

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE BILL

## No. 1320

Session of  
2007

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

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AS RE-REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

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### 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.

1 (3) The hazard includes not only the discomfort of a  
2 needle-stick injury, but also the risk of contracting an  
3 infectious disease from a contaminated medical sharp.

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

7 Section 3. Definitions.

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

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

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

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

17 Section 4. Home-generated medical sharp disposal program.

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

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

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

1 Section 5. Development and implementation.

2 The department ~~shall~~ MAY develop the program within 12 months <—  
3 of the effective date of this section and ~~shall~~ MAY implement <—  
4 the program within 18 months of the effective date of this  
5 section.

6 Section 6. Effective date.

7 This act shall take effect in 60 days.