

States add water bottle deposits

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- A number of states are requiring deposits on plastic water bottles to increase revenue and decrease litter, a U.S. advocacy group says.

The Container Recycling Institute says 11 states currently require deposits on some beverages while seven others have deposit bills pending, USA Today reported Friday.

This year New York, Connecticut and Oregon joined California, Maine and Hawaii in adding water bottles to their deposit laws.

"If you have two plastic 16.9-ounce bottles and this one is used to hold Sprite and this one is used to hold water, why should one be covered and the other not?" says Peter Spendelow of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

New York estimates it will take in \$115 million in unclaimed deposits this year while Connecticut is expected to gain about \$41.5 million annually from deposits.

Retailers and beverage manufacturers oppose the move.

"States are looking at this as a money grab," says Craig Stevens, a spokesman for the American Beverage Association.

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