

SB 139 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Patterson

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 04/02/25

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Golden, Pham, Robinson, Smith DB, Sollman

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/24, 4/2

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 they 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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Products allowed to be comingled
- Consistency with federal requirements
- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

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.