



SUPPORT

A. 5028-A (Englebright)

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to returnable bottles

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 5028-A (Englebright), which would expand the Bottle Bill to cover additional container types, make a series of technical changes to the bottle redemption process, and create minimum post-consumer content requirements for glass, aluminum, and plastic containers.

Global recycling markets are in crisis, resulting in higher costs for municipal recycling programs, especially for recycling glass containers. Many municipal recycling programs in New York are in danger of decreasing the kinds of materials they accept, passing on dramatically higher costs to taxpayers, or shutting down entirely. Even temporary cutbacks in recycling programs can have long-term negative impacts on recycling rates. A. 5028-A would take steps to address this crisis by removing the most problematic material types from the municipal stream and creating a market for post-recycled content that will boost the prices municipal programs receive for their goods.

A. 5028-A would expand the Bottle Bill to cover wine, liquor, coolers, hard cider, and wine products beginning in 2020 and non-carbonated soft drinks, certain fruit and vegetable beverages, and coffee and tea beverages beginning in 2021. It would also establish minimum post-consumer content requirements for glass and aluminum containers beginning in 2022, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) containers beginning in 2025, and other plastic containers beginning in 2030. These amendments to the Bottle Bill would improve the statewide recycling rate, remove difficult-to-recycle materials from the municipal recycling stream, and create a more robust domestic market for post-consumer material.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of A. 5028-A.

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