

# Michigan Beverage Container Deposit Law

(Initiated Law of 1976)

445.571 Definitions.

Sec. 1. As used in this act:

(a) "Beverage" means a soft drink, soda water, carbonated natural or mineral water, or other nonalcoholic carbonated drink; beer, ale, or other malt drink of whatever alcoholic content; or a mixed wine drink or a mixed spirit drink.

(b) "Beverage container" means an airtight metal, glass, paper, or plastic container, or a container composed of a combination of these materials, which, at the time of sale, contains 1 gallon or less of a beverage.

(c) "Empty returnable container" means a beverage container which contains nothing except the residue of its original contents.

(d) "Returnable container" means a beverage container upon which a deposit of at least 10 cents has been paid, or is required to be paid upon the removal of the container from the sale or consumption area, and for which a refund of at least 10 cents in cash is payable by every dealer or distributor in this state of that beverage in beverage containers, as further provided in section 2.

(e) "Nonreturnable container" means a beverage container upon which no deposit or a deposit of less than 10 cents has been paid, or is required to be paid upon the removal of the container from the sale or consumption area, or for which no cash refund or a refund of less than 10 cents is payable by a dealer or distributor in this state of that beverage in beverage containers, as further provided in section 2.

(f) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity.

(g) "Dealer" means a person who sells or offers for sale to consumers within this state a beverage in a beverage container, including an operator of a vending machine containing a beverage in a beverage container.

(h) "Operator of a vending machine" means equally its owner, the person who refills it, and the owner or lessee of the property upon which it is located.

(i) "Distributor" means a person who sells beverages in beverage containers to a dealer within this state, and includes a manufacturer who engages in such sales.

(j) "Manufacturer" means a person who bottles, cans, or otherwise places beverages in beverage containers for sale to distributors, dealers, or consumers.

(k) "Within this state" means within the exterior limits of the state of Michigan, and includes the territory within these limits owned by or ceded to the United States of America.

(l) "Commission" means the Michigan liquor control commission.

(m) "Sale or consumption area" means the premises within the property of the dealer or of the dealer's lessor where the sale is made, within which beverages in returnable containers may be consumed without payment of a deposit, and, upon removing a beverage container from which, the customer is required by the dealer to pay the deposit.

(n) "Nonrefillable container" means a returnable container which is not intended to be refilled for sale by a manufacturer.

(o) "Mixed wine drink" means a drink or similar product marketed as a wine cooler and containing less than 7% alcohol by volume, consisting of wine and plain, sparkling, or carbonated water and containing any 1 or more of the following:

- (i) Nonalcoholic beverages.
- (ii) Flavoring.
- (iii) Coloring materials.
- (iv) Fruit juices.
- (v) Fruit adjuncts.
- (vi) Sugar.
- (vii) Carbon dioxide.
- (viii) Preservatives.

(p) "Mixed spirit drink" means a drink containing 10% or less alcohol by volume consisting of distilled spirits mixed with nonalcoholic beverages or flavoring or coloring materials and which may also contain water, fruit juices, fruit adjuncts, sugar, carbon dioxide, or preservatives; or any spirits based beverage, regardless of the percent of alcohol by volume, that is manufactured for sale in a metal container.

445.572 Nonreturnable containers; prohibitions; means for return and refund; regional redemption centers; acceptance of containers and payment of refunds; indicating refund value and name of state on container; exception; indicating container is returnable for deposit; metal containers with detachable parts prohibited; deposit previously refunded ; refund upon reuse; maximum daily refund; agreement on deposit; refund by manufacturer.

Sec. 2. (1) A dealer shall not, within this state, sell, offer for sale, or give to consumers a nonreturnable container or a beverage in a nonreturnable container.

(2) A dealer who regularly sells beverages for consumption off the dealer's premises shall provide on the premises, or within 100 yards of the premises on which the dealer sells or offers for sale a beverage in a returnable container, a convenient means whereby the containers of any kind, size, and brand sold or offered for sale by the dealer may be returned by, and the deposit refunded in cash to, a person whether or not the person is the original customer of that dealer, and whether or not the container was sold by that dealer.

(3) Regional centers for redemption of returnable containers may be established in addition to, but not as substitutes for, means for refund of deposits in accordance with subsection (2).

(4) A dealer shall not refuse to accept from a person an empty returnable container of any kind, size, and brand sold by that dealer, nor refuse to pay to the person its full refund value in cash, except as provided in subsections (5) and (7).

(5) A dealer who does not require a deposit on a returnable container when the contents are consumed in the dealer's sale or consumption area shall not be required to pay a refund for accepting that empty container.

(6) A distributor shall not refuse to accept from a dealer an empty returnable container of any kind, size, and brand sold by that distributor, nor refuse to pay to the dealer its full refund value in cash, except as provided in subsection (7).

(7) Every beverage container sold or offered for sale by a dealer within this state shall clearly indicate by embossing or by a stamp, a label, or other method securely affixed to the beverage container, the refund value of the container and the name of this state. A dealer or distributor may, but is not required to, refuse to accept from a person an empty returnable container which does not state on the container the refund value of the container and the name of this state. This subsection shall not apply to a refillable container having a refund value of not less than 10 cents which has a brand name permanently marked on it. Each container of this type shall clearly indicate, by a method securely affixed to the container, that the container is returnable for deposit.

(8) A dealer within this state shall not sell, offer for sale, or give to consumers a metal beverage container, any part of which becomes detached when opened.

(9) A person, dealer, distributor, or manufacturer shall not return an empty returnable container to a dealer for a refund of the deposit if a dealer has already refunded the deposit on that returnable container. This subsection shall not prevent a dealer from refunding the deposit on an empty returnable container each time the returnable container is sanitized by the manufacturer and reused as a beverage container.

(10) A dealer may accept, but is not required to accept, from a person, empty returnable containers for a refund in excess of \$25.00 on any given day.

(11) A manufacturer licensed by the commission shall not require a distributor licensed by the commission to pay a deposit to the manufacturer on a nonrefillable container. However, a manufacturer licensed by the commission and a distributor licensed by the commission may enter into an agreement providing that either or both may originate a deposit or any portion of a deposit on a nonrefillable container if the agreement is entered into freely and without coercion.

(12) A manufacturer shall refund the deposit paid on any container returned by a distributor for which a deposit has been paid by a distributor to the manufacturer.