



News Release

Oregon Liquor Control Commission
9079 SE McLoughlin Blvd., Portland, OR 97222-7355
1-800-452-6522

For more information:
Christie Scott, Public Affairs Specialist, (503) 872-5002
www.oregon.gov/olcc

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Businesses watering down new bottle bill laws? **OLCC concerned about widespread non-compliance**

PORTLAND, Ore. – With the first full weekend of the New Year under Oregonian’s belts, consumers are finding that many Oregon retailers and manufacturers haven’t made the change to selling only bottled water labeled with the OR 5¢ refund value. Oregon Liquor Control Commission checks show several brands on the shelves are still unmarked.

“We were the first in the nation to have a bottle bill and now we’re embracing our first expansion,” said Thomas Erwin, OLCC Director of Government Affairs and Communications. “Oregonians value our environmentally responsible culture and take the bottle bill seriously. In order to make this a success, retailers and manufacturers need to do their part, too.”

Under the new law, water bottles sold in Oregon as of Jan. 1 must be marked with a 5¢ refund value. Only bottles with the OR 5¢ designation are eligible for the 5-cent redemption. This becomes a problem for Oregonians when they are charged a nickel deposit for a bottle not labeled appropriately and then they can’t get their deposit back from a retailer.

“Even if a bottle return machine is programmed to accept non-marked containers, we still have a multitude of small retailers across the state who are looking for that OR 5¢ designation before paying out a nickel,” said Erwin. “OLCC has been actively engaging manufacturers and retailers for a year and a half to ensure their understanding and compliance with the bottle bill.”

OLCC inspectors will be conducting inspections around the state beginning the week of Jan. 12 to see if the water bottles on the shelves have the appropriate OR 5¢ designation. Business owners who do not comply with the bottle bill could be cited with a Class A Misdemeanor. Owners with a liquor license can receive an administrative sanction in addition to the criminal citation.

Consumers are urged to email the OLCC at bottle.bill@state.or.us or call the OLCC’s Bottle Bill hotline at #1-888-h2o-2009 (1-888-426-2009) to report bottle bill violations.

For more information on the Oregon’s Bottle Bill including frequently asked questions, and what retailers and consumer need to know, visit our web page http://oregon.gov/OLCC/bottle_bill.shtml. Or call our Bottle Bill Hotline at #1-888-h2o-2009 (1-888-426-2009)

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Promoting the public interest through responsible alcohol sales and service.