

We're working to ensure newspapers and magazines are exempted from EPR bills nationwide.



August 2023

Overview:

The News/Media Alliance has been very active monitoring Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) implementation in several states (see below) as well as working to ensure newspapers and magazines are exempted from EPR bills nationwide. EPR is a rapidly accelerating environmental policy approach to hold producers responsible for the end-of-life of products. This can include both financial and operational responsibility and proposals may include paper and/or packaging in their legislation.

Four states passed laws this year and none of them now apply to newspapers and magazines. Through advocacy by the Alliance and our coalition, many proposals were amended to instead study the costs and benefits of EPR. Three states had legislation that did not make it through the legislative process in their session. Several states remain active.

The Alliance continues to be active in several states with longer legislative sessions and have pending bills including: Hawaii, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. In addition, the Alliance was successful in keeping bills from moving this year in New York and Washington. Click here to view updates.

The Alliance is also monitoring proposals on Green Gas Emission reporting. Last year, the Alliance submitted comments to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regarding its proposed rules on the Enhancement and Standardization of Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors.

We will continue to monitor these bills and developments and keep you apprised. Please reach out to Alliance VP, Government Affairs, [Holly Lubart](#) if you have any questions. Also, the Alliance created an Environmental Working Group to discuss government issues and has helped to shape comments and legislative proposals. Please contact Holly if you are interested in joining the Working Group.

State Implementation

Colorado:

When EPR legislation passed Colorado in 2022, the Alliance was successful in getting an exemption for print publications related to “news and current events”. We will continue to monitor implementation to ensure a broad interpretation of the news and current event exemption. The first set of rules took effect July 1, which exempts producers from the requirements if the producer had less than \$5.3 million in gross total revenue during the prior calendar year.

Oregon:

Rulemaking is ongoing in Oregon, which passed its EPR bill in 2021. The first rulemaking includes rules on local government compensation, material lists, and producer responsibility organization obligations (not including anything of specific relevance to newspapers or magazines). As the second rulemaking is getting underway, the scope could be expanded to include rules clarifying the small producer definition, if deemed necessary. As part of the second rulemaking, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) allowed requests for additional products to be exempted from the definition of a covered product in ORS 459A.863(6). The Alliance submitted a request to exempt newspapers and magazines on June 30. The Oregon Press Association also submitted an exemption request on behalf of Oregon newspapers. A rule concept will go before the Committee during its January 2024 meeting.

Alliance Obtains State EPR Exemptions

Connecticut: [HB 6664](#)

Status: Passed both Chambers, signed by the Governor on June 29.

Effective date: October 1, 2023

What it does: Establishes recycled content requirements for plastic beverage containers subject to the state’s bottle bill, among other provisions.

Includes paper and packaging: No

Alliance impact: The Alliance was successful in removing an EPR program from the bill, which had originally included paper and packaging. The bill was also amended to remove a clause stating that an EPR program could be implemented once a neighboring state adopted a similar EPR program.

Illinois: [SB 1555](#)

Status: Passed both Chambers on May 19, signed by the Governor on July 28.

Effective date: Immediately

What it does: The bill originally established an EPR program for packaging and paper products including newspapers and magazines.

Includes paper and packaging: No

Alliance impact: The Alliance worked to successfully amend the bill, which is now a “needs assessment”, whereby an advisory council to be established by January 1, 2024, must explore program costs and capital investments required to achieve a 35%, 50% and 65% recycle rate for each material type, including paper, plastic, glass, and metal. The Council must submit a report by December 1, 2026.

Maryland: [SB 222](#), the Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment and Producer Responsibility for Packaging Materials Act

Status: Signed by Governor Wes Moore on May 8.

Effective date: July 1, 2023

What it does: It is focused on packaging and exempts newspapers and magazines. The law establishes a producer responsibility advisory council. In addition, the Department of the Environment must procure a statewide recycling needs assessment to be completed by July 30, 2024.

Includes paper and packaging: Only certain packaging

Exempts newspapers and magazines: Yes

New Hampshire: [HB 253](#)

Status: Signed by the Governor on June 30.

Effective Date: Immediately

What is does: The bill establishes a committee to study EPR.

[View State EPR Bills](#)