

SB 139 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows a person to consolidate sharps and other solid waste into a single container, which may be reusable, provided that: the container satisfies federal requirements (29 C.F.R. 1910.1030); and the entire contents of the container is managed as infectious waste.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the OSHA, “sharps are objects that can penetrate a worker’s skin, such as needles, scalpels, broken glass, capillary tubes and the exposed ends of dental wires.” OSHA has established rules for sharps containers that include that containers for contaminated sharps must be:

- puncture-resistant;
- sides and the bottom must be leakproof;
- appropriately labeled or color-coded red to warn everyone that the contents are hazardous.

Federal requirements specify that containers for disposable sharps be closable and kept upright to keep anything from spilling out of the container.