
SENATE BILL 6568

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Swecker, Hale, Rasmussen, Oke and Morton

Read first time 01/19/2000. Referred to Committee on Environmental Quality & Water Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring the treatment of biomedical waste
2 cultures prior to disposal; amending RCW 70.95K.010; and adding a new
3 section to chapter 70.95K RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.95K.010 and 1994 c 165 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
8 this section apply throughout this chapter.

9 (1) (~~"Biomedical waste" means, and is limited to, the following~~
10 ~~types of waste:~~

11 (a)) "Animal waste" is waste animal carcasses, body parts, and
12 bedding of animals that are known to be infected with, or that have
13 been inoculated with, human pathogenic microorganisms infectious to
14 humans.

15 ((b) "~~Biosafety level 4 disease waste" is waste contaminated with~~
16 ~~blood, excretions, exudates, or secretions from humans or animals who~~
17 ~~are isolated to protect others from highly communicable infectious~~
18 ~~diseases that are identified as pathogenic organisms assigned to~~
19 ~~biosafety level 4 by the centers for disease control, national~~

1 ~~institute of health, biosafety in microbiological and biomedical~~
2 ~~laboratories, current edition.~~

3 ~~(e))~~ (2) "Biomedical waste" means, and is limited to, the
4 following types of waste: Animal waste, cultures, human blood and
5 blood products, pathology waste, and sharps waste.

6 (3) "Biosafety level 3 practices" means practices identified in the
7 centers for disease control and prevention publication, "Biosafety in
8 Microbial and Biomedical Laboratories," fourth edition, May 1999, as
9 necessary to handle indigenous or exotic agents properly, which agents
10 may be aerosol-transmitted and may cause serious and potentially lethal
11 infection.

12 (4) "Biosafety level 4 practices" means practices identified in the
13 centers for disease control and prevention publication, "Biosafety in
14 Microbial and Biomedical Laboratories," fourth edition, May 1999, as
15 necessary to handle dangerous and exotic agents properly, which agents
16 pose a high risk of life-threatening disease, may be aerosol-
17 transmitted, and for which there is no available vaccine or therapy.

18 (5) "Cultures ((and stocks))" are laboratory wastes infectious to
19 humans and includes specimen cultures, cultures ((and stocks)) of
20 etiologic agents, wastes from production of biologicals and serums,
21 discarded live and attenuated vaccines, and laboratory waste that has
22 come into contact with cultures ((and stocks)) of etiologic agents or
23 blood specimens. Such waste includes but is not limited to culture
24 dishes, ((blood specimen tubes,)) and devices used to transfer,
25 inoculate, and mix cultures.

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

29 (7) "Human blood and blood products" is discarded waste human blood
30 and blood components, and materials containing free-flowing blood and
31 blood products.

32 ~~((e))~~ (8) "Local government" means city, town, or county.

33 (9) "Local health department" means the city, county, city-county,
34 or district public health department.

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

1 ~~(11)~~ "~~((Pathological))~~ Pathology waste" is waste human source
2 biopsy materials, tissues, and anatomical parts that emanate from
3 surgery, obstetrical procedures, and autopsy. "~~((Pathological))~~
4 Pathology waste" does not include teeth, human corpses, remains, and
5 anatomical parts that are intended for interment or cremation.

6 ~~((f))~~ (12) "Person" means an individual, firm, corporation,
7 association, partnership, consortium, joint venture, commercial entity,
8 state government agency, or local government.

9 (13) "Pharmacy return programs" means those programs where sharps
10 containers are returned by the user to designated return sites located
11 at a pharmacy to be transported by a biomedical or solid waste
12 collection company approved by the utilities and transportation
13 commission.

14 (14) "Residential sharps waste" has the same meaning as "sharps
15 waste" in subsection (15) of this section except that the sharps waste
16 is generated and prepared for disposal at a residence, apartment,
17 dwelling, or other noncommercial habitat.

18 (15) "Sharps waste" is all hypodermic needles, syringes with
19 needles attached, IV tubing with needles attached, scalpel blades, and
20 lancets that have been removed from the original sterile package.

21 ~~((2))~~ "~~Local government~~" means ~~city, town, or county.~~

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

24 ~~(4)~~ "~~Person~~" means an individual, firm, corporation, association,
25 partnership, consortium, joint venture, commercial entity, state
26 government agency, or local government.

27 ~~(5))~~ (16) "Sharps waste container" means a leak-proof, rigid,
28 puncture-resistant container that is taped closed or tightly lidded to
29 prevent the loss of the residential sharps waste.

30 (17) "Source separation" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.95.030.

31 (18) "Treatment" means incineration, sterilization, or other
32 method, technique, or process that changes the character or composition
33 of a biomedical waste so as to minimize the risk of transmitting an
34 infectious disease.

35 ~~((6))~~ "~~Residential sharps waste~~" has the same meaning as "~~sharps~~
36 ~~waste~~" in subsection (1) of this section except that the sharps waste
37 is generated and prepared for disposal at a residence, apartment,
38 dwelling, or other noncommercial habitat.

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

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

8 ~~(9) "Pharmacy return programs" means those programs where sharps~~
9 ~~containers are returned by the user to designated return sites located~~
10 ~~at a pharmacy to be transported by a biomedical or solid waste~~
11 ~~collection company approved by the utilities and transportation~~
12 ~~commission.~~

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

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

17 ~~(12))~~ (19) "Unprotected sharps" means residential sharps waste
18 that are not disposed of in a sharps waste container.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 70.95K RCW
20 to read as follows:

21 Generators of cultures requiring biosafety level 3 practices or
22 biosafety level 4 practices shall treat those cultures before disposal
23 in either of the following ways: (1) The generators may treat the
24 cultures before transport from the facility; or (2) the generators may
25 segregate the cultures into incinerate-only containers and transport
26 the cultures to a treatment facility for incineration.

--- END ---