
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 594 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY SIPTROTH, BELFANTI, BOBACK, BRENNAN, BROWN,
CARROLL, COHEN, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, DRUCKER, FRANKEL, GEORGE,
HORNAMAN, JOSEPHS, KORTZ, KOTIK, MAHONEY, McILVAINE SMITH,
MELIO, MILNE, MURT, M. O'BRIEN, PALLONE, PAYNE, SCAVELLO,
K. SMITH, STERN, VULAKOVICH, YOUNGBLOOD AND FABRIZIO,
FEBRUARY 24, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
FEBRUARY 24, 2009

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 (a) Authorization.--The department shall develop and
19 implement a Statewide program for the safe, convenient and cost-
20 effective disposal of home-generated medical sharps. The program
21 may provide for a 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 (b) Public education.--The program shall include an
28 educational component designed to inform the public about safe
29 disposal of home-generated medical sharps and to promote the
30 public's use of the program for safe disposal of home-generated

1 medical sharps.

2 Section 5. Development and implementation.

3 (a) General rule.--Subject to the provisions of subsection
4 (b), the department shall develop the program within 12 months
5 of the effective date of this section and shall implement the
6 program within 18 months of the effective date of this section.

7 (b) Funding contingency.--The department may not commence
8 development or implementation of the program until funding is
9 appropriated to the department for that purpose.

10 Section 6. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect in 60 days.