

Additionally, a grant program that focuses on an educational campaign does not help local governments develop effective new solutions for the waste.

- c) *Grant Funding.* The bill specifies that \$5 million dollars would be made available to implement a grant program for educating residents of communities on the existence of HHW disposal programs and how to use them; and, defray the cost of components of local government HHW programs.

As outlined in the background, one of the difficulties in successful collection and disposal of HHW, pharmaceutical waste and sharps waste is participation. Low consumer participation rates are not attributed to a lack of willingness or education on the part of the consumer. Rather, the problem is the lack of resources to make the myriad solutions developed to date conveniently and readily available to consumers and to implement newly emerging solutions. This is illustrated in the high participation and collection rates of the many take-back days conducted across the state as well as the solutions that have been in existence in other countries for many years. Additionally, defraying the current costs associated with HHW local programs does not help create expanded or new solutions to encourage greater and more success participation.

- 3) *Suggested Amendment.* The bill in its current form does not reflect the direction that California and its local elected governments have chosen to evolve waste management policy for the best protection and service to the state and its communities.

The bill should be amended to strike the current contents of the bill and replace with language that will help Californians develop successful and efficient solutions for handling HHW, pharmaceutical and sharps waste streams that result in increased successful collection of HHW, pharmaceutical waste and sharps waste.

Given the extensive amount of work done at both the state and local levels to review, research and develop efficient, effective and safe waste management strategies, what is needed at this juncture is the opportunity to test new as well as proven strategies in various types of communities to inform future government policies for waste management of HHW, pharmaceutical and sharps waste.

The bill should be amended to create a pilot project in Los Angeles to develop and implement various strategies for different communities for HHW, pharmaceutical waste and sharps waste that are aimed at increasing participation and providing safe and effective options for the appropriate handling of these waste streams. (Because of the sheer size and demographic of the many communities in Los Angeles County, this county is a good microcosm of the state to test strategies.)

- The pilot is to be created by CalRecycle in consultation with DTSC. CalRecycle will create an advisory committee for the pilot that consists of CalRecycle, DTSC, County of Los Angeles, other local government representatives, industry representation and other entities that can advise on waste management strategies.
- The pilot will be executed by the County of Los Angeles, if the county agrees, through a grant of \$3 to 5 million a year for 3 years from participating pharmaceutical companies.
- The pilot shall include periodic reports as well as a final report (as specified by CalRecycle) that outlines the success of the various strategies implemented in the pilot including tracking of participation rates and other data as deemed appropriate by CalRecycle.
- While Los Angeles County is conducting this pilot project, the county and the municipal jurisdictions within the county shall not adopt ordinances for the disposal of pharmaceutical waste that are paid for at the direct cost of the pharmaceutical industry.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2039 (Ting, 2016) proposes building on the models of the aforementioned programs to develop EPR for home-generated medical sharps. This bill was referred to the Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials. Hearing was cancelled at request of the author.

SB 1229 (Jackson/Stone, 2016) would provide that an entity registered with the federal Drug Enforcement Agency to receive a controlled substance for the purpose of destruction is not liable for civil damages, or subject to criminal prosecution, for maintaining a secure drug take-back bin on its premise. SB 1229 passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on a vote 9-0.