
HOUSE BILL 2840

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Representatives J. Kohl, Rust, Casada, Brekke, Pruitt, Rasmussen, H. Sommers, Valle, Winsley, Leonard and Orr

Read first time 01/29/92. Referred to Committee on Environmental Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to plastic holding devices for containers; amending
2 RCW 70.132.010; and adding a new section to chapter 70.132 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.132.010 and 1982 c 113 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The legislature finds that beverage containers designed to be
7 opened through the use of detachable metal rings or tabs are hazardous
8 to the health and welfare of the citizens of this state and detrimental
9 to certain wildlife. The detachable parts are susceptible to ingestion
10 by human beings and wildlife. The legislature intends to eliminate the
11 danger posed by these unnecessary containers by prohibiting their
12 retail sale in this state.

13 The legislature also finds that containers connected by plastic
14 rings or other plastic holding devices are hazardous to the health and

1 welfare of the citizens of this state, are detrimental to certain
2 wildlife, and create waste that must be disposed. The legislature
3 intends to eliminate the danger posed by these plastic holding devices
4 by prohibiting their retail sale in this state except in circumstances
5 where they will decompose and can be made less harmful.

6 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 70.132 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, after
9 December 31, 1992, a person may not sell or offer to sell any product
10 in containers connected by plastic rings or other plastic holding
11 devices.

12 (2) A person may sell or offer to sell products in containers
13 connected to each other with a plastic holding device that decomposes
14 by photodegradation, chemical degradation, or biodegradation within a
15 reasonable period of time upon exposure to the elements if the device:

16 (a) Is designed or manufactured to be broken when a container is
17 removed;

18 (b) Breaks simultaneously with the removal of the container; or

19 (c) Is approved for sale by the department of ecology as an
20 experimental device. The department may approve a device as
21 experimental only if the department determines that the device conforms
22 with the intent of this subsection.