

By Senator Stewart

17-00483-24

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to safe collection of medical sharps;  
3           defining the term "medical sharps"; requiring the  
4           Department of Health, in partnership with the  
5           Department of Environmental Protection, to conduct a  
6           study of the safe collection and proper disposal of  
7           at-home medical sharps; providing requirements for the  
8           study; authorizing the departments to work or contract  
9           with municipalities and private entities that apply to  
10          participate in the study; requiring the departments to  
11          submit a report of their findings and recommendations  
12          to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified  
13          date; providing requirements for the report; providing  
14          an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18           Section 1. Medical sharps collection study.—

19           (1) As used in this section, the term "medical sharps"  
20 means instruments used to cut or penetrate the skin for medical  
21 purposes. The term includes, but is not limited to, needles,  
22 syringes with needles, tissue punches, lancets, and razor  
23 blades.

24           (2) The Department of Health, in partnership with the  
25 Department of Environmental Protection, shall conduct a year-  
26 long study of the safe collection and proper disposal of at-home  
27 medical sharps. In conducting the study, the departments shall  
28 evaluate at least the following two methods of safe disposal in  
29 both rural and urban environments:

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- 30       (a) Mail-back programs.
- 31       (b) Door-to-door pickup programs.
- 32       (3) The departments may work or contract with  
33 municipalities and private entities that apply to participate in  
34 the study.
- 35       (4) The departments shall submit a report of their findings  
36 and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the  
37 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by July  
38 1, 2025. The report must include, at a minimum, all of the  
39 following:
- 40       (a) The cost and effectiveness of each of the medical  
41 sharps collection programs studied.
- 42       (b) Recommendations for the most effective method for  
43 safely collecting medical sharps, including the estimated costs  
44 associated with statewide adoption of such method.
- 45       (c) Details regarding the current practices of  
46 municipalities in this state, recommendations for improving  
47 existing programs, and whether any municipalities have updated  
48 or adopted programs based on the findings of the study.
- 49       Section 2. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the nonrecurring  
50 sum of \$200,000 from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund is  
51 appropriated to the Department of Health and the Department of  
52 Environmental Protection to implement this act.
- 53       Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.