
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6568

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Environmental Quality & Water Resources
(originally sponsored by Senators Swecker, Hale, Rasmussen, Oke and
Morton)

Read first time 02/04/2000.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring the treatment of biomedical waste
2 cultures prior to disposal; amending RCW 70.95K.010; and adding new
3 sections 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)) "Airborne droplet nuclei" means small-particle residues, that
12 are smaller than or equal to five micrometers in size, of evaporated
13 droplets containing microorganisms that remain suspended in the air and
14 that can be dispersed by air currents.

15 (2) "Animal waste" is waste animal carcasses, body parts, and
16 bedding of animals that are known to be infected with, or that have
17 been inoculated with, human pathogenic microorganisms infectious to
18 humans.

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

8 (~~(c)~~) (3) "Biomedical waste" means, and is limited to, the
9 following types of waste: Animal waste, cultures, human blood and
10 blood products, pathological waste, and sharps waste.

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

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

22 (6) "Human blood and blood products" is discarded waste human blood
23 and blood components, and materials containing free-flowing blood and
24 blood products.

25 (~~(e)~~) (7) "Local government" means city, town, or county.

26 (8) "Local health department" means the city, county, city-county,
27 or district public health department.

28 (9) "Mail programs" means those programs that provide sharps users
29 with a multiple barrier protection kit for the placement of a sharps
30 container and subsequent mailing of the wastes to an approved disposal
31 facility.

32 (10) "Pathological waste" is waste human source biopsy materials,
33 tissues, and anatomical parts that emanate from surgery, obstetrical
34 procedures, and autopsy. "Pathological waste" does not include teeth,
35 human corpses, remains, and anatomical parts that are intended for
36 interment or cremation.

37 (~~(f)~~) (11) "Person" means an individual, firm, corporation,
38 association, partnership, consortium, joint venture, commercial entity,
39 state government agency, or local government.

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

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

10 (14) "Sharps waste" is all hypodermic needles, syringes with
11 needles attached, IV tubing with needles attached, scalpel blades, and
12 lancets that have been removed from the original sterile package.

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

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

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

19 ~~(5))~~ (15) "Sharps waste container" means a leak-proof, rigid,
20 puncture-resistant container that is taped closed or tightly lidded to
21 prevent the loss of the residential sharps waste.

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

23 (17) "Treatment" means ((incineration, sterilization, or other)) a
24 method, technique, or process that changes the biological character or
25 composition of a biomedical waste so as to ((minimize)) substantially
26 eliminate the risk of transmitting an infectious disease.

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

34 ~~(8) "Mail programs" means those programs that provide sharps users~~
35 ~~with a multiple barrier protection kit for the placement of a sharps~~
36 ~~container and subsequent mailing of the wastes to an approved disposal~~
37 ~~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) "Source separation" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.95.030.

8 (12)) (18) "Unprotected sharps" means residential sharps waste
9 that are not disposed of in a sharps waste container.

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

12 Generators of cultures containing microorganisms that may be
13 transmitted to humans via airborne droplet nuclei shall treat those
14 cultures before transport from the facility. Such cultures include
15 infectious agents associated with diseases that include but are not
16 limited to tuberculosis, measles, and varicella.

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

19 Biomedical waste treatment facilities shall not accept cultures
20 containing microorganisms that may be transmitted to humans via
21 airborne droplet nuclei unless those cultures have been treated by the
22 generator before transport from the generator's facility.

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