

CHAPTER 106
SB 549-FN - FINAL VERSION

03/12/2026 1040s
03/12/2026 1162s

2026 SESSION

26-2141
09/05

SENATE BILL ***549-FN***

AN ACT requiring certain syringe service program entities to provide options for disposal of used syringes and needles and creating reporting requirements for such entities.

SPONSORS: Sen. Murphy, Dist 16; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Avar, Dist 12; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. Sullivan, Dist 18; Sen. McGough, Dist 11; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19

COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires certain syringe service program entities to provide options for disposal of used syringes and needles and creates reporting requirements for such entities.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT requiring certain syringe service program entities to provide options for disposal of used syringes and needles and creating reporting requirements for such entities.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 106:1 New Paragraph; Pharmacists and Pharmacies; Regulation of Pharmacies; Syringe Service
2 Programs; Authorized Activities and Funding Sources. Amend RSA 318:43-a by inserting after paragraph
3 II the following new paragraph:

4 II-a.(a) Any entity operating a syringe service program in New Hampshire that involves the
5 provision of sterile needles and syringes shall provide options for the disposal of used syringes, needles,
6 and other related paraphernalia. Such options shall be free to the public.

7 (b) Any organization required to provide options for the disposal of used syringes, needles,
8 and other related paraphernalia shall undertake an annual marketing campaign to inform participants of
9 free disposal options.

10 (c) At the time of a quarterly report, each entity operating a syringe service program in New
11 Hampshire shall report to the department whether they are required to provide options for disposal as
12 outlined in this paragraph and, if so, shall demonstrate their compliance.

13 (d) At the time of a quarterly report, each entity operating a syringe service program in New
14 Hampshire shall report to the department calculated return rates. In addition to calculated return rates,
15 each program shall provide a description of methods used in syringe counting or estimation; separation of
16 returns from direct participant exchange versus secondary/community sources; and a narrative of factors
17 affecting performance and improvement efforts. Strengthening syringe services programs (SSPs) shall
18 seek to achieve and maintain a return rate of 95 percent or higher in each calendar quarter. The
19 department shall assess performance over rolling 4-quarter periods. A return rate may exceed 100
20 percent. If an SSP reports a return rate below 95 percent for 2 consecutive quarters, it must submit a
21 corrective action plan within 30 days. The plan shall include strategies to increase return rate, such as
22 enhanced drop box access, peer outreach, incentives, or community partnerships; a timeline with
23 measurable targets; and a statement of resource or technical needs. Upon request, the department shall
24 provide support, including guidance on data gathering and best practices. The department shall adopt
25 rules pursuant to RSA 541-A establishing a schedule of fines for failure to file required reports or
26 implement corrective action plans.

27 (e) No municipality shall adopt any local ordinance or other rule to prohibit any activity
28 authorized by this paragraph.

29 106:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 90 days after its passage.

Approved: May 28, 2026
Effective Date: August 26, 2026

