
SHARPS DISPOSAL

Local Action is Required

STARTED IN 2000



A constituent had just purchased a new home and upon beginning their remodel of a bathroom found a wall full of insulin needles. In our efforts to find her a proper way to dispose of the needles we found that there were no regulations or resources in place.

2004 – SB 1362 (FIGUEROA)

- After being extremely frustrated that Environmental Health couldn't provide any support to our needle disposing constituents, I requested that Alameda County sponsor a bill that would allow city and counties to prepare and submit to CalRecycle a countywide integrated waste management plan that includes, among other things, a program for the safe collection, treatment, and disposal of sharps waste generated by households.
- The bill authorized permitted household hazardous waste collection facilities to operate as a home-generated sharps consolidation points.
- This bill effectively allowed Household Hazardous Waste sites to begin to collect home generated sharps legally.

2006 – SB 1305 (FIGUEROA)

- Prohibits the disposal of medical sharps in California's landfills.

2008 – AB 501 (HANCOCK, SWANSON) **VETOED**

- Would have required any drug manufacturer making "pre filled syringes, pre filled pen needles or other pre filled devices to inject medicine" also be responsible for helping the consumer of said devices safely dispose of their sharps medical waste.
- Passed both houses despite huge pharma opposition.
- Ultimately vetoed due to said opposition.

2009 – SB 486 (SIMITIAN)

- This bill required drug companies that market and sell prescribed medications that are routinely injected at home to submit plans to CalRecycle describing how they support safe needle collection and disposal programs for the patients using their drugs. They must further make this information available on their websites.
- After several years of the reporting requirement being in place it became clear that the makers of injectable drugs that treat chronic illnesses are failing to provide patients safe, convenient, cost effective methods of needle disposal.

2010 – AB 2139 (CHESBORO) **FAILED**

- Product stewardship bill that covered sharps.

2012 – SB 419 (SIMITIAN) VETOED

- The idea was to strengthen SB486 and add some "teeth" to it. by adding penalties to pharmaceutical manufacturers that didn't submit plans to the State and add fines and forfeitures to non-compliant manufacturers.
- The plan was that Simitian introduced a placeholder bill and would amend it later down the line. Simitian never could get the votes to add as many teeth as he wanted to therefore the placeholder made it through the legislative process and was vetoed.
- The Governor said in his veto message that we didn't need a law to effect this change, rather it was something that could be done administratively.

2013 – AB 403 (EGGMAN, STONE) DIED

- Died in Assembly Appropriations
- Sharps Extended Producer Responsibility

2014 – AB 403 & AB 1893 (EGGMAN, STONE) **FAILED**

- 403: Sharps Product Stewardship
- 1893: Sharps container provided with sharps purchase

2015 – AB 1159 (GORDON)

- Sharps & Battery Extended Producer Responsibility
- Was sent back to committee

TIME FOR LOCAL ACTION

- 2008 *Passed*: San Luis Obispo
- 2010 *Passed*: City of Sacramento
- 2014 *Passed*: Tulare County, Santa Cruz County
- 2015 *In Progress*: City of Los Angeles, City of Galt, Santa Cruz County

ALAMEDA COUNTY SAFE CONSUMER GENERATED SHARPS DISPOSAL ORDINANCE

- Require producers of medications usually injected outside a healthcare setting and offered for sale in Alameda County to develop, fund and participate in a product stewardship plan to collect and dispose of sharps from consumers.
- Producers cannot charge fees to consumers for any element of the Product Stewardship Plan, forcing internalization of costs to implement the stewardship program; the end result of the implementation of the Plan is an increased cost of doing business;
- The program must have an outreach and promotion campaign including prominently displayed signage;
- Producers will pay the county's cost for implementation and oversight of the ordinance;
- Failure to comply can result in a maximum fine of up to \$1,000 per day per violation;
- This ordinance is a compliment and companion to the Alameda County Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance passed by the Board of Supervisors in July 2012.