

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1757

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study by the Texas Commission on Environmental  
Quality of the methods for safely handling and disposing of certain  
medical waste.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. (a) The Texas Commission on Environmental  
Quality shall study:

(1) the methods currently used in this state to safely  
handle and dispose of pharmaceuticals, medical sharps, and other  
potentially dangerous medical waste;

(2) alternative methods used for that purpose,  
including the methods used in other states; and

(3) the effects on public health and the environment  
of the various methods used for that purpose.

(b) In conducting the study, the commission shall solicit  
input from:

(1) pharmaceutical manufacturers;

(2) large pharmacies and small, independent  
pharmacies;

(3) health care providers, including home health care  
providers;

(4) hospitals;

(5) clinics;

(6) long-term care facilities;

1           (7) entities that engage in medical waste processing  
2 and handling;

3           (8) solid waste management service providers;

4           (9) local governments;

5           (10) large and small ranchers and farmers;

6           (11) end users of medication;

7           (12) water utilities and other water suppliers;

8           (13) the United States Postal Service;

9           (14) the United States Environmental Protection  
10 Agency; and

11           (15) any other entity the agency considers necessary.

12           (c) Not later than December 1, 2010, the commission shall  
13 submit a report of the results of the study to the legislature. The  
14 report must include the commission's recommendations regarding the  
15 method for safely handling and disposing of pharmaceuticals,  
16 medical sharps, and other potentially dangerous medical waste.

17           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.