

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 177

PRINTER'S NO. 134

AMOUNT

\$3.178 Million

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 17, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Greenleaf

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, Jan. 17, 2013
Reported as committed, March 12, 2013
First consideration, March 12, 2013
Second consideration, March 20, 2013
Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, April 9, 2013
Re-reported as committed, April 15, 2013

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 177 creates a freestanding act, the Lyme and Related Tick-Borne Disease Surveillance, Education, Prevention and Treatment Act.

The bill stipulates legislative findings and defines legislative intent.

The bill establishes the task force on Lyme disease and related tick-borne diseases under the Department of Health. The task force shall investigate and make recommendations to the department regarding surveillance and prevention measures and raising awareness of the long-term effects of misdiagnosis.

The task force and the department shall develop informative and educational programs which include information on the broad spectrum of scientific and treatment options for all stages of the diseases and cooperate with the Game Commission, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Department of Education, and the Department of Environmental Protection on various informational and educational efforts.

The department shall:

1. Develop a general public and health care professional information and education program regarding Lyme disease;
2. Develop an active tick collection, testing and surveillance program in cooperation with Department of Environmental Protection;
3. Cooperate with the Game Commission, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Department of Education to disseminate information related to Lyme disease;

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4. Cooperate with professional and health care associations to provide education programs;
5. Cooperate with the Department of Entomology at the Pennsylvania State University to disseminate educational resources; and
6. Identify public and private grants and funding to carry out the provisions of the act.

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 Conservation and Engineering Services 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; and two veterinarians.

The Secretary of Health shall appoint the members of the task force within 45 days following the effective date of the act and appoint one member to serve as the chairman. The task force shall meet 90 days following the effective date of the act and at least quarterly thereafter. Members are not compensated, but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties by the Department of Health.

This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill is estimated to cost \$28,000 to the Department of Health for the reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses for 14 non-Administrative task force appointees to attend 4 meetings.

The bill is estimated to cost \$150,000 to the Department of Health to develop and disseminate a public education campaign and provider education material.

The bill is also estimate to cost \$3.000 million to the Department of Environmental Protection. This funding is necessary to implement and administer the environmental surveillance and testing aspects of a statewide tick program and would include program management overhead, staffing, lab testing costs and operational costs for equipment and lab space.