

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6047

A RESOLUTION encouraging the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to develop guidelines for the safe disposal of household-generated "sharps."

WHEREAS, The safe and proper disposal of sharps is a serious public safety issue, with approximately one in 12 households having someone who may use sharps; and

WHEREAS, The improper disposal of medical syringes, hypodermic needles and other injection medication sharps can pose a serious and costly hazard to families, communities, businesses and individuals who collect and process solid waste and recyclables; and

WHEREAS, Sharps have been placed in plastic containers that are placed in the recycling and then transported to recycling facilities resulting in a safety hazard for the employees in these facilities; and

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

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we urge the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to develop and publish educational guidelines on its website regarding the proper disposal of household sharps, including mixing such items with any other materials separated for recycling, and to provide a list of other safe disposal options to inform the citizens of Kansas of the public safety and health dangers of improper disposal of household sharps; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we urge the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to partner with local governments to encourage the incorporation of safe disposal options in the county's solid waste management plans and with other organizations to further encourage communication about the proper disposal of household sharps, safe disposal options, program assistance and local government resources; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we urge the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to provide an update to the Kansas House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Environment about the development of this public education initiative before February 1, 2017.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

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*Speaker of the House.*

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*Chief Clerk of the House.*