

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1994

Legislative Document

No. 1755

H.P. 1300

House of Representatives, January 20, 1994

**An Act to Modify the End Disposal of Sharp Waste Products in the
Biohazard Disposal Law.**

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Reference to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative RUHLIN of Brewer.
Cosponsored by Representative: COLES of Harpswell, Senators: ESTY of Cumberland,
HANDY of Androscoggin.

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §1319-O, sub-§3, ¶E is enacted to read:

E. The rules must provide transportation and disposal options for persons who generate fewer than 50 pounds per month of sharps, that allow:

(1) The generator, an employee of the generator or an agent designated by the generator to transport properly packaged sharps to a licensed biomedical waste disposal facility or another medical facility that has volunteered to serve as a collection point for sharps if no more than 50 pounds of sharps are transported in one trip; and

(2) The generator to mail properly packaged sharps to a licensed biomedical waste disposal facility in this or another state if the carrier accepts those items and no more than 50 pounds are transported in any single package.

For purposes of this paragraph, "sharps" means items that may cause puncture wounds or cuts, including hypodermic needles, syringes, scalpel blades, capillary tubes and lancets, "properly packaged" means packaged in accordance with department rules and rules or requirements imposed by the mail carrier and "licensed biomedical waste disposal facility" means a facility that holds all licenses and permits required for such a facility by federal law and by the laws of the state in which the facility is located.

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Sec. 2. Department assistance. The Department of Environmental Protection shall work with generators of small quantities of hypodermic needles and other sharps to clarify and expand disposal options. The department shall meet with interested parties no later than September 15, 1994 to explain currently available disposal methods, to elicit information on problems generators experience under current conditions and to explore ways to expand disposal options. The department shall report the results of its efforts to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environmental matters no later than January 15, 1995.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to include in its biomedical waste rules additional options for transportation and disposal of hypodermic needles and other "sharps" for small-quantity generators of those items. The

bill also requires the department to work with small-quantity
generators to clarify and expand disposal options.

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This document has not yet been reviewed to determine the
need for cross-reference, stylistic and other technical
amendments to conform existing law to current drafting standards.