

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 10-0239R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Henry, Kraft, Clarke, Stokes, Curran, Branch, Conaway
Introduced and adopted: December 9, 2010

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Request for State Legislation – State Container Deposit Law

1
2 For the purpose of respectfully requesting the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore
3 City Senate and House Delegations to the 2011 Session of the Maryland General Assembly
4 to sponsor and secure the adoption of legislation that would establish a State Container
5 Deposit Law.

Recitals

6
7 **WHEREAS**, Currently, 11 states (California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine,
8 Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Oregon, and Vermont) have a container deposit law, with
9 deposits ranging from five to ten cents a container. When a distributor distributes containers to a
10 retailer, a deposit is paid by the retailer to the distributor. Then, when a consumer purchases a
11 container from a retailer, a deposit is paid to the retailer. When the consumer returns the
12 container to a designated drop-off point, they receive their deposit back, and when retailers
13 return the used containers to the distributors for recycling, they also receive their deposit back.
14 The costs of the program are generally covered by the unclaimed deposits.

15 **WHEREAS**, States with container deposit laws have seen their recovery and recycling rates
16 rise to 65%-96%, a remarkable rise at a point where both overall recycling rates and container
17 recycling rates are falling. According to the Aluminum Association, states without deposit
18 programs have a recycling rate around 38%, considerably lower than states with such programs.

19 **WHEREAS**, Additionally, programs like these serve to eliminate beverage container litter.
20 According to the Container Recycling Institute, 40-60% of litter is comprised of beverage waste
21 (presumably owing to so many of these beverages being consumed on the go). In states with a
22 container deposit law, beverage container litter was reduced by 69-83%, while overall litter was
23 reduced by 30-47%.

24 **WHEREAS**, Increased recycling of containers also means that there will be fewer carbon
25 emissions and less energy used, since fewer new materials have to be used.

26 **WHEREAS**, Furthermore, this would move the costs of un-recycled containers to the
27 consumers and the companies, not the taxpayers in general. Right now, much of the costs
28 attributed to the use of beverage containers (namely through litter control) is borne by the
29 taxpayers, not by those who contribute to the problem. In other states, unclaimed deposits have
30 been used to fund programs that aid the environment and assist with litter control.

31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
32 Honorable Chair and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the 2011

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

Council Bill 10-0239R

1 Session of the Maryland General Assembly are urged to introduce legislation to establish a
2 container deposit law.

3 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable
4 Chair and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the 2011 Maryland,
5 General Assembly, the Governor, the Mayor, the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental
6 Relations, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.