

H.528

Introduced by Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington, Burkhardt of  
South Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Minier of  
South Burlington, and Nugent of South Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; drug paraphernalia; improper disposal of a hypodermic needle  
or syringe in a sensitive area

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a  
misdemeanor offense for improper disposal of a hypodermic needle or syringe  
in a sensitive area such as a playground, park, child care facility, or school.

An act relating to improper disposal of a hypodermic needle or syringe in a  
sensitive area

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 4479 is added to read:

§ 4479. IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF A HYPODERMIC NEEDLE OR  
SYRINGE IN A SENSITIVE AREA

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Playground" means any park or outdoor recreational area  
specifically designed or intended to be used by children that has play

1 equipment installed or provides space for children to engage in recreation or  
2 athletics.

3 (2) "Sensitive area" means the grounds of a playground, beach, park,  
4 child care facility as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511, public or independent  
5 school, or regional career technical education center.

6 (b) A person shall not knowingly or recklessly discard or dispose of a  
7 hypodermic needle or syringe in a sensitive area. A person who violates this  
8 section shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than  
9 \$1,000.00, or both.

10 (c) Subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to the containment,  
11 treatment, and disposal of medical sharps waste from medical care or first aid  
12 services rendered on the grounds of a child care facility, public or independent  
13 school, or regional career technical education center, nor to the containment,  
14 treatment, and disposal of hypodermic needles or syringes used for  
15 instructional or educational purposes at such places.

16 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.