
HOUSE BILL 3081

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Linville, Stensen, Anderson, Santos, Lovick, Kenney, Keiser, Rockefeller, Ogden and Lantz

Read first time 01/27/2000. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Ecology.

1 AN ACT Relating to inactivation of cultures requiring biosafety
2 level 3 or 4 practices; amending RCW 70.95K.010; adding a new section
3 to chapter 70.95K RCW; creating a new section; and providing an
4 effective date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that laboratory-
7 generated cultures of microorganisms are a dangerous portion of the
8 biomedical waste stream. It is the purpose of this act to require the
9 inactivation of such cultures.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.95K.010 and 1994 c 165 s 2 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
13 this section apply throughout this chapter.

14 (1) "Biomedical waste" means, and is limited to, the following
15 types of waste:

16 (a) "Animal waste" is waste animal carcasses, body parts, and
17 bedding of animals that are known to be infected with, or that have

1 been inoculated with, human pathogenic microorganisms infectious to
2 humans.

3 ~~(b) ("Biosafety level 4 disease waste" is waste contaminated with~~
4 ~~blood, excretions, exudates, or secretions from humans or animals who~~
5 ~~are isolated to protect others from highly communicable infectious~~
6 ~~diseases that are identified as pathogenic organisms assigned to~~
7 ~~biosafety level 4 by the centers for disease control, national~~
8 ~~institute of health, biosafety in microbiological and biomedical~~
9 ~~laboratories, current edition.~~

10 ~~(c))~~ "Cultures ~~((and stocks))~~" are laboratory wastes infectious to
11 humans and includes specimen cultures, cultures ~~((and stocks))~~ of
12 etiologic agents, wastes from production of biologicals and serums,
13 discarded live and attenuated vaccines, and laboratory waste that has
14 come into contact with cultures ~~((and stocks))~~ of etiologic agents or
15 blood specimens. Such waste includes but is not limited to culture
16 dishes~~((, blood specimen tubes,))~~ and devices used to transfer,
17 inoculate, and mix cultures.

18 ~~((d))~~ (c) "Human blood and blood products" is discarded waste
19 human blood and blood components, and materials containing free-flowing
20 blood and blood products.

21 ~~((e) "Pathological"))~~ (d) "Pathology waste" is waste human source
22 biopsy materials, tissues, and anatomical parts that emanate from
23 surgery, obstetrical procedures, and autopsy. "~~((Pathological))~~
24 Pathology waste" does not include teeth, human corpses, remains, and
25 anatomical parts that are intended for interment or cremation.

26 ~~((f))~~ (e) "Sharps waste" is all hypodermic needles, syringes with
27 needles attached, IV tubing with needles attached, scalpel blades, and
28 lancets that have been removed from the original sterile package.

29 (2) "Biosafety level 3 practices" means practices identified in the
30 centers for disease control and prevention publication "Biosafety in
31 Microbial and Biomedical Laboratories," fourth edition, May 1999, as
32 necessary to handle dangerous and exotic agents properly, which agents
33 pose a high risk of life-threatening disease, may be aerosol-
34 transmitted, and may cause serious and potentially lethal infection.

35 (3) "Biosafety level 4 practices" means practices identified in the
36 centers for disease control and prevention publication "Biosafety in
37 Microbial and Biomedical Laboratories," fourth edition, May 1999, as
38 necessary to handle dangerous and exotic agents properly, which agents

1 pose a high risk of life-threatening disease, may be aerosol-
2 transmitted, and for which there is no available vaccine or therapy.

3 (4) "Drop-off programs" means those program sites designated by the
4 solid waste planning jurisdiction where sharps users may dispose of
5 their sharps containers.

6 (5) "Local government" means city, town, or county.

7 ~~((3) "Local health department" means the city, county, city-~~
8 ~~county, or district public health department.~~

9 ~~(4))~~ (6) "Local health jurisdiction" means the county, city-
10 county, or multicounty public health department or district.

11 (7) "Mail programs" means those programs that provide sharps users
12 with a multiple barrier protection kit for the placement of a sharps
13 container and subsequent mailing of the wastes to an approved disposal
14 facility.

15 (8) "Person" means an individual, firm, corporation, association,
16 partnership, consortium, joint venture, commercial entity, state
17 government agency, or local government.

18 ~~((5) "Treatment" means incineration, sterilization, or other~~
19 ~~method, technique, or process that changes the character or composition~~
20 ~~of a biomedical waste so as to minimize the risk of transmitting an~~
21 ~~infectious disease.~~

22 ~~(6))~~ (9) "Pharmacy return programs" means those programs where
23 sharps containers are returned by the user to designated return sites
24 located at a pharmacy to be transported by a biomedical or solid waste
25 collection company approved by the utilities and transportation
26 commission.

27 (10) "Residential sharps waste" has the same meaning as "sharps
28 waste" in subsection (1) of this section except that the sharps waste
29 is generated and prepared for disposal at a residence, apartment,
30 dwelling, or other noncommercial habitat.

31 ~~((7))~~ (11) "Sharps waste container" means a leak-proof, rigid,
32 puncture-resistant red container that is taped closed or tightly lidded
33 to prevent the loss of the residential sharps waste.

34 ~~((8) "Mail programs" means those programs that provide sharps~~
35 ~~users with a multiple barrier protection kit for the placement of a~~
36 ~~sharps container and subsequent mailing of the wastes to an approved~~
37 ~~disposal facility.~~

38 ~~(9) "Pharmacy return programs" means those programs where sharps~~
39 ~~containers are returned by the user to designated return sites located~~

1 at a pharmacy to be transported by a biomedical or solid waste
2 collection company approved by the utilities and transportation
3 commission.

4 ~~(10)~~ "Drop-off programs" means those program sites designated by
5 the solid waste planning jurisdiction where sharps users may dispose of
6 their sharps containers.

7 ~~((11))~~ (12) "Source separation" has the same meaning as in RCW
8 70.95.030.

9 ~~((12))~~ (13) "Treatment" means incineration, sterilization, or
10 other method, technique, or process that changes the character or
11 composition of a biomedical waste so as to minimize the risk of
12 transmitting an infectious disease.

13 (14) "Unprotected sharps" means residential sharps waste that are
14 not disposed of in a sharps waste container.

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 70.95K RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 Generators of cultures requiring biosafety level 3 or 4 practices
18 shall treat those cultures before final disposal in either of the
19 following ways: (1) The generators may treat the cultures before
20 transport from the facility; or (2) the generators segregate the
21 cultures and transport them to a treatment facility.

22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Section 3 of this act takes effect January
23 1, 2001.

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