



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 177

PRINTERS NO. 2099

PRIME SPONSOR: Greenleaf

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
General Fund	\$0	\$150,000

**SUMMARY:** Senate Bill 177, Printer's Number 2099 creates a freestanding act that directs the Department of Health to establish a task force on Lyme disease and related tick-borne illnesses; develop a program of general public and health care professional information and education; disseminate the information in cooperation with other parties; develop an active tick collection, testing, surveillance and communication program, subject to the availability of funds, with the Department of Environmental Protection; and make available current data on tick surveillance programs conducted in Pennsylvania by other entities. This legislation is effective immediately.

**ANALYSIS** This legislation, the Lyme and Related Tick-Borne Disease, Surveillance, Education, Prevention and Treatment Act, establishes a task force to investigate and make recommendations regarding surveillance and prevention measures, raise awareness of the long-term effects of misdiagnosis of Lyme disease and develop an information and education program that includes the broad spectrum of scientific and treatment options for all stages of Lyme disease and related tick-borne illnesses. The task force must meet within 90 days and quarterly thereafter and issue a report to the secretary within one year of the first meeting. The task force meeting may be conducted via teleconference.

The task force shall be composed of the following individuals or their designees: the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Secretary of Education, the Deputy Secretary for Parks and Forestry in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Director of the Bureau of Information and Education of the Game Commission.

The task force also shall include the following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Health: four licensed physicians, two who are members of the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society and two who are members of the Infectious Diseases Society of America; an epidemiologist licensed in Pennsylvania with expertise in the field; two individuals who represent Lyme disease patient groups; one individual who is a Lyme disease patient or family member of a patient; two registered nurses; the Director of Vector Management of the Department of Environmental Protection; an entomologist from the Pennsylvania State

University; a registered school nurse; two veterinarians; and a representative from the Northeast DNA Laboratory of East Stroudsburg University.

The Department of Health, subject to the availability of funds, in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection is to develop an active tick collection, testing, surveillance and communication program to provide a better understanding of the full range of tick-borne diseases, geographic hot spots and level of infectivity to be used in targeting prevention, information and education efforts. The surveillance data must be communicated to health care professionals via Public Health Alerts and published on the department website.

The Department of Health will disseminate the information in cooperation with: the Pennsylvania Game Commission to licensees of the Game Commission and general public; the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to the general public and visitors to State parks and lands; the Department of Education to school administrators, school nurses, faculty and staff, parents, guardians and students; professional associations of health care professionals; and the Pennsylvania State University, Department of Entomology, cooperative extension program for integrated pest management to health care professionals and the general public.

Finally, within 45 days of the effective date, the Department of Health will make available current data on tick surveillance programs conducted in Pennsylvania by other entities, including the Northeast DNA Laboratory of East Stroudsburg University and the Department of Entomology of the Pennsylvania State University until the results of an active tick collection, testing, surveillance and communication program are published. The data must be communicated to health care professionals via Public Health Alerts and available on the department website.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The Department of Health estimates it will cost \$150,000 annually for the public information programs for the general public and health professionals and the task force.

**PREPARED BY:** Ann Bertolino  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** June 10, 2014

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*