

Senate Bill 1014 (as

SUMMARY

SB 1014, as amended on April 21st, 2014, reauthorizes CalRecycle's Model Guidelines for local entities—including local governments, police departments, community groups, and pharmacies—that want to establish voluntary take-back programs to collect and properly dispose of home-generated pharmaceutical waste (i.e., unused or expired prescription and over the counter drugs.). The Model Guidelines (Guidelines) expired on January 1, 2013.

BACKGROUND

In 2007, SB 966 (Simitian, Ch. 542, Stats. of 2007) was enacted that directed the former California Integrated Waste Management Board, now CalRecycle, to work with appropriate federal, local, and state agencies, including the California State Board of Pharmacy, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the State Water Resources Control Board, to develop model programs for the collection and proper disposal of drug waste by December 2008. After holding numerous meetings with state agencies and stakeholders, CalRecycle adopted model guidelines in February 2009 based on the requirements set forth in SB 966, that establish criteria and procedures for model collection programs.

Several local entities have taken advantage of the Model Guidelines and have used them to establish voluntary take-back programs in their communities. In its December 2010 Report to the Legislature entitled "Recommendations for Home-Generated Pharmaceutical Collection Programs in California," CalRecycle found that one-third of existing programs in California meet the voluntary Guidelines. The Guidelines sunsetted on January 1, 2013.

PROBLEM

California is experiencing an increasingly serious

problem with prescription drug abuse, accidental poisonings, and the detection of pharmaceutical products in state waters. Local governments have struggled to establish safe and convenient medication take-back programs for the unused and expired prescription drugs, over the counter drugs and veterinary drugs found in our homes. Unused medications are often flushed or thrown in the trash because there are few, if any, safe and convenient options.

The public demand and need for take-back programs has been tremendous—even limited programs have collected hundreds of pounds of drugs—but such programs are few and far between. Law enforcement, federal agencies, public health, and environmental professionals agree that take-back programs are the safest way to dispose of unused medicines.

Now that CalRecycle's Model Guidelines have expired, there are no standards in place for how local entities should properly run their voluntary take-back programs to ensure that collection and disposal is safe, convenient, and secure. Due to the prescription drug abuse epidemic in the state, guidelines for collection to prevent further diversion are critical to protecting public health—they can help by providing local entities with a model for removing unwanted drugs from homes and ensuring they are not resold or available to be abused after consolidation at collection locations.

SOLUTION - SB 1014 (AS AMENDED ON APRIL 21, 2014)

SB 1014, as amended April 21, 2014, would require CalRecycle to adopt regulations to authorize participants, as defined, to establish a program to collect and properly dispose of home-generated pharmaceutical waste. The regulations would be based on the model guidelines for voluntary pharmaceutical take-back programs that CalRecycle adopted in February 2009, but which expired on January 1, 2013.

SB 1014 will help ensure that local entities that decide to conduct voluntary take-back programs have

minimum standards to follow that will help protect public health and safety and the environment, and protect against the potential for diversion of pharmaceutical waste for unlawful use or sale.

In addition, SB 1014 as amended, provides clarity to existing law, by specifically authorizing pharmacies to accept the return of home-generated pharmaceutical waste, should they decide to do so.

SUPPORT

Alameda County Board of Supervisors (co-sponsor)
California Alliance for Retired Americans (co-sponsor)
California Product Stewardship Council (co-sponsor)
Clean Water Action (co-sponsor)
Californians for a Healthy and Green Economy
Center for Environmental Health
California League of Women Voters
El Dorado Irrigation District
City of Camarillo
East Bay Municipal Utility District
Health Officers Association of California
Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility
California State Board of Pharmacy (if amended)
Worksafe

STATUS

Senate Appropriations Committee

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