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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: January 16, 2025

RE: Request for Resolution in Support of Senate Bills 1112 and 1113 of 2024

City Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution in support of Senate Bills 1112 and 1113 of 2024, introduced by Senator Sean McCann in November 2024.

Per a November 13, 2024, press release from Sen. Sean McCann, “*In 1976, Michigan citizens initiated what’s now known as Michigan’s “Bottle Bill” to promote recycling and prevent the littering of containers for soft drinks, soda water, carbonated water, and other eligible cans and bottles. Since its implementation nearly 50 years ago, it has been a staple of Michigan public policy and proven to be highly effective at reducing litter and expanding recycling throughout the state.*”¹

Together, Michigan Senate Bills 1112 and 1113, aim to expand the state's bottle deposit law to include a broader range of beverage containers. If passed, Senate Bill 1112 would allow for universal redemption, allowing beverage containers to be returned at any retailer, regardless of whether the vendor supplies that product for sell.¹ This bill would also expand the bottle deposit law to cover all beverage containers of one gallon or less, including water bottles, while exempting specific items such as containers for milk, infant formula, and large fruit or vegetable juices of one half-gallon or greater (including freezable containers).¹ The bill proposes to maintain the \$0.10 deposit for all containers covered by its provisions.¹ The proposed legislation seeks to place the question of expanding Michigan’s bottle deposit law on the 2026 general election ballot.¹ Senate Bill 1113 proposes an allocation of \$60 million from corporate income tax revenue to support the implementation and operation of the expanded Bottle Bill.¹ If approved, the expanded bottle deposit law would take effect six months after the election results are certified.

Legislative Bill Status

Senate Bill 1112, which was introduced on November 14, 2024, was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment, where it was reported favorably with a substitute (S-2) on December 11, 2024, and was referred to the Committee of the Whole.²

Senate Bill 1113, introduced on the same day, was also referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment, and was reported favorably without amendment on December 11, 2024.³ It was also referred to the Committee of the Whole.³

As of January 13, 2025, both bills were awaiting further consideration by the full senate. The Michigan Legislature operates on a biennial legislative session schedule, meaning bills introduced in 2024 (the second year of the 102nd Legislature) do not automatically carry over to the next calendar year, but expire at the conclusion of the year that marks the end of the legislative session. Per Michigan Constitution, Article 4, Sec. 13:

“Any business, bill or joint resolution pending at the final adjournment of a regular session held in an odd numbered year shall carry over with the same status to the next regular session.”

The bills did not pass through either chamber during the Michigan Legislature’s lame-duck session in December 2024.⁵ Michigan’s 103rd Legislature gavelled in for its regular session on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. Whether Senate Bills 1112 and 1113 will be taken up for consideration remains unknown at present. LPD staff has reached out to the sponsor of the bill for an update and is currently awaiting a response.

In light of the status of these bills, LPD has drafted a resolution urging that the bills be reintroduced before the current legislature. The resolution is attached. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

1. Sean McCann, *McCann Proposal Seeks to Put Bottle Law Expansion on Ballot*, Mich. Senate Dems. (Nov. 13, 2024) <https://senatedems.com/mccann/2024/11/13/mccann-proposal-seeks-to-put-bottle-law-expansion-on-ballot/>.
2. S.B. 1112, 102nd Leg., Reg. Sess. (Mich. 2024), <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2024-SB-1112>.
3. S.B. 1113, 102nd Leg., Reg. Sess. (Mich. 2024), <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2024-SB-1113>.
4. *Constitution of the State of Michigan of 1963*, Mich. Const. (1963), available at <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Publications/MICConstitution.pdf>.
5. *Michigan Legislature, Bills*, <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills> (last visited Jan. 14, 2025).

A Resolution by Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILLS 1112 & 1113 OF 2024

- WHEREAS** Michigan initially passed the Michigan Beverage Container Act in 1976, instituting a 10 cent deposit on most metal, glass, and plastic containers under one gallon; and
- WHEREAS** The law has been massively successful, with redemption rates well exceeding 90% during most years, and it immediately removed tons of litter from Michigan’s roads, waterways, landfills, and public spaces; and
- WHEREAS** The bottle return program was suspended during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, after which the redemption rate dropped to 73% in 2020 and has yet to recover;¹ and
- WHEREAS** Another factor that has likely contributed to the decline in redemptions is that the current legislation does not cover many of the beverages that have become more popular in recent years such as plastic water bottles, sports drinks, and juices; and
- WHEREAS** Michigan Senator Sean McCann introduced Michigan Senate Bills 1112 and 1113 of 2024, with additional sponsorship from Senators Jeff Irwin, Stephanie Chang, Edward W. McBroom, Dayna Polehanki and Mary Cavanagh, to amend the Michigan Beverage Container Act in various ways; and
- WHEREAS** The bills would expand the law to cover a broader range of beverage containers to capture as many of the estimated 2 billion containers that go unrecycled in Michigan each year as possible;² and
- WHEREAS** The bills would also require beverage retailers to universally accept all returns instead of just the brands they carry, which is likely to eliminate confusion and frustration for individuals when they return containers; and
- WHEREAS** Unfortunately, the Michigan legislature did not pass these bills through either chamber during the previous congressional session, and they will not have to be reintroduced before the legislature can take them up again; and
- WHEREAS** Michigan’s bottle return program has become a symbol of our state’s commitment to the environment by reducing the use of natural resources, reducing carbon emissions, reducing landfill waste, and removing litter from public spaces; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT,**
- RESOLVED** Councilmember Angela Whitfield Calloway and the Detroit City Council hereby strongly encourages Senator McCann and the Michigan legislature to reintroduce and pass the bills previously known as Senate Bills 1112 & 1113 of 2024; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**
- RESOLVED** That the Detroit City Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to the Detroit delegations of both the Michigan State House and Senate, in addition to Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

¹ https://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/PDF/FiscalSnapshot/EGLE_Michigan_Bottle_Bill_Mar2024.pdf

² <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/billanalysis/Senate/pdf/2023-SFA-1112-F.pdf>