



## Help Close the Loop for Plastic Beverage Containers

### Support: LD 1467

### *An Act To Promote a Circular Economy through Increased Postconsumer Recycled Plastic Content in Plastic Beverage Containers*

#### Sponsored by:

Rep. Vicki Doudera of Camden

#### Co-sponsored by:

Sen. Maxmin of Lincoln, Rep. Bell of Yarmouth, Rep. Tucker of Brunswick, Rep. Ziegler of Montville, Sen. Bennett of Oxford, and Sen. Brenner of Cumberland

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**LD 1467 creates a minimum post-consumer recycled (PCR) content requirement for all plastic beverage containers sold in Maine beginning with 25% PCR by 2026 and increasing to 30% by 2031.**

This bill would benefit our environment, municipalities, waste haulers, sorting facilities, recycling processors, and beverage manufacturers because it would:

- Help achieve a more circular economy by creating a demand for recycled plastic. Without legislation there is not enough of an incentive for producers to use recycled content, which keeps our resources in the economy and boosts investments in American-made infrastructure.
- Support the sustainability of Maine's municipal recycling programs and beverage container redemption program. Creating demand for recycled plastic reduces the need to make new, virgin plastic and keeps plastic from entering our landfills and incinerators or being littered into our environment.
- Ensure beverage companies act responsibly and meet their recycled content goals. Many large beverage companies, including Nestle, Coca-Cola, and Pepsico, have made public their goals to increase the use of recycled content in their beverage containers that are more ambitious than what is required by LD 1467.

**Most plastic beverage containers are made of Polyethylene terephthalate (PET), also known as #1 plastic; when PET is recycled (rPET) it is primarily used as "fiber" for textiles or turned into new packaging and beverage containers.**

- According to the Container Recycling Institute, the average amount of recycled plastic in beverage containers sold in the U.S. is only 7.5%, and Americans waste more than two times the amount of plastic bottles that we recycle.
- According to the Association of Plastics Recyclers, using recycled PET plastic to make new containers instead of new virgin PET plastic cuts carbon pollution by 67%.
- California passed a similar law, and WA, OR, and NJ are considering legislation. The European Union's 28 member countries are each mandated to achieve similar post-consumer recycled content standards for plastic beverage containers as part of the single-use plastic product directive of 2019.
- About half of the 24 rPET processing facilities in North America are currently capable of producing food-grade post-consumer recycled plastic. The facilities closest to Maine are located in Albany, New York; Joliette, Quebec; and Berks County, Pennsylvania.

**Requiring recycled content in beverage containers will reduce pollution, support our bottle bill program, and encourage a robust recycling economy here in Maine and America.**