
Introduced by Senator Cannella

February 14, 2011

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 324, as introduced, Cannella. Beverage container recycling.

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 a conforming change to the act's statement of legislative intent with regard to that authority.

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
10 and other shopping center locations, independent and industry
11 operated recycling centers, curbside programs, and other recycling
12 systems that assure all consumers, in every region of the state, the

1 opportunity to return beverage containers conveniently, efficiently,
2 and economically.

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

8 (c) This division establishes a beverage container recycling goal
9 of 80 percent.

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

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

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

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

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

38 (i) Nothing in this division shall be interpreted as affecting the
39 current business practices of scrap dealers or recycling centers,

1 except that, to the extent they function as a recycling center or
2 processor, they shall do so in accordance with this division.
3 (j) The program established by this division will contribute
4 significantly to the reduction of the beverage container component
5 of litter in this state.

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