

Single-use beverage containers are a massive litter and waste problem. Plastic beverage bottles clog storm drains, float into rivers and streams, and break down into [microplastic bits that pollute the Bay](#). And many beverage containers of all materials never get recycled because there isn't a convenient option to recycle them or because they were too contaminated from being collected in our mixed curbside program.

Bottle bills work. For over a year, Save The Bay, allies, elected officials, and stakeholders studied solutions to beverage bottle waste and pollution. The [legislative study commission](#) heard from recycling experts from around the country, examined data from other states, and dove deep into our own Rhode Island recycling and waste systems. It's now clearer than ever that bottle bills work to reduce litter and improve recycling. It's time for legislative action.

Per the recommendations of the study commission's [Final Report](#), legislation has been introduced to establish a Deposit Return System for beverage containers, as well as a broader producer responsibility system for other forms of packaging. [House Bill 6207](#) by Rep. Carol Hagan McEntee (D-South Kingstown/Narragansett) would create a world-class recycling system that both reduces litter and improves recycling.

House bill 6207 would:

- have no cost to taxpayers, and shift the cost of recycling from municipalities to producers
- increase recycling rates for these highly recyclable but often littered items by placing a refundable 10-cent deposit on beverage containers. (Well-designed, modern recycling refund programs consistently achieve redemption rates above [90%](#))
- create a contemporary system with new technology like [reverse vending machines](#) and [bag drop points](#) that enable consumers to redeem in seconds at many types of locations (e.g., unused parking spaces)
- create more resilient domestic supply chains and enable the creation of new products with high-quality, recycled material.

Rhode Islanders want a bottle bill. After hearing arguments from both sides, Rhode Islanders, by a [27-point](#) margin (58% to 31%), support a Bottle Bill.

Send a message to your state legislators today telling them we want waterways, parks, and beaches free of beverage container litter. Let them know you support the solution: a bottle bill!



Source: 2023 International Coastal Cleanup, Rhode Island report