

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H.3463

TITLE: An Act to restore the environmental fund

SPONSOR: Representative Michelle L. Ciccolo

COMMITTEE: Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

HEARING DATE: June 18, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: 2023-2024: H.3157; accompanied a study order, H.4778

CURRENT LAW:

Section 322 of Chapter 94 of the General Laws pertains to the return of beverage containers; refund; and refusal to accept container

Section 323D of Chapter 94 of the General Laws pertains to the transfer of abandoned deposit amounts

Section 326 of Chapter 94 of the General Laws refers to the administration of provisions relating to bottlers and distributors and the related rules and regulations.

Currently unclaimed bottle deposits are deposited into the General Fund.

SUMMARY:

Section 1 of the act amends section 323D of Chapter 94 by requiring the first \$70 million of unclaimed bottle deposits to be deposited into the General Fund and any additional amounts to be deposited into the Clean Environment Fund.

Section 2 amends Chapter 94 by inserting a new section that establishes the Clean Environment Fund, whose funds shall be used for programs and projects in the management of solid waste, environmental protection and climate change mitigation. No funds shall be used for costs associated with incineration.

- Not less than 40% of amounts deposited in the fund shall be used for recycling, composting and solid waste source reduction projects and programs, including reuse and refill
- Not less than 10% of amounts deposited in the fund shall be used for recycling and other solid waste projects and programs
- Not more than 50% of the amounts shall be used for other environmental programs consistent with the purposes of the “bottle bill”, including department administration and enforcement and including the provisions of clean water and sewer and improvements to storm water management