

SB 139 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Levy E**House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment****Action Date:** 05/15/25**Action:** Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)**Vote:** 9-0-2-0**Yeas:** 9 - Andersen, Edwards, Gamba, Helm, Levy B, Levy E, Lively, Marsh, Osborne**Exc:** 2 - Owens, Wallan**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**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 and requires sharps consolidated with waste pharmaceuticals to be treated by incineration in an incinerator that is authorized to accept sharps and waste pharmaceuticals under a permit issued by a state or federal agency.

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 treatment 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 sharps consolidated with waste pharmaceuticals shall be treated by incineration in an incinerator that is authorized to accept sharps and waste pharmaceuticals under a permit issued by a state or federal agency.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

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.**

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.

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

SB 139 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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