

By: Senator(s) Dawkins

To: Environment Prot, Cons  
and Water Res

SENATE BILL NO. 2735

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, sport drinks, soda water and similar carbonated  
10 soft drinks in 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, and includes a redemption center certified under this  
21 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), every  
39 beverage container sold or offered for sale in this state shall  
40 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) This section shall not apply to glass beverage  
68 containers designed for beverages having a brand name permanently  
69 marked thereon which on the operative date of this act had a  
70 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 the commission may revoke or suspend the license of any person who  
146 willfully violates Section 2, 3 or 5 of this act.

147 **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
148 and after July 1, 2007.