

1 SB86
2 115868-1
3 By Senator Coleman
4 RFD: Health
5 First Read: 12-JAN-10
6 PFD: 01/06/2010

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would require the Department of
9 Public Health to create a program for the safe
10 disposal of home-generated medical sharps. This
11 bill would define certain terms related to
12 home-generated medical sharps.

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14 A BILL
15 TO BE ENTITLED
16 AN ACT

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18 To require the Department of Public Health to
19 develop and implement a program for the disposal of
20 home-generated medical sharps and to define certain terms.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

22 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited
23 as the Home-Generated Medical Sharps Disposal Act.

24 Section 2. The Legislature finds that:

25 (1) Each year, according to the Environmental
26 Protection Agency, more than three billion medical sharps are
27 used by individuals in their homes.

1 (2) Typically, these medical sharps are put into the
2 household trash, where they become a health hazard for other
3 members of the household and for sanitation workers.

4 (3) The hazard includes not only the discomfort of a
5 needle-stick injury, but also the risk of contracting an
6 infectious disease from a contaminated medical sharp.

7 (4) Regulating the disposal of home-generated
8 medical sharps will further the public health and safety of
9 Alabama residents.

10 Section 3. As used in this act, the following terms
11 shall have the following meanings:

12 (1) DEPARTMENT. The State Department of Public
13 Health.

14 (2) HOME-GENERATED MEDICAL SHARP. A medical sharp
15 used by an individual in a setting other than a medical
16 office, hospital, or similar setting.

17 (3) MEDICAL SHARP. A needle, syringe, lancet, or
18 other sharp object used to penetrate the skin for medical
19 testing or for delivery of medication.

20 Section 4. (a) The department shall develop and
21 implement a statewide educational program designed to inform
22 the public about safe disposal of home-generated medical
23 sharps and to promote the public's safe disposal of
24 home-generated medical sharps.

25 (b) The department shall develop the program no
26 later than July 1, 2011, and shall implement the program no
27 later than January 1, 2012.

1 Section 5. This act shall become effective
2 immediately following its passage and approval by the
3 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.