

SB 139 A -A3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Prepared By: Erin Pischke, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/6, 5/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows for the consolidation of sharps and waste pharmaceuticals into a single container that meets specific safety standards. The Act requires the contents to be managed as infectious waste and stipulates that sharps can only be stored in the containers for no more than seven days.

Detailed Summary:

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 lidded 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 more than seven days. Requires that sharps consolidated with waste pharmaceuticals be treated by incineration in an incinerator that provides complete combustion of waste to carbonized or mineralized ash.

SENATE VOTE: Ayes, 27; Excused, 3

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A3 The amendment specifies that sharps consolidated with waste pharmaceuticals be contained for **treatment**, rather than disposal, in leakproof, rigid, puncture-resistant and tightly lidded containers that are a distinctive color other than red and conspicuously labeled with the international biohazard symbol. It also modifies the provision from requiring that sharps consolidated with waste pharmaceuticals be treated by incineration in an incinerator that provides complete combustion of waste to carbonized or mineralized ash to specify that **an incinerator must instead be authorized to accept sharps and waste pharmaceuticals under a permit issued by a state or federal agency.**

- *FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact*
- *REVENUE: No revenue impact*

BACKGROUND:

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (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.