

# **SB 212 (JACKSON, TING AND GRAY)**

## **STATEWIDE DRUG AND SHARPS TAKE-BACK PROGRAMS**

### **This bill:**

- Establishes comprehensive, producer-funded take-back programs to provide safe and convenient disposal options for home-generated pharmaceutical drugs and sharps waste.
- Is the result of a longstanding negotiation between stakeholders.
- Gets excess drugs out of people's homes, preventing accidental poisonings and abuse, which fuel the opioid epidemic.
- Protects solid waste, parks, hotel, wastewater, sanitation, and other workers, river and beach clean-up volunteers, and the public from needle stick injuries.
- Preempts future local ordinances to ensure consistency and predictability for manufacturers.

### **The Pharmaceutical Drug Take-Back Program will:**

- Create a statewide system of kiosks for safe disposal of unwanted drugs in the home.
- Be designed, funded, and operated by producers.
- Include comprehensive education and outreach to ensure success of the program.
- Ensure adequate collection access in all counties throughout the state, rural and urban, providing reasonable geographic spread of kiosks.
- Ensure timely bin collection to avoid reaching capacity.
- Apply to the following drugs, brand name or generic, sold in California: prescription and nonprescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, and drugs in a medical device or combination product.

### **The Home-Generated Sharps Waste Take-Back Program will:**

- Provide a fully funded mail-back system.
- At the point of sale, provide a sharps waste container and prepaid mail-back materials.
- Provide reimbursement to local agencies for disposal costs related to home-generated sharps waste.
- Include strong promotion and public education to ensure consumers know how to use the program.

### **Oversight and Enforcement:**

- Contains strong oversight and data tracking to ensure successful implementation and evaluation of the program.
- Gives strong enforcement mechanisms to CalRecycle and allows for input by other relevant agencies.
- Designed to in no way impede the flow of drugs into California and to consumers.

**Images:**



Pictured: Waste that resulted in a needle stick on the sorting line in Tehama County in February 2018, the agency's third needle stick injury in a year.



Pictured: Thousands of needles found on the side of the road in Stockton in August 2018.



Pictured: 5,000 needles removed from Burbank sorting line in November 2015.

**Press:**



**Needles and the damage done: As discarded syringes litter Sacramento, opioid coalition ponders a response**

Sacramento County Opioid Coalition advised elected officials to increase disposal sites a year ago



**Legislature passes bill establishing drug take-back program**

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The New York state Legislature has passed a bill aimed at preventing opioids and other unused prescription drugs from being abused.



**Washington is first state with funded statewide drug take-back program**

The medicine cabinets, kitchen drawers, and nightstands of Washington just got less crowded. A law signed by Gov. Jay Inslee in March 2018 makes Washington the first state in the nation with a fully funded program allowing residents to drop off unused prescription and OTC medication at community pharmacies. Drug manufacturers will finance and coordinate the system of secure drug drop boxes, which will also be available at hospitals, medical clinics, and other sites.

**Federal Recommendations:**

- Under President Bush, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Health and Human Services Agency, and the U.S. EPA released drug disposal guidelines urging use of take-back programs because *“improper drug disposal is a prescription for environmental and societal concern.”*
- President Obama’s National Drug Control Strategy identified four major areas of focus, and one was to *“develop convenient and environmentally responsible prescription drug disposal programs to help decrease the supply of unused prescription drugs in the home.”*
- Under President Trump, the President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis recommends community-based stakeholders utilize Take Back Day to inform the public about drug screening and treatment services. The Commission encourages more hospitals/clinics and retail pharmacies to become year-round authorized collectors and explore the use of drug deactivation bags.



**THE PRESIDENT’S COMMISSION  
ON COMBATING DRUG  
ADDICTION AND THE OPIOID  
CRISIS**