

By: Senator(s) Dawkins, Williamson

To: Environment Prot, Cons
and Water Res

SENATE BILL NO. 2918

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE USE OF REUSABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS IN
2 THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; TO ESTABLISH LIMITS ON REFUND DEPOSITS;
3 TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REDEMPTION CENTERS; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 **SECTION 1.** As used in this act, unless the context requires
7 otherwise:

8 (a) "Beverage" means beer or other malt beverages and
9 mineral waters, soda water and similar carbonated soft drinks in
10 liquid form and intended for human consumption.

11 (b) "Beverage container" means the individual,
12 separate, sealed glass, or plastic bottle, can, jar or carton
13 containing a beverage.

14 (c) "Commission" means the Mississippi State Tax
15 Commission.

16 (d) "Consumer" means every person who purchases a
17 beverage in a beverage container for use or consumption.

18 (e) "Dealer" means every person in this state who
19 engages in the sale of beverages in beverage containers to a
20 consumer, or means a redemption center certified under Section 8
21 of this act.

22 (f) "Distributor" means every person who engages in the
23 sale of beverages in beverage containers to a dealer in this
24 state, including any manufacturer who engages in such sales.

25 (g) "In this state" means within the exterior limits of
26 the State of Mississippi and includes all territory within these
27 limits owned by or ceded to the United States of America.

28 (h) "Manufacturer" means every person bottling, canning
29 or otherwise filling beverage containers for sale to distributors
30 or dealers.

31 (i) "Place of business of a dealer" means the location
32 at which a dealer sells or offers for sale beverages in beverage
33 containers to consumers.

34 (j) "Use or consumption" includes the exercise of any
35 right or power over a beverage incident to the ownership thereof,
36 other than the sale or the keeping or retention of a beverage for
37 the purposes of sale.

38 **SECTION 2.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this
39 section, every beverage container sold or offered for sale in this
40 state shall have a refund value of not less than Ten Cents (10¢).

41 (2) Every beverage container certified as provided in
42 Section 6 of this act sold or offered for sale in this state shall
43 have a refund value of not less than Four Cents (4¢).

44 **SECTION 3.** Except as provided in Section 4 of this act:

45 (a) A dealer shall not refuse to accept from a consumer
46 any empty beverage containers of the kind, size and brand sold by
47 the dealer, or refuse to pay to the consumer the refund value of a
48 beverage container as established by Section 2 of this act.

49 (b) A distributor shall not refuse to accept from a
50 dealer any empty beverage containers of the kind, size and brand
51 sold by the distributor, or refuse to pay the dealer the refund
52 value of a beverage container as established by Section 2 of this
53 act.

54 **SECTION 4.** (1) A dealer may refuse to accept from a
55 consumer, and a distributor may refuse to accept from a dealer,
56 any empty beverage container which does not state thereon a refund
57 value as established by Section 2 of this act.

58 (2) A dealer may refuse to accept and to pay the refund
59 value of empty beverage containers if the place of business of the
60 dealer and the kind and brand of empty beverage containers are

61 included in an order of the commission approving a redemption
62 center under Section 8 of this act.

63 **SECTION 5.** (1) Every beverage container sold or offered for
64 sale in this state by a dealer shall clearly indicate by embossing
65 or by a stamp or by a label or other method securely affixed to
66 the beverage container the refund value of the container.

67 (2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to glass
68 beverage containers designed for beverages having a brand name
69 permanently marked thereon which on the operative date of this act
70 had a refund value of not less than Ten Cents (10¢).

71 (3) No person shall sell or offer for sale at retail in this
72 state any metal beverage container so designed and constructed
73 that a part of the container is detachable in opening the
74 container without the aid of a can opener.

75 **SECTION 6.** (1) To promote the use in this state of reusable
76 beverage containers of uniform design, and to facilitate the
77 return of containers to manufacturers for reuse as beverage
78 container, the commission shall certify beverage containers which
79 satisfy the requirements of this section.

80 (2) A beverage container shall be certified if:

81 (a) It is reusable as a beverage container by more than
82 one (1) manufacturer in the ordinary course of business; and

83 (b) More than one (1) manufacturer, will in the
84 ordinary course of business, accept the beverage container for
85 reuse as a beverage container and pay the refund value of the
86 container.

87 (3) A beverage container shall not be certified under this
88 section if by reason of its shape or design, or by reason of words
89 or symbols permanently inscribed thereon, whether by engraving,
90 embossing, painting or other permanent method, it is reusable as a
91 beverage container in the ordinary course of business only by a
92 manufacturer of a beverage sold under a specific brand name.

93 **SECTION 7.** (1) Unless an application for certification

94 under Section 6 of this act is denied by the commission within
95 sixty (60) days after the filing of the application, the beverage
96 container shall be deemed certified.

97 (2) The commission may review at any time certification of a
98 beverage container. If after such review, with written notice and
99 hearing afforded to the person who filed the application for
100 certification under Section 6 of this act, the commission
101 determines the container is no longer qualified for certification,
102 it shall withdraw certification.

103 (3) Withdrawal of certification shall be effective not less
104 than thirty (30) days after written notice to the person who filed
105 the application for certification under Section 6 of this act and
106 to the manufacturers referred to in subsection (2) of Section 6 of
107 this act.

108 **SECTION 8.** (1) To facilitate the return of empty beverage
109 containers and to serve dealers of beverages, any person may
110 establish a redemption center, subject to the approval of the
111 Mississippi State Tax Commission, at which consumers may return
112 empty beverage containers and receive payment of the refund value
113 of such beverage containers.

114 (2) Application for approval of a redemption center shall be
115 filed with the commission. The application shall state the name
116 and address of the person responsible for the establishment and
117 operation of the redemption center, the kind and brand names of
118 the beverage containers which will be accepted at the redemption
119 center and the names and addresses of the dealers to be served by
120 the redemption center. The application shall include such
121 additional information as the commission may require.

122 (3) The commission shall approve a redemption center if it
123 finds the redemption center will provide a convenient service to
124 consumers for the return of empty beverage containers. The order
125 of the commission approving a redemption center shall state the
126 dealers to be served by the redemption center and the kind and

127 brand names of empty beverage containers which the redemption
128 center must accept. The order may contain such other provisions
129 to insure the redemption center will provide a convenient service
130 to the public as the commission may determine.

131 (4) The commission may review at any time approval of a
132 redemption center. After written notice to the person responsible
133 for the establishment and operation of the redemption center, and
134 to the dealers served by the redemption center, the commission
135 may, after hearing, withdraw approval of a redemption center or
136 the commission finds there has not been compliance with its order
137 approving the redemption center, or the redemption center no
138 longer provides a convenient service to the public.

139 **SECTION 9.** (1) Any person who violates Section 2, 3 or 5 of
140 this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction
141 shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than thirty (30)
142 days or by a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars
143 (\$1,000.00), or both.

144 (2) In addition to the penalty prescribed by subsection (1)
145 of this section, the commission may revoke or suspend the license
146 of any person who willfully violates Section 2, 3 or 5 of this act
147 who is required by state law to have a license.

148 **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
149 and after July 1, 2004.