

By: Senator(s) Carmichael

To: Environment Prot, Cons  
and Water Res; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2863

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, separate,  
12 sealed glass, metal or plastic bottle, can, jar or carton  
13 containing a beverage.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

36 **SECTION 2.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this  
37 section, every beverage container sold or offered for sale in this  
38 state shall have a refund value of not less than Five Cents (5).

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

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

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

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

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

55 (2) A dealer may refuse to accept and to pay the refund  
56 value of empty beverage containers if the place of business of the  
57 dealer and the kind and brand of empty beverage containers are  
58 included in an order of the commission approving a redemption  
59 center under Section 8 of this act.

60 **SECTION 5.** (1) Every beverage container sold or offered for  
61 sale in this state by a dealer shall clearly indicate by embossing



62 or by a stamp or by a label or other method securely affixed to  
63 the beverage container the refund value of the container.

64 (2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to glass  
65 beverage containers designed for beverages having a brand name  
66 permanently marked thereon which on the operative date of this act  
67 had a refund value of not less than Five Cents (5).

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

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

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

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

80 (b) More than one (1) manufacturer will in the ordinary  
81 course of business accept the beverage container for reuse as a  
82 beverage container and pay the refund value of the container.

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

89 **SECTION 7.** (1) Unless an application for certification  
90 under Section 6 of this act is denied by the commission within  
91 sixty (60) days after the filing of the application, the beverage  
92 container shall be deemed certified.

93 (2) The commission may review at any time certification of a  
94 beverage container. If after such review, with written notice and



95 hearing afforded to the person who filed the application for  
96 certification under Section 6 of this act, the commission  
97 determines the container is no longer qualified for certification,  
98 it shall withdraw certification.

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

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

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

118 (3) The commission shall approve a redemption center if it  
119 finds the redemption center will provide a convenient service to  
120 consumers for the return of empty beverage containers. The order  
121 of the commission approving a redemption center shall state the  
122 dealers to be served by the redemption center and the kind and  
123 brand names of empty beverage containers which the redemption  
124 center must accept. The order may contain such other provisions  
125 to insure the redemption center will provide a convenient service  
126 to the public as the commission may determine.



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

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

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

144           **SECTION 10.** (1) A legislative study committee shall cause  
145 to be conducted a study of the operation of Sections 1 to 10 of  
146 this act that shall include but not be limited to an analysis of:

147           (a) Its economic impact on persons licensed under  
148 current state law who engage in the nonalcoholic beverage  
149 manufacturing business, on persons engaged in the business of  
150 manufacturing beer and other malt beverages and on persons engaged  
151 in the business of manufacturing beverage containers in complying  
152 with the provisions of Sections 1 to 10 of this act.

153           (b) The problems, if any, incurred in the distribution,  
154 sale and return of beverage containers subject to the provisions  
155 of Sections 1 to 10 of this act.

156           (c) The effectiveness of the provisions of Sections 1  
157 to 10 of this act in the reduction of the incidence of the  
158 littering by beverage containers in this state.



159           (d) The costs incurred in the enforcement of the  
160 provisions of Sections 1 to 10 of this act.

161           (2) Prior to January 1, 2003, the legislative study  
162 committee shall prepare and submit to both houses of the  
163 Legislature a report of its findings made pursuant to subsection  
164 (1) of this section and its recommendations with respect to any  
165 legislative proposal considered by it to be necessary as the  
166 result of the study conducted as required by subsection (1) of  
167 this section.

168           **SECTION 11.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
169 and after July 1, 2002.

