



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

VETO #247

December 18, 2017

TO THE SENATE:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bill:

Senate Bill Number 6750, entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to disposal sites operated by pharmacies”

NOT APPROVED

The bill would amend the Public Health Law (PHL) to require that chain pharmacies, as well as out-of-state pharmacies doing business in New York, provide drug disposal options to their customers for the purposes of collecting unused controlled substances.

I fully support the intent of the bill to create a comprehensive product stewardship program to ensure the proper disposal of unused drugs. However, in its current form, the bill would not achieve its stated objective and could have the unanticipated effect of slowing the adoption of an effective drug “take back” program. As drafted, the bill would require consumers and pharmacies to pay for the return of unused drugs, rather than ensuring the burden is equally shared with the manufacturers of such drugs. It would also preempt local laws that may go further than the scope of this bill in attempting to create a truly comprehensive stewardship approach. For these reasons I am constrained to veto this bill.

I am directing the Department of Environmental Conservation to engage interested stakeholders and local governments on implementing a statewide pharmaceutical stewardship program. The Department will then prepare a report on the feasibility of creating and implementing such a program, including a requirement that manufacturers provide, at no cost to consumers, collection receptacles or other approved methods for collection and disposal of pharmaceuticals across the state. The Department shall issue its report by May 15, 2018.

The bill is disapproved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Cuomo".