

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 24, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 9, 2011

SENATE BILL

No. 41

Introduced by Senator Yee

December 7, 2010

An act to add and repeal Sections 4144.5, 4145.5, and 4148.5 of, and to repeal Section 4140 of, the Business and Professions Code, *and* to add Section 121281 to, *and* to add and repeal Section 11364.5 of, ~~and to add and repeal Chapter 13.6 (commencing with Section 121286) of Part 4 of Division 105 of,~~ the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 41, as amended, 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 or her control any hypodermic needle or syringe, except in accordance with those regulatory provisions.

This bill would delete the prohibition against any person possessing or having under his or her control any hypodermic needle or syringe, except in accordance with the aforementioned regulatory provisions.

Existing law, beginning January 1, 2011, and ending December 31, 2018, authorizes a county or city to authorize a licensed pharmacist to sell or furnish 10 or fewer hypodermic needles or syringes to a person 18 years of age or older for human use without a prescription if the pharmacist works for a pharmacy that 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.

Under existing law, it is unlawful to possess an opium pipe or any device, contrivance, instrument, or paraphernalia used for unlawfully injecting or smoking specified controlled substances.

Existing law, beginning January 1, 2011, and ending December 31, 2018, provides that the above-described provisions, pursuant to authorization from a city or county, shall not apply to the possession solely for personal use of 10 or fewer hypodermic needles or syringes.

This bill would, until January 1, 2015, make these provisions, including any local authorization, inoperative, and would in the interim, authorize a physician or pharmacist, without a prescription or a permit, to furnish 30 or fewer hypodermic needles and syringes for human use to a person 18 years of age or older and would authorize a person 18 years of age or older, without a prescription or license, to obtain 30 or fewer hypodermic needles and syringes solely for personal use from a physician or pharmacist.

This bill would, until January 1, 2015, provide that the above-described provisions making it unlawful to possess an opium pipe or any device, contrivance, instrument, or paraphernalia for unlawfully injecting or smoking certain controlled substances shall not apply to possession solely for personal use of 30 or fewer hypodermic needles or syringes if acquired from a physician, pharmacist, hypodermic needle and syringe exchange program, or any other source that is authorized by law to provide sterile syringes or hypodermic needles without a prescription.

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 their 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.

~~This bill would require the State Department of Public Health to assist in the completion of a prescribed evaluation and would prohibit General Fund money from being used for the completion of this evaluation. This provision would be repealed January 1, 2015.~~

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, until January 1, 2015, 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 or hypodermic needle and syringe exchange programs to provide consumers with prescribed options for consumer disposal of hypodermic needles and syringes. This bill would also, until January 1, 2015, require the pharmacies to provide prescribed written information or verbal counseling at the time of furnishing or sale of nonprescription hypodermic needles or 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.

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

10 SEC. 3. Section 4144.5 is added to the Business and Professions
11 Code, to read:

12 4144.5. (a) A person may sell or obtain hypodermic needles
13 and hypodermic syringes without a prescription or permit, for uses
14 that the board determines are industrial, and that person shall not
15 be required to comply with Section 4145.5 or 4146.

1 (b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2015,
2 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
3 is enacted before January 1, 2015, deletes or extends that date.

4 SEC. 4. Section 4145.5 is added to the Business and Professions
5 Code, to read:

6 4145.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
7 pharmacist or physician may, without a prescription or a permit,
8 furnish hypodermic needles and syringes for human use, and a
9 person may, without a prescription or license, obtain hypodermic
10 needles and syringes from a pharmacist or physician for human
11 use, if the person is known to the furnisher and the furnisher has
12 previously been provided a prescription or other proof of a
13 legitimate medical need requiring a hypodermic needle or syringe
14 to administer a medicine or treatment.

15 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, as a public
16 health 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 a physician or pharmacist may, without a prescription or a permit,
21 furnish 30 or fewer hypodermic needles and syringes for human
22 use to a person 18 years of age or older, and a person 18 years of
23 age or older may, without a prescription or license, obtain 30 or
24 fewer hypodermic needles and syringes solely for personal use
25 from a physician or pharmacist.

26 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a pharmacist,
27 veterinarian, or person licensed pursuant to Section 4141 may,
28 without a prescription or license, furnish hypodermic needles and
29 syringes for use on animals, and a person may, without a
30 prescription or license, obtain hypodermic needles and syringes
31 from a pharmacist, veterinarian, or person licensed pursuant to
32 Section 4141 for use on animals, providing that no needle or
33 syringe shall be furnished to a person who is unknown to the
34 furnisher and unable to properly establish his or her identity.

35 (d) A pharmacy that furnishes nonprescription hypodermic
36 needles and syringes shall store hypodermic needles and syringes
37 in a manner that ensures that they are available only to authorized
38 personnel, and are not accessible to other persons.

39 (e) In order to provide for the safe disposal of hypodermic
40 needles and syringes, a pharmacy or hypodermic needle and syringe

1 exchange program that furnishes nonprescription hypodermic
2 needles and syringes shall provide consumers with one or more
3 of the following disposal options:

4 (1) It shall establish an onsite, safe, hypodermic needle and
5 syringe collection and disposal program.

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

10 (3) It shall furnish, or make available, a personal medical sharps
11 disposal container that meets applicable state and federal standards
12 for disposal of medical sharps waste.

13 (f) A pharmacy that furnishes nonprescription syringes shall
14 provide written information or verbal counseling to consumers at
15 the time of furnishing or sale of nonprescription hypodermic
16 needles or syringes on how to do the following:

17 (1) Access drug treatment.

18 (2) Access testing and treatment for HIV and hepatitis C.

19 (3) Safely dispose of sharps waste.

20 (g) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2015,
21 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
22 is enacted before January 1, 2015, deletes or extends that date.

23 SEC. 5. Section 4148.5 is added to the Business and Professions
24 Code, to read:

25 4148.5. (a) All stocks of hypodermic needles or syringes shall
26 be confiscated if found outside the licensed premises of any person
27 holding a permit under Section 4141 and found not in the
28 possession or under the control of a person entitled to an exemption
29 under Section 4143, 4144, or 4145.5, or under Section 11364.5,
30 121349, or 121349.1 of the Health and Safety Code.

31 (b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2015,
32 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
33 is enacted before January 1, 2015, deletes or extends that date.

34 SEC. 6. Section 11364.5 is added to the Health and Safety
35 Code, to read:

36 11364.5. (a) It is unlawful to possess an opium pipe or any
37 device, contrivance, instrument, or paraphernalia used for
38 unlawfully injecting or smoking (1) a controlled substance specified
39 in subdivision (b), (c), or (e), or paragraph (1) of subdivision (f)
40 of Section 11054, specified in paragraph (14), (15), or (20) of

1 subdivision (d) of Section 11054, specified in subdivision (b) or
2 (c) of Section 11055, or specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision
3 (d) of Section 11055, or (2) a controlled substance which is a
4 narcotic drug classified in Schedule III, IV, or V.

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

9 (c) As a public health measure intended to prevent the
10 transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis, and other bloodborne diseases
11 among persons who use syringes and hypodermic needles, and to
12 prevent subsequent infection of sexual partners, newborn children,
13 or other persons, this section shall not apply to the possession
14 solely for personal use of 30 or fewer hypodermic needles or
15 syringes if acquired from a physician, pharmacist, hypodermic
16 needle and syringe exchange program, or any other source that is
17 authorized by law to provide sterile syringes or hypodermic needles
18 without a prescription.

19 (d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2015,
20 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
21 is enacted before January 1, 2015, deletes or extends that date.

22 SEC. 7. Section 121281 is added to the Health and Safety Code,
23 to read:

24 121281. In order to assist pharmacists and pharmacy personnel
25 in the education of consumers who are at risk of bloodborne
26 infections regarding methods and opportunities for improving and
27 protecting their health, and thereby protect the public health, the
28 Office of AIDS shall develop and maintain all of the following
29 information, on its Internet Web site, and the California State Board
30 of Pharmacy shall also post, or maintain a link to, the information
31 on its Internet Web site:

32 (a) How consumers can access testing and treatment for HIV
33 and viral hepatitis.

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

36 (c) How consumers can access drug treatment.

37 ~~SEC. 8. Chapter 13.6 (commencing with Section 121286) is~~
38 ~~added to Part 4 of Division 105 of the Health and Safety Code, to~~
39 ~~read:~~

~~CHAPTER 13.6. STERILE SYRINGE EVALUATION~~

~~121286. (a) The State Department of Public Health shall, in consultation with law enforcement leaders, assist independent researchers to complete an evaluation of the effect of allowing pharmacists to sell or furnish a limited amount of sterile syringes on rates of crime, drug use, and unsafe discard of syringes. General Fund money shall not be used for the completion of this evaluation.~~

~~(b) This chapter shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2015, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2015, deletes or extends that date.~~

~~SEC. 9.~~

~~SEC. 8. (a) Sections 4144, 4145, and 4148 of the Business and Professions Code, and Sections 11364 and 121285 of the Health and Safety Code, including related local authorizations, shall become inoperative until January 1, 2015.~~

~~(b) On and after January 1, 2015, Sections 4144, 4145, and 4148 of the Business and Professions Code, and Sections 11364 and 121285 of the Health and Safety Code, shall be operative, including related local authorization unless the county or city acts to remove the authorization.~~

~~SEC. 10.~~

~~SEC. 9. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.~~