

1 [Supporting Assembly Bill 1743 (Ting) - Removing the Number of Syringes a Pharmacist Can  
2 Sell to an Adult Without a Prescription]

3 **Resolution urging the California State Legislature to pass Assembly Bill 1743, authored**  
4 **by Assemblymember Phil Ting, to remove the number of syringes a pharmacist can to**  
5 **sell to an adult without a prescription and remove the sunset date in current law.**

6  
7 WHEREAS, Sharing used syringes remains the most common mode of transmission of  
8 hepatitis C, and the second most common cause of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)  
9 and hepatitis B transmission; and

10 WHEREAS, These diseases are costly and potentially deadly, with the average lifetime  
11 cost to treat just one case of HIV exceeding \$600,000; and

12 WHEREAS, The California Department of Public Health and the Federal Centers for  
13 Disease Control & Prevention have found that allowing adults to purchase sterile syringes  
14 from pharmacists without prescriptions is a key component to the prevention and control of  
15 these diseases; and

16 WHEREAS, Studies consistently find that the transmission of disease is reduced in  
17 areas that allow adults to purchase syringes over the counter than areas that mandate  
18 prescriptions; and

19 WHEREAS, According to a study published in the Journal of the American Public  
20 Health Association, in a national comparison of 60 cities that did not require a prescription for  
21 the sale of syringes and 36 that did require a prescription, there was no statistically significant  
22 difference in the prevalence of injection drug use between the two groups of cities; and

23 WHEREAS, The rate of HIV among injection drug users was twice as high in the cities  
24 that prohibited sale of syringes (13.8 percent vs. 6.7 percent); and

1           WHEREAS, Current law, which will sunset on January 1, 2015, provides pharmacists  
2 the discretion to sell up to 30 syringes to an adult without a prescription; and

3           WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1743 (AB 1743) will remove the number of syringes a  
4 pharmacist has the discretion to sell to an adult without a prescription and will remove the  
5 sunset date in current law, making over the counter syringe sales a permanent part of  
6 California's public health strategy; and

7           WHEREAS, Under AB 1743, pharmacists would be required to meet specific  
8 requirements for the provision of information and materials, including letting purchasers know  
9 how to safely dispose of syringes, how to access drug treatment, and options for testing and  
10 treating HIV and hepatitis; and

11           WHEREAS, AB 1743 is supported by the Drug Policy Alliance and the San Francisco  
12 AIDS Foundation; now, therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
14 hereby urges the California State Legislature to pass Assembly Bill 1743; and be it

15           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors forward a copy of  
16 this resolution to California Assemblymember Phil Ting with a request he take all action  
17 necessary to achieve the objectives of this resolution.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails  
Resolution

File Number: 140266

Date Passed: March 25, 2014

Resolution urging the California State Legislature to pass Assembly Bill 1743, authored by Assemblymember Phil Ting, to remove the number of syringes a pharmacist can sell to an adult without a prescription and remove the sunset date in current law.

March 25, 2014 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 8 - Avalos, Breed, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Mar, Tang and Yee

Absent: 3 - Campos, Kim and Wiener

File No. 140266

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 3/25/2014 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Unsigned

Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
April 3, 2014

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board