



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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REVISE MEDICAL WASTE ACT

House Bill 4252

Sponsor: Rep. Michael J. Bennane

Committee: Public Health

Complete to 4-20-93

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4252 AS INTRODUCED 2-11-93

In 1990, the legislature enacted a number of amendments to the Public Health Code that regulate the storage, transportation, and disposal of medical wastes. The bill would amend the Public Health Code to:

- * change the definition of medical waste to include waste generated by home health agencies;
- * change the definition of "sharps" to include only syringes with needles attached, and to allow the Department of Public Health to add other instruments or equipment by administrative rule;
- * allow sharps to be stored at a producing facility for not more than 90 days after the sharps container is full (currently, medical waste may not be stored on the premises for more than 90 days);
- * allow sharps to be transported with other medical waste;
- * allow microwaving as another means of disposal for medical waste except for animal waste contaminated with organisms infectious to humans;
- * increase the maximum registration fee for producing facilities with four or more licensees by \$70 to \$150 (registration fees for facilities with fewer than four licensees would remain at \$50);
- * require that sharps not ground or incinerated be disposed of in "leak-resistant" rather than "leakproof" containers;
- * make the Department of Public Health alone responsible for control of medical waste disposal (including investigating and containing suspected medical waste), instead of involving the Department of Natural Resources, the state police, local health departments, and any other agency or department receiving reports of suspected medical waste;
- * change the reporting requirement (currently, the Department of Natural Resources is required, within 30 days after an investigation is completed, to report to the legislature, the governor, the advisory council, and the public) to require the Department of Public Health, upon request, to report to the standing legislative health committees; and

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* allow the Department of Public Health to promulgate rules to change the definition of "sharps" and require the department to promulgate rules to define and regulate the microwaving of medical waste.

MCL 333.13805 et al.