



The Bottle Bill

*Promoting Responsible Alcohol
Sales and Service*

The Bottle Bill

Oregonians have long demonstrated a concern for environmental quality and placed emphasis on outdoor recreation. In 1971, many Oregonians were worried that Oregon's natural beauty was being spoiled by widespread littering that was becoming characteristic of our beaches, highways and other public areas. They considered it essential that something be done to reduce the litter problem.

The solution Oregonians proposed was a mandatory deposit on cans and bottles. They felt it would encourage consumers to turn in containers for the refund rather than throw them away.

Their proposal led to legislative approval of the Beverage Container Act, later known as the "Bottle Bill." It was the first state law of its kind.



Bill Administration



The Oregon Liquor Control Commission was given responsibility for administering and enforcing the "Bottle

Bill." Under the new law, which became effective October 1, 1972, all malt beverage and carbonated soft drink containers sold in Oregon were required to have a refund value. Cans with "pull tabs" were banned outright. The law also provided for redemption centers.

Pull Tabs Prohibited

After citizen complaints about glass bottles with pull tab openings on the caps, another amendment was passed in 1979 to prohibit beverage containers with detachable metal rings or tabs (effective January 1, 1980).

The "Bottle Bill" is enforced primarily by educating retailers about practices required in labeling, accepting containers for refund and the ban on pull tab containers.

Copies Of Container Law

Copies of the Beverage Container Act (ORS 459A.700-740) and the OLCC administrative rules on certification of beverage containers and approval of redemption centers are available from the OLCC's Communication Services office. Call (503) 872-5000 or toll-free in Oregon (800) 452-6522.



References

Reports on the effectiveness of the law in controlling litter and its impact on Oregon's economy are available from the following sources:

"The Economic Impact of Oregon Bottle Bill"

By Gudger and Bailes, available on microfilm at Oregon State University reference library or from Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan, phone: (313) 761-4700

"Oregon's Bottle Bill - Two Years Later"

by Waggoner, \$3 a copy plus \$1.25 postage.
Oregon Environmental Council
2637 S.W. Water Ave
Portland, Oregon 97201

"Oregon's Bottle Bill - 1982 Report"

Department of Environmental Quality
Solid Waste Division
P.O. Box 1760
Portland, Oregon 97207

For general information on Oregon's Bottle Bill contact:

Container Recycling Institution
710 G Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
Phone: (202) 543-9449



OLCC Main Office

9079 SE McLoughlin Blvd.
Portland, OR 97222-7355

Mailing Address:
PO Box 22297
Milwaukie, OR 97269-2297

Phone (503) 872-5000
Fax (503) 872-5074
Toll Free (800) 452-6522

www.olcc.state.or.us