

July 14, 2023

Continued Implementation of Public Act 21-58: Bottle Bill Modernization

NOTICE OF BOTTLE BILL ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS

In July 2021, DEEP convened a [stakeholder engagement process](#) regarding the implementation of Public Act 21-58, *An Act Concerning Solid Waste Management* as well as June Special Session, Public Act 21-2, *An Act Concerning Provisions related to Revenue and Other Items to Implement the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2023* due to the significant transformation of Connecticut's beverage container redemption program (i.e., the Bottle Bill, Connecticut General Statutes Sections 22a-244 through 22a-246 inclusive). Today, in order to maximize transparency and engagement with all stakeholders interested in Bottle Bill implementation, DEEP is announcing a continuation of that process by forming a Bottle Bill Advisory Group that will meet regularly to receive updates and provide input on DEEP's implementation of its responsibilities under Public Act 21-58.

The Bottle Bill is a beverage container redemption program that currently places a 5-cent value ("the deposit") on certain beverage containers ("deposit containers") at the time of purchase and returns that deposit to the consumer when the empty bottle or can is returned. The deposit containers may be returned to their place of purchase or to redemption centers. While the Bottle Bill is a critical part of Connecticut's recycling and litter-reduction program, present redemption rates average about 50%. Other states, where Bottle Bill infrastructure and laws have been modernized, have achieved redemption rates approaching 90%. The Bottle Bill provides source-separated, high-quality material that can be readily recycled into new containers or other products. Public Act 21-58 provided for an increased handling fee for containers effective October 1, 2021; expanded the containers covered under the Bottle Bill effective July 1, 2023; and increases the redemption value to 10 cents on deposit containers effective January 1, 2024, in addition to other requirements aimed at making redemption of deposit containers more convenient for consumers.

Furthermore, Section 65 of June Special Session Public Act 21-2 charged DEEP with establishing a grant program to support the development of new redemption centers and modernize existing redemption centers. On June 29, 2023, DEEP [announced](#) the first round of redemption center grant awards totaling \$1.6 million to eight applicants.

DEEP has received a significant number of questions about Bottle Bill changes and has seen substantial interest from consumers, retailers, distributors and legislators. DEEP is committed to transparency, predictability, and efficiency in agency processes and has determined that continued stakeholder engagement is warranted and will provide for effective implementation of the Bottle Bill.

DEEP will host a series of meetings to engage all stakeholders and legislators in a Bottle Bill Advisory Group to solicit input on the areas of interest and question regarding the components of PA 21-58. DEEP proposes



to schedule monthly meetings beginning in late July 2023 through the end of the calendar year. Meetings will be held virtually, noticed in advance and include 1) presentations by DEEP staff on relevant issues requiring stakeholder education, engagement or feedback and 2) an opportunity for input from meeting participants. DEEP will also invite written feedback on meeting topics. Meetings will be held the fourth Monday of each month at 1:00 pm. The first meeting will be July 24, 2023. Participants can attend and share their thoughts by registering at the link below.

Bottle Bill Advisory Group Public Meeting

July 24, 2023, 1:00 pm

[Register here](#)

To add your name to the distribution list for the Bottle Bill Advisory Group, please go to

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTBottleBillStakeholder>:

Or:



More information can be found on [DEEP's Website](#).