

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-928

AN ACT CONCERNING RECYCLED CONTENT FOR PRODUCTS SOLD IN

Title: CONNECTICUT.

Vote Date: 3/29/2021

Vote Action: JOINT FAVORABLE

PH Date: 3/19/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Mary M. Mushinsky, 85th Dist.

Rep. David Michel, 146th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

To reduce the size of the waste stream, The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), in consultation with stakeholders, will develop recommendation to determine recycled content requirements.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has partnered with approximately 75 municipalities to investigate sustainable waste management solutions. The group recommended establishing recycled content requirements. Recycled content requirements create more demand for recycled materials. Increased market demand for recycled materials leads to higher values for these materials, reduction of the waste stream and a reduced recycle costs.

SB928 authorizes DEEP to pursue post-recycled consumer content in collaboration with other stakeholders to establish standards.

Peter Hearn, Executive Director, Council on Environmental Quality

SB928 requires DEEP to develop recommendations for recycled content in Connecticut. Current statutes require Connecticut to the use of goods with recycled materials and discourage the purchase of single use items. Connecticut can act alone to influence manufacturers to increase recycled content, SB928 directs DEEP to coordinate with other states in consideration of recycled content requirements.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Matthew Knickerbocker, First Selectman, Town of Bethel

Recycled materials have little value to the market. SB928 increases demand for recovered materials, increases product production efficiencies and lowers cost of recovery for taxpayers.

Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator, Town of Middletown

SB928 develops standards with other partners and states. For the cost of recycling reduced, increased recycled product standards must be in the products purchased.

Pamela Roach, CT Recyclers Coalition

Without markets, recycling programs will not succeed. Since China closed off its markets to recyclables, what was once a profit center for municipalities is now a cost center. The creation of a market for recyclables in Connecticut and other states in the region will lower costs for municipalities and the creation of economic opportunity.

Peter DePasquale, Vice President of Government & Regulatory Affairs, Nestlé Waters North America

SB928 proposes recycled content standards to stabilize demands for recycled content to stimulate demand for further investments and collection to stimulate regional demand. Excessive amounts of beverage containers are used for other non-food applications. Establishment of recycled content standards could make use of food grade recycled content back into recycled food grade content.

The Environment Committee received an additional five testimonials in support of SB928.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Carol Martel, Northeastern Counsel, Wine Institute

The Wine Institute represents 1000 California Wineries and associate members. The Wine Institute supports improved recycling objectives, the Wine Institute is concerned with an

approach of individual states developing their own standards. Wine Institute encourages Connecticut to work through a regional process, as individual state standards cause business and market uncertainty.

Reported by: Steve Smith

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