

Date of Hearing: January 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 333 (Alanis) – As Amended January 14, 2026

Policy Committee: Natural Resources

Vote: 10 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill, among other things, authorizes the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to pay (1) up to \$5 million annually in market development payments (MDPs) to waste glass product end users for the purchase of waste glass product within the state and (2) up to \$1 million annually for grants to facilitate the transportation of waste glass product.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires CalRecycle to pay an MDP to a waste glass product end user for the purchase of waste glass product within the state, as specified. Authorizes CalRecycle, until January 1, 2030, to expend up to \$5 million annually for these payments.
- 2) Requires CalRecycle to determine the amount of the MDP, not to exceed \$30 per ton. When determining the amount, the bill authorizes CalRecycle to consider:
 - a) The minimum funding level needed to encourage in-state manufacturing of waste glass products in the state.
 - b) The minimum funding level needed to encourage the purchase of a waste glass product.
 - c) The total amount of funds projected to be available for MDPs and the desire to maintain the funding level needed throughout the year.
- 3) Authorizes CalRecycle, until January 1, 2030, to expend up to \$1 million annually for grants to facilitate the transportation of waste glass product by waste glass product end users.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Cost pressures of up to \$6 million annually until 2030 for CalRecycle to provide MDPs to waste glass product end users and for grants to facilitate the transportation of waste glass product by its end users (Beverage Container Recycling Fund (BCRF)).

CalRecycle reports the BCRF had an ending balance of about \$822 million in fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 and is projected to have an ending balance of about \$718 million at the end of this FY – although this figure could change based on actuals provided at the end of the FY.

- 2) CalRecycle will likely incur costs to administer the new MDPs. For its part, the department estimates ongoing costs of \$338,000 (BCRF) starting in FY 2027-28 to hire two staff to

register end users, process payment claims, review supporting documentation, assist claimants, and conduct inspections to verify incoming loads for empty beverage containers.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

AB 333 will help address California's environmental and recycling goals by diverting glass from the landfill to serve a beneficial purpose for many industries. This bill maximizes diversion, increases recovery, and optimizes the usage of recycled glass sourced from within California, aligning with SB 1013's goal of promoting in-state recycling and processing. As it relates to the end use for concrete, and cement AB 333 is of critical importance. California passed AB 2442 (Holden, 2022) and SB 596 (Becker, 2021), both with the support of the cement and concrete industries, which require significant decarbonization efforts. This bill will assist these industries by providing another tool in those efforts.

2) **Background.** The Bottle Bill was established in 1986 to be a self-funded program to prevent littering and achieve an 80% recycling rate for eligible containers. The program requires consumers to pay a deposit for each eligible container purchased. The program then guarantees consumers repayment of that deposit, known as the California Redemption Value (CRV), for each eligible container returned to a certified recycler. CalRecycle administers the program and handles all program payments, including CRV, through the BCRF. Despite paying the CRV deposit, not all consumers recycle their CRV-eligible containers. The BCRF retains unredeemed deposits, and state law requires that much of the unredeemed CRV be spent on specified recycling related programs. Only certain containers containing certain beverages are part of the CRV program.

SB 1013 (Atkins), Chapter 610, Statutes of 2022, amended the program to include wine and distilled spirits, including those contained in boxes, bladders, pouches, or similar containers, beginning January 1, 2024. SB 353 (Dodd), Chapter 868, Statutes of 2023, further expanded the program to include large juice containers beginning January 1, 2026. To incentivize recycling a greater number of glass containers from the addition of wine and distilled spirits, SB 1013 authorized \$60 million annually (up to \$50/ ton) from the BCRF for glass MDPs until January 1, 2028. AB 899 (Ransom), Chapter 627, Statutes of 2025, among other things, raised the cap on glass MDPs from \$50 to \$150 per ton and authorized CalRecycle to expend up to \$20 million annually for the payments through 2030.

The Bottle Bill also establishes glass processing incentive grants for expanding glass cullet processing in the state, as specified; \$4 million is available annually for this grant program. Another \$4 million is available annually for grants to increase the recycling of empty glass beverage containers from restaurants and on-site retail establishments. An additional \$1 million is available annually for grants to fund transportation costs for glass beverage containers.

According to AggrePlex, the sponsor of this bill, a portion of CRV glass cannot be recycled into new bottles due to contamination, off-color sorting, and broken glass. The company argues that the MDPs authorized by this bill provide a critical incentive to divert this waste

glass from landfills and redirect it into valuable, low-carbon applications such as ground glass pozzolan (GGP). As described by AggrePlex, GGP is a “supplementary cementitious material (SCM),” a type of material used in the cement and concrete industries “that enhances the performance while lowering the overall environmental impact of construction materials.” The company contends this technology converts an existing waste stream into a high-performance and low-carbon SCM that can replace a portion of Ordinary Portland Cement.

Among others in opposition, the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI) argues it has no issue with GGP as an end-market for glass that cannot be used to make new glass containers in the state; however, GPI is opposed to using BCRF to support non-packaging end-markets for cullet: “The BCRF should be prioritized to increase redemption access, expand recovery of higher quality material and improve the infrastructure for circular packaging markets for container glass.” GPI further argues its industry financially supports the BCRF in the form of processing fees, and that that using these fees and BCRF revenues to subsidize an industry that does not pay into, and is not part of, the Bottle Bill “runs completely counter to the intent and goal of the Program.”

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