

The Secure Medicine Return Bill: Overview of the 2010 bill policy

[2SHB 1165/2SSB 5279](#) would require producers of medicines sold in Washington to create and fund a convenient and safe return program for unwanted medicines from residential sources.

What medicines are covered? All over-the-counter and prescription drugs, including legally prescribed controlled substances (drugs with a high potential for abuse such as oxycodone, Vicodin, amphetamines, Valium, and Ritalin).

Who can use the program? All residents, and also hospice services, boarding homes, schools, foster care, day care and other locations where people reside.

Is there a fee? No fee will be charged to use the program.



How is it financed? The program will be funded by medicine producers selling their prescription and over-the-counter medicines in our state.

Who runs the program? All drug producers must participate in a plan that will provide a secure medicine return program. The producers can hire an organization to run the program for them or they can operate it themselves.

Who are the drug producers? Producers of medicines are brand owners, manufacturers of generic drugs, and in some cases importers and wholesalers of drugs. The definition does not include retailers that put their store label on a product or a pharmacist that compounds a prescribed drug for a patient.

Who will oversee the program? The Board of Pharmacy will approve and license the medicine return program(s) to ensure medicines are handled securely. Department of

Ecology will provide consultation on environmentally sound disposal of medicines.

Where do residents and others bring their drugs to be disposed? Collection service must be provided in every county and every city with more than 10,000 people, at a minimum. The bill allows flexibility in legal collection options selected – drop-off locations, collection events, or mail-back envelopes are some of the possibilities. Law enforcement, pharmacies, and others are not required to participate in collection of unwanted medicines, but medicine producers may form voluntary partnerships with these entities.

How will the drugs be destroyed? The collected medicines will be disposed at a hazardous waste disposal facility.

How will the public find out about the program? Drug producers must inform the public about the program and provide information and materials for use by pharmacies and others.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT www.MedicineReturn.com