

5471--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

February 24, 2015

---

Introduced by M. of A. GOTTFRIED, ROSENTHAL, WALKER, WEPRIN, DINOWITZ, BRONSON, ABINANTI, SEPULVEDA -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. HEVESI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes -- recommitted to the Committee on Codes in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to criminal possession of a controlled substance in the seventh degree; to amend the general business law, in relation to drug-related paraphernalia; to amend the public health law, in relation to the sale and possession of hypodermic syringes and needles; and to repeal section 220.45 of the penal law relating to criminally possessing a hypodermic instrument

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. The opening paragraph of section 220.03 of the penal law,  
2     as amended by section 4 of part I of chapter 57 of the laws of 2015, is  
3     amended to read as follows:  
4     A person is guilty of criminal possession of a controlled substance in  
5     the seventh degree when he or she knowingly and unlawfully possesses a  
6     controlled substance; provided, however, that it shall not be a  
7     violation of this section when a person possesses a residual amount of a  
8     controlled substance and that residual amount is in or on a hypodermic  
9     syringe or hypodermic needle [obtained and possessed pursuant to section  
10    thirty-three hundred eighty-one of the public health law, which includes  
11    the state's syringe exchange and pharmacy and medical provider-based  
12    expanded syringe access programs]; nor shall it be a violation of this  
13    section when a person's unlawful possession of a controlled substance is  
14    discovered as a result of seeking immediate health care as defined in  
15    paragraph (b) of subdivision three of section 220.78 of [the penal law]  
16    THIS ARTICLE, for either another person or him or herself because such  
17    person is experiencing a drug or alcohol overdose or other life threat-

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

LBD06211-05-6

1 ening medical emergency as defined in paragraph (a) of subdivision three  
2 of section 220.78 of the [penal law] THIS ARTICLE.

3 S 2. Section 220.45 of the penal law is REPEALED.

4 S 3. Subdivision 2 of section 850 of the general business law, as  
5 amended by chapter 812 of the laws of 1980, is amended to read as  
6 follows:

7 2. (A) "Drug-related paraphernalia" consists of the following objects  
8 used for the following purposes:

9 [(a)] (I) Kits, used or designed for the purpose of planting, propa-  
10 gating, cultivating, growing or harvesting of any species of plant which  
11 is a controlled substance or from which a controlled substance can be  
12 derived;

13 [(b)] (II) Kits, used or designed for the purpose of manufacturing,  
14 compounding, converting, producing, or preparing controlled substances;

15 [(c)] (III) Isomerization devices, used or designed for the purpose of  
16 increasing the potency of any species of plant which is a controlled  
17 substance;

18 [(d)] (IV) Scales and balances, used or designed for the purpose of  
19 weighing or measuring controlled substances;

20 [(e)] (V) Diluents and adulterants, including but not limited to  
21 quinine hydrochloride, mannitol, mannite, dextrose and lactose, used or  
22 designed for the purpose of cutting controlled substances;

23 [(f)] (VI) Separation gins, used or designed for the purpose of remov-  
24 ing twigs and seeds in order to clean or refine marihuana;

25 [(g) Hypodermic syringes, needles and other objects, used or designed  
26 for the purpose of parenterally injecting controlled substances into the  
27 human body;

28 (h)] AND

29 (VII) Objects, used or designed for the purpose of ingesting, inhal-  
30 ing, or otherwise introducing marihuana, cocaine, hashish, or hashish  
31 oil into the human body.

32 (B) "DRUG-RELATED PARAPHERNALIA" SHALL NOT INCLUDE HYPODERMIC NEEDLES,  
33 HYPODERMIC SYRINGES AND OTHER OBJECTS USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PARENTER-  
34 ALLY INJECTING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES INTO THE HUMAN BODY.

35 S 4. Section 3381 of the public health law, as amended by section 9-a  
36 of part B of chapter 58 of the laws of 2007, subdivisions 1, 2 and 3 as  
37 amended by chapter 178 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as  
38 follows:

39 S 3381. Sale and possession of hypodermic syringes and hypodermic  
40 needles. 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or furnish to  
41 another person or persons, a hypodermic syringe or hypodermic needle  
42 except:

43 (a) pursuant to a prescription of a practitioner, which for the  
44 purposes of this section shall include a patient specific prescription  
45 form as provided for in the education law; or

46 (b) to persons who have been authorized by the commissioner to obtain  
47 and possess such instruments; or

48 (c) by a pharmacy licensed under article one hundred thirty-seven of  
49 the education law, health care facility licensed under article twenty-  
50 eight of this chapter or a health care practitioner who is otherwise  
51 authorized to prescribe the use of hypodermic needles or syringes within  
52 his or her scope of practice; provided, however, that such sale or  
53 furnishing: (i) shall only be to a person eighteen years of age or  
54 older; AND (ii) [shall be limited to a quantity of ten or less hypoderm-  
55 ic needles or syringes; and (iii)] shall be in accordance with subdivi-  
56 sion [five] FOUR of this section[.] ; OR

(D) UNDER SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS SECTION.

2. [It shall be unlawful for any person to obtain or possess a hypodermic syringe or hypodermic needle unless such possession has been authorized by the commissioner or is pursuant to a prescription, or is pursuant to subdivision five of this section.

3.] Any person selling or furnishing a hypodermic syringe or hypodermic needle pursuant to a prescription shall record upon the prescription, his or her signature or electronic signature, and the date of the sale or furnishing of the hypodermic syringe or hypodermic needle. Such prescription shall be retained on file for a period of five years and be readily accessible for inspection by any public officer or employee engaged in the enforcement of this section. Such prescription may be refilled not more than the number of times specifically authorized by the prescriber upon the prescription, provided however no such authorization shall be effective for a period greater than two years from the date the prescription is signed.

[4] 3. The commissioner shall, subject to subdivision [five] FOUR of this section, designate persons, or by regulation, classes of persons who may obtain hypodermic syringes and hypodermic needles without prescription and the manner in which such transactions may take place and the records thereof which shall be maintained.

[5] 4. (a) A person eighteen years of age or older may obtain and possess a hypodermic syringe or hypodermic needle pursuant to paragraph (c) of subdivision one of this section.

(b) Subject to regulations of the commissioner, a pharmacy licensed under article one hundred thirty-seven of the education law, a health care facility licensed under article twenty-eight of this chapter or a health care practitioner who is otherwise authorized to prescribe the use of hypodermic needles or syringes within his or her scope of practice, may obtain and possess hypodermic needles or syringes for the purpose of selling or furnishing them pursuant to paragraph (c) of subdivision one of this section or for the purpose of disposing of them[, provided that such pharmacy, health care facility or health care practitioner has registered with the department].

(c) Sale or furnishing of hypodermic syringes or hypodermic needles to direct consumers pursuant to this subdivision by a pharmacy, health care facility, or health care practitioner shall be accompanied by a safety insert. Such safety insert shall be developed or approved by the commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to, (i) information on the proper use of hypodermic syringes and hypodermic needles; (ii) the risk of blood borne diseases that may result from the use of hypodermic syringes and hypodermic needles; (iii) methods for preventing the transmission or contraction of blood borne diseases; (iv) proper hypodermic syringe and hypodermic needle disposal practices; (v) information on the dangers of injection drug use, and how to access drug treatment; (vi) a toll-free phone number for information on the human immunodeficiency virus; and (vii) information on the safe disposal of hypodermic syringes and hypodermic needles including the relevant provisions of the environmental conservation law relating to the unlawful release of regulated medical waste. The safety insert shall be attached to or included in the hypodermic syringe and hypodermic needle packaging, or shall be given to the purchaser at the point of sale or furnishing in brochure form.

(d) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (c) of subdivision one of this section, a pharmacy licensed under article one hundred thirty-seven of the education law may sell or furnish hypodermic needles or syringes only if such pharmacy[: (i) does not advertise to the public

1 the availability for retail sale or furnishing of hypodermic needles or  
2 syringes without a prescription; and (ii) at any location where hypo-  
3 dermic needles or syringes are kept for retail sale or furnishing,]  
4 stores such needles and syringes in a manner that makes them available  
5 only to authorized personnel and not openly available to customers.

6 (e) The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary  
7 to implement the provisions of this subdivision which shall include: (I)  
8 STANDARDS FOR ADVERTISING TO THE PUBLIC THE AVAILABILITY FOR RETAIL SALE  
9 OR FURNISHING OF HYPODERMIC SYRINGES OR NEEDLES; AND (II) a requirement  
10 that such pharmacies, health care facilities and health care practition-  
11 ers cooperate in a safe disposal of used hypodermic needles or syringes.

12 (f) The commissioner may, upon the finding of a violation of this  
13 section, suspend for a determinate period of time the sale or furnishing  
14 of syringes by a specific entity.

15 [6] 5. The provisions of this section shall not apply to farmers  
16 engaged in livestock production or to those persons supplying farmers  
17 engaged in livestock production, provided that:

18 (a) Hypodermic syringes and needles shall be stored in a secure,  
19 locked storage container.

20 (b) At any time the department may request a document outlining:

21 (i) the number of hypodermic needles and syringes purchased over the  
22 past calendar year;

23 (ii) a record of all hypodermic needles used over the past calendar  
24 year; and

25 (iii) a record of all hypodermic needles and syringes destroyed over  
26 the past calendar year.

27 (c) Hypodermic needles and syringes shall be destroyed in a manner  
28 consistent with the provisions set forth in section thirty-three hundred  
29 eighty-one-a of this article.

30 S 5. This act shall take effect immediately.