

**File Number**

04-0002-S72

**Last Changed Date**

6/25/2004

**Title**

SUPPORT / CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 1159 (VASCONCELLOS)

**Initiated By**

Garcetti Mover 2004 / LaBonge

**Subject**

Resolution - WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and WHEREAS, AIDS is a public health crisis in the City of Los Angeles, with approximately 30,000 people in the City infected with HIV or AIDS; and WHEREAS, hepatitis C (HCV) infects approximately 180,000 residents of Los Angeles County and it is estimated that 5,000 new infections occur in the State of California each year; and WHEREAS, California is one of only five states that still prohibits nonprescription sales of syringes by pharmacies; and WHEREAS, nationally, more than half of all hepatitis C cases, and more than a quarter of all HIV cases occur among injection drug users, their partners or children, and can be traced directly or indirectly to injection drug use and the sharing of injection equipment; and WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other nationally and internationally recognized health organizations have found that access to clean needles and syringes prevents the transmission of HIV, hepatitis C and other infectious diseases; and WHEREAS, nonprescription pharmacy sales are now viewed as a promising intervention strategy since pharmacies offer more locations and longer hours than Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPs) and some injection drug users (IDUs ) may feel more comfortable going to a pharmacy than to a Syringe Exchange Program (SEP); and WHEREAS, California Senate Bill 1159, introduced by California Senate Member **Vasconcellos**, would authorize licensed pharmacies to sell or furnish 10 or fewer nonprescription hypodermic syringes to adults, as part of the Disease Prevention Demonstration Project to evaluate the long-term desirability of allowing nonprescription pharmacy sales; and WHEREAS, pharmacies participating in the program would be required to provide information on accessing drug treatment, information on treatment and testing resources for HIV and hepatitis C, and options for safe disposal of syringes; and WHEREAS, a nearly identical program was undertaken in New York in 2001 and has been expanded, due to its success and syringe sharing has declined without any detrimental effects on syringe disposal in public places, drug use or crime; and WHEREAS, the expanded access to clean syringes provided by SB 1159 could significantly reduce the incidence of syringe sharing, and help to stop the spread of HIV and HCV in California; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2003-2004 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for California Senate Bill 1159 (**Vasconcellos**) which would authorize licensed pharmacies to sell or furnish nonprescription hypodermic syringes to adults as part

of the Disease Prevention Demonstration Project.  
REFER TO COUNCIL FILES 04-0002-S69 and 04-0776

**Date Received**

4/20/2004

**File History**

4-20-04 - This day's Council session  
4-20-04 - Ref to Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee  
4-20-04 - File to Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee Clerk  
4-22-04 - For ref - Communication from Chief Legislative Analyst relative to SUPPORTING SB 1159 (**Vasconcellos**) which would authorize licensed pharmacies to sell or furnish nonprescription hypodermic syringes to adults as part of a Disease Prevention Demonstration Project, as recommended by Resolution (Garcetti - LaBonge).  
4-23-04 - Ref to Arts, Health and Aging Committee - to Committee Clerk  
6-8-04 - Council Action - CONTINUED TO June 15, 2004  
6-9-04 - Reconsidered - Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee report ADOPTED, subject to the approval of the Mayor to ADOPT the accompanying Resolution (Garcetti - LaBonge) thereby establishing a position of SUPPORT in the City's 2003-2004 Legislative Program for SB 1159 (**Vasconcellos**) which would authorize licensed pharmacies to sell or furnish nonprescription hypodermic syringes to adults as part of the Disease Prevention Demonstration Project - Resolution ADOPTED.  
6-10-04 - File to Mayor FORTHWITH  
6-14-04 - Mayor's message concurred in action of June 9, 2004  
6-14-04 - File to Calendar Clerk  
6-22-04 - File to Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee Clerk OK  
6-25-04 - File in files