

SB 139 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/24, 4/2

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:

-2 Replaces measure. Defines "waste pharmaceuticals." Authorizes a person to consolidate sharps and waste pharmaceuticals into a single container that satisfies certain requirements and requires the contents of the container be managed as infectious waste. Requires that sharps consolidated with waste pharmaceuticals be contained for storage, collection, transportation and disposal in leakproof, rigid, puncture-resistant and tightly lided containers that are a distinctive color other than red and be conspicuously labeled with biohazard symbol. Prohibits sharps consolidated with waste pharmaceuticals from being stored in that container for no more than seven days.

- Minimal Fiscal Impact
- No Revenue Impact

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.