

State of Vermont
Department of Environmental Conservation
Waste Management & Prevention Division
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VT DEC Solid Waste Management Program Statement on Enforcement Discretion for the Bottle Bill

Vermont's bottle bill law (10 VSA §1523) requires retailers and redemption centers to redeem beverage containers subject to that bill. Vermont DEC recognized the need to reduce unnecessary person-to-person contact and possible virus transmission and to let grocers to focus on restocking food shelves and other needed work to assure availability of groceries and issued enforcement discretion statements in this regard on March 18, 2020 (which expired on April 30, 2020) and on April 24, 2020. With this Statement, ANR is rescinding the April 24, 2020 Statement, effective June 22, 2020. ANR expects full compliance with the bottle bill after June 22, 2020.

Thereafter, ANR will consider exercising enforcement discretion on a case by case basis pursuant to the Agency of Natural Resources COVID – 19 State of Emergency Enforcement and Compliance Guidance Document, dated March 31, 2020 (Guidance Document) available at https://anr.vermont.gov/about_us/emergency-information for any instance of non-compliance relating to the implementation of the bottle bill by retailers and redemption centers which temporarily stop offering redemption services provided they meet the requirements set forth in the Guidance and:

- a. The noncompliance does not present a significant threat to human health or the environment;
- b. The retailers and redemption centers come into compliance as soon as possible or enter into a schedule to return to compliance with the Agency.

For questions about Vermont's bottle bill, or this exercise in enforcement discretion, contact Becky Webber with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation at 802-522-3658, or rebecca.webber@vermont.gov.

