



Metro



Sharps Stewardship Bill HB 2618-1

House Committee on Energy and the Environment
May 10, 2021

What is Sharps Waste?

Used or opened packages of

- Needles
- Syringes - empty
- Auto Injectors – empty syringes that were pre-filled with fluid medication
- Lancets - fingerstick devices for self blood testing
- Needles from infusion sets and from connection sets.



Clockwise from top: U.S. FDA; Internet labeled for reuse; Wikipedia; Peter Stanic on Pixabay; Internet, labeled for reuse; BD Nano Needle.

Who Does the Bill Cover?

- Waste generated by residents outside of healthcare settings.
 - Self-injection
 - Care givers
 - Pet owners
- Does not cover healthcare facilities, farms, or other businesses



Sharps Waste Disposal

SAFE



- FDA approved sharps waste container
- Drop off at sharps collection site or mail back.

Unsafe

- Just in the trash



- Plastic bottles that can puncture & split



The Problem(s)



- Residents/patients using injectable drugs **at home** may
 - May lack proper containers for sharps.
 - Can overflow the container or just toss loose needles in the garbage or recycling bin.
- Needlestick injuries are a big and costly problem for **waste and recycling workers** and employers.
- Discarded needles in **public areas**, with parents particularly upset about the risk to kids.
- Increasing **costs to local government agencies** to clean-up and dispose of discarded needles

No Statewide System

- Fewer pharmacies taking sharps now
 - Only a couple in the Metro area – customers being sent to Metro
 - One pharmacy chain with several dozen sites is a primary collector in rest of state
 - Some residential waste hauler services & mail back occurring
- Transfer stations and Household Hazardous Waste facilities
 - Often require appointment, some may charge for disposal
 - Costly service – Metro services cost \$200,000 per year for containers & disposal



No Statewide System

- COVID 19 worsening situation
 - HHW collection events curtailed
 - A possible factor in why some pharmacies stopped collecting
 - Resident stockpiling their sharps waste



A Product Stewardship Solution

HB 2618-1

Convenient and safe sharps disposal to protect public health and keep sharps out of the solid waste and recycling system.

- **Statewide Sharps Container Drop-Off System** at participating pharmacies, hospitals, and other convenient locations.
- **Distribution of Safe Sharps Waste Containers & Prepaid Mail-Back Kits** to pharmacies, doctor's offices, healthcare facilities, fire, police & other public agencies.
- **Education and Promotion Website**, toll-free number, materials & and targeted outreach.



A Product Stewardship Solution

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- **Support For Sharps Collection by Public Agencies**
Reimbursements or direct services for public agencies collecting sharps from residents and from public spaces.
- **Program Funded by Sharps Producers.**
Manufacturers of sharps and injectable drugs will directly fund their sharps take-back program as part of their business costs. No direct fee or tax on sharps products.
- **DEQ Oversight** review program plans and oversee operations for safety, standards, and goals.



Conclusion

- **Sharps stewardship program would complement new Oregon Drug Take Back program – July 2021**
- **Sharps stewardship programs in several California communities are working well** - producer programs in Alameda, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo Counties.
 - Sharps collected at participating pharmacies, clinics, hospitals, police stations, public health centers.
 - Containers and mail-back kits available to residents in all counties



THANK YOU

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