



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

**Raised Bill No. 191**

LCO No. 1365



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

**AN ACT CONCERNING FOOD SCRAP DIVERSION FROM THE SOLID WASTE STREAM AND THE REDEMPTION OF OUT-OF-STATE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 22a-226e of the 2024  
2 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
3 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

4 [(d) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Energy and  
5 Environmental Protection shall establish a voluntary pilot program for  
6 any municipality that seeks to separate source-separated organic  
7 materials and ensure that such source-separated organic materials are  
8 recycled at authorized source-separated organic material composting  
9 facilities that have available capacity and that will accept such source-  
10 separated organic material.]

11 [(e)] (d) On or before March 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, each  
12 wholesaler, distributor, manufacturer, processor, supermarket, resort,  
13 conference center or institution that is subject to the provisions of this

14 section shall submit a report to the Department of Energy and  
15 Environmental Protection in electronic format. Such report shall  
16 summarize such entity's amount of edible food donated, the amount of  
17 [food scraps] source-separated organic materials recycled and the  
18 organics recycler or recyclers and associated collectors used.

19 (e) Each commercial food wholesaler or distributor, industrial food  
20 manufacturer or processor, supermarket, institution, resort or  
21 conference center that generates an average projected volume of not less  
22 than twenty-six tons per year of source-separated organic material,  
23 including any source-separated organic material subject to the  
24 requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, shall, on or before  
25 January 1, 2025, adopt a written policy pertaining to a food donation  
26 program that: (1) Describes how the wholesaler, distributor,  
27 manufacturer, processor, supermarket, institution, resort or conference  
28 center will make best efforts to donate excess edible food, as determined  
29 by such entity, using acceptable industry standards; (2) is designed to  
30 reduce such wholesaler's, distributor's, manufacturer's, processor's,  
31 supermarket's, institution's, resort's or conference center's food waste,  
32 support the operations of food relief organizations and ensure that all  
33 food donated by such wholesaler, distributor, manufacturer, processor,  
34 supermarket, resort or conference center under such policy is safe and  
35 fit for human consumption; (3) provides for the education of such  
36 wholesaler's, distributor's, manufacturer's, processor's, supermarket's,  
37 institution's, resort's or conference center's management, employees and  
38 third party vendors who manage food for such facility regarding the  
39 food distribution process and the relationship between such process and  
40 food waste; (4) requires such wholesaler, distributor, manufacturer,  
41 processor, supermarket, institution, resort or conference center to make  
42 reasonable efforts to identify, and partner with, not less than two food  
43 relief organizations for the purpose of donating excess edible food to  
44 such food relief organizations prior to any such food becoming source-  
45 separated organic material, as described in subsections (a) and (b) of this  
46 section; and (5) includes a framework to formalize and streamline such  
47 wholesaler's, distributor's, manufacturer's, processor's, supermarket's,

48 institution's, resort's or conference center's protocols concerning food  
49 donation.

50 (f) If multiple wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers, processors,  
51 supermarkets, institutions, resorts or conference centers subject to the  
52 provisions of subsection (b) of this section are under common  
53 ownership, such wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers, processors,  
54 supermarkets, institutions, resorts or conference centers may adopt a  
55 common written policy under this section.

56 (g) For purposes of this section, "food relief organization" has the  
57 same meaning as provided in section 38a-313c.

58 Sec. 2. Section 22a-241b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
59 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

60 (a) (1) On or before February 1, 1988, the Commissioner of Energy  
61 and Environmental Protection shall adopt regulations in accordance  
62 with the provisions of chapter 54 designating items that are required to  
63 be recycled. The commissioner may designate other items as suitable for  
64 recycling and amend such regulations accordingly.

65 (2) On or before October 1, 2011, the Commissioner of Energy and  
66 Environmental Protection shall amend the regulations adopted  
67 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection to expand the list of  
68 designated recyclable items to add (A) containers of three gallons or less  
69 made of polyethylene terephthalate plastic and high-density  
70 polyethylene plastic, and (B) additional types of paper, including, but  
71 not limited to, boxboard, magazines, residential high-grade white paper  
72 and colored ledger.

73 (3) On or before July 1, 2025, the commissioner shall amend the  
74 regulations adopted pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection to  
75 designate residentially generated food scraps as an item that is required  
76 to be recycled.

77 (b) (1) Any designated recyclable item shall be recycled by a

78 municipality within six months of the availability of service to such  
79 municipality by a regional processing center or local processing system,  
80 including, but not limited to, a facility authorized to receive source-  
81 separated organic material.

82 (2) On or before January 1, 2028, the Commissioner of Energy and  
83 Environmental Protection shall require each municipality to establish a  
84 program requiring residents to separate food scraps and food  
85 processing residues from other solid waste to ensure that such  
86 residentially generated source-separated organic material is recycled,  
87 including at authorized source-separated organic material composting  
88 facilities that have available capacity and that will accept such source-  
89 separated organic material.

90 (c) Each person who generates solid waste from residential property  
91 shall, in accordance with subsection (f) of section 22a-220, separate from  
92 other solid waste the items designated for recycling pursuant to  
93 [subdivision (1) of] subsection (a) of this section.

94 (d) Every person who generates solid waste from a property other  
95 than a residential property shall, in accordance with subsection (f) of  
96 section 22a-220, make provision for and cause the separation from other  
97 solid waste of the items designated for recycling pursuant to  
98 [subdivision (1) of] subsection (a) of this section through the use of one  
99 or more collection containers for designated recyclable items that are  
100 separate from the collection containers for other solid waste, except food  
101 scraps that are subject to management pursuant to section 22a-226e.  
102 Collection containers that have been used for the collection of solid  
103 waste may be converted to containers for the collection of designated  
104 recyclable items by labeling or other means to identify that such  
105 container is dedicated to collecting designated recyclable items. On and  
106 after July 1, 2012, the provisions of this subsection shall also apply to  
107 items designated for recycling pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection  
108 (a) of this section.

109 (e) No person shall knowingly combine previously segregated

110 designated recyclable items with other solid waste.

111 (f) For the purposes of this section, "boxboard" means a lightweight  
112 paperboard made from a variety of recovered fibers having sufficient  
113 folding properties and thickness to be used to manufacture folding or  
114 set-up boxes.

115 Sec. 3. Section 22a-245 of the general statutes is amended by adding  
116 subsections (g) to (i) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

117 (NEW) (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) to (d),  
118 inclusive, of this section, no person shall tender to a dealer, redemption  
119 center, reverse vending machine, distributor or deposit initiator for the  
120 purpose of obtaining a refund value or handling fee any empty beverage  
121 container that the person knows or has reason to know was not  
122 originally sold in this state as a filled beverage container or that was  
123 previously redeemed through a dealer, redemption center, reverse  
124 vending machine, distributor or deposit initiator.

125 (h) Each dealer, redemption center or reverse vending machine  
126 operator shall post where empty containers are redeemed a conspicuous  
127 "Redemption Warning" sign using at least one-inch font that states the  
128 following: "Returning empty beverage containers for refund that were  
129 not purchased in Connecticut or which were previously redeemed is  
130 illegal. Any person who returns empty beverage containers that the  
131 person knows or has reason to know were not originally sold in this  
132 state as filled beverage containers or which were previously redeemed  
133 shall be subject to fines and state enforcement action. Connecticut  
134 General Statutes section 22a-245."

135 (i) Any violation of subsection (g) of this section shall constitute an  
136 unfair trade practice pursuant to section 42-110b.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2024	22a-226e(d) and (e)

Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	22a-241b
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22a-245(g) to (i)

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable*