

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 699

H. P. 454

House of Representatives, February 22, 1979

Speaker laid before the House and on Motion of Mr. Mahany of Easton, referred to the Committee on Business Legislation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Locke of Sebec.

Cosponsor: Mr. Gwadosky of Fairfield.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Increase the Handling Charge for Returnable Beverage Containers from 1¢ to 3¢ and to Provide for Prompt Reimbursement of this Charge to Dealers and Redemption Centers.**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

**32 MRSA § 1866, sub-§ 4**, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 739, § 16, is amended to read:

**4. Reimbursement by distributor.** In addition to the payment of the refund value, the distributor shall reimburse the dealer or local redemption center for the cost of handling beverage containers, in an amount which equals at least ~~1¢~~ 3¢ per returned container.

**The distributor shall make this reimbursement at the time he accepts from the dealer or local redemption center the beverage containers whose costs of handling are being reimbursed.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill amends the returnable beverage container statute by increasing from 1¢ to 3¢ the distributor's reimbursement to the dealer or redemption center for the cost of handling each beverage container. The present 1¢ reimbursement is

clearly inadequate to compensate for the costs of handling returnable beverage containers as is evidenced by the high failure rate of redemption centers. This bill provides for a more reasonable level of reimbursement.

The bill also provides that the distributor, when he picks up returnable beverage containers from his dealer or redemption center, must pay the handling charge for those containers to the dealer or center. Delay in the payment of this handling charge is one of the biggest financial problems faced by dealers and redemption centers; this bill will solve that problem.