

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #:	H.2254
Title:	An Act to establish local option fines for improper disposal of redeemable goods
Sponsor:	Rep. Michelle Ciccolo
Committee:	Municipalities and Regional Government
Hearing Date:	July 22, 2025
Current Law:	<p>Mass. General Laws Chapter 4, Section 4 states that wherever a statute is to take effect upon its acceptance by a municipality or district, or is to be effective in municipalities or districts accepting its provisions, this acceptance shall be, except as otherwise provided in that statute, in a municipality, by vote of the legislative body, subject to the charter of the municipality (e.g. town meeting, city council, town council) or, in a district, by vote of a district meeting.</p> <p>MGL Chapter 40 governs powers and duties of cities and towns. Section 8H authorizes cities and towns to establish, with approval of the local legislative body, recycling programs for the purpose of recycling any type of solid waste including but not limited to paper, glass, metal, rubber, plastics, used tires and compostable waste.</p> <p>MGL Chapter 94, Section 323 is the law that governs the return of beverage containers for a refund, the amount of such refunds, and the role of distributors, dealers, bottlers, etc.</p> <p>301 CMR 4.00 is the state regulation that contains provisions for the recycling of beverage containers.</p>
Summary:	<p>This legislation adds language to Chapter 40 authorizing a city or town that accepts the new section to impose a fine to penalize the disposal, in residential or commercial solid waste or recycling bins, of beverage containers that are otherwise redeemable under law.</p> <p>Cities or towns that accept the section would be authorized to pass an ordinance or by-law to impose fines not to exceed \$100 per violation, and to provide for periodic inspections of curbside bins to ensure compliance with the ordinance or by-law.</p>

Notes: The Massachusetts Beverage Container Law or "Bottle Bill." The law, which took effect in January 1983, applies to glass, plastic, metal, aluminum, and bi-metal containers holding beer and other malt beverages, carbonated soft drinks, and mineral waters are subject to the law. All must carry deposit labels before they are sold.

Wine, dairy products, natural fruit juices, non-carbonated drinks, and alcoholic beverages other than beer and malt beverages are exempt from the law. Containers holding more than two gallons of liquid also are exempt. Containers must have a refund value of at least 5 cents each.