

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 1320** Session of  
2007

INTRODUCED BY SIPTROTH, BELFANTI, BROOKS, CARROLL, CURRY,  
FRANKEL, GRUCELA, HORNAMAN, JOSEPHS, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA,  
LENTZ, MURT, PALLONE, PAYNE, PEIFER, PETRONE, SCHRODER,  
SOLOBAY, THOMAS, WALKO AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 18, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
MAY 18, 2007

AN ACT

1 Providing for a program for the disposal of home-generated  
2 medical sharps, and for powers and duties of the Department  
3 of Environmental Protection.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Home-  
8 Generated Medical Sharps Disposal Act.

9 Section 2. Findings.

10 The General Assembly finds that:

11 (1) Each year, according to the Environmental Protection  
12 Agency, more than three billion medical sharps are used by  
13 individuals in their homes.

14 (2) Typically, these medical sharps are put into the  
15 household trash, where they become a health hazard for other  
16 members of the household and for sanitation workers.

17 (3) The hazard includes not only the discomfort of a

1 needle-stick injury, but also the risk of contracting an  
2 infectious disease from a contaminated medical sharp.

3 (4) Regulating the disposal of home-generated medical  
4 sharps will further the public health and safety of  
5 Commonwealth residents.

#### 6 Section 3. Definitions.

7 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
8 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
9 context clearly indicates otherwise:

10 "Department." The Department of Environmental Protection of  
11 the Commonwealth.

12 "Home-generated medical sharp." A sharp used by an  
13 individual at home.

14 "Medical sharp." A needle, syringe, lancet or other sharp  
15 object used for medical testing or for delivery of medication.

#### 16 Section 4. Home-generated medical sharp disposal program.

17 The department shall develop and implement a Statewide  
18 program for the safe, convenient and cost-effective disposal of  
19 home-generated medical sharps. The program may provide for a  
20 variety of methods of disposal, including:

- 21 (1) use of mail-back programs;
- 22 (2) community-based drop-off sites;
- 23 (3) municipal hazardous waste drop-off sites;
- 24 (4) special curbside pickup service; or
- 25 (5) home needle destruction devices.

26 The program shall include an educational component designed to  
27 inform the public about safe disposal of home-generated medical  
28 sharps and to promote the public's use of the program for safe  
29 disposal of home-generated medical sharps.

#### 30 Section 5. Development and implementation.

1       The department shall develop the program within 12 months of  
2 the effective date of this section and shall implement the  
3 program within 18 months of the effective date of this section.

4 Section 6. Effective date.

5       This act shall take effect in 60 days.