An Act to Increase the Handling Fee for Beverage Containers
Reimbursed to Dealers and Redemption Centers

Reference to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach and Senator: BRENNER of Cumberland, Representative: BOYLE of Gorham.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §3106, sub-§7, as amended by PL 2019, c. 526, §7, is further amended to read:

7. Reimbursement of handling costs. Reimbursement of handling costs is governed by this subsection.

   A. In addition to the payment of the refund value, the initiator of the deposit under section 3103, subsections 1, 2 and 4 shall reimburse the dealer or redemption center for the cost of handling beverage containers subject to section 3103, in an amount that equals at least 3¢ per returned container for containers picked up by the initiator before March 1, 2004, at least 3 1/2¢ for containers picked up on or after March 1, 2004 and before March 1, 2010, at least 4¢ for containers picked up on or after March 1, 2010 and before January 1, 2020 and, at least 4 1/2¢ for containers picked up on or after January 1, 2020 and before January 1, 2024 and at least 5¢ for containers picked up on or after January 1, 2024. The initiator of the deposit may reimburse the dealer or redemption center directly or indirectly through a party with which it has entered into a commingling agreement.

   B. In addition to the payment of the refund value, the initiator of the deposit under section 3103, subsection 3 shall reimburse the dealer or redemption center for the cost of handling beverage containers subject to section 3103 in an amount that equals at least 3¢ per returned container for containers picked up by the initiator before March 1, 2004, at least 3 1/2¢ for containers picked up on or after March 1, 2004 and before March 1, 2010, at least 4¢ for containers picked up on or after March 1, 2010 and before January 1, 2020 and, at least 4 1/2¢ for containers picked up on or after January 1, 2020 and before January 1, 2024 and at least 5¢ for containers picked up on or after January 1, 2024. The initiator of the deposit may reimburse the dealer or redemption center directly or indirectly through a contracted agent or through a party with which it has entered into a commingling agreement.

SUMMARY

This bill increases the reimbursement to a dealer or redemption center for the cost of handling beverage containers by 1/2¢ to 5¢ beginning January 1, 2024.