



<b>Bill Number:</b>	<b>W-26-02</b>	<b>Sponsored By:</b>	Chair Cera McDonough
<b>Introduced On:</b>	2/12/2026		Co-Sponsor: Senator Andreas Hardgrave
<b>Voted On:</b>	2/19/2026		
<b>Result:</b>	PASSED		
<b>Vote Count:</b>	35-0-0		

**A BILL TO:** Establish reverse vending machines on Grand Valley State University’s campuses to improve recycling accessibility, reduce contamination, and promote sustainable behavior among students.

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**Recognizing,** Grand Valley State University (GVSU) has committed to sustainability initiatives and environmental responsibility as part of its institutional values;<sup>1</sup> and

**Recognizing,** recycling contamination and lack of accessibility remain major barriers to effective waste diversion on college campuses; and

**Recognizing,** reverse vending machines (RVMs) are automated systems that accept recyclable bottles and cans, sort them properly, and incentivize participation through deposit-style returns or rewards; and

**Recognizing,** Auburn University installed RVMs to reduce contamination in recycling streams and increase overall campus recycling efficiency;<sup>2</sup> and

**Recognizing,** the University of Buffalo’s Green Scene program installed RVMs across campus that recognize, accept, and sort recyclable containers which give bottle return refund receipts for items that qualify under the New York Bottle Deposit Program;<sup>3</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> [www.gvsu.edu/policies](http://www.gvsu.edu/policies)

<sup>2</sup> [www.waste360.com](http://www.waste360.com)

<sup>3</sup> [www.ubdining.com/sustainability/green-scene](http://www.ubdining.com/sustainability/green-scene)

**Whereas,** the University of South Florida installed six RVMs across multiple campuses through a partnership with RVMs Systems, with proceeds benefiting a campus food pantry;<sup>4</sup> and

**Whereas,** the University of Alabama implemented RVMs through a partnership “World Without Waste” initiative, demonstrating strong corporate partnership models;<sup>5</sup> and

**Whereas,** Oregon State University has demonstrated that clear recycling infrastructure and guidance significantly improve student compliance and proper recycling behavior;<sup>6</sup> and

**Whereas,** RVMs reduce human sorting errors by automatically identifying acceptable materials and rejecting non-recyclables, thereby decreasing contamination; and

**Whereas,** RVMs provide an educational opportunity for students by reinforcing sustainable habits through direct interaction with recycling systems; and

**Whereas,** the installation of RVMs aligns with GVSU’s sustainability goals and would strengthen the University’s reputation as an environmentally responsible institution;<sup>7</sup>

**Therefore, Let it Be Resolved,** the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, formally requests that the University explore the installation of RVMs at high-traffic locations on its campuses, including but not limited to the Kirkhof Center, south campus, and major residence halls; and

**Furthermore, Let it Be Resolved,** Student Senate encourages the Offices of Sustainability Practices and Auxiliary Services to collaborate on an implementation plan to assess feasibility, cost, and student engagement outcomes; and

**Furthermore, Let it Be Resolved,** Student Senate encourages the integration of incentive-based recycling programs, such as deposit returns, meal credits, or other university initiatives, to maximize student participation as current University policy and state law allows.

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<sup>4</sup> [www.usf.edu](http://www.usf.edu)

<sup>5</sup> [www.news.ua.edu](http://www.news.ua.edu)

<sup>6</sup> [www.recycle.oregonstate.edu/recycle](http://www.recycle.oregonstate.edu/recycle)

<sup>7</sup> [www.gvsu.edu/reachhigher](http://www.gvsu.edu/reachhigher)