

RI Needs a Bottle Bill

Bottle bills reduce litter, prevent plastic pollution and improve recycling



Wasted opportunity:
Rhode Island is just one of two states in the region (the other is NH) yet to enact a Bottle Bill.

The Problem: Beverage containers are littering our neighborhoods, clogging storm drains, polluting our waterways and piling up in the landfill, which is estimated to reach capacity by 2040 if we don't change course. Unfortunately, curbside recycling is not effectively capturing beverage containers, and many of those that do make it onto a recycling truck actually end up in the landfill or are "downcycled."

Despite decades of anti-littering efforts and an increase in access to single-stream recycling in the state, **litter and marine debris continue to be a persistent and growing environmental problem**, both along the shore and in our inland communities. At the same time, **our recycling system is failing** to meet the state's recycling targets, and tons of recyclable beverage containers are buried in the landfill each year. In short: **What we're doing isn't working. We need to do better.**

The Solution: a RI Bottle Bill. Luckily, ten states, including our neighbors in Massachusetts and Connecticut, are currently modeling a solution: a recycling refund system, or "bottle bill." Decades of experience from these states — and countries around the world — show that these programs both reduce litter and improve recycling:

- A study by the Container Recycling Institute of the effects of "bottle bills" when first adopted in the U.S. showed a consistent **70-84% reduction in beverage container litter** and a 34-47% reduction in total litter.
- Recycling rates for glass, aluminum, and PET plastic in states with bottle bills are **more than double** the rates in states without one.

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Learn About the 2025 Legislation

H6207 and S996 are the result of a year-long bipartisan study commission that brought in experts from across the country, examined our state's recycling and waste systems, and listened to local stakeholders. They studied recycling systems in states with bottle bills to develop a plan that works for Rhode Island. It is now clearer than ever that bottle bills work to reduce litter and improve recycling, and H6207 and S996 are the result of this careful, deliberative process.

This bill is a form of extended producer responsibility — meaning the companies who produce the waste are responsible for its disposal. First, major brands are encouraged, via fees they pay, to create more sustainable packaging for their products that is easier to recycle. Second, the bill establishes a recycling refund system ("bottle bill") for Rhode Island to ensure that beverage containers are recycled rather than littered or landfilled.

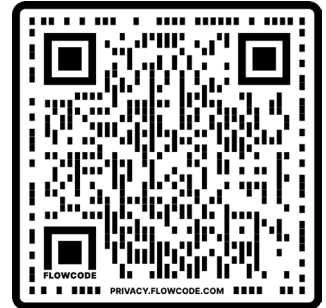
The Bottle Bill would increase recycling rates for these highly recyclable but often littered items by placing a refundable deposit on beverage containers.

- Consumers would return their empty beverage containers for a refund.
- The RI program would offer a variety of convenient bottle return options.
- Collecting bottles separately from curbside recycling will significantly increase recycling rates and improve the quality of recycled materials so they can be recycled or reused.

More bottles collected for recycling will mean less beverage container litter in our parks, neighborhoods, and waterways!

TAKE ACTION: Tell your state legislators to support H6207 and S996!

*Scan for More
Information on the
RI Bottle Bill:*



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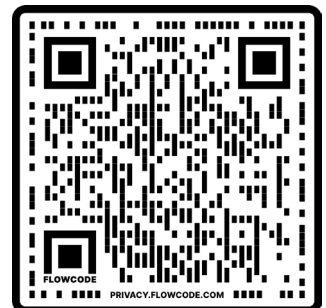
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