

Introduced by Senator Yee

February 12, 2010

An act to amend Sections 4145 and 4148 of, and to repeal Section 4140 of, the Business and Professions Code, and to amend Section 11364 of, to add Section 121281 to, and to repeal Chapter 13.5 (commencing with Section 121285) of Part 4 of Division 105 of, the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1029, as introduced, Yee. Hypodermic needles and syringes.

Existing law regulates the sale, possession, and disposal of hypodermic needles and syringes, and requires, with certain exceptions, a prescription to purchase a hypodermic needle or syringe for human use. Existing law prohibits any person from possessing or having under his control any hypodermic needle or syringe, except in accordance with those regulatory provisions.

Existing law, which terminates December 31, 2010, authorizes a county or city to authorize a licensed pharmacist to sell or furnish 10 or fewer hypodermic needles or syringes to a person for human use without a prescription if the pharmacy is registered with a local health department in the Disease Prevention Demonstration Project, established by law to evaluate the long-term desirability of allowing licensed pharmacies to sell or furnish nonprescription hypodermic needles or syringes to prevent the spread of bloodborne pathogens, including HIV and hepatitis C.

This bill would delete the prohibition against any person possessing or having under his control any hypodermic needle or syringe, would delete the requirement of authorization by a county or city, would delete the December 31, 2010, end date, would recast related provisions to

permit a physician, pharmacist, or pharmacist technician to provide, and a person to obtain, 30 or fewer hypodermic needles and syringes for human use without a prescription or license, and would make conforming changes, including the elimination of the Disease Prevention Demonstration Project.

This bill would require the state Office of AIDS to develop and maintain information on its Internet Web site to educate consumers at risk of bloodborne infections of opportunities to improve and protect the consumer's health, and to protect the public health and would also require the California State Board of Pharmacy to post, or post a link to, this information on its Internet Web site.

The pharmacy Law requires a pharmacist to keep detailed records of nonprescription sales of hypodermic needles and syringes. Existing law makes it a crime to knowingly violate any provision relating to the Pharmacy Law.

This bill would amend the Pharmacy Law to require pharmacies that furnish nonprescription hypodermic needles and syringes to store the hypodermic needles and syringes in a manner that ensures that they are not accessible to unauthorized persons, and would require pharmacies to provide consumers with prescribed options for consumer disposal of hypodermic needles and syringes. By changing the definition of an existing crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to improve access
- 2 to syringes and hypodermic needles so as to remove significant
- 3 barriers for persons seeking to protect their health and the health
- 4 of other persons, and to remove barriers for programs or businesses
- 5 to provide sterile injection equipment and education to adults,
- 6 thereby reducing the spread of communicable diseases and
- 7 protecting the public health.

1 SEC. 2. Section 4140 of the Business and Professions Code is
2 repealed.

3 ~~4140. No person shall possess or have under his or her control~~
4 ~~any hypodermic needle or syringe except when acquired in~~
5 ~~accordance with this article.~~

6 SEC. 3. Section 4145 of the Business and Professions Code is
7 amended to read:

8 4145. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
9 pharmacist or physician may, without a prescription or a permit,
10 furnish hypodermic needles and syringes for human use, and a
11 person may, without a prescription or license, obtain hypodermic
12 needles and syringes from a pharmacist or physician for human
13 use, ~~if one of the following requirements is met: the person is~~
14 ~~known to the furnisher and the furnisher has previously been~~
15 ~~provided a prescription or other proof of a legitimate medical need~~
16 ~~requiring a hypodermic needle or syringe to administer a medicine~~
17 ~~or treatment.~~

18 ~~(1) The person is known to the furnisher and the furnisher has~~
19 ~~previously been provided a prescription or other proof of a~~
20 ~~legitimate medical need requiring a hypodermic needle or syringe~~
21 ~~to administer a medicine or treatment.~~

22 ~~(2) Pursuant to authorization by a county, with respect to all of~~
23 ~~the territory within the county, or a city, with respect to the territory~~
24 ~~within the city, for the period commencing January 1, 2005, and~~
25 ~~ending December 31, 2010, a pharmacist may furnish or sell 10~~
26 ~~or fewer hypodermic needles or syringes at any one time to a~~
27 ~~person 18 years of age or older if the pharmacist works for a~~
28 ~~pharmacy that is registered for the Disease Prevention~~
29 ~~Demonstration Project pursuant to Chapter 13.5 (commencing~~
30 ~~with Section 121285) of Part 4 of Division 105 of the Health and~~
31 ~~Safety Code and the pharmacy complies with the provisions of~~
32 ~~that chapter.~~

33 ~~(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, as a public~~
34 ~~health measure intended to prevent the transmission of HIV, viral~~
35 ~~hepatitis, and other bloodborne diseases among persons who use~~
36 ~~syringes and hypodermic needles, and to prevent subsequent~~
37 ~~infection of sexual partners, newborn children, or other persons,~~
38 ~~a physician, pharmacist, or pharmacist technician may, without~~
39 ~~a prescription or a permit, furnish hypodermic needles and syringes~~
40 ~~for human use, and a person may, without a prescription or license,~~

1 *obtain hypodermic needles and syringes for human use from a*
2 *physician, pharmacist, or pharmacist technician.*

3 ~~(b)~~

4 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a pharmacist,
5 veterinarian, or person licensed pursuant to Section 4141 may,
6 without a prescription or license, furnish hypodermic needles and
7 syringes for use on animals, and a person may, without a
8 prescription or license, obtain hypodermic needles and syringes
9 from a pharmacist, veterinarian, or person licensed pursuant to
10 Section 4141 for use on animals, providing that no needle or
11 syringe shall be furnished to a person who is unknown to the
12 furnisher and unable to properly establish his or her identity.

13 (d) *Pharmacies shall store hypodermic needles and syringes in*
14 *a manner that ensures that they are available only to authorized*
15 *personnel, and are not accessible to other persons.*

16 (e) *In order to provide for the safe disposal of hypodermic*
17 *needles and syringes, pharmacies that furnish nonprescription*
18 *hypodermic needles and syringes shall provide consumers with*
19 *one or more of the following disposal options:*

20 (1) *It shall establish an onsite, safe, hypodermic needle and*
21 *syringe collection and disposal program.*

22 (2) *It shall furnish, or make available, mail-back sharps disposal*
23 *containers authorized by the United States Postal Service that*
24 *meet applicable state and federal requirements, and shall provide*
25 *tracking forms to verify destruction at a certified disposal facility.*

26 (3) *It shall furnish, or make available, a personal medical sharps*
27 *disposal container that meets applicable state and federal*
28 *standards for disposal of medical sharps waste.*

29 SEC. 4. Section 4148 of the Business and Professions Code is
30 amended to read:

31 4148. All stocks of hypodermic needles or syringes shall be
32 confiscated if found outside the licensed premises of any person
33 holding a permit under Section 4141 and found not in the
34 possession or under the control of a person entitled to an exemption
35 under Section 4143, 4144, or 4145, *or under Section 11364,*
36 *121349, or 121349.1 of the Health and Safety Code.*

37 SEC. 5. Section 11364 of the Health and Safety Code is
38 amended to read:

39 11364. (a) It is unlawful to possess an opium pipe or any
40 device, contrivance, instrument, or paraphernalia used for

1 unlawfully injecting or smoking (1) a controlled substance specified
2 in subdivision (b), (c), or (e), or paragraph (1) of subdivision (f)
3 of Section 11054, specified in paragraph (14), (15), or (20) of
4 subdivision (d) of Section 11054, specified in subdivision (b) or
5 (c) of Section 11055, or specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision
6 (d) of Section 11055, or (2) a controlled substance which is a
7 narcotic drug classified in Schedule III, IV, or V.

8 (b) This section shall not apply to hypodermic needles or
9 syringes that have been containerized for safe disposal in a
10 container that meets state and federal standards for disposal of
11 sharps waste.

12 ~~(c) Pursuant to authorization by a county, with respect to all of~~
13 ~~the territory within the county, or a city, with respect to the territory~~
14 ~~within in the city, for the period commencing January 1, 2005, and~~
15 ~~ending December 31, 2010, subdivision (a) As a public health~~
16 ~~measure intended to prevent the transmission of HIV, viral~~
17 ~~hepatitis, and other bloodborne diseases among persons who use~~
18 ~~syringes and hypodermic needles, and to prevent subsequent~~
19 ~~infection of sexual partners, newborn children, or other persons,~~
20 ~~this section shall not apply to the possession solely for personal~~
21 ~~use of 10 30 or fewer hypodermic needles or syringes if acquired~~
22 ~~from an authorized source a physician, pharmacist, pharmacist~~
23 ~~technician, hypodermic needle and syringe exchange program, or~~
24 ~~any other source that is authorized by law to provide sterile~~
25 ~~syringes or hypodermic needles without a prescription.~~

26 SEC. 6. Section 121281 is added to the Health and Safety Code,
27 to read:

28 121281. In order to assist pharmacists and pharmacy personnel
29 in the education of consumers who are at risk of bloodborne
30 infections regarding methods and opportunities for improving and
31 protecting the consumer's health, and thereby protect the public
32 health, the Office of AIDS shall develop and maintain all of the
33 following information, on its Internet Web site, and the California
34 State Board of Pharmacy shall also post, or maintain a link to, the
35 information on its Internet Web site:

36 (a) How consumers can access testing and treatment for HIV
37 and viral hepatitis.

38 (b) How consumers can safely dispose of syringes and
39 hypodermic needles or other sharps waste.

40 (c) How consumers can access drug treatment.

1 SEC. 7. Chapter 13.5 (commencing with Section 121285) of
2 Part 4 of Division 105 of the Health and Safety Code is repealed.
3 SEC. 8. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
4 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
5 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
6 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
7 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
8 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
9 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
10 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
11 Constitution.