

## MASSACHUSETTS

The current return rate for beverage containers in Massachusetts is one of the lowest rates in the Northeast, at just 48%. This results in over three billion plastic, glass, and aluminum beverage containers being wasted every year. The state has made multiple attempts to modernize the current system, including a 2014 public referendum that failed due to a \$9 million campaign financed by beverage companies, waste industry, and retailers.<sup>28</sup> Modernization bills have been proposed every year, including a bill in the 2021-2022 legislative session (the Better Bottle Bill) that would expand the covered beverage containers, raise the deposit fee from five cents to 10 cents, and include a “Return-to-Retailer” provision. At the time of writing, the Better Bottle Bill has a better chance of passing than those in recent years but will require strategic support.

### Beverage Containers included in DRS: Current vs Modernized

