



HOUSE BILL 99

Beverage Container Deposit Program - Establishment and Advisory Commission

February 17, 2021

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee:

During the hearing for House Bill 99, there was discussion about how restaurants would be affected by a beverage container deposit program. As currently drafted, we do not believe this legislation is intended to apply to restaurants that purchase beverages in containers to sell to customers for mostly on-premise consumption. Part of the Advisory Commission directives outlined on page 3 of this legislation is to “*address how to include all on-the-go beverage containers in the program.*”

As we have previously shared with the Committee during consideration of similar legislation in prior Sessions, it would be difficult for restaurants to recover any container deposits we would be required to pay under such a program. Storing and transporting containers for redemption would pose logistical challenges for restaurants, especially for those with limited outdoor storage space.

However, if the program is intended to also include beverage containers sold for on-premise consumption, we would request that our organization be added to the Advisory Commission established by the bill to provide appropriate input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melvin R. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Melvin R. Thompson
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs and Public Policy