

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2579

Introduced by Assembly Member Low

February 19, 2016

An act to amend Section 14501 of the Public Resources Code, relating to recycling.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2579, as introduced, Low. California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act.

Under existing law, the Division of Recycling within the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery administers the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to the Legislature's findings and declarations relating to the act.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 14501 of the Public Resources Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 14501. The Legislature finds and declares as follows:
- 4 (a) Experience in this state and others demonstrates that financial
- 5 incentives and convenient return systems ensure the efficient and
- 6 large-scale recycling of beverage containers. Accordingly, it is the
- 7 intent of the Legislature to encourage increased, and more
- 8 convenient, beverage container redemption opportunities for all
- 9 consumers. These redemption opportunities shall consist of dealer

1 and other shopping center locations, independent and industry
2 operated recycling centers, curbside programs, and other recycling
3 systems that ~~assure~~ ensure all consumers, in every region of the
4 state, the opportunity to return beverage containers conveniently,
5 efficiently, and economically.

6 (b) California grocery, beer, soft drink, container manufacturing,
7 labor, agricultural, consumer, environmental, government, citizen,
8 recreational, taxpayer, and recycling groups have joined together
9 in calling for an innovative program to generate large-scale
10 redemption and recycling of beverage containers.

11 (c) This division establishes a beverage container recycling goal
12 of 80 percent.

13 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that every
14 container type proves its own recyclability.

15 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature to make redemption and
16 recycling convenient to consumers, and the Legislature hereby
17 urges cities and counties, when exercising their zoning authority,
18 to act favorably on the siting of multimaterial recycling centers,
19 reverse vending machines, mobile recycling units, or other types
20 of recycling opportunities, as necessary for consumer convenience,
21 and the overall success of litter abatement and beverage container
22 recycling in the state.

23 (f) The purpose of this division is to create and maintain a
24 marketplace where it is profitable to establish sufficient recycling
25 centers and locations to provide consumers with convenient
26 recycling opportunities through the establishment of minimum
27 refund values and processing fees and, through the proper
28 application of these elements, to enhance the profitability of
29 recycling centers, recycling locations, and other beverage container
30 recycling programs.

31 (g) The responsibility to provide convenient, efficient, and
32 economical redemption opportunities rests jointly with
33 manufacturers, distributors, dealers, recyclers, processors, and the
34 *Division of Recycling in the Department of ~~Conservation~~*
35 *Resources Recycling and Recovery*.

36 (h) It is the intent of the Legislature, in enacting this division,
37 that all empty beverage containers redeemed shall be recycled,
38 and that the responsibilities and regulations of the department shall
39 be determined and implemented in a manner that favors the
40 recycling of redeemed containers, as opposed to their disposal.

1 (i) ~~Nothing in this~~ *This* division shall *not* be interpreted as
2 affecting the current business practices of scrap dealers or recycling
3 centers, except that, to the extent they function as a recycling center
4 or processor, they shall do so in accordance with this division.

5 (j) The program established by this division will contribute
6 significantly to the reduction of the beverage container component
7 of litter in this state.

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