

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**May 22, 2009**

**TO:** Honorable Byron Cook, Chair, House Committee on Environmental Regulation

**FROM:** John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: SB1757** by Watson (Relating to the disposal of unused pharmaceuticals so that they do not enter a wastewater system.), **Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted**

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| <p><b>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b></p> |
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The bill would require that pharmacists provide to a consumer when dispensing a prescription the statement "Do not flush unused medications or pour down a sink or drain."

The bill would direct the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to perform a study of: the methods currently used in the state to safely handle and dispose of pharmaceuticals, medical sharps, and other potentially dangerous medical waste; alternative methods include methods used in other states; and effects on public health and the environment of the various methods. In conducting this study, the bill would direct the TCEQ to solicit input from: the Health and Human Services Commission; the Department of Public Safety; pharmaceutical manufacturers; pharmacies; health care providers; hospitals; clinics; long-term care facilities; medical waste processors and handlers; solid waste management service providers; local governments; ranchers and farmers; end users of medication; water utilities and other water suppliers; U.S. Postal Service; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and any other entity necessary. The agency would be required to submit a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2010, containing recommendations and an analysis of feasibility of implementing recommended disposal methods on a statewide basis.

The TCEQ reports that the cost of the study required by the bill would be \$300,000 and would require a third party contractor to provide the needed information. This estimate assumes that the agency could absorb these costs within its existing budget.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 582 Commission on Environmental Quality

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