



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Committee Bill No. 368

LCO No. 5259



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LYME DISEASE AND OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES AND REQUIRING THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO CONDUCT A SURVEY CONCERNING LYME DISEASE TESTING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established an
2 advisory council on Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases for the
3 purpose of assisting the Commissioner of Public Health in developing
4 best practices for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme
5 disease and other tick-borne diseases. The advisory council shall: (1)
6 Review information and guidelines concerning Lyme disease and
7 other tick-borne diseases that have been published by the International
8 Lyme and Associated Disease Society, the Infectious Diseases Society
9 of America, the American Veterinary Medical Association and other
10 national organizations; (2) review practices in other states to treat and
11 diagnose Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases; (3) identify
12 opportunities for coordination among state agencies and between the
13 state and the federal government, local government agencies or private
14 organizations to improve diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease and
15 other tick-borne diseases; (4) consider various scientific viewpoints

16 concerning the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease and other
17 tick-borne diseases; (5) identify funding sources for research, education
18 and public awareness programs concerning Lyme disease and other
19 tick-borne diseases; and (6) make recommendations to the
20 Commissioner of Public Health concerning the best practices for the
21 prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-
22 borne diseases, that shall include, but not be limited to,
23 recommendations concerning a public awareness program and
24 practices to increase coordination among state and local government
25 agencies.

26 (b) The committee shall be comprised of the following members:

27 (1) The Commissioners of Public Health, Agriculture and Energy
28 and Environmental Protection, or said commissioners' designees;

29 (2) The executive director of the Commission on Children, or the
30 executive director's designee;

31 (3) Three members appointed by the speaker of the House of
32 Representatives, one each who shall be (A) a physician with not less
33 than five years of recent experience diagnosing and treating Lyme
34 disease and other tick-borne diseases, (B) an ophthalmologist with not
35 less than five years of recent experience treating patients with Lyme
36 disease and other tick-borne diseases, and (C) a representative of an
37 organization focused on Lyme disease prevention;

38 (4) Three members appointed by the president pro tempore of the
39 Senate, one each who shall be (A) a rheumatologist with not less than
40 five years of recent experience treating patients with Lyme disease and
41 other tick-borne diseases, (B) a researcher affiliated with an institution
42 of higher education who has conducted scientific studies concerning
43 the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of Lyme disease or another tick-
44 borne disease, and (C) a veterinarian who has not less than five years
45 of recent experience treating animals with Lyme disease and other tick-
46 borne diseases;

47 (5) Two members appointed by the majority leader of the House of
48 Representatives, one each who shall be (A) a representative of an
49 organization focused on the treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-
50 borne diseases, and (B) a person who has been diagnosed with, and is
51 being treated for, Lyme disease or another tick-borne disease;

52 (6) Two members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate,
53 one each who shall be (A) a psychologist with not less than five years
54 of recent experience treating patients who have been diagnosed with
55 Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, and (B) a person who has
56 been diagnosed with, and is being treated for, Lyme disease or another
57 tick-borne disease;

58 (7) Two members appointed by the minority leader of the House of
59 Representatives, one each who shall be (A) a neurologist with not less
60 than five years of recent experience treating patients who have been
61 diagnosed with Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, and (B) a
62 representative of the International Lyme and Associated Disease
63 Society; and

64 (8) Two members appointed by the minority leader of the Senate,
65 one each who shall be (A) a pediatrician with not less than five years of
66 recent experience treating patients who have been diagnosed with
67 Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, and (B) a researcher
68 affiliated with an institution of higher education who has conducted
69 scientific studies concerning the treatment of infectious disease.

70 (c) All appointments to the advisory council shall be made not later
71 than July 31, 2013. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing
72 authority. Council members shall serve three-year terms.

73 (d) The members shall elect the chairperson of the advisory council
74 from among the members of the advisory council. A majority of the
75 council members shall constitute a quorum. Such chairperson shall
76 schedule the first meeting of the advisory council, which shall be held
77 not later than September 1, 2013. The advisory council shall meet

78 quarterly and at other times upon the call of the chair or upon the
79 request of a majority of the council members.

80 (e) Members shall receive no compensation except for
81 reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred in performing their
82 duties.

83 (f) On or before September 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the
84 advisory council shall report, in accordance with the provisions of
85 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on its activities to the joint
86 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
87 matters relating to public health.

88 (g) On or before January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the
89 Commissioner of Public Health shall report to the joint standing
90 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
91 relating to public health concerning funding and expenditures relating
92 to Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases. Such report shall
93 include, but need not be limited to (1) identification of the amount and
94 source of all funding received by the Department of Public Health
95 during the previous calendar year for activities relating to Lyme
96 disease and other tick-borne diseases, and (2) a description of activities
97 engaged in by the department during the previous calendar year
98 relating to Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases and the amount
99 expended for each such activity.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish an advisory council on Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

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