

A RESOLUTION encouraging the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to develop guidelines for the safe disposal of household generated “sharps” in order to minimize potential public health risks to solid waste management workers, including workers that process recyclable materials; furthermore, to reduce operational impacts at waste management and recycling facilities.

WHEREAS, the safe and proper disposal of sharps is a serious public safety issue in that approximately one out of every 12 households includes someone that may use sharps; and

WHEREAS, the improper disposal of medical syringes, hypodermic needles and other injection medications (sharps) can pose a very serious and costly hazard to families, communities, businesses and the individuals that collect and process solid waste and recyclables; and

WHEREAS, sharps have been ~~are~~ placed in plastic containers that are placed in the recycling and transported to recycling facilities resulting in a safety hazard for the employees’; and

WHEREAS, there is a public health and safety need for public education regarding the appropriate disposal of household generated sharps and their exclusion from materials intended for recycling;

Now, therefore, *Be it resolved by the Kansas House of Representatives of the state of Kansas:* That the citizens of Kansas should be informed of the public safety and health dangers of improper disposal of household sharps, including mixing such items with any other materials separated for recycling;

*Be it further resolved:* That the Kansas Department of Health and Environment develop and publish educational guidelines on its website regarding the proper disposal of household sharps and list other safe disposal options for the public;

*Be it further resolved:* That the Kansas Department of Health and Environment partner with local government to encourage the incorporation of safe disposal options in the county’s solid waste management plans;

*Be it further resolved:* That the Kansas Department of Health and Environment partner with other organizations to further encourage the communication of proper disposal of household sharps, including but not limited to safe disposal options, program assistance, and local government resources;

*Be it further resolved:* That the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will provide an update to the Kansas House of Representatives Energy and Environment Committee on the furtherance of this public education initiative no later than February 1, 2017.