



Help Mainers Dispose of Unused Drugs Safely and for Free

Support: LD 1460 **An Act to Support Collection and Proper Disposal of Unwanted Drugs**

Sponsored by: Senator Geoffrey Gratwick of Penobscot

Sponsored by: Sen. Black of Franklin, Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin, Sen. Davis of Piscataquis, Sen. Dill of Penobscot, Senate President Jackson of Aroostook, Sen. L. Sanborn of Cumberland, Sen. Vitelli of Sagadahoc, Rep. Hymanson of York, Rep. Madigan of Waterville

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LD 1460 would create a reliable, sustainable, and convenient statewide collection program for unused drugs, which has important benefits for Mainers.

This bill would:

- Decrease the risk of accidental poisoning and drug overdoses by preventing unused medications, like opioids, from accumulating in homes and getting into the wrong hands.
- Offer an environmentally safe alternative to landfilling or flushing of unwanted drugs. Without a convenient and well-established alternative, pharmaceutical chemicals can accumulate in our waters and pose a serious threat to people and wildlife.
- Relieve Maine communities, police stations, and others from the burden of organizing and staffing sporadic collection events for unused drugs, saving time and taxpayer money.
- Provide a standard way that Maine people can dispose of unwanted drugs, so they know what disposal options are available throughout the year.

Other U.S. states are benefiting from drug take-back programs funded by drug producers, and Maine should, too. Producer-funded waste management programs have proven themselves to be effective in Maine and beyond:

- Since 2012, five states have established producer-funded drug take-back programs: MA, VT, WA, NY, and CA. Twenty-three U.S. cities and counties have done so, too. Managing these programs costs manufacturers only pennies on a prescription, and does not increase medication cost to consumers.
- Maine has already established successful producer-funded and managed stewardship programs for seven other product lines including: electronic waste like computers, unused paints, old mercury thermostats, auto-switches, lamps that contain mercury, cell phones, and rechargeable batteries.