

2A:170-25.17

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 2A:170-25.17

(Hypodermic needles and  
syringes - destruction)

LAWS OF: 1985

CHAPTER: 96

Bill No: A952

Sponsor(s): Bocchini and others

Date Introduced: January 30, 1984

Committee: Assembly: Corrections, Health and Human Services

Senate: Institutions, Health and Welfare

Amended during passage: No

Substituted for S2142 (not  
attached since identical to  
A952)

Date of Passage:

Assembly: Apr. 30, 1984

Senate: Jan. 24, 1985

Date of Approval: March 26, 1985

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee statement: Assembly Yes

Senate Yes

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

Message on Signing: ~~No~~ Yes

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

CHAPTER 96 LAWS OF N. J. 1985  
APPROVED 3-26-85

ASSEMBLY, No. 952

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 1984

By Assemblymen BOCCHINI, PATERO, ROCCO and BENNETT

AN ACT concerning the destruction of hypodermic needles or syringes and amending P. L. 1972, c. 143.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. Section 1 of P. L. 1972, c. 143 (C. 2A:170-25.17) is amended  
2 to read as follows:

3 1. No person shall discard or abandon in any public or private  
4 place accessible to any other person, whether or not the other person  
5 may be a trespasser, any disposable or reusable hypodermic needle  
6 or syringe, without first destroying the needle or syringe; nor shall  
7 any owner, lessee or other person in control of premises accessible  
8 to any other person, whether or not the other person may be a  
9 trespasser, knowingly permit discarded or abandoned hypodermic  
10 needles or syringes to remain on said premises in an intact  
11 condition.

12 For purposes of this act, a hypodermic needle or syringe shall be  
13 deemed destroyed only if: *a. the needle is broken from the hub or*  
14 *mangled, in the case of a needle, and the nipple of the barrel is*  
15 *broken from the barrel or the plunger and barrel are melted, in*  
16 *the case of a syringe; or b. it is discarded as a single unit, without*  
17 *recapping, into a rigid container and the container is destroyed by*  
18 *grinding or crushing in a compacter, or by burning in an incinerator*  
19 *approved by the Department of Environmental Protection, or by*  
20 *any other method approved by the Department of Health.*

21 Any person who violates the provisions of this act is a disorderly  
22 person and shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500.00 or by  
23 imprisonment for not more than five days, or both.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Matter printed in italics *thus is new matter.*

## STATEMENT

This bill permits another method for disposing of hypodermic syringes. The new method requires that the needle or syringe be discarded as a single unit, without recapping, into a rigid container. The container then shall be destroyed by grinding or crushing in a compacter or by incineration.

Presently, the law requires that a needle be broken from the hub or mangled and a syringe be similarly dismantled and melted. This required method has resulted in health care workers receiving accidental puncture injuries from the needles, making them susceptible to contracting infectious diseases. The original method, however, is more practical for persons who use syringes at home, e.g., diabetics, and, therefore, the bill was amended to permit either method of disposal.

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ASSEMBLY CORRECTIONS, HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 952

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 15, 1984

This bill would permit another method for disposing of hypodermic syringes. The new method requires that the needle or syringe be discarded as a single unit, without recapping, into a rigid container. The container then shall be destroyed by grinding or crushing in a compactor or by incineration.

Presently, the law requires that a needle be broken from the hub or mangled and a syringe be similarly dismantled and melted. This required method has resulted in health care workers receiving accidental puncture injuries from the needles, making them susceptible to contracting infectious diseases. The original method, however, is more practical for persons who use syringes at home, e.g., diabetics.

SENATE INSTITUTIONS, HEALTH AND WELFARE  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
ASSEMBLY, No. 952

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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DATED: SEPTEMBER 13, 1984

This bill permits another method for disposing of hypodermic syringes. The new method requires that the needle or syringe be discarded as a single unit, without recapping, into a rigid container. The container then shall be destroyed by grinding or crushing in a compacter or by incineration.

Presently, the law requires that a needle be broken from the hub or mangled and a syringe be similarly dismantled and melted. This required method has resulted in health care workers receiving accidental puncture injuries from the needles, making them susceptible to contracting infectious diseases. The original method, however, is more practical for persons who use syringes at home, i.g., diabetics, and, therefore, this bill provides that either method of disposal is permissible.

BILL S-485, ET. AL.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 1985

S-2788, sponsored by Senator John Russo, D-Ocean, to exclude matters concerning the management of State custodial, penal or correctional facilities from the hearing jurisdiction of the Office of Administrative Law. The only exception would be if the sanctions arising from a single incident involves the loss of 365 days or more of time credits.

S-2819, sponsored by Senator Daniel Dalton, D-Camden, to provide temporary relief from the provisions of the cap law for Waterford Township, Camden County.

A-952, sponsored by Assemblyman Joseph Bocchini, D-Mercer, to require that hypodermic needles and syringes be discarded as a single unit into a rigid container and that the container be crushed or ground in a compacter or destroyed by incineration.

S-1749, sponsored by Senator Leanna Brown, R-Morris, to exclude any special purpose assessments from the computation of New Jersey's retaliatory tax on out-of-state insurance companies.

AJR-65, sponsored by Assemblyman Willie Brown, D-Essex, to designate the week of March 17 - 23, as "Poison Prevention Week" in New Jersey.

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