

1 THE CITY OF CRANSTON

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4 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

5 “Supporting the Rhode Island Bottle and Extended Producer Responsibility Bill (H-6207)”

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8 Resolution No. 2025-

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10 *Passed:*

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14 *Jessica M. Marino, Council President*
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17 WHEREAS, Beverage container litter contaminates our streets, parks, roads, and neighborhoods; and

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19 WHEREAS, Empty beverage containers clog stormwater infrastructure, necessitating costly maintenance;
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22 WHEREAS, Beverage containers and beverage container pieces are consistently the most collected items
23 during neighborhood and shoreline cleanups in Rhode Island; and

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25 WHEREAS, Microplastic pollution from single-use plastic items, including beverage containers, now
26 contaminates waterways in (municipality) and throughout the state harming human health and the
27 environment; and

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29 WHEREAS, a 2023 study by researchers at the University of Rhode Island found there is now roughly 1,000
30 tons of microplastic at the bottom of Narragansett Bay; and

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32 WHEREAS, Rhode Island’s current single-stream recycling program is not adequately preventing enough
33 discarded beverage containers from being littered or landfilled; and

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35 WHEREAS, Rhode Island municipalities collectively spend over \$15 million in a typical year to collect and
36 transport recyclables; and

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38 WHEREAS, roughly 29,000 tons of rejected recycling ended up in Rhode Island’s landfill last year; and

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40 WHEREAS, States and countries with bottle bills or deposit return systems for beverage containers have less
41 litter and higher recycling rates and they are extremely popular with residents: in the 10 states that have a
42 bottle bill, 90% of citizens support it; and

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44 WHEREAS, a recent poll showed that Rhode Islanders support a bottle bill by a 27-point margin and the
45 same poll found that 73% of Rhode Islanders are concerned about the landfill reaching capacity in the next

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twenty years that 85% of Rhode Islanders are concerned about litter and waste on Rhode Island’s shorelines;
and

WHEREAS, House Bill 6207 would create an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for paper products and packaging along with a bottle bill for beverage containers; and

WHEREAS, Municipalities will benefit from the passage of House Bill 6207 because the EPR portion of the bill transfers all recycling-related costs from the municipalities on to the private sector via a producer responsibility organization (PRO); and

Meanwhile, municipalities will further benefit from the bottle bill portion of House Bill 6207 as it creates an incentive to recycle. This reduces beverage container litter in communities and increases the amount of recycled product that may be used to create new products.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the council of Cranston urges the General Assembly to pass House Bill 6207, also referred to as the “Rhode Island Bottle and EPR Bill;” and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Honorable Speaker of the House, the Honorable President of the Senate and the members of the Cranston General Assembly delegation.

Sponsored by: Councilwoman Graziano

Referred to: Ordinance Committee June 12, 2025