 the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry under Title 32, chapter 28  
39 continue in effect.

