

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 351

SESSION: 2000 Regular Session

TOPIC: Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens through Sharps Injuries (“Safe Needles”)

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- Reducing occupational exposures to bloodborne pathogens through sharps injuries.** Adds new § 182.6555 to state OSHA statutes. In paragraph (a), requires employers to comply with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations on bloodborne pathogens, to eliminate or minimize employee exposure to bloodborne pathogens through sharps injuries.

Paragraph (b) requires employers to annually review written exposure control plans, and to review the plans whenever necessary to reflect new tasks and procedures which affect occupational exposures, and to reflect new or revised employee positions with occupational exposures. Requires the plan to reflect changes in technology to eliminate or reduce bloodborne pathogens. The exposure control plan must document consideration and implementation of appropriate, commercially available and effective engineering controls that are designed to eliminate or minimize exposure.

Paragraph (c) requires an employer's OSHA safety committee to make advisory recommendations about the use of effective engineering controls. Provides that the recommendations are not binding on the employer. Specifies the membership of the safety committee. Permits an employer to meet this requirement through a subcommittee of the safety committee, and specifies the membership of the subcommittee. Requires employers who do not have to establish a safety committee to involve their employees in the evaluation of effective engineering controls.

Paragraph (d) provides that the use of a prefilled syringe that is approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration is not prohibited by this law. This exemption expires May 1, 2003.

Paragraph (e) requires that employers establish internal procedures to document the route of exposure and the circumstances under which an exposure incident occurred. Specifies the types of information that must be documented.

2 **Effective date.** Makes this bill effective 60 days after enactment.