



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 174

PRINTERS NO. 138

PRIME SPONSOR: Baker

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2016/17	FY 2017/18
General Fund	\$0	See "Fiscal Impact"

SUMMARY:

House Bill 174 creates the Lyme Disease and Related Tick-Borne Illness Diagnosis and Treatment Act. It would take effect in 180 days.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 174 allows health care practitioners to order diagnostic testing and prescribe, administer or dispense antibiotic therapy for the duration the health care practitioner determines appropriate for a patient, for the therapeutic purpose of eliminating or controlling a patient's infection or symptoms upon making a clinical diagnosis that the patient has Lyme disease or a related tick-borne illness. Additionally, no health care practitioner shall be subject to disciplinary action by the health care practitioner's licensing board solely for diagnosing Lyme disease or related tick-borne illness or for prescribing, administering or dispensing longer-term antibiotic therapies for the therapeutic purpose of eliminating infection or controlling a patient's symptoms when the patient is clinically diagnosed with Lyme disease or related tick-borne illness, if the diagnosis, treatment plan and ongoing monitoring has been documented in the patient's medical record.

House Bill 174 also imposes certain healthcare insurance coverage requirements. Every health insurance policy which is delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, extended or modified in this Commonwealth must cover the prescribed treatment for Lyme disease and related tick-borne illnesses if the diagnosis and treatment plan are documented in the patient's medical record. Treatment plans may include short or longer durations of antibiotic or antimicrobial treatments, as prescribed by the patient's attending health care practitioner. Coverage of longer-term antibiotic treatment cannot be denied solely because the treatment may be characterized as unproven, experimental or investigational in nature for the treatment of Lyme disease and related tick-borne illnesses.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Under the Federal Affordable Care Act, the federal government has developed an essential health benefits package to be provided through state healthcare exchanges. If a state mandates coverage not included in the essential benefits package, the state is responsible for that coverage

and the associated costs for individuals in the exchange. This mandate could have a fiscal impact since, as it stands today, federal law would require the Commonwealth pay for the coverage of Lyme disease as mandated under this legislation. However, it is not possible to determine the extent of that impact at this time.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: May 23, 2017

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