



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 629

PRINTERS NO. 1353

PRIME SPONSOR: Rapp

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
General Fund	\$0	See "Fiscal Impact"

#### SUMMARY:

House Bill 629 creates the Lyme Disease and Related Tick-Borne Illness Diagnosis and Treatment Act. It would take effect in 60 days.

#### ANALYSIS:

House Bill 629 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 and recommending a treatment protocol which the health care practitioner deems medically necessary based on the patient's needs and responses to other clinical measures. Health care practitioners must also fully disclose all risks and benefits associated with any recommended treatment option, including alternatives that a reasonable prudent patient would require to make an informed decision, and this disclosure must be recorded in the patient's medical record.

House Bill 629 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 provide coverage for long-term antibiotic and antimicrobial therapy for a patient with Lyme disease and related tick-borne illnesses when determined by a health care practitioner to be medically necessary and ordered by a health care practitioner after making a thorough evaluation of the patient's symptoms, diagnostic test results or response to treatment.

#### 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. It is unclear whether, by requiring long-term antibiotic and antimicrobial therapy for a patient with Lyme disease, this legislation

would be considered a mandate outside of the essential health benefits package. Most insurance plans already pay for shorter-term antibiotic and antimicrobial therapy for patients with Lyme disease.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** April 10, 2019

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