

Date of Hearing: March 10, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND TOXIC MATERIALS

Damon Connolly, Chair

AB 1617 (Alanis) – As Introduced January 21, 2026

SUBJECT: Household hazardous waste: reporting

SUMMARY: Requires a public agency, responsible for household hazardous waste (HHW) management to, on or before October 1 of each year, submit the Form 303 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Report (Form 303) to the Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) with the reporting information for the prior calendar year.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to authorize the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes throughout the wastes' life cycle. (42 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 6901 et seq.)
- 2) Establishes the Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL) to authorize the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to regulate the management of hazardous wastes in California. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 25100 et seq.)
- 3) Defines "waste" as any solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous discarded material. (HSC § 25124)
- 4) Defines "hazardous waste" as waste, that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics:
 - a) Causes, or significantly contributes to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or,
 - b) Poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment, due to factors including, but not limited to, carcinogenicity, acute toxicity, chronic toxicity, bio accumulative properties, or persistence in the environment, when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed. (HSC § 25141(b))
- 5) Defines "household hazardous waste" as hazardous waste generated incidental to owning or maintaining a place of residence, but does not include waste generated in the course of operating a business at a residence. (HSC § 25218.1(e))
- 6) Establishes that counties and cities will provide services for the collection of HHW and that the state will provide an expedited and streamlined regulatory structure to facilitate the collection of HHW. (HSC § 25218)
- 7) Requires, on or before October 1 of each year, a public agency, operating a HHW facility to submit to the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) and DTSC a copy of the completed California Integrated Waste Management Board Form 303, which is required to be submitted to CalRecycle for the prior fiscal year. (HSC § 25218.9)

- 8) Requires, on or before October 1 of each year, a public agency operating a HHW facility to submit to CalRecycle, Form 303, with reporting information from the prior fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Division 7, Chapter 9, Article 6.3, § 18751.2.2).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS:

Need for the bill: According to the author, "AB 1617 is a common-sense improvement to how California tracks and manages household hazardous waste. By aligning reporting deadlines for both CalRecycle and DTSC, this bill would ease an administrative burden on local agencies and make data clearer to the public."

Hazardous waste management: Hazardous waste is a waste with properties that make it potentially dangerous or harmful to human health or the environment. In regulatory terms, a waste is hazardous if it appears on a RCRA hazardous wastes list or exhibits one of the four characteristics of a hazardous waste: ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity. However, materials can be hazardous wastes even if they are not specifically listed or do not exhibit any characteristic of a hazardous waste. Hazardous wastes are prohibited from being disposed of in the trash, and must be properly transported and disposed of at permitted treatment, storage, and disposal facilities or at a recycling facility.

Universal waste: Universal waste comes primarily from consumer products containing mercury, lead, cadmium and other substances that are hazardous to human health and the environment. These items cannot be discarded in household trash nor disposed of in landfills. Examples of universal waste are batteries, fluorescent tubes, and many electronic devices. Under both state and federal law and regulation, universal wastes are authorized to be managed in a less stringent manner than hazardous waste. HHW collection facilities generally accept universal waste.

Household hazardous waste: HHW is a waste generated by a resident and household. A person generates this waste while performing tasks in and around their home. When a person disposes these products, they become "household hazardous waste,". These wastes may cause harm to human health and the environment if handled or disposed of incorrectly. The safest place for a resident to take their HHW is to a household hazardous waste facility (HHWF). Common HHW includes, but is not limited to, antifreeze, glue and adhesives, pesticides, used oil, batteries, electronic wastes, and household cleaners. In California, HHW is prohibited from being disposed of in the trash, down the drain, or by abandonment, and must be disposed of through a HHW Program. Most HHWFs are run by local government agencies such as cities or counties.

Household hazardous waste collection: California Hazardous Waste Law provides several management requirements for HHW generators and establishes a streamlined permitting process for HHW collection facilities. Additionally, local agencies may offer a number of services to assist in the transportation of HHW to a collection facility, including a curbside collection program, a mobile collection facility, a door-to-door collection program, a HHW residential pickup service, a registered hazardous waste transporter, or a registered hazardous waste transporter operating under a contract with a public agency.

Form 303: Form 303 requires HHWFs to record and report on the type and quantity of HHW received. CalRecycle uses data from the Form 303 to track trends in HHW and other related waste collected by HHWFs. Existing regulation requires HHWFs to submit the Form 303 to CalRecycle on October 1 of each year for reporting information during the prior fiscal year (July 1 through June 30).

This bill: AB 1617 changes the reporting timeframe for Form 303 from a fiscal year to a calendar year.

HHWF reporting: HHWFs collect a wide variety of hazardous wastes from households and as a result they report this information to a number of different state agencies. These HHWFs report universal waste and treated wood waste information to DTSC; hazardous waste fee information to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration; used oil information and other required information to CalRecycle; and, the Form 303 to both CalRecycle and DTSC. For the most part, these reporting requirements require reporting of information for a calendar year, except for the Form 303, which covers reporting during a fiscal year (July 1 through June 30).

This bill: AB 1617 requires the reporting information contained in Form 303 to be from the prior calendar year, thereby aligning this reporting information with other reporting requirements for HHWFs. This change is designed to reduce workload and administrative costs for local governments managing HHWFs, while still providing the same information to CalRecycle.

Arguments in Support: According to the Rural County Representatives of California,

"Assembly Bill 1617 aligns different reporting periods for reports that local household hazardous waste collection facilities (HHWCFs) must submit to CalRecycle and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

Local jurisdictions operate HHWCFs to provide residents and very small quantity generators with an opportunity to safely dispose of household hazardous waste. HHWCFs have long been required to submit a Form 303 to CalRecycle disclosing the types and quantities of HHW collected at each facility. As part of a budget package to overhaul the DTSC's fee authority, the Legislature created a new requirement for all hazardous waste generators to submit an annual report containing specified information to DTSC. As a result, HHWCFs must submit nearly identical information to two different state agencies covering different reporting periods (fiscal year for CalRecycle vs calendar year for DTSC). These two reporting requirements are nearly identical, except that the eVQ system [DTSC's system] requires information on the number of employees while the Form 303 also provides more granular information on waste streams. Regardless of the similarities in material covered, the different reporting periods require significant additional work for local agencies to parse the data for little to no additional benefit to the state.

AB 1617 commendably seeks to align the reporting periods for these two similar reports, which will reduce workload and administrative costs for local governments and their contractors who run household hazardous waste collection programs."

Arguments in Opposition: None on file.

Related legislation:

- 1) AB 998 (Hadwick, 2025). Would have authorized a school to transport and manage confiscated vape pens as HHW. Would have required DTSC, in collaboration with CalRecycle, to develop a consolidated reporting document for HHW collection facilities to submit a single annual report to both DTSC and CalRecycle for the purposes of complying with existing applicable reporting requirements for HHW. This bill was held on the suspense file in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- 2) AB 2481 (Smith, Chapter 499, Statutes of 2022). Makes various changes to the statutory requirements for the transportation of hazardous waste and the operation of HHW collection facilities.
- 3) SB 552 (Archuleta, Chapter 481, Statutes of 2019). Authorizes the use of consolidated manifests in the transportation of HHW in door-to-door HHW collection programs.
- 4) SB 726 (Caballero, Chapter 485, Statutes of 2019). Authorizes a public agency's contractor to conduct HHW materials exchange programs.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

California State Association of Counties
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Rural County Representatives of California

Opposition

None on file.

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