

Lou Mansolillo

From: Lisa Gould <lgould44@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 8:40 AM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: Bill # H62207

To Clerk Lou Mansolillo:

As a relatively new resident of Rhode Island and member of the Board of Save The Bay, I am urging you to support H6207. 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. Many beverage containers of all types fail to get recycled because there is not a convenient option to recycle them or because they are too contaminated when collected in our mixed curbside program.

It has been demonstrated that Bottle bills work! Multiple states have shown that bottle bills reduce litter and improve recycling. For over a year, environmental groups, elected officials, and stakeholders studied solutions to beverage bottle waste and pollution. The 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 and are recommending what is seen as a good option specific to the needs of our state.

House Bill 6207 by Rep. McEntee reflects the recommendations of the study commission to create a Deposit Return System for beverage containers and a producer responsibility program for other forms of packaging. These systems would be paid for by producers and have no impact on the state budget while creating a world-class recycling system that both reduces litter and improves recycling.

We know that there is a lot of push-back from the beverage industry but this approach has been studied and is good for Rhode Island. Please support H6207.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gould

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