

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1143
AN ACT CONCERNING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE
Title: STATE.
Vote Date: 3/24/2023
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/10/2023
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To require approval of revisions to the state's solid waste management plan and the Comprehensive Material's Management Strategy by the legislature's Environment Committee, prescribe certain signs concerning reverse vending machine outages and require the issuance of an RFI relating to the management of the state's solid waste stream.

Substitute Language-LCO 6267

Added requirement, by amendment, in Section 1 that a public hearing be held and that non-action by the committee not be deemed automatic approval. Removed former subsection (a) of Section 2.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Katie S. Dykes, Commissioner, CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

DEEP opposes the portion of SB 1143 that will create a legislative process to amend the Comprehensive Material's Management Strategy. DEEP has concerns with two aspects of Section 1. First, it would create additional legislative review and blurs the distinction between traditional legislative and executive roles. The adoption of a Plan to implement legislatively enacted policy is precisely the type of policy implementation typically carried out by executive branch agencies. Second, while the statute is clear that the Plan is not, itself, a regulation, the proposed bill, if passed, would subject the plan to the same level of scrutiny to which regulations are subjected. This additional process will create delays in the process for revising or amending the CMMS, removing the flexibility needed to adapt the Plan to current technology and the evolving solid waste management sector. DEEP supports Section 2 that

requires signage at reverse vending machine locations directing consumers to alternative redemption locations in the event the RVMS are out of order. DEEP supports Section 3 that requires DEEP to issue an RFI to explore additional solid waste management infrastructure development in the state. DEEP is already undergoing the process outlined in this section.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman, Seymour, CT and Executive Committee, Bristol Facility Policy Board

The Bristol Facility Policy Board is in support of SB 1143. Section 1 of the bill will give the Environment Committee the ability to review any proposed revision to the state's Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy prior to it being implemented by DEEP. You have 15 days to hold a public hearing on the proposed revision once it is sent to you and 30 days to act. If the Environment Committee approves the proposed revisions, the process ends on the part of the General Assembly. You have been able to formally review and sign-off on a change to the CMMS before it is made. Bristol Facility Policy Board supports Section 3 of SB 1143.

Wayne Pesce, President, Connecticut Food Association

The Connecticut Food Association supports SB 11143 with specific modifications. First, ensure efforts to better communicate to consumers changes to the law. Second, allow retail stores to limit container redemptions to 250 units per visit. Third, mandate that DEEP allocate the \$5MM in startup funding that was allocated for private redemption centers when the new law passed 2021.

Roger Kuhns, Mystic, CT, State Coordinator, CT Citizens Climate Lobby

Mr. Kuhns supports SB 1143 with suggest amendment: Amend SB 1143 by removing lines 47-48 in Section 3: "gasification systems that convert such solid waste into gas through a chemical reaction that does not consist of burning." The reason is that it conflicts with lines 62-66.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Frazier Blaylock, Sr. Director-Government Relations, Covanta Energy

Covanta Energy opposes SB 1143. Covanta has operated WTE facilities, in CT, since the 1980's. SB 1143 directs DEEP to pursue unproven technology that is not operating commercially in the United States. This legislation sends a negative message to the owners and operators of Connecticut existing waste-to-energy facilities.

Ann Gadwah, Advocacy & Outreach Organizer, Sierra Club Connecticut

The Sierra Club of Connecticut opposes SB 1143. They support the oversight and input from all stakeholders and the public but concerned about the possibility of opening more trash incinerators to deal with the states waste management issues

Mike Noel, Director, Public Affairs , TOMRA Collection Solutions

TOMRA opposes SB 1143 specifically Section 2 that requires stores to post a sign near Reverse Bending Machines with the location of the nearest redemption center, when the machine is out of service. It poses a significant risk for the public to get their deposit money back. Requiring stores to direct people to the nearest redemption center would discourage stores from having their reverse vending machines fixed. This runs counter to the Connecticut Model for deposit return systems, which prioritizes ensuring the public has easy access to get their deposit money back

Reported by: Judith Ganswindt

Date: April 3, 2023